

court, and to help others have an opportunity to achieve. The people of Nevada appreciate Andre's commitment to the community and his longstanding philanthropic work.

Andre Agassi is an example of how a celebrity can use his fame, fortune, and connections for the public good. He has contributed millions of dollars and helped raise millions more for charitable organizations. And his involvement in these projects extends beyond signing large checks: he gives his time and energy to these programs, helps develop a vision and plan for them and knows what's going on with them.

He established the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation to assist organizations that support children and that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence.

The foundation provided much of the funding for the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy. Agassi Prep, as it is called, is a charter school serving at risk children. Many of the students live in poverty. The vast majority of them are from single parent households. Most of the students attending the school are African American.

Andre's goal is to improve their lives through education and prepare them for college.

I had the opportunity to visit this wonderful school and see the students learning in the classroom and then present a performance. I was encouraged by their enthusiasm for knowledge and the respect that they showed for their teachers and for one another.

In addition to the charter school, there is the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in west Las Vegas, a minority community, providing a safe and positive environment for youth. The club functions as a place where children can participate in fun, recreational activities and also learn about the dangers of becoming involved with gangs or drugs.

So Andre Agassi is making a difference in the lives of so many children and their families in Southern Nevada, some of whom are unaware that this weekend Down Under in Australia, thousands of miles and many time zones away, Andre won another major tennis championship, the eighth Grand Slam title of his career.

To accomplish this, Andre won seven straight matches over 2 weeks. This extends his victory streak to 21 consecutive matches at the Australian Open, a tournament he won in 1995, and then again in 2000 and 2001. Unfortunately, he was not able to defend his championship last year because of an injury. But he recovered and worked hard to get his form back and once again triumphed.

Another reason tennis fans are celebrating Andre's latest victory is his recent suggestion that if he won this tournament, his wife, Steffi Graf, herself a legend in the tennis world and winner of numerous championships, would come out of her retirement to team up with him and play mixed doubles at the French Open this year.

He and Steffi are a formidable pair and should create a lot of excitement on the clay courts in Paris.

Several years ago Andre won the men's singles at the French Open and became the first tennis male player in more than three decades to win all four of the Grand Slam tournaments—Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, the Australian Open, and the French—during his career. These events are played on different surfaces—grass, hardcourt and clay—that emphasize different skills and strategies, so it is very difficult and rare for a single player to have the versatility needed to excel on all of them.

Andre has already established himself as one of the all-time greats in the history of tennis and provided fans with many memories. He has been playing professional tennis now for more than half of his life. Even though he is playing some of the best tennis of his life and shows no signs of slowing down, we know that sooner or later, I predict within the next 10 years, Andre will win his last Grand Slam at age 40.

He and Steffi are the parents of a young boy, Jaden Gil, and I'm sure Andre will want to be actively involved in family life after his professional tennis days are over. I am also certain that Andre will continue his great work on behalf of children in Las Vegas, and he can look forward to watching with pride as the students of Agassi Prep grow up, graduate and achieve success.

I am happy to recognize once again the accomplishments of a great Nevanadan and great American, Andre Agassi.

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man in American history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., without exception, led a fearless life dedicated to the cause of human rights and world peace. His example inspired a generation of Americans to rise above what had been two centuries of injustice and inequality and usher in a new day of enlightenment and freedom. For that great gift, for having imagined what America ought to be and setting us on that course, we will forever be in his debt.

Had Dr. King been spared on that fateful day in 1968, he would have turned 74 years of age this month. He would have watched his children, Martin, Dexter and Yolanda, grow into strong and responsible adults. He would have watched a generation of young people mature into adults, struggling to keep the spirit of his dream alive. He would have seen the birth of an entirely new generation, charged with carrying America's torch into a new century.

Had Dr. King lived, he would have witnessed, and undoubtedly experienced, countless changes in America and the world . . . but would he believe

we had truly arrived at the "promised land" he spoke of in his "I Have a Dream" speech? Or would he find some unfinished business? What would he say?

