

in one location, minimizing travel and saving energy in the process.

During the Consumer Electronics Show, approximately 1.7 million meetings are conducted. Transactions are ordered, commerce is buzzing, and the entrepreneurial spirit of business flourishes. This is economic activity that extends beyond whichever city serves as the host.

It benefits all of us when an opportunity for business growth and productivity takes place. So let's not lose sight of this fact, especially now. Business meetings are an important tool. Let's make sure we do not leave common sense off the agenda.

RETIREMENT OF GUY ROCHA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Guy Rocha, who retired from his post as Nevada State archivist on February 2 exactly 28 years to the day from the time he assumed this position. He began as the youngest State archivist in the Nation. At this time, only the New Hampshire and Maryland State archivists have served longer than him. His exceptional archival and research abilities have earned him an impressive reputation and have made him an invaluable asset to the State of Nevada.

Guy Louis Rocha was born on September 23, 1951. He grew up in Las Vegas and later moved to Reno. His first job with the State was with the Nevada Historical Society in Reno in 1976. He was appointed to be the State archivist in 1981. As the State archivist, Guy was responsible for managing Nevada's historically valuable records dating all the way back to 1851. For his longtime service, he received the Award of Merit for Leadership in History from the American Association for State and Local History.

Above all, Guy is known for his love of truth. He commonly corrects the inaccuracies of reporters and journalists. For 12 years he has written the "Historical Myth a Month" column for *Sierra Sage*, and since 2000 he has written a biweekly column in *Reno Gazette-Journal*. For his work in debunking popular Nevada myths he has come to be known as the "myth-buster."

His research expertise and impartiality have even been called upon to provide historical evidence in settling legal disputes. In addition to his archival duties, he has authored two books and many articles and book reviews and he has served as a rotating host for Reno's National Public Radio show "High Desert Forum." Guy also owns a production company that produces historical documentaries.

Guy Rocha has been rightly called a "State treasure." His contributions as the State archivist, as an historian, and as a writer form an impressive legacy to be honored by current and future generations. All Nevadans have reason to be proud of Guy Rocha, and I know I join them in congratulating him on a well-earned retirement from his duties as Nevada State archivist.

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND JONATHAN HARRIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to two heroic soldiers of the U.S. Army from my home Commonwealth of Kentucky, Gary and Jonathan Harris. Father and son, each was awarded the Silver Star for valorous acts in two separate wars.

The Silver Star is the Nation's third-highest award for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. Those rare few who receive it do so because of their display of selfless sacrifice and unparalleled courage under fire.

Jonathan Harris, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot holding the rank of chief warrant officer 2, came under attack near Gardez, Afghanistan, on July 2, 2008, while attempting to transport soldiers. His Blackhawk was attacked by the enemy with rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft gun systems. Jonathan was able to relocate and land the burning helicopter in a nearby field and safely evacuate the passengers. He then contacted another helicopter to extract his crew.

During the evacuation, while helping escort his wounded fellow soldiers to the new helicopter, Jonathan exposed himself to gunfire while protecting his wounded men and killing at least one attacker. Only after every member of the crew, ground forces, and extraction team were safely onboard did CW2 Jonathan Harris himself get into the helicopter. Because of these heroic deeds, Jonathan Harris is the first aviator to receive the Silver Star since the Vietnam war.

Gary Harris, Jonathan's father, was a staff sergeant serving in Vietnam when he performed the acts of gallantry that would earn him the same medal as his son's. Gary was a squad leader on August 15, 1969, when he and his fellow soldiers came under intense mortar and rocket fire while on combat patrol. He instructed his men to return fire and moved them into a more strategic position.

During the battle, Gary ran across the field of combat to assist medics while ignoring the risk to his own life from the enemy's gunfire. He helped transport the wounded to the medical-evacuation helicopter, saving the lives of many.

SSG Gary Harris received his original Silver Star in the mail, never having the benefit of a formal ceremony—until now. This past November, Gary Harris was honored at a ceremony in Fort Campbell, KY., while Jonathan Harris received his award at the Combined Joint Task Force-101 Headquarters in Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. They were able to view each other's ceremonies via video teleconference. At his ceremony, Gary Harris also received the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service in Vietnam as well as the Silver Star.

