

I urge Congress to look closely at recent events in Haiti, to ensure that lingering questions are answered forthrightly, and to lend the support that Haiti desperately needs as it moves forward in establishing peace and security.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On March 1, 2004 Christopher James Barnhart and John Matthew Aravanis left a Morgantown, WV, bar around 3:30 a.m. when they heard, "Get out of the way, faggots." A fist subsequently landed on Barnhart's head and he was knocked to the ground. Barnhart, who sustained two facial fractures in the scuffle, said the men also struck Aravanis in the head as he came to Barnhart's aid. The men left the scene, but returned and kicked and punched them and continued to call them "faggots." City police have obtained arrest warrants for the three men charged with beating Barnhart, Aravanis, and their friend who was with them during the incident.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### HONORING THE ARMY FISHER HOUSES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher established the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., a unique public-private partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that provided by the Department of Defense. The Fisher Houses enable family members to be close to loved ones at the most stressful time—during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

The homes are built by the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., and given to the military services and the Veterans Administration. The Army is the recipient of 14 of the 32 Fisher Houses located at every major military medical center and at several VA medical centers. The homes are located within walking distance of the medical facility.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting with Fisher family members, friends,

and staff of the Fisher House on board the USS *Missouri* to celebrate the opening of the second Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center, the largest military medical treatment facility in the Pacific located in Honolulu, HI. The first Tripler Fisher House opened in June 1994. Due to its location, families stay an average of 55 days, compared to an average of 15 days in other locations. Tripler Fisher Houses service families and patients not only from Hawaii but also the Pacific area of Korea, Guam, Japan, and Okinawa.

The Fisher Houses provide temporary lodging in a warm, compassionate, and caring home away from home environment to members of our armed services, veterans, and their families during a medical crisis. They enable families to stay together, cook meals, do laundry, relax, unwind, and provide emotional support to each other during a time of need, and to escape from the tensions of the hospital environment.

Today, when we ask so much of our military in support of freedom, it is important to recognize the generosity of foundations such as The Fisher House, that give back to those who have given so much in defending this great Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Danielle Miller, of Louisville, KY. Recently, Ms. Miller has been named a State honoree for Prudential Spirit of Community Award program for Kentucky based on her outstanding volunteer services.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program names only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State and the District of Columbia. As a junior at Louisville's Sacred Heart Academy, Ms. Miller was selected from more than 20,000 students for this honor. Ms. Miller received this honor because she founded a service organization called the "National Awareness Committee" to provide clothing, books, and other needed items to members of the Lakota Sioux Nation living on reservations in South Dakota.

The citizens of Louisville, KY are fortunate to have Ms. Miller living and learning in their community. Her example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I congratulate Ms. Miller for her success. But also, I congratulate all her peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and her parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help Ms. Miller reach this goal and fulfill her dreams.●

##### HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR CHARLES MEEKS

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of my fellow

Hoosier, State Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks, who passed away on March 22. Senator Meeks dedicated his life to serving his country and our home State of Indiana, setting an example of personal conviction and political vigor throughout his 6 years as State senator.

Bud Meeks grew up in Fort Wayne, IN. He graduated from Central High School in 1954 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After serving 4 years in the Navy, Senator Meeks returned home to Fort Wayne where he began his career in public service as a deputy at the Allen County jail. Meeks retired from the Sheriff's Department after 28 years of dedicated service, including two terms as Allen County Sheriff. He then moved to Washington, DC, where he was the executive director of the National Sheriff's Association for 8 years. Upon his final return to Indiana, Meeks ran a successful campaign, demonstrating a work ethic on the campaign trail that is remembered by Hoosiers still today. In 1998, Senator Meeks was elected to the Indiana State Senate to represent Indiana's 14th Senate District.

While serving as Senator, Meeks most recently played a crucial role in championing the current proposal to consolidate Allen County government. But among his colleagues, Meeks was known above all else for his love of children. While in the Senate, Meeks would frequently devote a significant amount of time to young students, answering questions and discussing government. His focus on Indiana's youth is a testament to Meeks' kindness of heart and clear understanding of the importance of prioritizing the children who will one day be running our great Nation.

In everything he did, Senator Meeks brought with him an inspiring energy and passion, setting a positive example for his friends, colleagues, and constituents to follow. He was always ready to work diligently for the causes he cared for so deeply, and it was his steadfast belief in community involvement that earned him the unwavering admiration of Hoosiers across Indiana.

Meeks was a committed father and public servant. The sense of loss to all those who knew Senator Meeks is tremendous. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; son, Brian, brothers Bob and Fred; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Brenda Sue and another son, David.

It is my honor to enter the name of Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

##### TRIBUTE TO WHITTON MONTGOMERY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Whitton Montgomery, of Louisville, KY. Recently, Ms. Montgomery has been named a State honoree for Prudential Spirit of Community Award program for Kentucky based on her outstanding volunteer services.