

butyl ether, to provide flexibility within the oxygenate requirement of the reformulated gasoline program of the Environmental Protection Agency, to promote the use of renewable ethanol, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic "Nimitz" class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. *Lexington*.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED

EXTENDING RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY DATES IN THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968

LEAHY AMENDMENT NO. 3147

Mr. BURNS (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1638) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the retroactive eligibility dates for financial assistance for higher education for spouses and dependent children of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty; as follows:

On page 2, line 10, strike "May 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

On page 2, line 12, strike "October 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 2 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on Implementation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, P.L. (101-644). The hearing will be held in room 562, Dirksen Senate Building. Those wishing additional information may contact committee staff at 202/224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 1148, to provide for the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska certain benefits of the Missouri River Pick-Sloan Project and S. 1658, to authorize the construction of a Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing will be held in the Committee room, 485 Russell Senate Building. Those wishing additional information may contact committee staff at 202/224-2251.

COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 247, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 247) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we need to do a better job supporting our federal law enforcement officers and our State and local law enforcement officers. This is National Police Week and today was the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service in which we remembered another 139 federal, State and local officers who died in the line of duty. I commend Senator CAMPBELL for introducing S. Res. 247 back in January. I am sorry that the Judiciary Committee did not take it up and report it before today, but am supportive of his efforts and agreed to discharge the Committee, so as not to miss today's activities.

As someone who served in law enforcement for 8 years as the Chittenden County State's Attorney, I respect and admire those who devote their careers to public safety. I took issue with the extreme rhetoric that some have recently used to attack our Federal law enforcement officers who helped return Elian Gonzalez to his father.

For example, one of the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was quoted as calling the officers of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Border Patrol, and the U.S. Marshals Service: "jack-booted thugs." And the Republican Mayor of New York City, who is seeking election to this body, called these dedicated public servants: "storm troopers." This extreme rhetoric only serves to degrade federal law enforcement officers in the eyes of the public.

Let none of us in the Congress, or who are seeking to serve in Congress, contribute to an atmosphere of disrespect for law enforcement officers. No matter what your opinion of the law enforcement action in South Florida, we should all agree that these law enforcement officers were following orders and putting their lives on the line, which they do everyday. Let us treat law enforcement officers with the respect that is essential to their preserving the peace and protecting the public.

This harsh rhetoric by Republican public officials reminds me of similar

harsh rhetoric used in April 1995, when the NRA sent out a fund-raising letter calling federal law enforcement officers "jack-booted thugs" who wear "Nazi bucket helmets and black storm trooper uniforms." President George Bush was correctly outraged by this NRA rhetoric and resigned from the NRA in protest. President Bush wrote to the NRA: "Your broadside against federal agents deeply offends my own sense of decency and honor. . . . It indirectly slanders a wide array of government law enforcement officials, who are out there, day and night, laying their lives on the line for all of us." I praised President Bush in 1995 for his actions and again recently.

President Bush was right. This harsh rhetoric of calling federal law enforcement officers "jack-booted thugs" and "storm troopers" should offend our sense of decency and honor. It is highly offensive and did not belong in any public debate on the reunion of Elian Gonzalez with his father, either. We are fortunate to have dedicated women and men throughout Federal law enforcement in this country who do a tremendous job under difficult circumstances. They are examples of the hard-working public servants that make up the federal government, who are too often maligned and unfairly disparaged. These are people with children and parents and friends. They deserve our respect, not personal insults.

In countless incidents across the country everyday, federal law enforcement officers, who are sworn to protect the public and enforce the law, are in danger. These law enforcement officers deserve our thanks and our respect. They do not deserve to be called "jack-booted thugs" and "storm troopers."

I went to the Senate floor in the wake of those comments to join the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association in condemning these insults against our nation's law enforcement officers. Any public official who used this harsh rhetoric owes our Federal law enforcement officers an apology. I regret that members of the majority party have not followed President Bush's example and, likewise, condemned that extreme rhetoric.

This week is an annual occasion in which we pause to remember the federal, State and local officers who gave their lives in the line of duty over the past year. It is a difficult week and an important week. It should be a productive week, as well.

I said last week at the Judiciary Committee Business Meeting that the Committee should be taking up and reporting S. 2413, the bill that Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced to improve our Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act by reauthorizing the program for another 3 years, raising the annual appropriation to \$50 million and guaranteeing to jurisdictions with populations less than 100,000 a fair share of these resources. This program has been