

agreed to lead the multinational force, and while our relationship with France has certainly not been an easy one lately, their leadership on this issue is admirable. The United States should provide all appropriate assistance to this mission, and I am grateful to be joined by Senator ALEXANDER, Senator BIDEN, and Senator LUGAR in making that point clear in communications to the administration.

We have spent a great deal on MONUC to date, but if we do not take action to defuse this explosive situation, if we stand by and let militia forces rip apart the province in a struggle for power and mineral wealth, then I am at a loss as to how to explain this investment. The U.S. must also work closely with other international actors to move forward on a process of disarmament and a meaningful political solution to the conflict, so that the respite that may be offered by this new force is not short-lived. Perhaps most importantly, the U.S. must take concrete steps to insist that the government in Kinshasa and the governments of Rwanda and Uganda stop use their influence with the parties to stop the violence. We cannot simply stand by, reading reports of grotesque violence and massive suffering, and claim that there is nothing we can do. There is actually a great deal of work to be done. We should start today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RUTH EVANS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Ruth Evans of Henderson, KY, for her selfless devotion to Kentucky's youth. Ruth received the Excellence in Service award from the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children for her relentless service as a foster parent.

Representing the Green River Region, Ruth Evans along with her late husband, George, began providing a safe home to children in need 22 years ago and have done so without any prejudice towards the foster child's background, personality or disability. To date she is credited with raising 250 foster children in addition to the eight children of her own. Her love of children and her dedication to ensuring that every child receives the best opportunity to succeed has been the backbone of her service as a foster parent.

While receiving the Excellence in Service award is a wonderful honor for Ruth, she says her greatest reward for her efforts are the occasional visits she receives from former foster children who return as adults with children of their own to share their lives with her. Some foster children come to Ruth neglected and abused but all have had the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe environment.

Ruth's faith in God has been a guiding force during her years spent as a

foster parent. As the father of nine children and the grandfather of many more, including some adopted children, I am inspired by Ruth's example. Her efforts have made all the difference in the lives of so many and she has helped make Kentucky a better place to live. Parents and foster parents alike throughout Kentucky and across America should emulate her example. I thank the Senate for allowing me to recognize Ruth and voice her praises. She is Kentucky at its finest. •

CONGRATULATING FOSTERS DAILY DEMOCRAT ON 130 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SEACOAST

• Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud New Hampshire institution celebrating an important milestone this year. For 130 years, Fosters Daily Democrat, a now daily newspaper serving the people of the city of Dover and New Hampshire's seacoast region, has provided exceptional coverage of local and State news. Since its founding by Joshua L. Foster, the paper has remained under the ownership and direction of the Foster family and is the only daily newspaper in our Nation displaying a family name in its banner.

In order to understand the significance of the milestone Fosters is celebrating this month, it is important to recognize just how much news the publishers, editors and reporters have witnessed and brought to the Dover area since June of 1863. The 1860 census lists a little over 8,500 Dover residents. Today the city is proud to have nearly 27,000 residents. During its first decade, Fosters witnessed a time of tremendous production and growth in the Cocheco Print Works and Pacific Mills, two the most important employers in town. The Mills, which harnessed the power of the Cocheco River, produced some of the finest cotton products in the nation and employed 1,200 workers. The Print Works was churning out in excess of 65 million yards of printed cottons a year to an increasingly global market.

In addition to reporting on the area's growth and prosperity, Fosters also brought one of the worst disasters in the history of the city to its readers—the great flood of March 1896. As any New Hampshire resident knows, tremendous amounts of rain in the early spring aided by melting snow from the previous winter, causes flooding. This was certainly true on March 1 and 2 that year when the city lost three bridges, numerous businesses, and incurred tens of thousands of dollars in economic hardship to a deluge that caused raging currents and swept large chunks of ice into the middle of town. Fosters was on hand to cover it all.

When President Theodore Roosevelt visited Dover in 1902, Fosters was there. When 545 residents of Dover served in World War I, Fosters brought their stories to New Hampshire, and

again in World War II when 2230 Dover residents fought to defend our Nation. And in 1973, when Dover, the oldest continuous settlement in New Hampshire, and seventh oldest city in the United States, marked its 350th birthday, Fosters Daily Democrat marked 100 years of publishing. Since the middle of the 20th century it has followed countless Presidential candidates trudging through our State in the cold and snow. Fosters Daily Democrat has been there every step of the way to make sure its readers stay informed and in touch with issues that concern them.

