

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.

On August 25, 2000, in Baton Rouge, LA, a jury convicted Quincy Powell of second-degree murder for the beating and stomping death of Michael Fleming, a gay man, in June 1999. Prosecutors said that Powell killed the victim because he was gay and subsequently referred to the victim as “faggot Mike” when he recounted the murder.

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.

MARIANNE LAMONT HORINKO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marianne Lamont Horinko who currently serves as the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the Environmental Protection Agency. Marianne has served our Nation in that post since October 1, 2001, and just a few weeks from now will return to private life and to spend more time with her family.

As Assistant Administrator of OSWER, Marianne demonstrated outstanding leadership and has met the unprecedented challenges of a post September 11th America. Ms. Horinko realized the incredible challenges that lay before her just one month after the horrific attacks of that day. Immediately upon assuming office, Marianne refused the traditional missions of OSWER from waste management and related reclamation work of contaminated sites to emergency response of historic proportions. She led the clean-up effort at Ground Zero in New York City and the Pentagon, a mission that no one could have contemplated before then and still haunts us today.

While managing the emergency response of the September 11th destruction, Congress itself was the victim of a cowardly anthrax biological attack. Facing yet another unprecedented event, Marianne led the emergency response and clean up effort not of a Superfund site, but of the Senate office buildings, and ensured that the Capitol community was safe from harm and helping Congress return to doing the work for the Nation.

In 2003, as National Program manager, Ms. Horinko oversaw EPA’s response to the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster. Again, Marianne charted a

new course for OSWER and crafted the groundbreaking National Approach to Response.

Marianne has accepted challenge after challenge head on as Assistant Administrator of OSWER, and assumed responsibility when called upon. Not only did she exceed expectation in that role, but she also performed as acting administrator of the entire Environmental Protection Agency after the resignation of Governor Whitman.

Marianne has brought dynamic new approaches to environmental protection using partnerships, flexibility and innovation to create environmental improvements rather than the old command and control systems of the past. The Brownfields program, signed into law by President Bush in 2002, is just one of the many ways that Marianne’s results-based leadership led to environmental protection.

Marianne Lamont Horinko proved to be one of the most diligent, dynamic, and outstanding leaders in the history of the Environmental Protection Agency. We thank her for her service to our Nation, and wish her all the best in her future pursuits.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the famous poster of “Rosie the Riveter,” created by J. Howard Miller in 1943, was quite well known throughout America during World War II. The slogan on the poster—“WE CAN DO IT!”—captured the spirit and dedication of our Nation’s women during World War II. “Rosie the Riveter” became a nickname for the women who entered the workforce during the war.

World War II profoundly changed the role and status of American women. During this war, over 6 million women joined the workforce, filling jobs that had been traditionally held by men. For the first time in history, women in large numbers worked to produce ships, planes, tanks, trucks, guns and ammunition that were essential to the war effort. They worked in factories while raising their kids—often by themselves as their husbands were fighting abroad.

In California, women worked in factories across the state, from the Douglas Aircraft Company plant in Long Beach to the Ford Assembly plant in Richmond, CA.

These women’s contributions on the homefront were invaluable to our nation’s victory in World War II. As we approach Memorial Day—and the dedication of the World War II Memorial—I want to express my gratitude to our Nation’s “Rosies” for their effort in helping America win the war.

In 2000, Congress enacted legislation, introduced by Representative GEORGE MILLER, to create the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA. Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced the Senate companion bill.

Richmond, CA was chosen as the site since the city played a significant role

in the World War II effort on the homefront. Fifty-six war industries operated in Richmond, and the Kaiser Shipyards produced more ships than any other shipyard in the United States. The Ford Assembly Plant prepared for shipment overseas more than 20 percent of all tanks and other combat vehicles used by the United States during World War II.

The Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park is the first park created to commemorate the contributions of men and women on the U.S. home front during World War II and to preserve the historic sites, structures and stories associated with World War II.

I am so pleased that the park, in partnership with Ford Motor Company and the National Park Foundation, has initiated a campaign to find “Rosies” across the country to collect their personal stories and memorabilia to share with future generations. I commend Ford Motor Company and the National Park Foundation for their efforts to preserve such an important piece of our history.

In this historic year—the 60th anniversary of D-Day—while we are honoring the Nation’s veterans, let us not forget to honor the women whose contributions were critical to our success in World War II.

IN RECOGNITION OF OLDER
AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, in 1963, President Kennedy began an important tradition of designating a time for our country to honor our older citizens for their many accomplishments and contributions to our Nation. I rise today to continue that tradition and recognize May as “Older Americans Month.” Those of us who have worked diligently in the U.S. Senate to ensure that older Americans are able to live in dignity and independence during their later years welcome this opportunity to pause and reflect on the contributions of those individuals who have played such a major role in shaping our great Nation. We honor them for their hard work and the countless sacrifices they have made throughout their lifetimes, and look forward to their continued contributions to our country’s welfare.

In line with the theme of this year’s Older Americans Month, “Aging Well, Living Well,” I want to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of quality and comprehensive health care for our seniors. They deserve nothing less. I have significant concerns about what the future holds in this regard. I voted against the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, which is currently being phased in, because I believed it would jeopardize promises we as a Nation have made to seniors. Many of the concerns that I shared with a number

of my colleagues at that time and during the Senate's consideration of this measure are unfortunately now coming to fruition.

