

Mr. President, Lieutenant Colonel Chapman will be forever remembered not only as a hero of World War II, but also as a hero in the hearts of his beloved family members. They treasure the gifts he gave to them and to his country. Lieutenant Colonel Chapman belongs to a select group of individuals to whom our country will forever be indebted. I would ask my colleagues to rise today in honor of all those who gave so much to this country, including a great Kentuckian, LTC George Warfield Floyd Chapman.

EASTER SEALS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the charitable sector has long been an important partner with government in meeting the needs of the disabled. For more than 85 years, Easter Seals has partnered with individuals, families, businesses, communities, and government to help children and adults with disabilities live, learn, work, and participate in their communities.

Each year, Easter Seals assists more than 1 million people through its nationwide network of community-based organizations. These affiliates provide top-quality, family-focused, and innovative services to meet the specific needs of the particular community it serves.

Last year, more than 72,000 children received early intervention and childhood development services through Easter Seals. Over 54,000 adults with disabilities learned the skills and gained the confidence needed to seek meaningful employment because of Easter Seals' job training programs. Almost 35,000 children and adults with disabilities participated in confidence-building activities at Easter Seals' camping and recreation programs. Tens of thousands of children and adults with disabilities received life-changing medical rehabilitation therapies and case management services from Easter Seals.

Easter Seals has long been an effective advocate and important resource on policy issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. Its founder, Edgar "Daddy" Allen, lobbied the Ohio Legislature to fund services for children with disabilities in the 1920s. Today, thousands of Easter Seals volunteers and staff from across the country will continue in "Daddy" Allen's footsteps, meeting with their legislators to discuss the importance of low-income working families being able to obtain health insurance for their children.

Earlier this month, Easter Seals held its national convention in Washington, DC, and its supporters met with Members of the House and Senate to discuss its worthy mission. It is one of America's most respected and effective charitable organizations, and I join my colleagues in congratulating them on a very successful convention.

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE IN BOSTON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend Women's Lunch Place in Boston, MA for 25 years of dedicated service to women in need in the Boston area.

The persistence of homelessness in our State has long been a focus of concern and attention for many of us in Boston and throughout our Commonwealth. Homeless persons each have their own story of their unique circumstances, but they teach us the same lesson—that we must deal more effectively with the causes of homelessness, such as drug abuse, poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and the lack of basic skills and adequate education.

All the members of Women's Lunch Place and its supporters take well-deserved pride in the outstanding work they have done over the past 25 years in providing needed assistance for the countless numbers of women who have walked through its doors. They have made a remarkable difference in the lives of those they have touched so deeply, and all of us in Massachusetts are proud of their achievement.

The strong commitment of Women's Lunch Place has enabled these women to embark on a new life and equipped them with the support of a community and a newfound optimism for their future. As it continues its mission and its ever-expanding possibilities in the years ahead, I commend Women's Lunch Place for all it does so well.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY HISTORY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on a topic that is of growing importance to many throughout our Nation, especially in my home State of Utah. That subject is family history.

As many of my colleagues know, I have always been a strong believer in the importance of researching personal family history and learning more about our roots and heritage. For some, it is a hobby; for others, it is a passion to collect, preserve, and share genealogies, personal histories, and memorabilia that document the life and times of families around the world.

Studies show that a large majority of Americans have an interest and are actively involved in tracing their family's history. Indeed, millions of individuals throughout the United States and the world continue to utilize our Nation's libraries and archives to search the records that detail the history of our Nation, our States, our communities, and our citizens. In recent years, the Internet has also become an invaluable tool for those seeking to learn more about where they came from and what legacies they have inherited.

I have been pleased to learn that several agencies throughout the Federal Government have established programs

which I believe will greatly assist our citizens in their desire to research their family history. The National Archives and the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, the Interior, Commerce, and Justice have all undertaken efforts to make digital copies of American records accessible through the Internet. Once completed, these programs will ensure that countless historical documents, including military, census, court, land, justice, and probate records as well as photographs, newspapers and other sources of historical information will be preserved for generations to come.

As you might expect, Mr. President, scanning billions of documents is a daunting, as well as expensive, task. Realizing this, Federal agencies have created numerous public-private partnerships with various companies throughout the country, including some from my home State of Utah. Many of these companies do so out of an interest in helping the public gain access to important documents and are not wholly motivated by profits or gain. The expertise provided to the government by many Utahns have made it easier for agencies to scan, index, and preserve various records for posterity. Private organizations have also worked with government archivists to devise disaster plans in order to protect vital records from being destroyed in event of catastrophe.

The importance of protecting and preserving the history of our country cannot be overstated. Recent events, such as Hurricane Rita and the fire in the Washington, DC Library, have demonstrated the need to be proactive in preserving the records of our Nation's past.

Mr. President, I want to commend those, both in the government and the private sector, who have worked to preserve our Nation's heritage for future generations. As one who has long been interested in family history, I am extremely grateful for their efforts.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it has been 5 years since the sniper shootings that paralyzed the Washington, DC, area came to an end. At 3:19 in the morning on October 24, 2002, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested John Allen Mohammad and John Lee Malvo, putting an end to their reign of terror. Over the course of 23 long days, these two individuals randomly shot and killed 10 innocent people and critically injured 3 more.

Following their arrests, John Lee Malvo was sentenced to life imprisonment, and John Allen Mohammad was sentenced to death. Many community leaders urged action on gun safety legislation. However, how much has been done to help prevent such incidents?

Last month the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its latest "Crime in the United States" report, detailing