

heart or lung transplants are cared for by these hospitals. In their own communities, these percentages jump even higher.

In addition to providing the most specialized and medically advanced care available, children's hospitals deliver preventive and primary care as well. They are the safety net hospital and community provider for low-income children. For example, across the Nation, more than 8 million outpatient visits and 1.6 million emergency room visits are made to children's hospitals and their community clinics annually. At Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, over 200,000 outpatient visits and more than 70,000 emergency/urgent care visits occurred in 2000. Medicaid accounts for more than 45 percent of the inpatient days at children's hospitals, which devote nearly half of their care to low-income children. In fact, a children's hospital, on average, provides 10 times as much inpatient care to low-income children as any other urban hospital.

For all these children, the doctors, nurses and health professionals at children's hospitals take a family-centered approach to health care. Parents are considered partners in the care and treatment of their children. Children are made to feel comfortable and safe—feelings reinforced by in-room accommodations for families and age-appropriate patient rooms and playrooms. Doctors, pediatric nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, dentists, and child life specialists are among the health professionals taught by children's hospitals to put families first.

Children's hospitals train a substantial number of our children's doctors. The freestanding children's hospitals—again, which comprise less than 1 percent of all hospitals—train 30 percent of all pediatricians, half of all pediatric specialists, and a substantial majority of pediatric researchers. Their teaching programs are essential to the future of the pediatric workforce and to the future of children's health care. The promise of biomedical research cannot be realized for children without researchers at the bench.

The medical research and breakthrough discoveries conducted at children's hospitals benefit all children, preventing illnesses as well as advancing treatment. Children's hospitals have been the sites of many historic firsts, such as the discovery of polio vaccine. Children's hospitals have led the way in fetal surgery, transplants, advancements in cardiac treatment, and in the care of more common conditions such as asthma. Their contributions to cancer research have led to great progress in curing childhood cancers that were untreatable just a few decades ago.

Together with pediatric departments of university medical centers, children's hospitals account for 30 percent of all NIH-funded pediatric research; and they train the great majority of future pediatric researchers. Virtually

all children's hospitals participate in clinical trials or health services research. Research moves from bench to bedside rapidly at children's hospitals, allowing new discoveries to transform more children's lives for the better. And these discoveries not only benefit children, but adults as well. The answers to many costly and painful health problems that affect adults like diabetes and obesity, can often be found in childhood. And many of the principles discovered in the study and treatment of children diseases, such as cancer, have also been applicable to adults.

Finally, children's hospitals' mission to improve the health of children throughout the nation doesn't stop at the hospital door. By developing innovative programs like "SAFE KIDS," children's hospitals focus community attention on children's health issues, improving child health through prevention as well as cutting-edge care. They work with schools and communities to provide valuable services to children with special health care needs and children facing abuse.

I understand that children's hospitals are for all children, perhaps better than most, because I have learned that from my children's hospitals at home. Missouri is blessed with top-notch children's hospitals. Their doors are open to any child in need of care. Their efforts in advocacy and community work are directed to the health care needs of all children. Their missions in education and research reach all children as well.

Children are different. They are not small adults. And no institution knows this better than a children's hospital. They provide the highest quality medical care, day after day, to children from all parts of the country, from the most distant rural areas to the closest inner city neighborhoods. They are essential to the health and health care of children today and tomorrow.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a heinous crime that occurred on August 8, 1990 in San Francisco, California. Chris Minor and Jonathan Ebert were attacked by four Skinheads who called them "faggots." Arrested and charged with assault were Skinheads Brandon Rosenberg, 19, and Thomas E. Miles, 21. Two juvenile females were also taken into custody. Rosenberg was arrested earlier in connection with an August 14 gay bashing in which he allegedly slapped David Robinson and threatened to beat him up.

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 of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

131ST FIGHTER WING

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of the greatest air-superiority Wings in the Nation and its great leaders. On June 9th, 2001 Colonel Michael G. Brandt assumes command of the 131st Fighter Wing, Lambert Field, Missouri from Colonel Bob Edmonds. This Wing has tremendous aviation history and has 1,300 citizen-airmen who are dedicated and committed to service of their Nation.

The 131st Fighter Wing's mission is to achieve and maintain air superiority with the F-15 Eagle—the finest air superiority plane in the world today. The Wing has been called into service to battle the "Great Flood" of 1993 and has deployed to Incirlik, Turkey in support of Operation Northern Watch. The Wing has also supported Aerospace Expeditionary Force Operations, deploying to Southeast Asia and Europe to support Operation Southern Watch. The accomplishments of the leadership and the men and women of this Wing have maintained the great heritage of Lambert Field, and kept it one of the finest Wings in the Nation.

Colonel Edmonds will relinquish command of the 131st to Colonel Brandt. Colonel Edmonds graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1979 as a distinguished graduate and the top cadet in the Civil Engineering major. He was selected for a Guggenheim Fellowship at Columbia University and graduated in 1980 with a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Colonel Edmonds completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, as a distinguished graduate, and was selected to fly the F-15 Eagle. He has served in numerous flying positions, both as an instructor pilot and a commander, and led 45 combat missions with the 53rd Tactical Fighter Squadron during Operation Desert Storm.

Colonel Edmonds deserves our utmost thanks too for his tremendous leadership of the 131st. The men and women of the unit and the community will be forever grateful for his contributions and patriotism. We will soon be seeing Colonel Edmonds on a much more regular basis, as he will be walking the halls of Congress as the Chief of Senate Legislative Affairs. His tremendous success will certainly follow him there and I know we all look forward to working with him in that capacity.

