

to the hospitals. Before I came to the Senate in 1997, I operated a small business with my wife, and I wish the Lemkes the best of luck in this new endeavor.

Again, I congratulate SMSgt. Lemke for his selection as one of the Air Forces' 12 Outstanding Airmen for 2006.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to salute Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 4, 2006. Founded at Cornell University in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha is the Nation's oldest African-American fraternity. In addition to Martin Luther King, Jr., the fraternity also proudly claims notable American leaders such as former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, former Senator Edward Brooke, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, and countless others.

From advocating for the rights of African Americans to encouraging young people to attend college, Alpha Phi Alpha has played an important role in our country. Most recently, the fraternity successfully pushed to create a national memorial for Martin Luther King, Jr., on the National Mall in Washington, DC. I send my best wishes upon this important milestone, and I am certain that the fraternity will continue its rich legacy of service and social justice in the next 100 years.

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 October 11, 2006, in New York, NY, Michael Sandy, a gay man, was attacked by four men. During the attack, Sandy was struck by a car while trying to flee. According to police, Sandy went to meet a man that had contacted him through a singles website. They drove to a parking lot where three other men were waiting, the group subsequently attacked and beat Sandy. Police believe that these men have used the Internet to find victims numerous times in the past.

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.

PORTLAND—UNWIRED

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my home State of Oregon and the city of Portland. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Portland city officials and their plan to "Unwire Portland," the forecast in Portland today is "overcast, with free broadband access for everyone." You see, there is a new cloud covering the city—a Wi-Fi broadband cloud.

Residents, businesses, and city officials will be able to access the Internet anywhere under the 134 square mile Wi-Fi cloud, download content as quickly as 1 megabyte per second, and upload at speeds reaching 256 kilobits per second. And they will be able to do it all for free.

The Wi-Fi network will not only offer city residents and businesses a new affordable choice for broadband access, but will also improve the efficiency of city government operations. Public safety and other field-based employees will now be able to wirelessly download and upload reports and data from the field.

The public / private partnership that was struck by the city to realize this accomplishment perfectly illustrates how municipalities, free of State restrictions, can improve access to broadband opportunities for its citizens while improving city services.

The Wi-Fi cloud over Portland also reminds us that the future competitiveness of our country depends upon ubiquitous broadband deployment.

Congress must enact legislation that clearly articulates a national broadband policy and provides affordable broadband access for all Americans. I look forward to working with each of you, my colleagues, toward this endeavor.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, crime in our Nation is increasing. Too often guns are involved. In 2005, our country experienced a surge in murder and robbery rates. Unfortunately, that surge has continued in 2006. The Police Executive Research Forum, a think tank that serves many of the Nations' police departments, examined the murder and robbery statistics of 53 U.S. cities for the first 6 months of this year. In their report, "A Gathering Storm: Violent Crime in America," they report that murder has increased in 26 of the 53 cities, and robberies have increased in 43 of the 53 cities.

In Boston, after a 19.6-percent increase in murder in 2005, the first 6 months of 2006 produced another 27.5-percent increase. In Memphis, murder increased 27 percent in 2005 and 43 percent in 2006. Police officials attribute these severe increases to increases in gang activity, violent offenders returning from prison and kids who have easy access to guns.

In September, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that in 2005 vio-

lent crime increased 2.3 percent, murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 3.4 percent, robbery increased 3.9 percent, and aggravated assault increased 1.8 percent from 2004.

What may be even more dramatic is the fact that these statistics are not exclusive to larger cities. Smaller communities that typically had relatively low amounts of crime have also been affected. In the first 6 months of 2006, robbery was up 47 percent in Rochester, NY, 37 percent in suburban Montgomery County, MD, 36.8 percent in Minneapolis, 36 percent in Milwaukee, and 27 percent in Norfolk, VA. This translates into thousands more people being robbed, often at gunpoint.

According to a poll conducted by the Washington Post and ABC News, 61 percent of Americans favor stricter gun laws. This is up from 57 percent in 2002. The 109th Congress's record on gun safety is not one of which to be proud. It has been a "do nothing" Congress. I will continue in the 110th Congress to work to pass sensible gun safety legislation to help make our communities safer.

THANKING UTAH VOLUNTEERS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to all the men and women in Washington County, UT, whose hard work and diligence have made and are making the Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm such a success. These dedicated volunteers are helping to protect and display an asset of great value not only to Utah but to the world.

