

Reform Task Force. As an outgrowth of his Federal ethics work, Stan has also developed a special commitment to law enforcement organizations nationwide. Because of his work on behalf of law enforcement groups everywhere and our nation's parks, Stan has been named an honorary member of the U.S. Park Police.

Several years ago, as if his plate wasn't already full enough, Stan fulfilled a lifelong dream of joining the Mississippi Army National Guard. For a number of years now, he has regularly commuted between Washington, D.C. and Jackson, Mississippi to fulfill his duty requirements. During that time, he has risen to the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General Corps where he now serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Headquarters, 66th Troop Command.

On Wednesday, October 17, 2001, Stan will conclude over fifteen years of faithful and loyal service in my office. And while it is difficult to lose a staff member with such dedication and institutional knowledge, I know that he and his family are excited about returning home to Mississippi where Stan and his wife, Lauren, can begin raising their four children with an appropriate southern accent.

In the weeks ahead, Stan will begin a new journey in his professional and legal career as the Chief Deputy Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Southern District office in Mississippi. I have no doubt that Stan will serve the Department of Justice, the State of Mississippi, and the people of our Nation, in this role with distinction and integrity. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want to wish Stan all of the best in his new career. Stan, may this new chapter in your life and career be rewarding, fulfilling, and bring you all that you hope for in your future endeavors. Thank you, again, for your service and my warmest congratulations on a job well done.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT EVANDER EARL ANDREWS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today in sadness over the first announced American casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Master Sergeant Evander Earl Andrews, who was stationed in my home State of Idaho at the Mountain Home Air Force Base, was killed in service to his country in the Arabian Peninsula. He was part of the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron stationed there. Although Master Sergeant Andrews was originally from a small town in Maine, Idaho feels this loss along with the rest of the Nation.

Master Sergeant Andrews went to the Middle East to fight for our freedom with valor and courage in this time of national crisis and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country. There are no words for such an incredible loss, but we are a great Nation because of brave men and women like Master Sgt. Andrews.

Flags are flying all over our country now, a visible display of the support our military troops and our President have over Operation Enduring Freedom. With the news of the first American casualty, it becomes even more evident that American lives will be lost in this fight against terrorism. Our hearts and prayers are not only with the family of Master Sergeant Andrews in Idaho and Maine, but also with the families of all our military troops, who are serving their country so far away,

This will be a long war, one that will be won over a period of months or years through several strategic actions; there is no one operation that will rid the world of the evils of terrorism. But one thing is certain: freedom will prevail and we will not forget Master Sergeant Andrews and others like him to whom we owe our liberties.

VISION 2020 WORLD SIGHT DAY 2001

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Vision 2020 World Sight Day 2001 is observed today, Thursday October 11, 2001, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, WHO, the 2020 Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Christian Blind Mission International, CBMI, and a partnership of 26 international organizations concerned with world blindness working together to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

Forty-five million people living in our world today are totally blind. Eighty percent of this blindness could be prevented or cured with simple cost-effective nutrition, medicines and medical care. A child in our world goes blind every minute, most often due to a simple lack of Vitamin A. More than half of these precious children will die within 2 years of losing their sight.

The primary causes of blindness, malnutrition, disease, lack of medicines and medical care, are always linked to the grinding poverty so characteristic of developing nations around the globe. Millions of men, women and children needlessly live in a prison of darkness 24 hours a day. They desperately need the help of privileged nations to be set free.

The Vision 2020 program plans to eliminate most of the world's blindness by the year 2020. But with no intervention, the number of blind in this world will reach an estimated 100 million by the year 2020.

World Sight Day 2001 raises awareness that most blindness, associated misery, and several billion dollars in related costs can be prevented if we as a nation and a world intervene in time.

I commend the 2020 Foundation, Christian Blind Mission International and the other members of the 2020 Task Force for helping bring the gift of sight to the less fortunate around the world.

SIX SIMPLE STEPS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, an organization called Common Sense about Kids and Guns has developed a list of

six gun safety tips that have been endorsed by a wide range of organizations from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to the National Shooting Sport Foundation. Regardless of our differences of opinion on how to regulate firearms, I think we can all agree that these simple steps make a lot of sense.

All gun owners should unload and lock up their guns, lock and store ammunition separately and keep keys where kids are unable to find them. In addition, parents should ask if guns are safely stored at places their kids visit or play, regularly talk with their kids about guns, and teach young children both not to touch guns and tell an adult if they find one.

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics reports that firearm deaths of children and teens is dropping. However, ignoring firearms related child homicides, there were still 1,300 kids killed in gun-related accidents and suicides in 1999. That number remains far too high. Remembering the six simple steps proposed by Common Sense about Kids and Guns can help cut that number even more.

PREPARING FOR BIOTERRORISM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Senator JOHN EDWARDS, and Senator CHUCK HAGEL, in supporting legislation to help South Dakotans prepare for possible bioterrorist attacks. The recent example of anthrax being reported in Florida has highlighted the importance of being prepared to combat bioterrorism in our communities.

Now this doesn't mean that everyone should run out and buy a gas mask. Successful attacks using germs and chemicals are relatively difficult to accomplish and rarely attempted.

However, the nature of such an attack makes just one successful act of bioterrorism unique and incredibly damaging. For example, most of the germs involved in bioterrorism, anthrax and smallpox to name a few, are so rare that many medical professionals haven't treated them before. Symptoms may not be visible for days or weeks, and these diseases can be spread easily among people.

In addition to threatening people, bioterrorism can also cripple our State's agriculture economy. We all saw this summer how the threat of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States can directly impact South Dakota's ag business.

The risk of an agriculture terrorist attack poses a serious threat to our economy as well as our abundant food supply. An agricultural terrorist could introduce a pathogen to a certain crop and decimate that crop's yield. A quickly-spreading animal disease intentionally introduced could cause economic ruin to States that depend on revenues from the livestock industry.