

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it was 1976 in Americus, GA. Millard Fuller and his wife Linda had sold their possessions, given away their millions and rededicated themselves to their Christian faith. They had decided to express their faith by building homes for the poor. They believed, in their words, that:

What the poor need is not charity but capital, not caseworkers but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable and just way of divesting themselves of their overabundance.

So they founded Habitat for Humanity International to build no-interest, no-profit homes for the poor and homeless.

Since then, the ecumenical, Christian-based organization has grown to serve 89 countries. It has built more than 150,000 houses providing more than three quarters of a million people with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Millard and Linda Fuller have taken a Biblical injunction and turned it into worldwide action.

Jack Kemp, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and a board member of the organization, says that, "When I'm asked about housing success stories from our inner cities, the first group that comes to mind is Habitat for Humanity."

I tell you all of this, because next month, I have the privilege of joining over two dozen volunteers in my home town of Nashville, TN, to help build a Habitat home for Anita Phillips, a single mom of three. Local businesses have donated supplies. Anita has taken out a no-interest mortgage. She will be working alongside us, hammering nails and hauling lumber. Anita calls her new Habitat home "a gift from God."

For nearly three decades, Habitat has shared the gift of homeownership with thousands around the world. Habitat helps organize local communities to pitch in and give hard working people like Anita the opportunity to build equity and pride.

In Tennessee, alone, Habitat has 52 affiliates and serves 61 counties. This year, Tennessee will celebrate building two thousand Habitat homes.

Social scientists tell us that homeownership is one of the most important economic and social investments we can make. Owning a home helps families build financial stability and wealth. It helps break the cycle of poverty as families accumulate equity.

Homeowners also become stakeholders in their communities. They become more invested in the civic life and health of their neighborhood. Their children are healthier and do better in school.

Owning ones' home also generates a sense of pride and belonging. It's a big

responsibility, but those four walls belong to you.

I commend habitat for Humanity International for their tireless efforts. This past March, I was joined by over a dozen members from both sides of the aisle and both houses of Congress to build a home right here in the Nation's capital.

I encourage my colleagues to participate in Habitat builds in their home States, as well. It sends the message that Congress is committed to helping organizations like Habitat spread the good work.

This fiscal year, Congress has provided \$27 million for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program. Also called, "SHOP," the program requires homebuyers to contribute their labor to the construction or rehabilitation of their soon-to-be, new home. President Bush has requested \$65 million for the next fiscal year to support the SHOP initiative.

Additionally, the 108th Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the "American Dream Downpayment Act of 2003." This new program will help 40,000 families a year with their down payment and closing costs.

In the halls of Congress and in communities across America, we care about helping our neighbors fulfill the American dream.

Habitat for Humanity International has been at the forefront of the cause.

That is because through their faith and compassion, Millard and Linda Fuller realized decades ago that the working poor need a hand-up not a hand-out, and that a community is not just something you join, it's something you build.

HONORING BOB MICHEL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday I introduced legislation to name the Veterans Affairs Clinic in Peoria, IL, the Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in honor of former House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel.

Bob Michel's interest in veterans' affairs began when he served in the Army's 39th Infantry Regiment, fighting on Normandy Beach during World War II. Wounded by machine gun fire during the Battle of the Bulge, he was discharged from the military as a disabled veteran after earning The Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, and four Battle Stars.

Michel began his life of public service in 1957, serving the citizens of the 18th District of Illinois in the House of Representatives. Because of his hard work and dedication to his constituents, he was elected minority whip and eventually House minority leader. He was also actively involved in the creation of several pieces of legislation that dealt with veterans' affairs, including a resolution that helped to remove obstacles to employment of partially disabled persons honorably discharged from the Armed Forces.

A veteran himself, Michel understood the need for quality health care for those who served in the military. He used his prominent position in the House of Representatives to lead the effort to establish a VA clinic in Peoria. The clinic he helped to create now serves up to 10,000 veterans a year, in as many as 12 counties in central Illinois. The clinic offers a variety of services for veterans, including medical and mental health services, ophthalmology, audiology and assistance for the homeless.

