

number of American soldiers who have served in every single war since the beginning of our Republic, including people like those in my family who served, and some who died, in some of the wars we have fought in this country.

In World War II, my father was a staff sergeant in the Army. My mother, at the age of 19, found her way across the country from a place with no post office and no name in northern New Mexico to the War Department here in Washington, DC, where she spent 5 years contributing to that great cause of the last century which made America the power and the hope and beacon of opportunity for the entire world. There have been thousands and thousands of Americans like that who have made the ultimate sacrifice. But my mother was actually here in Washington, DC during World War II. She received a telegram that said her oldest brother, my Uncle Leandro, had been killed in the war in Europe.

When we authorize a study of the Latino museum in Washington, we are saying that part of our history is to recognize that diversity that makes us a great Nation.

Oftentimes I reflect on the greatness we have here in America. It is important for us to reflect on the fact that that greatness has come about through some pain but always with some promise of the future. Yes, there have been painful chapters of our history, including the very painful chapter where this country allowed for one group of people to own another group of people, simply based on the color of their skin. We lived through another 100 years after the Civil War until *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, when we allowed as a function of government for there to be the separation of the races so that it was OK for there to be Black schools and Brown schools and White schools. It took Justice Warren and a unanimous Supreme Court in 1954 to say that under the 14th amendment, that kind of segregation had no room under the equal protection clause of our Constitution.

When we push forward initiatives as we have today with the Latino initiative, what we are saying to America is, we are a great nation, because we are a diverse people. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said it best in a case she decided in the last few years involving diversity at the University of Michigan. She said the national security of our country depended on the military forces having diversity. She said that in an opinion that had been filed as an amicus brief by former members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She also said that the strength of the Nation in terms of future participation of the United States in the global economy was very dependent on us being able to participate in that global economy, that diversity was required for us to succeed. For that proposition, she cited to a brief filed by some 50 of the Fortune 500 companies that participated in that case. The Latino museum for us is an-

other step in the celebration of our diversity.

As I look at the challenges we face ahead in this century, I think we can embrace and celebrate the diversity of our country that will make us stronger. There will be those who will say we ought to take another road and that that road ought to be the one where we allow differences to separate us, where they will agitate for using those differences among us to create discord and to bring about agents of division. I reject that view. The view I embrace is that the diversity of our country is what will make us strong, not only in the 21st century but beyond. The Latino museum legislation we passed today is one step in making that statement.

I also finally want to comment on S. 327 which was also included in this legislation. It requires a study on ways in which we can celebrate and commemorate the contributions that César Chávez made to the United States. César Chávez was the leader of the United Farm Workers until his death a few years ago, one of the most celebrated Americans we know today and one of the architects of our civil rights movement and someone who in many ways is typified with people who have been pioneers of civil rights such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and others who have done so much to make sure we are an America in progress. It is fitting and proper that we, as a Congress, honor someone with the legacy of César Chávez. I was proud to have bipartisan sponsorship of that legislation so that we can now move forward to figure out ways in which we can celebrate the legacy of this great man.

I yield the floor.

#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the historic Good Friday agreement, which put Northern Ireland on the path to reconciliation and peace after decades of violence, bloodshed, and deep mistrust.

The people of Northern Ireland and the courageous leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and Great Britain, all deserve special recognition on this day for their deep and unwavering commitment to peace. We salute them for their extraordinary accomplishment and difficult compromises they were able to achieve to create a greater and better future for the people of Northern Ireland. Their success is an example to the world of what can be accomplished with courage and commitment.

The benefits and advances have been extraordinary over the past decade. Guns are out of politics, and power is being shared on an equal basis. Future generations in Northern Ireland will live in peace, stability and prosperity, and they will do so because of the extraordinary commitment by leaders on

all sides to a peaceful resolution of conflict based upon mutual respect for all the people.

All Americans congratulate the people of Northern Ireland on this auspicious anniversary. They were truly blessed to have such extraordinary peacemakers among them, and we pray for similar leadership in resolving the other bitter conflicts that challenge our world today.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CODY WANKEN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow I honor a fallen soldier. American hero Marine LCpl Cody Wanken was seriously injured near Fallujah, Iraq, last fall. He subsequently died from these injuries on April 2, 2008. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Cody's parents, Rick and Susan Wanken.

Cody was a machine gunner in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was a 2006 graduate of Hampton-Dumont High School and served as the 2005-06 president of the Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates, Hampton-Dumont chapter.

Throughout his youth, Cody was a standout athlete. He played on a Hampton youth baseball team that took first place at the Iowa games, and he was named to the Class 3A, District 2 defensive team after his senior year of high school. Cody returned to speak at Hampton-Dumont while recuperating from his injuries obtained in Iraq.

Cody will be forever remembered by his family, friends, and community members. One of Cody's former coaches said, "He was very, very proud to serve in the Marines. You could just tell." For this, we are all indebted for his service to our country. I express gratitude on behalf of all Americans to the family of a true American patriot, fallen hero Marine LCpl Cody Wanken.

#### THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and 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.

Early in the morning of September 3, 2007, Andrew Geske and a friend were walking home in the Capitol Hill area of Seattle, WA, when a black BMW pulled up alongside of them. According to Geske, he and his friend stopped walking when the car slowed down, assuming it was an acquaintance of theirs. When the car came to a halt, the driver burst out of the car, hurling