As is typical of so many of the brave men and women in uniform I have had the honor to meet over the years, both

the father and the son insist that their own actions are not particularly remarkable. Each was quick to point to the other as more worthy of admiration and respect.

"For me, I feel like my grandfathers and my dad, those are the true heroes," said Jonathan Harris. "I would like to think that something was passed on to me."

Gary, on the other hand, recognized the value of the strong bond his son had with his fellow soldiers. "These guys really stick together," he said. "We did the same thing, but I don't think we were near as cohesive a group as they are. They are really gung ho about taking care of each other. . . . I know what it is like, every day facing death. It just tears your nerves all to pieces for a while."

Gary and Jonathan Harris are excellent examples of the brave and dedicated soldiers that make America's Armed Forces the best in the world. And clearly there is a strong sense of duty, honor and love of country that runs in the Harris family and has been passed on from father to son. Their spirit of service represents the very best of what Kentucky has to offer our great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SSG Gary Harris and CWO Jonathan Harris for the many sacrifices they have made to our country. Kentuckians everywhere are honored to know and love such brave heroes.

IRAQ

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I call this body's attention to the recent developments in Iraq. Last month, Iraqis went to the polls to vote in the second provincial election since the hand-over of power in 2004. Elections were conducted peacefully under the watchful eyes of Iraqi security forces, and the results were quickly certified by the United Nations.

This peaceful expression of political will is yet another demonstration of political progress in Iraq. Less than 2 years after some were declaring the war lost and the surge a failure, violence has declined, and the world—most importantly the Arab world—saw Iraqis peacefully voting, their security ensured by an increasingly competent Iraqi army and police.

Not only was the election process successful, the results also merit attention. The Iraqi people voted in favor of secular parties competing with the Iranian-backed religious parties. These results in many ways represent a remarkable change from the 2005 provincial elections that strengthened many extremist and foreign-backed parties opposed to the central government. Sunnis, who largely boycotted the 2005 elections, participated broadly in January's election. Their involvement should enhance national reconciliation and bolster a more moderate and diverse government representative of the Iraqi people.

This progress is reversible. A lot rests on whether the President listens to his generals in the coming weeks and months or whether he bows to liberal interest groups and his campaign rhetoric and initiates a premature retreat. But this is an important sign of what our soldiers and the Iraqi people have worked so hard to achieve. Again, in 2 years since the surge began, and now that it has been over for 6 months, we have seen a constant decrease in violence, increased capabilities by the Iraqi government and military, and now an election where the Iraqi people largely chose moderate parties over extremist ones.

Unfortunately, the media devoted little attention to the success of these peaceful elections, just as they have neglected many of the noble efforts of our men and women in uniform. I recently received an email from a constituent whose brother-in-law is currently serving in the 10th Combat Support Hospital at Ibn Sina Hospital, Baghdad. In the building that used to provide health care to Saddam's family and the Baathist elite, these servicemen and women provide some of the best care in the country to all types of patients, from Iraqi children burned by household kerosene lamps to American soldiers with traumatic injuries. Their hard work and the self-sacrifice of all who serve in Iraq has contributed to the dramatic progress made in Iraq.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

COMMUNITY ORIENTING POLICING SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator MIKULSKI, the chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice, and Science, CJS, Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator KLOBUCHAR in a colloquy about the importance of the Community Orienting Policing Services, COPS, grant program. I would first like to thank my friend from Maryland for her tireless work and leadership on this bill. I know Senator KLOBUCHAR and I and many others are very thankful that the Appropriations Committee included funding for the COPS Universal Hiring Program in this bill.

It is important now more than ever that we support our State and local law enforcement agencies that are on the front lines in combating crime. With unemployment on the rise and tax revenues plummeting, the conditions are ripe for crime rates to climb again. States and municipalities are being forced to slash their budgets, including critical funding for police, who will need to cut their already depleted ranks even further without help. As crime escalates, there will be fewer officers and resources to protect our families and communities, unless we act now.

