

rights around the globe. I was troubled to hear that the State Department declined to react to Musharraf's comments. When asked about the interview by a member of the press, a Government spokesman skirted the issue by stating that "The United States Government speaks out very clearly that violence against women, wherever it may occur, is unacceptable. And around the world, where this is a problem, we make a point of speaking out against it."

Unfortunately, the administration is not practicing what it preaches. The administration missed an important opportunity to speak out against a reprehensible allegation that women are using rape in order to make money and emigrate. In his inaugural address last year, the President stated that "all who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you." I urge President Bush to live up to his promise to promote democracy and advance human rights and to not ignore the women of Pakistan.●

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, SEPTEMBER 15–OCTOBER 15, 2005

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words in honor of the Latino communities of the United States. As my colleagues know, September 15 to October 15 each year marks Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout this month, the United States celebrates the history, culture, and traditions of Latinos as well as their contributions to the United States. September 15 was selected as the first day for this special month because it marks the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also commemorate their independence days during the month, on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we must also acknowledge the challenges faced by this community. The Latino population is extremely vulnerable to economic downturns and experience high poverty rates, particularly among working families with children. We must work to continue providing the infrastructure to assist families by strengthening job training, child care, child nutrition, and transportation. Furthermore, we must continue to lift the barriers on education. Only 12 percent of Latinos have graduated from college. As nearly half of the Latino population is under age 25, it is crucial that we provide access to higher educational opportunities. The Latino community in the United States strives to succeed in all realms. Providing a solid educational foundation for the younger generation will ensure continued growth and accomplishments by the community.

Today, there are 39.9 million Latinos in the United States, which is nearly 14 percent of the total population. Latinos live in every State and are vital contributors to every aspect of the future of our Nation. My State of Washington is home to the 10th largest Latino population in the United States. Fourteen percent of Latinos work in managerial and professional occupations. Twenty-one percent work as operators and laborers, and another 22 percent work in service occupations. Not only are Latinos the fastest growing population in the United States, they are also the fastest growing group amongst small business owners. In the past two decades, the number of Latino-owned businesses has grown by over 600 percent.

Such facts about the achievements about the Latino community should not be surprising, as contributions by Latinos can be traced back through the history of the United States. On March 27, 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon's travels led him to a land he named "La Florida." In 1541, Hernando de Soto became the first European to discover the Mississippi River. Mexican and Spanish voyagers explored the Pacific Northwest as early as 1774. Joseph Marion Hernandez, a member of the Whig party, served as the first Latino Congressman between 1822 and 1823. In 1962, Cesar Chávez established the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers. These examples further evidence that the history of the Latinos in the United States is an integral part of our history as a Nation.

I am pleased to have this opportunity of Hispanic Heritage Month to give thanks to and honor the Latino community. The accomplishments by Latinos throughout the centuries and their significant influence on our Nation today are cause for celebration.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, OCTOBER 2005

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As we mark the 11th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which has given a voice to the thousands of women and children who had silently suffered the effects of domestic violence, we must continue to build on these protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The enactment of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act symbolized a significant Federal response to the problem of violence against women. The original act rewrote Federal criminal law in several respects, including creating penalties for interstate stalking or domestic abuse, strengthening penalties and requiring restitution for repeat sexual offenders, rendering a victim's past sexual behavior inadmissible in Federal cases, and allowing a Federal judge to order HIV testing of al-

leged rapists. VAWA also created a grant program to improve law enforcement in cases of violent crimes against women, rape prevention and education programs, and funds for battered women's shelters. Earlier this year, my home State of Washington received a grant of over \$2.3 million through this program to help victims of domestic violence get access to needed services and to enhance the partnership between criminal justice agencies, victim services providers, and community organizations which respond to domestic violence.

Since passing VAWA, local communities around the United States have made significant strides toward eradicating domestic violence. Between 1993 and 2001, the rate of nonfatal domestic violence dropped 49 percent. States have passed over 660 laws pertaining to domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Yet, despite our progress, a woman in the United States is still more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a male partner than by any other assailant. Three to four million American women continue to be battered by their husbands or partners every single year. At least a third of all female emergency room patients are battered women. A third of all homeless women and children in the U.S. are fleeing domestic violence. At least 5,000 women are beaten to death each year. This is unacceptable and we need to continue our efforts to eradicate domestic violence.

As we consider all issues of domestic abuse, we need to also be aware of the advent of for-profit international marriage brokers—companies that operate solely to connect men and women of different nations with the intent of getting married. Today, experts put the number of international marriage brokers at nearly 500 worldwide. Based on the 1999 statistics, there are between 20,000 and 30,000 women who have entered the U.S. using an international marriage broker in the past 5 years. While many of these matches result in long, happy unions, there is an unfortunate growing epidemic of domestic abuse among couples who meet through a broker. The risk of foreign women being abused and in some cases murdered by men they meet through these mail-order bride agencies is heightened greatly when they do not have access to vital information about their potential husbands or their rights in the United States. In my home State of Washington, we know of at least 3 cases of serious domestic violence, including 2 murders of women who met their husbands through Internet-based brokers.

On October 4, my colleagues unanimously passed legislation to reauthorize and improve the Violence Against Women Act once again. This legislation includes language I authored that will make information available to foreign women about the marital and violent criminal history of their prospective American husbands, in addition to

requiring international marriage brokers to provide foreign fiancées with information about the rights and resources available to domestic violence victims in the United States. Under current practice, American clients can get all the information they want about foreign fiancées, while foreign clients only receive information that the Americans choose to share, and have no way to make sure what they are told is true. By providing foreign women who meet their potential American spouses with ability to access their potential spouse's marital and criminal history, we are taking a further step to curb domestic violence. The decisions we in Congress chose to make concerning the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 sets in place the priorities and funding levels that will directly affect how we respond to and prevent domestic violence in the coming years.