Representative RAY LAHOOD, who now holds the Congressional seat previously held by Bob Michel, has introduced companion legislation in the House. Representative LAHOOD's bill is supported by all House members of the Illinois delegation.

I hope that the Senate will act expeditiously in enacting this legislation. This bill will serve to honor Robert H. Michel who served our country through his service in the military and Congress.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam 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 January 18, 1999, a carload of men in San Francisco, CA, allegedly threw a bottle at and taunted two gay men.

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.

FOCUS HOPE'S MOBILE PARTS HOSPITAL

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, earlier this week the U.S. Army held an awards ceremony honoring the Top Ten Greatest Inventions of 2003. Looking at each of these inventions, one is reminded of the technological innovation, ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit that our Nation is able to harness in the global war on terror. These are among our Nation's greatest assets.

One of the Army's Top Ten Greatest Inventions of 2003 was the product of the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center, TARDEC, located in Warren, MI. This device, the Squad Automatic Weapon Pintle Mount Assembly for the Humvee is a gun mount that has been directly attributed with protecting and saving the lives of many of our soldiers who are currently deployed in Iraq.

This gun mount is a novel device that would not have been possible were

it not for another technological advance that has been developed by the U.S. Army TARDEC's National Automotive Center; Focus: HOPE, a Detroit-based non-profit; Alion; the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Project; and several other organizations.

The Mobile Parts Hospital, as its name implies, is a field deployable unit that can rapidly manufacture parts as they are needed. Utilizing the latest manufacturing and computer technologies, the Mobile Parts Hospital team has developed a mobile unit that can readily travel to any destination. By using parts specifications or by reverse engineering an actual part, this hospital can make parts as they are needed.

For the past several years, I have worked to fund research and development into this program in the hopes that this would one day be able to assist our men and women in uniform. It was hoped that these science and technology efforts would enable the Mobile Parts Hospital to reduce the need for carrying numerous parts into battle. Earlier this year, that vision became reality as the Mobile Parts Hospital and its crew team were deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The success of the Mobile Parts Hospital far exceeded anyone's expectations. Not only did it create one of the Army's Ten Greatest Inventions for 2003, but it was immediately able to begin assisting units in need of parts.

Earlier this year, my brother, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, was able to speak directly with the mobile parts team in Kuwait from Washington, DC. During that conversation, he learned that as soon as the team arrived in Kuwait, they had soldiers lined up outside the Mobile Part Hospital seeking the parts and tools they needed to perform their duties.

By all reports, the soldiers came away impressed with the Mobile Part Hospital and grateful for its presence in Kuwait. Many soldiers and contractors have written to the Mobile Parts Hospital team thanking them for their work and for the hospital itself. One soldier wrote saying that:

Currently, I am stationed in Iraq and I was in need of some gun mounts. I made a stop by Camp Doha to pick up some supplies and drive them back up into Iraq. However, my unit is short some gun mounts. I stopped by Kevin Green's shop and asked him to help me out. He was very helpful. In fact, he produced 4 SAW [Squad Automatic Weapon] mounts and adaptors for our unit overnight. I was able to mount all of my weapons, which is very helpful when we are engaged with the enemy. I wanted to let you know that the mounts he is making are what we need and he is very helpful in what he is doing. Thank you.

Another soldier wrote saying that:

you have an excellent representative to your project here in Kuwait and your products are excellent quality, and in excellent working order, much better than what we are able to pull out of a retro yard, and I wish we would have had this service a year ago when we got here. You all have done a

great service to the Army, and particularly, my guncrew . . . and for that, I thank you!!

Others wrote that due to the work of the Mobile Parts Hospital they were able to get their CH-47 helicopters "fully mission capable for this task. We appreciate everything these guys have done for us. They have been more than cooperative and willing to help. They have been very professional, in person, and at their jobs."

The Mobile Parts Hospital has been used to make new parts for many purposes and one contractor noted that:

A colleague saw new tools and asked if the Mobile Parts Hospital "could manufacture similar tools. Not only did they agree to, but they also agreed to slightly modify their current design to meet . . . requests for modification of the tools.