Would Dr. King still speak of the "debilitating and grinding poverty" that disproportionately affects minority communities? In America today, like America of the 1960s, disproportionate numbers of minorities live in dilapidated housing with low or no income. They have far too few resources to feed their families, to clothe their children, or to pay the price of higher and higher rents, and certainly not enough to afford a down-payment for a home of their own. Too many seniors have to make the unfair and unacceptable choice between heat and prescription drugs. And too few of them have the retirement savings of which they had dreamed. And in these sorry economic times, there is no safety-net, children can't support their aging parents.

What would Dr. King say? We live in the richest Nation in the world, yet certain current economic policies sometimes neglect working-class men and women and turn a blind eye to the poorest among us, all in the name of stimulating our economy. If we want to boost the economy, we should first boost the vast majority of Americans who can't spend because they don't have an opportunity to earn. Our focus should be on providing equal access to professional and educational opportunities, and not on dispensing one-way tickets to low-paying jobs with dead-end possibilities. If we are concerned about our country's economic health, we should be concerned about economic opportunities for all.

What would Dr. King say? Last year, hate crimes climbed by more than 17 percent, and offenses targeted specifically against Muslims jumped 1,600 percent. Just this month, as the Nation prepared itself to honor the memory of Dr. King, racial threats were mailed to more than 30 African-American churches and businesses in Kansas City, MO. And, sadly, Kansas City is no different than many cities in America. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9,730 hate crimes were reported in the United States in 2001, that is more than 26 hate crimes a day. And it is not counting the untold numbers of crimes that go unreported, nor the numbers of crimes against individuals solely because of their gender or sexual orientation or disability, all of which are not captured under current Federal law.

Hate crimes are not simply crimes against individuals; they are crimes against whole communities and have marked the demise of great nations. To paraphrase Dr. King, "history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals" that tolerated "this self-defeating path of hate." And yet Congress in its infinite wisdom has failed to pass basic legislation that would strengthen the ability of Federal, State and local governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes; failed to remove unnecessary obstacles to Federal

involvement in the prosecution of bias-motivated crimes; and failed to give law enforcement the tools it needs to ensure that every American can live in an environment free of terror.

And what would Dr. King say of our efforts to make it possible that every American child attend college and receive the benefits that flow from a college education? Four decades after Ole Miss and the University of Alabama admitted their first minority students, some are arguing that universities cannot seek to promote a diverse campus atmosphere by considering race, among many other factors, in assembling its student body. I was disappointed when the President announced to the nation that he would authorize the U.S. Government to oppose the undergraduate and law school admissions policies of the University of Michigan. The administration had an opportunity to send a powerful message to the Nation, namely that, partisan politics aside, the attainment of diverse student bodies at America's universities is in our greatest national interest. I disagree with his decision.

The President's reason for opposing the Michigan admissions system was because it mandated racial quotas. It does not. As the university's president, Mary Sue Coleman, noted in her response to President Bush's misstatement, the university's admissions system "is a complex process that takes many factors into account and considers the entire background of each applicant. . . . We do not have, and never had, quotas or numerical targets in either the undergraduate or Law School admissions programs. Academic qualifications are the overwhelming consideration for admission to both programs."

No, this debate is not about quotas. Rather, it is about educators' judgments about how best to teach and stimulate the curiosity of America's college students. It is about how to nurture critical thinking, how to ignite students' intellectual imagination. I have said it many times before, but now I have the social science data to back it up: the greatest benefactor of a diverse student community is not the individual student who gets some plus-factor on his admissions application; it is the wider college community that gains immensely from learning in an environment with different types of people, with different types of life experiences. And anyone who would suggest that an individual's race does not contribute to one's life experience would be sadly mistaken, because, even in the 21st century, diversity matters.