Because of its occurrence behind closed doors, many Americans are unaware of the severity of this problem. While domestic violence most directly affects women, it hurts us all, no matter our sex, race, religion, or economic status. As our Nation recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let each of us consider what we can further do to prevent its continuation.●

NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize National Payroll Week, which was designated by the American Payroll Association as the week of September 5–9, 2005. This week signified an important effort to recognize the over 156 million working Americans and the payroll professionals who support the American economy by paying wages, reporting worker earnings, and withholding Federal employment taxes.

Together, this hard working group of Americans contributes, collects, reports, and deposits approximately \$1.4 trillion, or 71 percent, of the annual revenue of the U.S. Treasury. Payroll professionals continue to play a key role in maintaining the economic health of the United States by carrying out such diverse tasks as paying into the unemployment insurance system, providing information for child support enforcement, and carrying out tax withholding, reporting, and depositing. Payroll professionals also work with Federal and State tax officials to make the tax system more efficient and to improve compliance.

National Payroll Week celebrated the contributions of American workers and payroll professionals and the intricate role they play in our economy and everyday lives.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL WALSH

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a constituent and a pioneer in substance abuse treatment, Bill Walsh, who is retiring this year.

Mr. Walsh grew up in New Bedford, MA, and attended Seton Hall University. He served as a Radioman First Class in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Aboard the USS *Hyter*, he participated in the naval escort for President Franklin Roosevelt as he flew to the conference at Yalta.

After he left the Navy, Bill Walsh nobly dedicated his life to helping those in need of mental health services and those debilitated by alcohol and substance abuse. For 3 years, he served as the executive director of the Mental Health Association of Eastern Connecticut, where he created community mental health services and educational seminars to meet the needs of eastern Connecticut.

And, for the last 34 years, Mr. Walsh has served as the president of the Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. In that position, he oversaw the development of three halfway houses, a detoxification program, outpatient services, and community-based education programs. He has helped thousands confront the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse and take the difficult steps to recovery.

Mr. Walsh was also a pioneer in long-term care in Connecticut. In 1979 he developed the Lebanon Pines Treatment Facility for those with chronic alcoholism, who are invited to live and work at the rural, alcohol-free facility for an indefinite period. This program has no doubt helped hundreds of individuals find sobriety.

Bill Walsh's selfless desire to truly help those in need is further evidenced by the extent to which he has been willing to share the vast knowledge that he gained working on the front lines. Over the last five decades, he has strenuously lobbied the Connecticut legislature on behalf of those suffering from addictions to drugs or alcohol and their treatment providers. He has served on numerous boards and advisory committees dedicated to substance abuse treatment. And he has lectured on substance abuse and community rehabilitation projects at colleges and universities in Connecticut and throughout our Nation.

Millions of Americans battle drug and alcohol addiction every day. Bill Walsh has dedicated his life to making sure that they don't fight alone. For his tireless service, Connecticut and, indeed, the whole Nation owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Next week, a dinner will be held in honor of Bill Walsh's many contributions to the field of substance abuse treatment and to raise money for a scholarship fund to support those who want to become substance abuse treatment professionals. Both the dinner and the scholarship fund are wonderful tributes to Bill's contributions to serving those who struggle each and every day with addiction.

Once again, I thank Bill Walsh for his years of dedicated service to his community, to Connecticut, and to our Na-

tion. And, I send my best wishes to him, his wife Cinda, and his family as he embarks on this new stage in his life.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF LEON KLINGHOFFER

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 20 years ago this month the world changed forever for the family of Leon Klinghoffer. Mr. Klinghoffer was a 69-year-old American Jewish retired appliance manufacturer from my State of New York. In October 1985, he and his wife Marilyn were celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary by taking a vacation aboard the Achille Lauro.

On October 7, 1985, four members of the Palestine Liberation Front took control of the Achille Lauro liner off the coast of Egypt. While these hijackers held the passengers and crew hostage, they directed the vessel to sail to Tartus, Syria, and demanded the release of 50 Palestinians then held in Israeli prisons. After being refused permission to dock at Tartus, the hijackers killed the wheelchair-bound Leon Klinghoffer and threw his body overboard into the sea.

Nothing can ever repair the mindless horror that act of terror visited upon the innocent. Nothing can replace the love of a husband and father. Yet we can learn from this cowardly act of terror and others like it. Indeed we must learn from it if we are to survive as a free nation in a world stalked by the terrorist gun and bomb. We must understand that terrorism has gotten more dangerous to the United States since Leon Klinghoffer's senseless murder. The Achille Lauro hijacking signaled the beginning of a new era and shattered illusions that Americans were not vulnerable to international terrorism.

Mr. Klinghoffer's widow, Marilyn and his two daughters courageously sought to turn their grief into meaningful action by speaking out against the scourge of terrorism and establishing the Leon Klinghoffer Memorial Foundation of the Anti-Defamation League. Since Marilyn's passing in 1986, the foundation that now bears both their names continues to raise awareness about the growing reach, sophistication, and lethality of terrorism, to identify gaps in America's counterterrorism law, and to advocate for their closure.

Having seen firsthand the destruction and pain caused by the murder of even one victim, the Klinghoffer family has reached out to other victims of terror to share their support, strength and experience. The Klinghoffer Foundation has developed educational, political, and legal strategies to enhance the fight against terror worldwide.

The Senate salutes Leon and Marilyn's two daughters, Lisa and Ilsa, whose longtime education efforts helped put a human face on the threat of terrorism long before fighting terror became a necessary way of life for