

NRA POSITION

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated May 26, 2011, from the NRA.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2011.

DEAR SENATOR CHAMBLISS: Thank you for asking about the National Rifle Association's position on a motion to table amendment # 363 to the PATRIOT Act.

The NRA takes a back seat to no one when it comes to protecting gun owners' rights against government abuse. Over the past three decades, we've fought successfully to block unnecessary and intrusive compilation of firearms-related records by several federal agencies, and will continue to protect the privacy of our members and all American gun owners.

While well-intentioned, the language of this amendment as currently drafted raises potential problems for gun owners, in that it encourages the government to use provisions in current law that allow access to firearms records without reasonable cause, warrant, or judicial oversight of any kind.

Based on these concerns and the fact that the NRA does not ordinarily take positions on procedural votes, we have no position on a motion to table amendment # 363.

Sincerely,

CHRIS W. COX.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AU PAIR PROGRAM

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a milestone that has been reached by an important cultural exchange program administered by the State Department. In 1986, the United States Information Agency, USIA, exercised its authority under the Fulbright/Hays Act to establish the Au Pair Program on a pilot basis. This initiative was designed to provide opportunities for young Europeans to live with an American family, care for children, and pursue their educational interests.

One of the leaders in developing the concept of the Au Pair Program was the American Institute in Foreign Study, AIFS, located in my hometown of Stamford, CT. AIFS was one of the initial sponsors and worked in connection with the State Department to develop a comprehensive framework that supports American families and foreign nationals.

Over the past 25 years, the Au Pair Program has grown dramatically. Congress assisted in that growth by passing legislation, signed into law by President Clinton in 1997, which gave the Au Pair Program permanent authority under the J-1 visa program. This initiative has proven to be a remarkable success. In fact, over 180,000 au pairs from over 60 countries have lived with an American family for a year since the program's inception.

I can personally attest to the strength and value of the Au Pair Pro-

gram. When our youngest daughter was growing up, Hadassah and I had several au pairs. They became part of our extended family and we still keep in touch with them today. The exchange experience enriched the lives of our au pair and my family through the sharing of culture, language, and religion.

I am pleased the U.S. State Department is holding a reception on June 9, 2011, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Au Pair Program. I commend all those who have made this program so successful, and in particular AIFS, for its vision and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JOSE PEQUENO

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of a real American Hero, SSG Jose Pequeno of my home State of New Hampshire, and his steadfast family. After leaving the U.S. Marines, Jose became one of the youngest police chiefs in the State of New Hampshire. After 9/11, he joined the U.S. Army, and heroically volunteered to go to Iraq. Following an IED explosion, Jose was almost mortally wounded, but fought to live. Now, with the help of his mother and family he continues that battle. This coming Memorial Day weekend, I ask all of us to remember the many servicemen and women and their families who have sacrificed so much for us. As each of our servicemen and women and their families teach us daily about faith and courage, I ask Americans to pray and remember their sacrifice, which continues to ensure our freedom is secure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this poem penned by Albert Caswell be printed in the RECORD in honor of all those brave men and women we have lost.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

HEAVEN SO HOLD'S

Jose . . .
Heaven . . .
Jose, Heaven . . . so hold's . . .
Heaven, so hold's your place!
For Heaven, is so made . . . so made . . .
All for such men as you Jose, of such splendid grace!
All for such magnificent men, of 'oh so such courageous faith!
Who have such brilliant eyes, which to all hearts such warmth do so bathe . . .
Who but once had such strong arms, hands and legs, to protect all of us from such harm . . .
Who once, upon them . . . so such great burdens were so placed!
Whose entire life has been written with such kindness and courage, that time cannot so erase . . .
And so show us all, just what a magnificent heart can so create!
Whose whole entire life has but been so dedicated, to but protecting the human race . . .
Who so gave, and so marched off to war . . .
And came back home to wear a badge, and so much more . . .
And then to serve once again, to give it all up again and go back to war . . .
To volunteer, and give up all that you so love and so adore!

For there can be no greater gift! No greater love than all of this for sure . . .
To so leave your loved ones, and give up all that you adore!
And yes, Jose, Heaven SO Hold's Your Place!
Ah yes Jose, one day you will so see our Lord's face . . .
And all of those magnificent families . . . like yours
Who had to so worry, and so wait!
Quiet heroes, who had to carry on somehow each day . . .
Praying, not for that one phone call, did they!
Living through, all of that pain and hell and heartache!
For all of them, oh yes yours, Heaven So Hold's A Place!
For they shall too so see, our Lord's face . . .
And, when you came back home Jose, that day . . .
And they so looked upon your once golden face . . .
And so saw what this war had so made!
And they broke down and began to cry!
As they so asked our Lord, why so why?
As they so wept . . . all on that night
But, some things can be only made with faith!
Because Jose, you so made the choice . . .
As it was you Jose, who so heard that inner voice!
As your loved ones too, have so brought their light!
As upon their needs, they asked for courage . . . on high . . .
Is that but not what Heaven is for?
Is that but not true love for sure?
For Heaven So Holds A Place, for all of those who have shown such grace!
Who, will not give up, or in . . . even though each day the worst they so face . . .
Yes, Heaven Holds Your Place!
Amen!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID C. BAILEY

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate Chief of Police David C. Bailey of the Bedford, NH, police department for his 40 years of dedicated service to the law enforcement profession, the town of Bedford, and the State of New Hampshire.

Chief Bailey began his law enforcement career in 1971 as a patrol officer with the town of Bedford; was promoted to lieutenant in 1976; deputy chief in 1981; and as the chief of police in 1989. A native of Bedford, NH, Chief Bailey earned his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1969.

During his long tenure as a police chief, David Bailey has been a leader in promoting community oriented-policing; in improving public safety within the State of New Hampshire; and in promoting sound public policies and practices, which have helped keep New Hampshire one of the safest States in the Nation. From 2002 to 2003, he served with distinction as the president of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Bailey has worked tirelessly with New Hampshire legislators, and other public safety officials, to better the administration of justice.

As Chief David Bailey celebrates his retirement, I commend him on a job