This debate is about how to make America's promise real for all her children. Tellingly, when asked about the lawsuits against the University of Michigan, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, noted quite poignantly that affirmative action is "an important part toward eliminating discrimination." She is right. To the extent that Whites and minorities sometimes

experience life differently, in other words, to the extent that there are Black-White gaps in poverty rates, in income levels, in access to quality health care, in life expectancy, in rates of imprisonment, in any number of life indicators, those gaps narrow considerably when minorities have increased and equal access to educational opportunities.

Quite frankly, the road that led me from the small town of Scranton, PA, to the hamlet of Claymont, DE, and eventually to the hallowed Halls of the Senate, while rocky and sometimes uncertain, was always paved with possibility. The challenge, my friends, is to make sure every child, no matter their race or ethnicity, no matter their gender, no matter their families' socioeconomic status, has a chance to travel a road, not necessarily free of obstacles, but certainly full of possibility. We must be vigilant in ensuring that the road for all our citizens is paved with possibility.

In 1957, when Dr. King and a group of others formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, they chose as their motto: "To save the soul of America." Our charge today is no less urgent. We have to make America what it ought to be. And to do that, we start where our Founders started, by awakening in our hearts that spirit of revolution, of freedom, of democracy out of which America was born, by remembering that America's promise is only as strong and as real to you as it is to all. Dr. King said it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat everywhere. . . . Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." My friends, "either we go up together or we go down together."

The questions are really quite simple. I stand with Dr. King's vision, which calls on us today to make sure that we do all we can to close the gaps in education and economic prosperity.

When Dr. King died that dark day in 1968, honestly a part of me and a part of every American died, too. Riots erupted in 125 cities around the country, including in my home State of Delaware, where the National Guard occupied Wilmington for 10 months, reportedly the longest occupation in the country. But out of that horror and the anguish that followed, a clarion call was heard. We emerged from the riots a stronger and better nation, and with a stronger faith in what is good and right about America.

To my beloved countrymen, I say that, in this season marking Dr. King's birth, we must remember his legacy. We must continue to raise our voices, continue to speak for the least among us, continue to fight for what is good and right about America.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress

Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 27, 2000 in Normal, IL. Christopher Weninger, an Illinois State University student, was assaulted while walking home from a party. Three men approached Weninger on the street and asked him for a cigarette. As Weninger handed one man a cigarette, another man punched him in the face and called him "queer." The victim suffered a broken nose and eye socket.

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 is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

YOUTH PROGRAM IS BEST REVENGE AGAINST RISING TIDE OF GUN DEATHS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring an inspiring young woman from my home State of Michigan to the attention of my colleagues. Her name is Lakeshia Gallman. Lakeshia graduated from Martin Luther King High School in 2002 and currently attends Wayne State University.

As many of my colleagues know, the Detroit area has been plagued by gun-related deaths of children over the last year. Lakeshia Gallman is no stranger to the terrible effects of this rising tide of gun violence on families and communities. She lost her 17-year-old cousin in a senseless act of gun violence 4 years ago. Since that incident, Lakeshia's commitment to reducing the occurrence of gun violence in Detroit has been exemplary. Lakeshia is active in the Detroit Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiative Project, an organization dedicated to drug prevention and stopping youth violence. She has been a champion of gun safety initiatives in Detroit for over 3½ years. Over the last year, Lakeshia has set up town hall meetings, and met with local and national elected officials, including me. She also helped distribute over 2,000 gun locks and has educated people about the harsh realities of gun violence. Lakeshia recently authored a column on the effects of gun violence in the Detroit Free Press.

Like many Americans, Lakeshia Gallman understands that the black market and gun traffickers are two of the primary ways criminals get their hands on guns. She also knows that easy access to guns in homes are a primary method by which kids injure or kill other kids. We can eliminate easy access to guns by criminals by closing the gun show loophole. And we can prevent kids from gaining access to guns