The history of this discovery is fascinating. A few years ago, retired optometrist Dr. Sheldon Johnson was preparing his farm site for development, and as he turned over the earth, he discovered tracks of early residents of Washington County—very early residents, in fact. Dinosaur tracks dating back to the Jurassic period of history were uncovered. They are being preserved and are bringing economic and historic benefit to St. George, Washington County, UT, and the Nation. To date, visitors from 68 nations and all 50 States have visited the site.

I want to recognize and thank Dr. Sheldon and LaVerna Johnson who discovered the tracks and then donated the land to preserve this heritage. The Johnsons have made it all possible. Linda Sappington, Washington County volunteer coordinator, aided by volunteer supervisors Kae Crabtree and Carole Chadwick, began in February 2000 to bring together individuals who cared about the tracks and who were willing to give of themselves to help preserve the find.

I also want to recognize and thank Mayor Dan McArthur, the city of St. George, Washington County, and the Utah State Legislature for their efforts. Past and present museum staff Theresa Walker, Andrew R.C. Milner, Janice Evans, Bob Kroff, and Anneli Segura have put forth countless hours

of work and dedication to enhance, preserve, and share this prehistoric treasure with the community and future generations.

In addition to the Johnsons, I recognize Suzanne Allen; Dr. Andrew Barnum; Herb Basso; Dr. David Borris; Alan Crooks; Lyle Drake; Kenneth Hinton; Sharon Isom; unfortunately, now deceased; LaRee Jones; Dr. James Kirkland; Dr. Martin Lockley; Dan Matheson; the late Layton Ott, Kathy Smith; Darcy Stewart; Marshall Topham; Gary Watts; John Willie. They are all members of the DinosaurAh!torium, a 501 (c) 3 foundation responsible for funding the project. Advisory members include James Hansen, Dr. Jerry Harris, Gary Sanders, with Cliff Green and Robert Milner, resident artist. I also thank Paul Jensen and Jeff Chapman for allowing access to their properties for the collection, preservation, and storage of fossils.

Finally, today, I specifically want to recognize and thank the many volunteers who have made and are making the Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm possible. Many of these wonderful individuals have been contributing their time and energy for more than 5 years. A tremendous thank you to the Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm volunteers. I commend each of them.

Mr. President, 2000 volunteers include Chad Anderson; T.R. Thompson; Andrew Milner; Donnette Hatch; June Barton; Rae Crabtree; Nina Schwarze; Karen Rammell; Lee Rammell; Doug Bergen; Richard Gardner; Ryan Babcock; Dick Groves; Robert Pritchitt; Klein Adams; Rafael Acosta; Ryan Oburn; Hal Arrowood; Jason Skeen; Clyde Terry; Vilma Terry; Bev Middleton; Chris Walker; Steve Smith; Helen Salvatore; Cindy Greco; Scott Broen; Jereen Hyde; Stevan Duke; Barbara Duke; Stacie Wilson; Constance Sherwood; Jacob Hendriks; Josephine Kellejan; Ruth Rote; John Rote; Dustin Rooks; and Brett Bronson.

Mr. President, 2001 volunteers: Jim Burns; Barbara Hatch; Peggy Wardle; Carol Duley; Gary Watts; Ember Rodgers; Kirk Rehfield; Bill Reynolds; Theresa Walker; Cassandra Lee; Lynnne Rolfe; Joel Campbell; Ryan Losee; Chris Gibson; Kyle Fraley; John Shaw; Steve Anderson; Drew Gubler; Shelton Heath; Paula Ryan; Bernie Yeager; Jill Conner; Candace Crane; Nichole Burton; Austin Carter; Dusty Ott; Kirk Richfield; Nate Leifson; Ron Kittelsrud; Maren Christensen; Ben Joe Markland; Emily Weidauer; Holly Hult; Carol Killian; Scott Woodworth; Brian Barrett; Warren Hoskings; Kevin Wiederhold; Autumn Cluff; and Lynn White.

Mr. President, 2002 volunteers: Rudy Johnson; Clay Hopkins; Jeff Lingwall; Debbie Woodard; Joyce Proctor; Britton Puki; Joe Borden; Melvin Done; Melanie Hackmann; Kathryn VanRoosendaal; Doug Griffiths; Charlotte Rice; Angie Hendrickson; Chad

Tipton; Laurie Barnholt; Aaron Heaton; Kathy Hancock; Carson Blickenstaff; Glen Steenbuck; Bev Rhodes; Brigham Mellor; Kami Cox; Kathy Cox; Russ Childs; Delbert Vern Chadwick; Beverly Kirk; Matthew Wilkinson; Monte Johnson; Darrell Wade; Terri Wade; Sheena Gawer; Barbara Smith; Ken Parkes; Darienne McNamara; Kat Duttadway; Kylea Christensen; Jacob Cox; Jason Rabbitt; Don Triptow; Bill Yensen; Arlene Yensen; Les Townsend; Barbara Townsend; Al Abrams; John Donnell; JoAnn Abrams; Arlea Howell; David Kitselmer; Steve Chilow; Cathy Freeman; Duane Freeman; Steven Bart; Elizabeth Nipperus; Misti Rooks; Kathleen Milner; Robert Milner; Shirley White; Robert White; and Guy Pace.

