

Amtrak's route system so that it operates where it actually attracts ridership.

I have known many of Amtrak's presidents over the years and in my judgment, David Gunn was one of the most capable. Not only did he hold an impressive and lengthy career in the rail industry prior to coming out of retirement to take the Amtrak job, I found him to be a man of integrity.

When he testified before hearings I chaired in the Senate Commerce Committee, Mr. Gunn didn't mince words. When I first asked him about the so-called "glidepath to self-sufficiency" which his predecessor continually touted, David Gunn didn't hesitate to inform the committee that it was a sham.

Mr. Gunn and I didn't always see eye-to-eye. Indeed, I disagreed strongly with his unyielding views about the continuation of Amtrak's long distance trains. But I respected the fact that he always spoke his views even when it meant he wouldn't be telling people what they wanted to hear. He faced head on the many problems with Acela and he was committed to getting Amtrak's escalating costs under control. Again, he is a man of integrity and I commend him for his service.

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 January, 25, 2000 in New York City, NY, Melissa Hart had just left a local hotel when eight men threw her to the ground and attacked her. One of the assailants held Ms. Hart by her throat and beat her head against the sidewalk, while the other assailants beat her with their fists. The attackers stripped her of her coat, and stole her cell phone and approximately \$350 from her purse. According to police, the motivation for the attack was that Ms. Hart was a transgender person.

I believe that our Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

FISCAL YEAR 2006 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, although I recognize the important programs funded by the fiscal year 2006

Energy and Water appropriations conference report, on balance, I could not support the bill. The conference report provides \$50 million in funding for the Department of Energy to develop a plan for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel and to select sites suitable for housing reprocessing facilities. This provision was not in the Senate version of the bill and thus was not debated in the Senate. Because reprocessing raises serious environmental, fiscal, and proliferation concerns, this provision should have, at the very least, been the subject of an open and extensive congressional debate before we simply proceeded down the path directed by the report language.

I am also concerned that the Energy and Water appropriations report extends the authorization of funding for the Animas-La Plata project. This extension of funding authorization—which does not belong in an appropriations bill—is contrary to assurances I received in 2000 when the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act was amended.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to announce the beginning of National American Indian Heritage Month. This November we will honor the achievements made by American Indians and Alaskan Natives throughout the history of our country.

For many years, Native Americans strived for an official recognition of their people. The first observance of a day celebrating the contributions of American Indians occurred on the second Saturday of May 1916 in New York State. In 1990, Congress, with my support, passed a joint resolution declaring November 1990 as National American Indian Heritage Month, dedicated to appreciating the impact of Native Americans on the foundation and development of our Nation.

Rooted in the history and culture of South Dakota, as well as the United States, lies the steadfast influence of the Native American people. The Great Sioux Nation of South Dakota consists of nine separate tribes, the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Creek Sioux, the Flandreau Santee Sioux, the Lower Brule Sioux, the Oglala Sioux, the Rosebud Sioux, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Yankton Sioux. I would like to pay tribute to the more than 62,000 Native Americans in South Dakota and the Native Americans throughout our country whose presence and traditions have enriched our communities.

With the commencement of National American Indian Heritage Month, we have been given an excellent opportunity to educate ourselves about the cultural and historical influence of American Indians and Alaskan Natives. In November, I encourage everyone to join South Dakota in our reverence of Native Americans with the hope that

our Government can continue to make the concerns of American Indians a priority and to ensure that their freedoms and way of life are preserved.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING PAULA YEAGER

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of a great woman, Paula Yeager, who died last Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. For 6 years, Paula served the State of Indiana as the executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, IWF. She was a true conservationist, a dedicated public servant and a wonderful mother. Her colleagues, friends, and family will miss her dearly, and I know that sentiment is shared by countless others across Indiana and the country.

A career travel agent, Paula first applied for a job with the IWF in order to work on meaningful issues—a decision influenced by her experience with breast cancer. During her 6-year tenure with the group, Paula overcame her relative inexperience and became a successful activist in conservation issues through hard work, an unwavering commitment to diplomacy and tireless advocacy. As executive director, Paula mended the State federation's relationship with the National Wildlife Federation, NWF, improved the group's profile with lawmakers, and confronted many important issues, including mercury contamination and wetlands preservation.

Her ability to unite people with differing interests earned her a reputation for diplomacy, and that effort paid off when the Indiana Department of National Resources, IDNR, banned fenced deer hunting in August. The former IDNR director called Paula the person "most responsible in Indiana for leading the effort to ban canned hunting."

Honored twice with the IWF's Presidents Award, Paula was named the Conservationist of the Year in 2001 by the IDNR, and this past summer the NWF recognized Paula with their Conservation Service Citation.

There is a saying that life is not about what you take out of it but what you put back in. Paula lived that sentiment to the fullest. Her work made Indiana a better place to live for all of us. For that, we will always be grateful to the courageous travel agent who decided it was time to make a difference through the IWF.

Indiana lost a great citizen last week. It is my sad honor to enter the name of Paula Yeager in the RECORD of the Senate for her service to Indiana.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SCOTT MASON ROULIER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a great educator and a great Arkansan, Dr. Scott Mason Roulier. Dr. Roulier is being honored as the 2005 Arkansas Professor of the