

and implement collaborative efforts between their criminal justice and mental health systems. This would allow, for example, a State corrections department to partner with the mental health system to ensure that people with mental illness released from prison are provided medications and connected to community-based service providers. It also could provide for programs to train local law enforcement on responding to individuals with mental illness. These programs would be proposed and controlled by the local and State officials most knowledgeable about the needs of their communities.

Since its inception, our Nation has stood on the foundations of compassion and justice. These programs envisioned by this bill are a wonderful embodiment of both ideals and have earned a broad coalition of support from law enforcement, mental health advocates, state officials and private groups, including the Council of State Governments, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the American Correctional Association. With this bill, we move closer to both addressing the needs of the mentally ill and easing the burden upon our police and correctional workers. It will make a real difference, and I thank my colleagues—especially Ranking Member LEAHY, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator DURBIN, Senator DOMENICI, Senator CANTWELL, Chairman HATCH, and Senator MURRAY for their support. I would also like to thank Congressman STRICKLAND and Chairman SENSENBRENNER for championing this issue on the House side.

RETIREMENT OF VEE BURKE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a tribute to Vee Burke, specialist in income maintenance, Domestic Social Policy Division, a dedicated and gifted employee at the Congressional Research Service, who will be retiring from CRS at the end of this month.

Mrs. Burke is a graduate of the University of Chicago. She has four grown children and is the widow of Vincent Burke with whom she wrote Nixon's Good Deed, a book about Nixon's welfare reform proposals.

When Mrs. Burke joined CRS more than 30 years ago, she was already a recognized expert in the field of public welfare. During her tenure at CRS, she became a leading expert on the history, evolution and interaction of welfare and public assistance programs for low-income individuals and families.

Because of her stature as one of the leading authorities in the country in this policy area, Mrs. Burke's advice and assistance has often been required by the Congress. Over three decades, Mrs. Burke has contributed to major congressional deliberations affecting AFDC and related public assistance programs, including the sweeping welfare reforms enacted in 1996 that replaced AFDC with TANF.

During the consideration of the reauthorization of the 1996 welfare reform legislation in both the 107th and the 108th Congress, Mrs. Burke provided invaluable assistance to the Senate Finance Committee. In the 108th Congress, Mrs. Burke was especially helpful to myself, as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and to my staff. She assisted in the drafting of the committee mark and legislation, providing technical assistance as well as continuously analyzing state data. Because of her vast knowledge, Mrs. Burke also functioned as an impromptu tutor to Senate Finance Committee staff on this history of welfare.

The work of the Congress is detailed and complex—in order to do our work members and our staffs need to be well versed in policy in order for us to make the best decisions. For this expertise, we often rely on the analysis of the Congressional Research Service. CRS provides a unique service to the Congress in that they are truly non-partisan. The specialists from CRS provide non-biased, research based analysis that helps guide us, as policymakers, to make the best decisions.

Mrs. Burke, throughout her long and admirable career, has embodied the very best of what CRS provides for the Congress. Those of us who care deeply about programs affecting the poor thank her for her efforts, will miss her and wish her well.

RETIREMENT OF SHARON HICKEY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep gratitude and best wishes to a dedicated and long-serving member of my Washington staff, Sharon "Sherry" Hickey, who has worked on Capitol Hill for nearly 31 years and who is retiring from the U.S. Senate on December 3, 2004.

Sherry has been a member of my Senate family since I was first elected to this office in January 1989. She has many talents, "wears many hats," is always willing to lend a hand or offer guidance, and her contributions to the work of this office, particularly in the area of constituent outreach, have been invaluable. She began in my office as assistant to the chief of staff and military caseworker. As caseworker, she most clearly demonstrated her compassion and empathy for others. Sherry assisted many grateful soldiers and their families in my home State of Connecticut, including during the first Gulf War, by intently listening to their concerns and successfully resolving the variety of problems they faced to the fullest extent possible.

