

was 4 years old playing with G.I. Joes in his family's backyard; the "all American," athletic and funny, who became what he always wanted to be, the Army's best and America's best too. We know him as the boy at school who Alison Kachel remembers exalting in games of hide and seek, as she said, "hiding like there was no tomorrow." While other kids hid behind corners and in the bottom of bushes, Dan hid in the tree tops, on the school roof, atop neighborhood homes. He was never discovered until the game was over, out of sight until his friends, exasperated, would look up and see him peering out behind a chimney, and declare him the winner, if they could find him even then.

Alison, today a police officer serving her hometown, told me simply: "we've lost one of our elite." And indeed we should take a moment to honor what it really meant for Dan to have been a member of the Special Forces.

His unit commander, Captain Jason Amerine, who was wounded at the same time, said we should remember not how Dan and his brothers in arms died, but "what they did beforehand." What an extraordinary story of courage, initiative, and resolve: a member of an 11 man team, the elite of the American fighting forces, dropped into a valley deep inside enemy territory in Central Afghanistan, a part of the world they said looked like the "back side of the moon." In the darkness in those initial tense moments they came face to face with Hamid Karzai, then the leader of a committed band of freedom fighters taking on the Taliban, and thanks to Dan and his fellow soldiers now about to become the leader of a free Afghanistan. Together they became one fighting force with a common mission. For 6 weeks the men in this small band of brothers depended on each other for life and death, calling in airstrikes, repelling Taliban counterattacks, organizing the opposition, carrying on their shoulders the hopes of all who were outraged by the acts of September 11. And in that far off place where danger was everywhere, Dan excelled on behalf of his Nation, proving, as his fellow soldiers said of him, that he was among the best America had to offer. On several occasions Dan directed the air attacks that turned the tide of battles. Captain Amerine said of him: "It's an art. And the guy I had was the best I've ever seen."

So today, we are all privileged to know Dan and we love him for his idealistic, wholehearted commitment to a cause bigger than any of us, for his enduring love of country and his enormous sacrifice for freedom. He has given a great gift to us all, the gift of a life worth emulating, the gift of his life for our's.

While the Petithor's hearts will forever be heavier with the loss of their beloved son and brother, we pray that their pain is lightened to some measure by the knowledge that the whole country shares it, and that our whole coun-

try reaches out with an embrace of gratitude. We pray that their burden will also be lifted in part by the knowledge that the justice for which Dan sacrificed so much, is being delivered in Afghanistan, delivered for the brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, the children, of every American lost in New York, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. Louis and Barbara, that justice will be delivered for one more man, your son, Sergeant Daniel Petithory.

President Harry Truman, himself a veteran tested by war, committed to peace, 50 years ago honored the Greatest Generation and said of America: "We are not a warlike Nation. We do not go to war for gain or for territory; we go to war for principles, and we produce young men like these."

Once again, our peaceful Nation is at war. We did not seek this war, but we will win it for a principle that is timeless and values which shall forever define the greatness of yet another generation of citizen soldiers. And even in our grief, we can say with pride, and conviction, this is America, the Nation we love because it produces and keeps faith with men like Dan Petithory. God bless you Dan, and God Bless the United States of America.

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 in March of this year. 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 terrible crime that occurred May 4, 1992 in Chicago, IL. Two lesbian women were beaten and taunted by several teens in a park. Donna Hayden, 18, and Kimberly Cary, 19, each were charged with battery and hate crime in connection with the incident.

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.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my colleagues for supporting and passing H.R. 2873, the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Earlier this Fall, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I introduced similar legisla-

The bill we are passing today, like our Senate bill, reauthorizes four programs designed to help child welfare agencies establish and maintain permanency by providing grants to States and Indian tribes. The bill also includes

programs that the President has proposed, which have my utmost support, as well as a technical correction that Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have proposed to ensure that special needs children continue to be eligible for adoption assistance.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program provides vital services for thousands of at risk children in our Nation. The sad fact is that far too many children here at home are at risk, not because of the terrorist threat, but because they are neglected or abused by parents or because they are trapped in the legal limbo that is our child welfare system. Because of this, we have an obligation to these children. We have an obligation to protect these innocent lives.

With the passage of our bill, we are taking a big step toward meeting that obligation. By reauthorizing and improving the Safe and Stable Families Program, we can help strengthen families and ensure the safety of vulnerable children.

I was very pleased that during the Floor debate on the fiscal year 2002 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, the Senate agreed to my amendment, which increased funding for the Safe and Stable Families Program by \$70 million. This raised the program's overall funding level to \$375 million.

The funding provided to the States through this legislation is used for four categories of services: family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. These services are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in communities at risk, avoid the removal of children from their homes, and support timely reunification or adoption. And, quite candidly, Promoting Safe and Stable Families is a very important source of funding for post-adoption services.

With a nearly 40 percent increase in the number of adoptions since the implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, funding for adoption promotion and support services is especially vital. These services are necessary to ensure that adoptions are not disrupted, which risks further traumatizing a child.

Our reauthorization bill also amends the Foster Care Independent Living Program to extend the eligibility age from 21 to 23, so that children aging out of foster care can qualify for educational and training vouchers. Currently, too many of the 16,000 children youth who age out of foster care are not able to pursue educational or vocational training because they just don't have the money. This provision helps these young people get the education and career training they need and deserve.

The bill doubles the funding for the Court Improvement Program, CIP, and reauthorizes it through 2006. The CIP program provides grants to the States to develop a system of more timely court actions that provides for the