

crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement 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 in Omaha, NE. On September 12, 2001, two Muslim women were physically assaulted with a soda can as they walked through a parking lot of a Methodist hospital. The women were both wearing traditional hijab.

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.

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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-  
ERANS AFFAIRS NATIONAL CEN-  
TER FOR POST-TRAUMATIC  
STRESS DISORDER

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to point out the accomplishments of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for fiscal year 2002. As spelled out in its 13th annual report, the Center for PTSD has made significant strides in the treatment of this trauma—steps that became particularly meaningful following September 11, 2001.

Born during a time of crisis, the Center was created just months before the Loma Prieta, CA, earthquake in 1989. That event's aftermath became the Center's first real emergency-response experience. Since then, the Center has been called in time and time again to treat the mental trauma resulting from disasters, including the crisis brought on in my own state of Florida following Hurricane Andrew.

Though the Center's primary focus has always been and continues to be their country's veterans, the knowledge and expertise gained through work in the VA system has proved to be invaluable in all areas related to disaster mental health. This became all too clear in the weeks and months following September 11, 2001. The Center for PTSD's fiscal year actually began on October 1, 2001, just weeks after the events of 9/11. The year that followed proved to be the Center's greatest test of its 13-year history, calling into play all three of the Center's main areas of endeavor: research, education, and consultation.

In 2001, the Center took leadership of a 3-year project to develop best-practice guidelines for emergency mental health interventions, taking into account both criminal and natural disasters. By the time 9/11 had taken place, staff were one year into the project, enabling them use the wealth of research and analysis already accumulated.

During the recovery efforts, the Center's education materials, especially those on the website, proved very helpful in educating relief workers, victims, families and bystanders about PTSD and how to cope with it.

In addition, Center staff were called upon to consult for several agencies. Its researchers used the recovery process as an opportunity to gather data and conduct long-term research studies on the effects of 9/11, including a major study involving the entire Fire Department of New York.

In the end, this report proves mostly to be a living history of the events of September 11 and the way our Nation coped with those tragedies. As documented in the report's pages, the lessons of that day will remain invaluable to the future treatment of PTSD, for both our Nation's veterans as well as the rest of the country.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud of the accomplishments the Center for PTSD has made in treating disaster-related mental health. The hard work and dedication of its staff proved invaluable to all those affected by September 11, 2001, regardless of whether they witnessed firsthand the attacks in New York City and Washington, DC, or simply watched the events of that terrible day unfold on their television.

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COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR  
ARMISTICE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, more than half a century ago, America answered the call to defend freedom in South Korea. Today, we continue to defend democracy and freedom in over 100 countries around the world.

This war against communism is sometimes referred to as the "Forgotten War" because it came at the heels of World War II and was overshadowed by the Vietnam War. Indeed, there are fewer pages in our children's textbooks about this war than that of other wars. But the cause of freedom was no less important. The bravery of the Nation's Korean War veterans was no less significant. And the sacrifices of these veterans and their families were no less meaningful.

Twenty-two nations joined 1.8 million Americans in risking life and limb to defend a country they did not know and a people they had never met. Included were the young men and women who fought on the mountains of Korea in places such as Pork Chop Hill and Bloody Ridge. The United States suffered 36,934 casualties and 103,284 wounded during the Korean War; another 8,000 were taken prisoner or met an unknown fate. In my state of Arkansas, 466 brave servicemen and women paid the ultimate sacrifice. These are our Nation's heroes and they acted selflessly to bring forth freedom and opportunity for generations.

July 27 marks the 50th Anniversary of the armistice with North Korea. I

take this opportunity to thank our Korean War veterans and their families for their great service and dedication to our Nation. We owe our Korean War veterans a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

The Korean War veterans defined "new opportunity for all." They defended and promoted the virtues of democracy abroad, providing an emerging Nation a chance to develop and flourish into the viable country it is today. I can not begin to imagine how different Southeast Asia and the world would be if it was not for the true determination and unbelievable courage demonstrated by our soldiers, airmen, marines and sailors.

American servicemen and women remain on-point in Korea to protect freedom along what is referred to as the world's most dangerous border. I commend them also for their bravery and commitment to democracy.

From Korea to Iraq, let us not forget the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made on behalf of our great country.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM  
THURMOND

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great pride and honor I rise amongst my fellow colleagues to honor one of America's finest citizens, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

When I look at Strom's unbelievable life and career and all that he has accomplished, I often find myself wondering how one man could possibly do so many different and amazing things in just one lifetime. Strom Thurmond truly deserves the title of renaissance man.

He has been a farmer, teacher, coach, lawyer, judge, author, Governor, war veteran, major general in the U.S. Army Reserves, State Senator, United States Senator, Democrat, Dixiecrat, Republican, husband and father, and most importantly to all of us—a friend. He was born when Theodore Roosevelt was president and lived through 18 different Presidencies. To put the longevity of his political career in perspective, Strom Thurmond won an election 18 years before President George W. Bush was even born. This is also a man who enlisted during World War II and jumped on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne when he was in his forties.

From 1954 when he ran and won a seat in the United States Senate as a write-in candidate, until his death on June 26, 2003, Strom Thurmond worked tirelessly and selflessly for the people of South Carolina and the citizens of this great Nation, casting more than 15,000 votes in his senatorial tenure. Whether or not people ever agreed with Strom politically, they certainly admired his zest and his passion.

In his earlier days in Congress, Strom argued for segregationist policies. In many ways, people have used