

since that time, working through the grief and the sorrow and the sadness and the loss that can't even be described in words, he and Sharon have consistently and eloquently and passionately spoken about not their own needs but the needs for others, others who they don't know but who they know exist, both today and tomorrow, those who suffer in some shape or form from some type of mental illness. No one can bring back a life that has been lost, but as those of us who have worked with our colleague Senator SMITH and who have watched and who have observed, he has helped teach us that through this process lives can be saved.

It touches home to many of us. This particular bill addresses this sort of youth suicide, teen suicide. And those of us who have kids that age—my three boys are 18, 19, and 21 years of age—as Senator SMITH mentioned, in that age group, suicide is the third leading cause of death. Thirty thousand people die each year as a result of suicide. That is one person every 17 minutes. Suicide has touched Senator SMITH and his family personally, other Members of this body. You don't realize how many people it touches, as we have discussed before, until something tragic like this happens. But it touches people throughout this body, indeed throughout the country.

This legislation helps turn those tragedies into direct assistance to the benefit of others. This bill addresses suicide when it occurs at the most tragic time of one's life. That is in those years where one is leaving, going through the teen years and adolescence and moving on to those years of the prime of their life. We know, though, that with help and response, prevention occurs and lives are saved. There are early detection, early prevention strategies, all of which this bill allows for the first time in legislation to come alive. That is what the legislation is all about. It is about helping those who are at risk, who may or may not show symptoms or signs, but it helps bring those to the surface with an appropriate response that will change the course that has been so tragic in so many people's lives.

In closing, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act is a fitting tribute to Garrett Smith and the love his family has for him. Senator SMITH has fought for its passage not only as a Senator but as a caring father. It has passed this body unanimously, exactly as it should have.

I yield the floor, celebrating and in closing saying, happy birthday, Garrett Lee Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my friend and colleague from Oregon, congratulations on turning a tragedy into a triumph. Garrett would have been indeed proud of his father.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a kind of celebration. I congratulate

Senator SMITH for his devotion to a cause. I also want Senator SMITH to know how much Landra and I—and I say this without reservation—benefited from the funeral of their son. It is something Landra and I talked about because GORDON and Sharon, from the very beginning, didn't hide the fact their son had taken his own life. I have been to funerals where there have been suicides involved and that is something you don't talk about. They did it openly. Every speaker there talked about Garrett, what a fine young man he was, and what a shame it was he took his own life. Our going to that funeral has benefited us in so many different ways, because we grew spiritually as a result of going to that funeral. There is nothing else we could have done that day that was more important.

Let me say to my friend GORDON SMITH, this is a time for celebration. But I say that we have to continue to work on this issue. This is an authorization bill. We need the appropriators to feel as we do and put money into this project. As good as this is—and we could never appropriate money unless we authorize it—this will be relatively meaningless unless we can get the appropriators to put money into this program, so there can be grants and monies to work for this dread disease.

So, Mr. President, I ask that the Senate here assembled have a moment of silence, not only for Garrett Smith, which is the purpose of our being here tonight, but for the 31,000 people who during the last 12 months in America have taken their own lives. Garrett is the person who is a focal point of this calamity that is facing our country today. But because of the work of GORDON SMITH, we are going to be able to move beyond this. Hopefully, in the years to come, this will be a number that won't be increasing but decreasing.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate take a moment of silence at this time on behalf of Garrett Smith and the thousands of people who have died as a result of the taking of their own lives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

[Moment of silence.]

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF NEVADA "TOP COPS"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to express my congratulations to Officers Gary Casper, Clint Malburg, and

Jim Mitchell and Sergeant Rick Servoss on their selection for the National Association of Police Organizations' Top Cops Awards.

The State of Nevada owes a great debt of gratitude to these brave police officers, and to all other law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe.

On August 19, 2003, a sudden storm caused dangerous flash flooding in the Las Vegas Valley. Sergeant Servoss and Officers Casper, Malburg and Mitchell, all members of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Search and Rescue team, were deployed to help residents escape the flood waters.

Seven people were trapped in life-threatening situations, stranded on top of their vehicles. Battling 60 mph winds and power lines, Sergeant Servoss and Officer Casper maneuvered the team's helicopter only feet above the roaring water. Suspended by a cable and winch operated by Officer Mitchell, Officer Malburg retrieved the trapped individuals. The team even saved four Las Vegas firefighters when rushing waters overtook their fire engine.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Officers Casper and Mitchell. That meeting reminded me how important it is to express our appreciation to police officers and other first responders. These people put their lives on the line every day to protect our homes and communities. They will tell you that they are just doing their—jobs but we must never forget that they are heroes.

When I attended law school, I worked as a U.S. Capitol Police officer to support my family. Today I still feel a bond with those who protect our communities. I am so grateful for the dedication and heroism of these brave men. Please join me in thanking them for their courageous efforts.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

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 19, 1999 in San Francisco, CA, three men were charged with suspicion of aggravated assault after they allegedly yelled anti-gay epithets and assaulted a man.

I believe that the 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.