In addition to its coverage of events in and around the Dover area, the paper also brings its readers coverage of national and world events, including the war on terror. In a recent editorial, March 29, Fosters cautioned its readers to be wary of folks "who seek mightily to undermine the American way of life and their intent to perpetrate atrocities against innocent people either directly or by aiding and abetting those who would carry out such deeds." Today, the paper holds true to the words of its original editor, Joshua Foster, who in the first editorial published in June 1873 pledged that, "Whatever may tend to benefit this people and enhance their prosperity, will receive our warm and enthusiastic support."

For 130 years, five generations of the Foster family, currently led by Bob and Terri Foster, have brought news from Dover City Hall, the New Hampshire Statehouse and locations around the globe to the front porches of New Hampshire's seacoast. On this special anniversary I sincerely congratulate them on the tremendous job they continue to do, thank them for the important public service they perform, and wish them the best of luck in the future. •

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Mesquite, TX. On October 4, 2001, Vasudev Patel, a 49-year-old Indian gas station owner, was shot to death during an armed robbery. His killer told police that he was motivated by vengeance for the terrorist attacks as he allegedly had lost a relative in the World Trade Center. A security camera recorded the armed man walking into the station, ordering the owner to give him all of the money before shooting him. Unable to open the cash register, however, the man fled without taking any of the money.

I believe that 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.●

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION BLESSING

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to all involved in organizing Operation Blessing. Operation Blessing was an event hosted by seven churches for the families of the 159th Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell, KY which took place on May 3, 2003. It was a work of charity and compassion for which all those involved are certainly deserving of thanks and respect.

David Mudd of God's Outreach, Inc. in Owensboro, KY, led the organization of the event working closely with other community and church leaders, including Mrs. Allison Bird of Fort Campbell; Pastor Troy Oakley of World Destiny Church in Hopkinsville; Pastor Roy Ellis of Christian Assembly Church in Madisonville; Pastor Cleddie Keith of Heritage Assembly of God in Florence; Pastor Louis Embry of Christ Community Church in Hopkinsville; Pastor Tim and Linda Rigdon of New Covenant Church in Providence; Pastor Garswa Matally of Wing Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro; Pastor Sammy Wilson of Word and Spirit Church in Owensboro; Don Boyd of Bethel Church in McDaniels; Steve Kukul of the Lipton Corporation in Owensboro; and Pastor David Pry of River Outreach Ministries in Evansville, IN.

These men and women raised a lot of needed items and services for the families of the 159th Aviation Brigade, ranging from washing machines and furniture to live music and good company and fellowship. There was a raffle to distribute bicycles and helmets for children of the 159th and 17,000 pounds of food was distributed to the military families. Many of the members of the pastors' congregations came from all around the Commonwealth for fellowship with the families of deployed soldiers and to volunteer their time and services. The most important gift Operation Blessing gave was the reassurance that the sacrifices soldiers and their families make do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Operation Blessing was a shining example of love of country and of compassion for our fellow soldiers. These women and men demonstrated that America treats her soldiers and their families with much deserved respect and due honor. They are to be highly commended for their acts of charity and their example should be noted and followed by all.

I thank the Senate for allowing me to recognize Operation Blessing and the sacrifices of the 159th Aviation Brigade and their families. Those who

made this charitable event successful and those military families who stand by and support our soldiers in harm's way fighting for our freedom are truly humble and patriotic Americans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1215. A bill to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2596. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tenant Participation in State-Financed, HUD-Assisted Housing Developments (RIN 2502-AH55) (FR-4611-F-02)" received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2597. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Opioid Drugs in Maintenance and Detoxification Treatment of Oxicate Addictions; Addition of Buprenoxypine and Buprenorphine Combination to list of Approved Opioid Treatment Medications (0910-AA52)" received on May 21, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2598. A communication from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans, Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2599. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the future supply of long-term care workers, received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2600. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to constitutional concerns about the "Museum and Library Services Act of 2003" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2601. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2003-2008 Strategic Plan of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2602. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance, received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2603. A communication from the Office of the White House Liaison, Department of Education transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Vacancy for the position Assistant Secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2604. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2605. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to terminating the national emergencies declared in Executive Order 12808 of May 30, 1992 and Executive Order 13088 of June 9, 1998, with respect to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and revokes those and all related orders, received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2606. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to South Africa, received on May 20, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2608. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of 50,000,000 or more to United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2609. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to Japan, received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2610. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a