I cannot say enough how appreciative I am of their help, timeliness, and professional demeanor. They are currently working under a heavy load due to the Army's decision to attempt to send only armored Humvee's to Iraq. They have been asked to make a VARIETY of parts for all manner of devices. As for my shop, we are currently inspecting and servicing .50 caliber machine guns (plus others) that are being sent to or with the warfighters in Iraq. Being able to save time, labor, and damage (incurred using the hammer and punch method), we are able to send the weapons out in a much more timely fashion.

I want to thank you for having the foresight to send this team of dedicated workers and I want to thank the men at the 'parts doctor' shop."

Michigan has a long and proud tradition of serving as the "Arsenal of Democracy." The Mobile Parts Hospital is just one of the latest examples of the ingenuity and innovation that has enabled our nation to succeed in past conflicts and guarantees our success in the future.

Developed in conjunction with Focus: HOPE, a non-profit organization committed to taking "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice," and the National Automotive Center, the Mobile Parts Hospital has been a tremendous success. Both organizations are to be commended for their vision and their dedication to developing a practical tool for assisting our soldiers in combat, and making a lasting contribution to our national security.

For 35 years, Focus: HOPE has been helping people develop the skills they need to succeed professionally. Many of the candidates at Focus: HOPE, who are earning their Associate's or Bachelor's degrees, played a key role in developing the Mobile Parts Hospital. Focus: HOPE and the entire Mobile Parts Hospital team are to be commended for their efforts in making this project a success. In particular, I would like to honor the 9 team members who were at Camp Arifjan working with the Mobile Parts Hospital and supporting our troops. What follows is the list of their names: Todd A. Richman, Joe Shenosky, Kevin Ksiazek, Tim Ponzi, Robert Huffman, Greg Murnock, Kevin Green, Matt Middleton, and Greg Outland.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, yesterday, I joined Senator CLINTON and 18 other Members of the Senate in introducing S. 2600, legislation calling for the revision of the group portrait monument, located in the Capitol Rotunda, honoring leaders of the Women's Suffrage movement to include the likeness of Sojourner Truth. Our bill has the support of Senators on both sides of the isle and is an appropriate step towards honoring Truth's contributions to eliminating women's suffrage.

In its current form, the monument features the sculpted busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. As many know, one corner of the stone is unsculpted and was clearly intended to include a fourth hero of the suffrage movement. I believe that woman should be Sojourner Truth and that is why I have cosponsored this important piece of legislation.

Sojourner Truth, though unable to read or write, was considered one of the most eloquent and noted spokespersons of her day. She was a leader in the abolitionist movement, and a groundbreaking speaker on behalf of equality for women.

Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree in 1797 in Ulster County, NY, and served as a slave under several different masters. She bore four children who survived infancy, and all except one daughter were sold into slavery. Baumfree became a freed slave in 1828 when New York State outlawed slavery. She remained in New York and instituted successful legal proceedings to secure the return of her son, Peter, who had been illegally sold to a slave-owner from Alabama.

In 1843, Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth and dedicated her life to traveling and lecturing. She began her migration west in 1850, where she shared the stage with other abolitionist leaders such as Frederick Douglass. In October 1856, Truth came to Battle Creek, MI, with Quaker leader Henry Willis to speak at a Friends of Human Progress meeting. She eventually bought a house and settled in the area. Her antislavery, women's rights, and temperance arguments brought Battle Creek both regional and national recognition. Sojourner Truth died at her home in Battle Creek, MI, on November 26, 1883, having lived a truly extraordinary life.

Truth also lived in Washington, DC for several years, helping slaves who had fled from the South, and appearing at women's suffrage gatherings. She returned to Battle Creek in 1875, and remained there until her death in 1883. Sojourner Truth spoke from her heart about the most troubling issues of her time. A testament to Truth's convictions is that her words continue to speak to us today.

Sojourner Truth was a political and social activist who personally conversed with President Abraham Lincoln on behalf of freed, unemployed