Assuming command of the 131st is certainly a highlight in Colonel Brandt's career. He graduated from Officer Candidate School at Lackland Air

Force Base in Texas over 30 years ago. Since then, his career flourished as he piloted the F-4, becoming a Veteran of conflicts from Vietnam to Operation Northern Watch. He is also a graduate of the legendary U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School.

Colonel Brandt joined the Missouri National Guard over 20 years ago. During that time he served in every capacity of Operations. He was the Squadron Commander of the 101st Fighter Squadron and the Operations Group Commander and Vice Wing Commander of the 131st Fighter Wing. His dedication and talents were recognized along the way and as a reward he was given ever increasing responsibility. He will now receive the ultimate reward, command of the 131st. There is no doubt he is the best choice to command the 131st. His exemplary record and knowledge of the Missouri National Guard, the Wing, and the community make him the right leader, ready to provide "Air Superiority—Anywhere, Anytime."

I am sure my colleagues will join me in thanking both Colonel Edmonds and Colonel Brandt for their service to this great Nation and extend our best wishes for continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. KNECHT

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to commemorate the life of Robert W. Knecht, who passed away on Sunday at Georgetown University Hospital from colon cancer. Mr. Knecht's passing is a great loss to the coastal and marine policy community.

Mr. Knecht began his public service career not in the coastal management field, but working as an Upper Atmosphere Physicist for the National Bureau of Standards. He then went on to serve as Laboratory Director of the Environmental Services Administration. It was after holding those two posts, that he joined NOAA in 1967 as the Deputy Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, CO.

Working with him in the early 1970s, I recall Mr. Knecht's valuable contributions in crafting the Coastal Zone Management Act. It was with the passage of this landmark legislation in 1972, that Mr. Knecht was appointed as the first Director of the National Coastal Zone Management Program at NOAA. Working in this capacity for 7 years, he served to shape the first generation of State coastal zone management programs which continue today to protect our Nation's valuable coastal resources. Mr. Knecht was instrumental in the design and implementation of the National Coastal Management Program, particularly in enlisting coastal States to participate in this federal-state partnership. He also played a key role in the development of the coastal energy impact program amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act in 1976 that dealt with oil and gas development.

In 1979, he became a Special Representative to the Secretary of Com-

merce on the United Nations Law of the Sea Negotiations. It was in this position that he developed and negotiated positions on the international management of seabed mineral resources. In 1980 and 1981, he was Director of the Office of Ocean Minerals and Energy at NOAA, working on the implementation of new legislation for ocean thermal energy conversion and deep seabed mining.

In 1981, Mr. Knecht left government service for academia, where he held positions at the University of Virginia, University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. In 1989, he joined the University of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies where he was the Co-director of the Center for the Study of Marine Policy for 12 years.

During his tenure at the University of Delaware, Mr. Knecht was a leader in promoting integrated coastal zone management, particularly on the international level where he also served as a consultant to the World Bank. He served as the Vice President of the International Coastal and Ocean Organization and was a member of the Marine Area Governance Committee of the Marine Board of the National Research Council. He also served as the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the international journal, *Ocean and Coastal Management*.

Mr. Knecht co-authored two books on ocean policy and integrated coastal zone management. In his most recent book on ocean policy, he identified the need for government integration of currently fragmented ocean policies, calling for a National Ocean Council that could set integrated national goals and ocean policies. I am pleased to say that this idea became a reality with the Oceans Act of 2000.

One of Mr. Knecht's most recent accomplishments was receiving the 1999 Julius A. Stratton Award for Leadership. This national award is bestowed biennially to the person or group that has made the greatest difference in leading the cause for the coast. Mr. Knecht was a true champion for the coast, fostering the development of the fledgling Coastal Zone Management Program in the early part of his career, to the latter part of his career that focused on developing integrated coastal zone management approaches at both national and international levels.

With Mr. Knecht's passing we have lost a great leader in marine and coastal protection. I would like to offer my deepest appreciation for Mr. Knecht's contributions to the Nation and send my sincerest condolences to his wife, Biliiana Cicin-Sain, and to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 appropriate committees.

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

REPORT ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON TRADE RELATIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 407 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2434) (the "Trade Act"), I am transmitting a copy of a proclamation that extends nondiscriminatory tariff treatment to the products of Vietnam. As an annex to the proclamation, I also enclose the text of the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations," which was signed on July 13, 2000, including related annexes and exchanges of letters.

Implementation of this Agreement will strengthen political relations between the United States and Vietnam and produce economic benefits for both countries. It will also help to reinforce political and economic reform in Vietnam.

I believe that the Agreement is consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Trade Act. The Agreement provides for mutual extension of non-discriminatory tariff treatment, while seeking to ensure overall reciprocity of economic benefits. The Agreement includes safeguard arrangements designed to ensure that imports from Vietnam will not disrupt the U.S. market.

The Agreement also facilitates and expands the rights that U.S. businesses will have in conducting commercial transactions both within Vietnam and with Vietnamese nationals and business entities, and includes provisions dealing with settlement of commercial disputes, investment, financial transactions, and the establishment of government commercial offices. Vietnam also agrees to adopt standards for intellectual property protection that match the standards set forth in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

On June 1, 2001, I waived application of subsections 402(a) and (b) of the Trade Act with respect to Vietnam. I urge that Congress act as soon as possible to approve, by a joint resolution referred to in section 151(b)(3) of the