

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

anti-gay epithets at Geske and punching him in the face repeatedly. Reeling from the attack, Geske's arm fell through the passenger side window, where another attacker grabbed onto it. The driver then got back in the car and sped off with Geske's arm still trapped. The victim was dragged several blocks before he broke free, suffering scrapes and sprained fingers in the process. The attack is being investigated as a bias crime and the assailants are still at large.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

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#### TIBET

Mr. SMITH. Mr President, I rise today to speak about the recent violence in Tibet.

I am deeply saddened and angered by the events which have unfolded this past month between ethnic Tibetans and China. In March, China's decades of repression of Tibet exploded into widespread riots, both in the Tibetan autonomous region and ethnic Tibetan areas of China. The Chinese Government responded by imposing a near-total media blackout, and by deploying an overwhelming number of police and military personnel. Within that darkness, dozens of people were killed.

It is still unclear who did the killing, or who was killed. It is unclear what set off the violence. It is even unclear how many people were killed. The Chinese Government claims 22 deaths; independent Tibetan sources say between 79 and 140. There have been a similarly disputed number of people arrested.

One of government's primary functions is to enforce law and order within its borders. But the unrest and violence in Tibet is the direct result of over 50 years of Chinese oppression of Tibetan ethnic, cultural, and political rights. It is the result of China's repression of Tibetan Buddhism and a stream of personal insults against the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama, whom I am greatly honored to have met, is honored for his commitment to peace and reconciliation. I cannot think of a time when such a message is more welcome than it is today.

China, on the other hand, offers no similar message of tolerance and peace. Just this morning, there was an article in the Washington Post, in which a human rights lawyer and convert to Christianity lives under constant police surveillance. He is intermittently

beaten and harassed by police, who sometimes prohibit him from attending church. For ethnic Tibetans, Chinese human rights violations can be much worse. China's efforts over the past half century to repress Tibetan rights are unacceptable, outrageous and in violation of China's own laws.

I know that many of my fellow Americans stand with me in this belief. As such, I was proud to introduce with my colleague from California a resolution calling on China to ensure the protection of Tibetan rights and culture. The resolution demands that China allow a full and transparent accounting of the recent violence. China must cease the political reeducation of monks, and allow them to possess pictures of the Dalai Lama. It must also release peaceful protestors, and allow independent journalists free access throughout China. In addition, the resolution calls on the U.S. State Department to fully implement the 2002 Tibet Policy Act, particularly the establishment of a U.S. consulate in Lhasa.

I was exceptionally pleased to note that my resolution was unanimously agreed to last night. I believe these measures would go a long way toward safeguarding Tibetan rights, easing the suffering of ethnic Tibetans, and preventing the outbreak of any further violence.

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#### NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I talk about public health. As I hope many of my colleagues are aware, this week is National Public Health Week, and this year's goal is to increase the Nation's awareness of the serious effects of global warming on the public's health.

When I say global warming, people think of many things. You might think of polar bears, vanishing glaciers, or rising sea levels, but you are not likely to think of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is unfortunate because there is a direct connection between global warming and the health of our Nation.

A warming planet will affect food, water, shelter, and the spread of infectious diseases. At the same time, we will face more extreme weather events. Storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves will have an acute impact, particularly on hundreds of millions of people in the developing world.

Climate change is very much a public health issue.

The science behind global warming is no longer debatable. Scientists from around the globe have stated in the strongest possible terms that the climate is changing, and human activity is to blame. These changes are already dramatically affecting human health around the world.

The World Health Organization reported that the climate change which occurred from 1961 to 1990 may already be causing over 150,000 deaths or the loss of over 5.5 million disability-ad-

justed life years annually starting in 2000.

These numbers are staggering, but they should not be surprising: climate change influences our living environment on the most fundamental level, which means it affects the basic biological functions critical to life.

It impacts the air we breathe and the food available for us to eat. It impacts the availability of our drinking water and the spread of diseases that can make us sick.

Last year's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report on climate change put to rest the arguments of many skeptics. But the frequently cited report of Working Group One is just one of three separate IPCC reports. Working Group Two simultaneously issued a sobering report on the impacts of climate change. They predicted that up to 250 million people across Africa could face water shortages by 2020, and that agriculture fed by rainfall could drop by 50 percent. Crop yields in central and South Asia could drop by 30 percent. People everywhere who depend on glaciers or snow pack for their drinking water will be forced to find new supplies.

This is not speculation. These effects are already measurable. The World Health Organization predicts that asthma deaths will rise by 20 percent over the next 10 years, and that climate change is causing greater outbreaks of Rift Valley fever and the spread of malaria in higher elevations in Africa, and more frequent cholera epidemics in Bangladesh. The CDC is preparing for more heat-wave planning and forecasting.

The public health costs of global climate change are likely to be greatest to the nations of the world who have contributed least to the problem. As the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, we have a moral obligation to help these countries, which are also least likely to have the resources to prepare or respond themselves. Any strategies for managing climate change impacts must address this unequal burden, and to take into account their unique challenges and needs.

These impacts are different in different parts of the world—and equally troubling, they are disproportionately burdensome for the world's more vulnerable populations. Children, the elderly, the poor, and those with chronic and other health conditions are the most vulnerable to the negative health impacts of climate change.

There is growing recognition that we must act, and we must act now. Fortunately, many of the choices individuals should make for the sake of their health—and the health of their communities—are the same choices that benefit the health of the planet. Making the climate change issue real means helping people understand how the way they live affects themselves and others, whether through their transportation choices, their use of water and electricity or the types of goods they purchase and consume.