

lines of defense for American agriculture. Without adequate resources, both in terms of funding and advice, these defenses will fail. While the presidential directive mandates the creation of a coordinated response plan that would include Federal, State, and local partners, it falls short of supplying the State and local officials with the necessary funding and guidance to better protect their jurisdiction. Surprisingly, the administration proposes huge cuts in fiscal year 2005 to homeland security grants for the States.

We have witnessed the impact a small, unintentional outbreak of mad cow disease had on our country. We cannot wait for a far more damaging and widespread attack on our agriculture system. While I commend the President's initiative in this area, further action is needed. I urge my colleagues to support this overdue legislation to protect America's breadbasket.

GAO HUMAN CAPITAL REFORM ACT OF 2000

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come before this body to state that I would object to any unanimous consent or other requests to address H.R. 2751, S. 1522, entitled the GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003, as amended. The bill would, among other things, allow new authority to the General Accounting Office, GAO, to modify its personnel and workforce practices to allow greater flexibility in determining pay increases, pay retention rules, and other compensation matters. I am objecting to this bill because, at this time, I am evaluating a number of matters involving the operation and management of the General Accounting Office and one or more of its offices.

DEFENSE OF FREEDOM MEDAL WINNER GARY YORK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly recognize Mr. Gary York of Yankton, SD, for receiving the Defense of Freedom Medal.

There was little doubt that active-duty military members killed or injured in a hostile attack would receive the traditional Purple Heart, but the Defense of Freedom Medal marks the first time in United States history that civilians have been formally recognized for wounds received in combat. This medal exemplifies the principles of freedom and defense of the freedoms upon which our country was founded.

Gary is not just a good friend, he is also a dedicated worker. He currently serves as the power plant senior controller at Yankton's Gavin's Point Dam. Answering the President's call to volunteer his time in Iraq, he left for Iraq in September and was overseeing a crew of workers who were rebuilding 400,000 volt power lines running from power plants to switchyards in Baghdad.

While spending Christmas Eve in Iraq, away from his family and friends

and the comforts of home, Gary sustained wounds to the head and shoulder while traveling in a convoy near Balad. The convoy was attacked by unknown assailants using small firearms. Two Iraqi security guards traveling with the convoy were killed in the attack.

It is with great honor that I share Mr. York's tremendous accomplishments with my colleagues. He is a true patriot, and America is deeply grateful for his service.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate 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.

In Council Bluffs, IA, a 15-year-old girl allegedly approached two other girls who were holding hands and assaulted them saying she was "tired of seeing them hold hands and kissing." The girl has been accused of assaulting the girls because of their sexual orientation.

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 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.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL (RETIRED) THOMAS MOORER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today before the Senate to recognize a great American and one of the finest patriots this Nation, and my home State of Alabama, has ever produced. We are truly saddened by the loss of Retired U.S. Navy Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from July 1970 to June 1974 and former Chief of Naval Operations from 1967 to 1970.

Admiral Moorer's distinguished service in our great Navy spanned 41 remarkable years during which he dutifully stood the watch against our adversaries. He was our 7th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the 18th Chief of Naval Operations. These accomplishments were consistent with his outstanding service record that had placed Admiral Moorer on our front lines throughout his career. Admiral Moorer was serving in Pearl Harbor with Patrol Squadron Twenty-Two on December 7, 1941. He witnessed that "day of infamy" and answered with bravery as he was one of the first pilots to get his aircraft airborne after the Japanese attack.

Never shying from battle, he was wounded in aerial combat when his aircraft was shot down near the Aus-

tralian coastline. Indeed, indicative of the ferocity of the combat, the rescue ship that recovered him was sunk by enemy action the same day as his rescue. Still, he would not quit and went on to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor. He flew through hostile areas with full knowledge of overpowering enemy aircraft superiority flying badly needed supplies into the besieged island of Timor and flying evacuations of the wounded. He also stood watch during the Korean conflict, during the Cuban Missile crisis, during our engagement in Vietnam and during our outreach to China.

Admiral Moorer distinguished himself in many positions including command of our Seventh Fleet, arriving at full Admiral in June 1964 when appointed to Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. He was the first naval officer to command both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets. Admiral Moorer stood his watch as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest position any military officer can achieve, under President Nixon as the Nation extracted itself from our conflict in Vietnam. Writing in *White House Years*, Dr. Henry Kissinger remarked that Admiral Moorer "had spent the 1960s in command positions which, while not without their frustrations, did not produce the physical and psychological exhaustion of high-level Washington. A canny bureaucratic infighter, Moorer made no pretense of academic subtlety. If anything, he exaggerated the attitude of an innocent country boy caught up in a jungle of sharpies. What his views lacked in elegance they made up in explicitness. By the time he took office, Vietnam had become a rearguard action. He conducted its heart-breaking phaseout with dignity. No President could have had a more stalwart military advisor."

He did not waiver. Admiral Moorer strongly disagreed with the Panama Canal giveaway. In fact, he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee several years ago on this subject. The public had again become concerned about this issue as a Chinese company had won the contract to operate both ends of the canal. Admiral Moorer noted the danger this posed to the movement of our fleet.

As a young Alabamian, I followed Admiral Moorer's career. He was from the small rural community of Mt. Willing. Mt. Willing was on the road to Montgomery from my home in the rural community of Hybart near Camden. I would frequently go through Camden up Highway 21 through Mt. Willing on my way to Huntingdon College in Montgomery where I was a student. I would pass Moorer's grocery operated by a relative, and have the chance to think of the extraordinary accomplishments of this remarkable Admiral from the heart of Alabama. He carried those values with him as can be seen from Dr. Kissinger's comments and those who knew him. Mt. Willing is an old