One of my principal concerns is that the new law will fail to provide a comprehensive, consistent and affordable prescription drug benefit to Medicare beneficiaries. And now as we look at the uncertainty of monthly premiums and incomplete coverage for drug costs under the new law, it is increasingly clear that corporate interests won out over the interests of the elderly. Indeed, at least 2.7 million retirees are expected to lose their existing retiree prescription drug benefits—which are of higher quality—and will instead have to use the Medicare drug benefit.

Moreover, I continue to be deeply concerned that existing Medicare beneficiaries will be forced into managed care organizations in order to receive substantial prescription drug benefits. Because of the recent history with Medicare+Choice plans, it has been suggested that requiring seniors to rely on the private market for coverage represents a significant threat to the very existence of Medicare as we have known it for the last 40 years.

On top of all of this, the Medicare trustees have predicted exhaustion of the Medicare Trust Fund 7 years earlier than previously predicted. With the rising costs of drugs and health care in general, and the implicit lack of means to reduce drug costs in the new law, we will be faced with hard decisions sooner than originally anticipated. Hopefully, the answer will not be to seek to decrease benefits.

To address these concerns, I am in favor of proposals to provide Medicare beneficiaries with full prescription drug coverage. In fact, a number of my colleagues and I supported legislation during the Senate's consideration of the Medicare overhaul that would have controlled drug prices by allowing our Government to negotiate directly with drug companies.

Unfortunately this amendment was defeated when it came to the Senate for a full vote, but I continue to work with my colleagues on this and other proposals in an effort to bring these prices under control.

In addition to health care access, our seniors deserve adequate protection through our Social Security Program. There are those who have suggested that to enable the Social Security fund to meet the expanding demand of our growing number of retirees, we should decrease benefits.

The key strength of the Social Security system is its guaranteed benefit and we must work to preserve it rather than diminish it. Social Security has been effective in improving the standard of living and reducing poverty among the elderly and disabled by providing an inflation-indexed, defined benefit no matter how long an individual lives. Throughout their lives, seniors have paid into a system with the understanding that their benefits

will be there for them when they retire. We ought to uphold our end of the bargain and ensure that these benefits are available.

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law against a backdrop of increasing poverty among elderly Americans. President Roosevelt sought to give "a measure of protection for the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." In my view, the words of President Roosevelt should continue to guide our conscience.

America's Older Americans add great value to our Nation. We ought to take this month as an opportunity to show our appreciation for the value they add and redouble our efforts to support their needs.

RETIREMENT OF FRANCES PRESTON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the remarkable career of Frances Preston. When Ms. Preston began working for Broadcast Music Incorporated in Nashville in 1958, she had only one assistant and her office was her parents' garage. She soon saw the company grow to more than 400 employees in that city alone. In 1985, she became Senior Vice President, Performing Rights, and in 1986 she was named President and CEO of BMI.

Since 1958 when she joined BMI, Ms. Preston has been an invaluable resource to the entire music industry. Her steady and visionary leadership has spanned unprecedented industry growth and several revolutions in technology and popular culture. Over that time, she has overseen the development of BMI's nearly 4.5 million musical works and has delivered a royalty system that meets the needs of this massive repertoire. *Fortune* magazine has rightly called her "one of the true powerhouses of the pop music business."

And for more than two decades she has proven herself an equally invaluable resource for those of us in Washington who appreciate the unique importance of the community of songwriters, composers and publishers. She has testified frequently and has vigilantly defended the rights of these individuals. She has also been a key player in the debates regarding music in the digital age. Her dedication to the many participants in the music world, and her unflinching willingness to assist us in Congress in understating their concerns and issues, made her an incomparable asset as we tried to make sound policy and good law in the areas that matter most to music.

Along with her many professional accomplishments, she has devoted herself to a multitude of charitable efforts. Her charitable work ranges from serving as president of the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research, to her work for Good-

will of Nashville. She has received numerous humanitarian awards, including a "Woman of Achievement" Award from the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research, the first Distinguished Service Award from New York's Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center, and the Lester Sill Humanitarian Award presented at the Retinitis Pigmentosa International Awards.

Ms. Preston's skill and passion will be greatly missed. It is a comfort to know that she will be staying on at BMI in the role of President Emeritus. I thank her for her efforts and wish her well in all her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. OSWALD P. BRONSON, SR.

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding leader, administrator and advisor, Dr. Oswald Bronson, the retiring president of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL.

Dr. Bronson's list of accomplishments, honors and contributions are long and distinguished. Because of Dr. Bronson, Bethune-Cookman has earned a national reputation for excellence in liberal arts education. In his 29 years at Bethune-Cookman, he doubled the enrollment, boosted its endowment from \$1.2 million to \$25 million, increased its economic impact on the community to \$300 million and raised its operating budget to \$45 million.

A recognized "key power broker" for the Nation's black colleges by *Black Issues in Higher Education*, Dr. Bronson advised President Clinton on higher education issues and served as chairman and president of several national, influential educational organizations, including the United Negro College Fund, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education and most recently the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

And not only is Dr. Bronson a respected voice on higher education issues, but also a leading religious figure. He served as President of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary and President of the United Methodist Church Council of Presidents. As a pastor in three States, Dr. Bronson lectured and taught in numerous mission schools, pastoral institutes and leadership training seminars.

For his dedicated service and distinguished career, Dr. Bronson earned many honors including an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, and honorary Doctor of Laws degree and keys to several cities in Florida.

I am honored to call Dr. Bronson a friend and thank him for his remarkable tenure at Bethune-Cookman College and extraordinary contribution to our country. He will be missed, but I know he will continue to make a contribution. •