Providing timely funding for the COPS Hiring Program will not only help to address vital crime prevention needs but will also have an immediate

and positive impact on the economy by allowing State and local police forces to quickly fill vacancies and hire new officers and staff. In police hiring, nearly 100 percent of the money goes directly to job creation. These are good, middle-class jobs for middle-class people, and they can be filled immediately. These are often jobs for people who live in the hardest hit communities and will spend their money close to home.

Eliminating the 25-percent non-federal match requirement, as the House bill does, will ensure that funds get to State and local law enforcement fast, meaning that law enforcement officers can be hired fast, without putting a new burden on states and localities that are already strapped during this time of financial distress. The match requirement could cause strained States and localities to decline COPS funding they would otherwise take, meaning fewer jobs would be created.

In its first hearing of the new Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee received testimony from police chiefs and former Justice Department officials who explained that helping our local police during this economic downturn is needed now more than ever to keep America safe and keep our economy moving. Waiving the non-federal match requirement in the economic recovery and reinvestment package will further ensure that police forces will be able to quickly refill their ranks and get more cops on the beat.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator from Vermont working with me to restore funding for this important program. We have worked together in the fight to turn back the cuts made by the previous administration to Federal resources that assist State and local communities in fighting violent crime. I know all too well the importance of the COPS Hiring Program and share your concerns about the effect of the economic downturn on our neighborhoods. We need to make sure those on the blue line have a full team to combat increased crime in communities. My subcommittee recognizes that need, which is why we put \$3.5 billion total for State and local law enforcement activities. This includes \$1 billion for COPS hiring grants, for which we waived the salary cap for hiring or re-hiring career law enforcement officers and civilian public safety personnel.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank Chairwoman MIKULSKI and the Senator from Vermont. As we work toward economic recovery, ensuring the safety of America's communities is a critical component to economic stability and growth. Local governments across the country are facing extraordinary budget shortfalls necessitating cutbacks in services, programs, and personnel. I have heard from police in my State how drastically the substantial decline in Federal funding for State and local law enforcement has affected them. The fi-

ancial situation in our country is dire and requires us to do everything we can to help our struggling police forces so they can protect our neighborhoods and communities.

Apart from the program's benefit to community safety, the COPS Hiring Program has obvious and important economic value. All of the funding goes directly to pay the salaries of officers hired to work in police departments across the country. Moreover, many neighborhoods in inner cities and rural towns throughout America that were once crime-ridden and depressed have flourished in the nineties and in this decade, creating businesses, increasing value, and powering local economies. Maintaining a strong community police presence can allow us to protect these economic gains.

With the rising unemployment rate and the foreseeable increase in crime, we cannot afford the continuing depletion of the ranks of our State and local law enforcement officers, nor can we ask them to operate without the resources needed to do the job effectively. Waiving the match requirement, as the House has done, will ensure that all States and localities will be able to afford and accept the COPS funding which is so badly needed.

No city or State has been spared from this recession. I know the chairwoman and the Senator from Vermont understand the importance of ensuring the COPS funding is as accessible as possible and have witnessed the need in their own States as well.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator from Minnesota is right that this is an issue in Maryland, as well as nationwide. As the economic recovery package moves to conference, we will work to ensure mechanisms are in place for this critical program to be quickly and effectively implemented and accessible to those in need of assistance.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank Chairwoman MIKULSKI and Senator KLOBUCHAR. I am hopeful that as the economic recovery and reinvestment plan moves forward that we may work together to see if this important issue can be addressed in conference.

VICTIMS' COMPENSATION AND ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Mr. President, I wish to join Senator MIKULSKI, the chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice, and Science, CJS, Appropriations Subcommittee, in a colloquy about the importance of including additional funding to States for victims' compensation and assistance in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. I would first like to thank my friend from Maryland, who has worked so hard for the success of this bill. I commend her for fighting to include and maintain vital funding to support some of the most vulnerable Americans today, who need our help.

During the past year, victim service professionals have seen a clear increase in victimization and victim need. The National Crime Victim Helpline has experienced a 25-percent increase in calls,