Sherry is also a gifted and eloquent writer. As my personal/legislative correspondent, she has researched and drafted responses for literally thousands of constituent communications on important issues before Congress, as well as requests for tribute, congratulatory, and recommendation letters that I have received over the years. With her expressive, articulate, and in-

tuitive communication skills, Sherry has a knack for preparing responses to each of them in the informative, yet personalized, style that I prefer.

Prior to the good fortune that brought her to my office, Sherry first began her Hill career when she was hired by Representative John Melcher (D-MT) in December 1973. Following his election to the Senate in 1976, Sherry remained on his staff as a personal assistant and consumer affairs caseworker until he left office in 1988. Previously, she served as secretary to the Assistant Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Mint from 1967-1971.

Some may find it surprising to learn that, among her many hidden abilities, Sherry is a talented artist. Perhaps her retirement will afford her more time to pursue this interest. Still, what has always been most important to Sherry is her family. She met her husband Peter while she was a member of Senator Melcher's staff; and their son, Brian, of whom they are both enormously proud, spent 2 years as a toddler at the Senate Employees Child Care Center. Sherry often brought Brian to the office for a visit, so it is hard for me to believe that he has since achieved the Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout and is now a second-year student at the University of Virginia! For her own part, after spending precious time devoted to raising her son and guiding him along the path toward adulthood, Sherry applied her energies after work, and, with her usual determination, completed her Associate in Science degree from Northern Virginia Community College earlier this year.

Sherry has had an exemplary career and fully understands the value of a public service commitment to help others. She has always had a special caring touch in reaching out to the constituents we serve and getting them the help they need and deserve. She has provided a guiding hand and has been a resource and support to so many members of my staff. Sherry has what some may call an "old-fashioned" work ethic, but it is one based on immense pride and satisfaction in a job well done. I can certainly attest to that.

Sherry is proud to be a native Washingtonian, and she can now be proud of the years she has dedicated to my State of Connecticut and to the State of Montana. I know her well-deserved retirement will afford her many new opportunities. Sherry has made many friends on the Hill, and we will miss her ready smile and kindness. It is with great fondness and my personal thanks that I wish her only the best in whatever direction she chooses to go from here. Congratulations on a job well done!

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 August 25, 1998 in Tremont, ME, Robert Powers was arrested for allegedly taunting a man with anti-gay slurs and throwing rocks at him.

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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AUDRAIN MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY OF MEXICO, MISSOURI

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I join with my constituents in recognizing the Audrain Medical Center Auxiliary 50th Golden Jubilee.

For the last 50 years, the Audrain Medical Center Auxiliary has voluntarily helped raise money for the Audrain Medical Center. Fifty years ago the group was created with 65 charter members and in 2 years grew to 165. Today, the membership is a unique group of 224 Missourians who are dedicated to bettering their local community through their service work. As of 2004 the group has raised \$839,700 for the Audrain Medical Center. This year donations will go toward the telemetry unit for cardiac rehabilitation and a portable x-ray machine. I stand here today rest assured that through their continued hard work and dedication the group will soon reach their goal of \$1 million.

It is my great honor to recognize the community participants that comprise the Audrain Medical Center Auxiliary on this, the 50th Golden Jubilee of the organization. On behalf of the people of the State of Missouri, I look forward to 50 more years of leadership and outstanding civic participation from the Audrain Medical Center Auxiliary.●

CALVERT ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE, INC.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc., CAASA, a grassroots organization that has been dedicated to fighting alcohol and drug abuse in Calvert County since 1989.

Since its inception fifteen years ago, CAASA has been working hard to establish a healthy, drug-free environment for the entire community. This grassroots organization meets the people where they are. CAASA encourages citizens to take an active role in preventing substance abuse through public awareness, education, treatment and law enforcement. Its programs benefit

students in the classroom, families at home and individuals in the workplace.