Mr. President, 2003 volunteers: Janece Tolber; George D'Apuzzo; Carl Berg; Laurie Berg; Myron Hatch; David Slauf; Taylor Birthisel; Linda Baldazzi; Bob Baldazzi; Sally Stephenson; Steve Stephenson; Roger Head; Bonnie Head; Jacqueline Dubois; Jerry Schwantz; Shirley Surfes; Pat Vanderwark; Keith Vanderwark; Joan Triptow; Jay Guymon; Kolby Andersen; Kelly Bringhurst; Marc Raines; Lisa Raines; Molly Swift; Chester Pierce; Dennis Broad; George Muller; Rena Jensen; Roger Taylor; Maynie Begeman; Robert Begeman; Val Humble; Paul Wiener; Frances Wiener; Anne Bredon; Gail Taylor; Mike Llewellyn; Curtis Halliday; Dale Peck; Arlea Howell; Shannon Ducrest; Anne Basham; Brooke Ranter; Melissa Thomson; Michelle Bower; Jana Hightower; Brian Schlegel; Danny Diamond; Dallas Jones; Andrew Neff; Lindsay Connelley-Brown; and Linda Hoernke.

Mr. President, 2004 volunteers: Carla Ritter; Sheila Hughes; Don Hughes; Tracey O'Kelly; Jessica Williams; and Lillian Zielke.

Mr. President, 2005 volunteers: Paula Welker; Connie Welker; Kameron Evans; Dick Vos; Roberta Champlin; Wally Champlin; Richard Berger; Justin Moosman; Christine Blum; Lamont Reynolds; Judy D'Apuzzo; Louise Snyder; Arleen Stillman; Lorene Reynolds; Freddie Arrighi; Shelly Robinson; Sarah Spears; Judy Warren; and Janice Evans.

To these dedicated volunteers and to all of those who will continue to volunteer, I say thank you.

NURSING RELIEF FOR DISADVANTAGED AREAS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would like to go on the record regarding H.R. 1285, the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Reauthorization Act of 2005, a bill that I support as it moves through the Senate today.

This legislation extends for 3 years the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 which provides non-immigrant visas for nurses in areas where there is a shortage of health professionals.

Many hospitals across the Nation and, particularly in my home State of Texas, have been experiencing great difficulties over the last several years in attracting nurses. This shortage has been especially severe in both inner-city neighborhoods and in rural isolated areas.

It was for this reason that in 1999 Congress passed the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act. This legislation created a new H-1C temporary worker program with 500 visas available per year for registered nurses. In order to be eligible to petition for an alien nurse, a hospital must be located in a health professional shortage area as designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the hospital must have at least 190 acute care beds, and it must have a certain percentage of Medicare and Medicaid patients.

The legislation also included strong protections for American nurses by requiring that any H-1C nurses be paid the prevailing wage and mandating that hospitals take steps to recruit American nurses. Furthermore H-1C nurses may not comprise more than 33 percent of a hospital's registered nurses, and these hospitals may not contract out any H-1C nurses to other hospitals.

The legislation before us, H.R. 1285, will reauthorize the H-1C nurse program for 3 more years. The H-1C visa category is vital to Texas hospitals like McAllen Medical Center and Mercy Health System, located in Laredo, TX. The United States is facing a critical nursing shortage in the coming years, and this small but significant program is essential to our efforts to recruit more nurses to the United States. I believe this legislation strikes a balance between the critical need for nurses in certain shortage areas while protecting the wages and working conditions of U.S. citizen nurses.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TESTIMONY OF MALLORY FACTOR

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following testimony given by Mr. Mallory Factor before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on September 29, 2004, and before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on June 15, 2004, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MALLORY FACTOR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES SENATE, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

Chairman Shelby, Senator Sarbanes, and Distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify today about my views on the critical issue of curbing terror financing.

Chairman Shelby, I would like to commend you in particular for your unwavering commitment to addressing the financing of terror. The work that this Committee is undertaking is extremely important to the United