

period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week, hundreds of family, friends, and admirers gathered in Houston, TX, to honor the life of a WWII veteran, legal giant, and true American hero, U.S. district judge James DeAnda. Judge DeAnda died last Thursday, September 7, 2006, at the age of 81. Throughout his life, he quietly went about his work of ensuring that Hispanic Americans were guaranteed the same protections and rights afforded them in our Constitution.

Today, we mourn his passing and pay tribute to his important contributions to this Nation. I am joined by Senator SALAZAR, who is familiar with the importance of Judge DeAnda's legacy. Senator SALAZAR, what do you believe are Judge DeAnda's most important legal victories?

Mr. SALAZAR. Thank you, Senator REID, for your recognition of Judge DeAnda. One of his most significant cases came in 1954, when he worked on and argued a little-known but enormously significant case before the U.S. Supreme Court. I should also mention that Judge DeAnda, together with a legal team of three other Mexican-American attorneys, were the first Mexican-American attorneys to argue before the highest Court in our land.

In *Hernández v. Texas*, Judge DeAnda believed that their client, Pete Hernandez, could not receive a fair and impartial trial unless members of other races served on the jury. Through careful research, Judge DeAnda showed that Hispanics in Jackson County, TX, were essentially barred from serving as jurors despite comprising a significant proportion of the population at the time. In fact, no Hispanic had served on any jury in Jackson County for a quarter century. The Supreme Court agreed and overturned the murder conviction. They unanimously ruled that Mexican Americans and all other racial groups in the United States had equal protection under the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Despite this major legal victory, the Hernandez case was overshadowed by a companion case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was decided just a week later. But the results of this decision are evident in American courtrooms everywhere. Because of this decision alone, Judge DeAnda holds a special place in our country's history and our quest to become a more inclusive America.

Mr. REID. Yes, I agree with the Senator from Colorado. Judge DeAnda no doubt played a key role in our Nation's history. He was a key leader in the Latino civil rights movement who worked tirelessly to foster legal equal-

ity for Latinos and all Americans. Like many great Americans, Judge DeAnda rose from humble beginnings.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Judge DeAnda was born in Houston, TX. He interrupted his college education at Texas A&M University to join the Marines during World War II, serving in the Pacific and then later China. When he returned from the war, he completed his studies and then enrolled in the University of Texas Law School in 1950, where he was among the first Hispanics admitted.

Beyond the Hernandez case, Judge DeAnda took on countless other cases in his fight to end segregation of Hispanics in Texas. In 1968, he went before the Supreme Court in the case of *Cisneros v. Corpus Christi ISD*, a case that led to the desegregation and increased funding of schools in that city. It was also during that year that Judge DeAnda helped to establish one of the most respected national Hispanic organizations, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF. Senator SALAZAR, would you say that the founding of MALDEF has empowered the Hispanic community in our country?

Mr. SALAZAR. As a Hispanic who grew up in the Southwest, I can say that the impact of MALDEF's establishment has been profound. As the Hispanic community's legal advocate, MALDEF has taken on cases throughout the country. In my own State, their work has helped improved access to equal education for Hispanics.

Judge DeAnda was also actively involved with Hispanic organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, and the American G.I. Forum. By working with MALDEF, they ensured that Hispanic veterans, who gave the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, were not denied burial in our veterans cemeteries. Judge DeAnda's leadership was visionary and was recognized by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, who nominated him to serve as a Federal judge in the Southern District of Texas. At the time of his appointment, he was only the Nation's second Mexican-American Federal district judge.

Despite all of his contributions to the Latino community, Judge DeAnda never sought the limelight. He only strove to ensure equal rights for all in this country through his thorough representation and fair consideration of those who came before his court. I find his own words to be the most telling. He is said to have told a group of law school students once, "You will find law to be a most satisfying career because of the service you can give your fellow man. I know of no other endeavor in which you can bring about healthy change and make a decent living. You can live well and do good."

Judge DeAnda certainly did good and we are grateful to him for his service.

Mr. REID. We are truly indebted to Judge DeAnda. Indeed, it is only fitting that as our Nation begins a month-long

celebration of Hispanic contributions to America during Hispanic Heritage Month, we take this time to acknowledge Judge DeAnda. We are deeply saddened by his passing but are also inspired by his example as we carry on the struggle to ensure equity for all Americans. His life-long dedication to the protection of Americans has made him an icon in the legal profession and a pioneer of the American civil rights movement.

Judge DeAnda will be missed by all, but certainly by his wife Joyce and their four children. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On December 6, 2003, in Largo, FL, William McHenry was stabbed to death by Lucas McCauley. McCauley, a straight man, followed McHenry home from Club Z109, a bar that caters to gay and transgendered people. After arriving at his home, McHenry was attacked and stabbed by McCauley. According to police, the motivation for the attack was the victim's sexual orientation.

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.

HATE CRIME

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the Jewish New Year is a time for celebration, prayer, and reflection. As friends and family commemorate the high holy days which begin tomorrow evening, Jewish communities across Washington State and around the world will come together, consider the past, and look to the year ahead.

Rosh Hashanah brings new beginnings and new energy; Yom Kippur calls for atonement and forgiveness. These ideals extend beyond religion or race—they build common ground and inspire shared sacrifice. All of this was threatened by an act of senseless violence and hate this summer in Seattle. We cannot give in to that hate.

During these days of repentance and renewal, I share a commitment to ending violence and to living with one another in peace both around the world and here in our own communities.

Yet we are still shocked and saddened by the pain and loss of July 28,