CAASA has consistently supported the expansion of school-based substance abuse prevention activities and programs to help abusers and their families achieve a drug-free lifestyle. It has also assisted businesses in promoting an alcohol and drug-free workplace. I believe that the best ideas come from the people. CAASA does just that—it awards grants to members of the community who approach them with new ideas. By working together with the people, CAASA is helping to strengthen our communities and fight the drug war right here in Maryland.

Many of the programs that CAASA has sponsored have benefitted the youth of Calvert County, such as Project Graduation. Project Graduation is a drug-free and alcohol-free all night celebration for the graduating seniors from Calvert County's public high schools. Since the inception of this program, there have not been any drug or alcohol related motor vehicle incidents involving members of Calvert County's graduating classes on graduation night.

This group has proven to be a critical part of our Nation's war on drugs by working locally in communities in Maryland. For this we owe them our gratitude. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc. for showing the community how to "choose life . . . not drugs."●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "RODDY" SUNCHILD

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a truly great citizen, a great tribal leader and a military hero, John "Roddy" Sunchild. The Rocky Boy Tribe of North Central Montana, the State of Montana and the United States of America have lost an outstanding leader, citizen and soldier. And for those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, his family and colleagues, we have lost a great father, grandfather, husband and friend.

John "Roddy" Eagle Sunchild, Sr. an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation was born June 30th, 1930, the grandson of Sunchild, an early leader of the Cree people. He attended schools on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana in his youth.

Roddy was a quiet, unassuming man. At the same time, he was a fierce advocate for his community and his people and a courageous warrior/soldier for his country. He possessed a gentle, understated sense of humor that put people at ease and, at the same time, made points more eloquently than long-winded speeches.

At age 17, Roddy enlisted in the U.S. Airborne Paratroopers and was immediately assigned to a tour in Korea. It was during his time with the 4th Airborne Ranger Company that he distinguished himself as one of the most hon-

ored members of the 187th Regimental Combat Team. Roddy received citations which included the Master Parachutist Badge, Airborne Glider Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Double Valor, the Purple Heart, the U.S. Good Conduct Medal, Korean Campaign Medal, the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, the French Fourragere, and Master Sergeant. The highest level he attained in the military was an E7.

Roddy and his wife Florence, a retired teacher for the Rocky Boy Elementary School system, have four children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

In 1984, he was elected to the Tribal Business Committee, where he advocated for tribal education opportunities for his people, along with better health services. His leadership, while serving as Chairman for the Stone Child College Board of Directors, was the primary catalyst for the college in achieving full accreditation. He initiated various wellness programs for the Chippewa Cree Tribe and sought opportunities for individual improvement though health, education, and a stronger tribal government.

In 1992, Roddy was elected Tribal Chairman and during his tenure the Chippewa Cree Tribe sought, and was awarded, a Self-governance Compact from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA. Roddy was a staunch proponent for Tribal Higher Education and for improved Health Care for his people. Roddy was very well known throughout the United States and Canada for his active involvement in the well being and improvement of Indian Country.

Over the past several years, Roddy founded and served as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Tribal Development Association, NTDA, which administers federal grants and cooperative agreements to enhance the governance and economies of Indian Reservations. The NTDA also works to promote inter-tribal trade and commerce and create programs that serve as a hand up, rather than a hand-out.

Roddy exemplified what could be construed as a true modern warrior. He was able to advocate and promote modern ways in order to ensure that Natives could compete in today's world. While doing this he still held on to and practiced his true traditional and cultural ways. He was one of our Sundance leaders, and had earned the right to practice various other cultural ceremonies. His presence played an integral part in most cultural ceremonies held on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

Family was of particular importance to Roddy. What Roddy enjoyed most was being at home with his family. He especially enjoyed his many grandchildren. Roddy was an active member of numerous Native American organizations and associations and was a great advocate for Native American Veterans, especially on the Rocky Boy.

Roddy not only set an example for others to follow, he set about his life's