

He has established a Center for Health & Learning in partnership with Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta. And with the increasing shortages of pharmacists, nurses, and educators nationwide, Dr. Godsey has worked to ensure that Mercer addresses these critical needs through undergraduate and graduate programs.

In the early 1980s, Middle Georgia's economic engine, Robins Air Force Base, struggled to find enough engineers, endangering its continuing operations. So the base commander turned to Dr. Godsey for a solution. In 1985, Mercer opened the school of engineering on the Macon campus and the Mercer Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins. More than 62 percent of Mercer engineering graduates work in Georgia, and the university is the No. 1 provider of engineers to Robins Air Force Base. The Mercer Engineering Research Center that the university established in Warner Robins has exceeded more than \$189 million in contract revenue in research.

Dr. Godsey happened to be in my office today, and he advised me that he has now secured the full funding for a new engineering building to be located on the Mercer campus in Macon. It is a building we have helped contribute to at the Federal level. He has also gotten State funding. But the overwhelming amount of money needed to construct this facility was contributed by private individuals around our State and around the country.

It has been a privilege to work with Dr. Godsey over the years, and we have worked to secure funding for a program that is vital to Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, the Critical Personnel Development Program. The centerpiece of this educational partnership between Robins and Mercer's Macon campus is to provide a state-of-the-art facility for academic training and laboratory research in support of the Logistics Center's mission requirements. In addition, it will create regional economic development opportunities, and we all know how critical that is. I am pleased, as I said, that Mercer University has now secured this vital funding and is finalizing this project. As this project becomes a true reality, we will all be able to recall Dr. Godsey's hard work on this effort.

There is no question, Kirby Godsey has been a strong advocate for his community. Under his leadership, the Mercer Center for Community Development, which promotes stronger community ties by working to socially and economically revitalize neighborhoods around the school, received the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Campus-Community Partnership Award in 2002.

He has served as chairman of New Town Macon since its beginning in 1996 and has worked hard to revitalize the downtown area in Macon, Georgia. Incidentally, my Middle Georgia Senate office is located there, and I can say without question, the revitalization efforts have been incredible. In 2003, Dr.

Godsey was named the Citizen of the Year by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and presented him with its highest honor, the prestigious Meritorious Service Award.

He has also been recognized for influencing the quality of education across the Southeast as a leader with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 2002, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education recognized him as the Southeast's CEO of the year. It is also fitting that in 2006, the Georgia Legislature honored him at the State capitol for his many accomplishments during his 27-year presidency.

Kirby Godsey is an inspirational leader whose dedication to Mercer University has enabled great advancements in our community, our State, and our Nation. He is a good friend and a true hero to the State of Georgia. I ask the Members of the Senate to join me in paying tribute to this great Georgian, this great American, and a great friend of this Member of the Senate—Kirby Godsey.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN SONNY MONTGOMERY

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a former friend and colleague, one who contributed mightily to this great Nation over many years. Yesterday, in Meridian, MS, the former chairman of the House Veterans' Committee, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, was laid to rest. Two of our colleagues in this body, Senators COCHRAN and LOTT, were in attendance and spoke at Chairman Montgomery's funeral. Senators COCHRAN and LOTT were very close to Congressman Montgomery. They were Members in the House together for many years.

I had the privilege of knowing Sonny Montgomery for over 35 years. He was one of those unique public servants whom all who knew him, liked him, respected him.

He contributed to this country every day. He was a Democrat from Mississippi. He was proud of that fact. He never ran from it. He knew who he was, and he believed in things. But he always brought a sense of purpose, he brought a sense of importance, he brought a sense of bipartisanship, dignity, tolerance, and respect to the body and the institution he served.

At a time in American politics when we are lacking those graces, we look to people such as Sonny Montgomery and recall the impact he had on the Congress of the United States, how he brought people together. He formed a consensus of purpose. There were differences—there should be differences—but he was anchored with the belief first in his country, second in his responsibilities as a Member of Congress, and third in his party. He always rep-

resented his district, his State, and his country with great dignity.

Sonny Montgomery was a World War II veteran and a Korean war veteran. He became an Army National Guard general and served as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for 13 years.

There are many personal stories about Sonny Montgomery. One that is legend in Washington is his close, almost brotherly, relationship with the first President Bush. The first President Bush was elected to Congress on the same day Sonny Montgomery was elected—a Republican from Texas, a Democrat from Mississippi—in 1966. They became very close friends. As a matter of fact, Barbara Bush spoke yesterday at Sonny Montgomery's funeral.

That is but one example of the affection and respect that all who knew Sonny Montgomery had for him. Here is a man who led legislation that increased veterans eligibility for home loans, veterans life insurance, increased medical coverage for veterans, and he was the sponsor of a law that made the Veterans' Administration the 14th Cabinet department of our Government in 1988.

I had the privilege of serving with President Reagan as President Reagan's first Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, so I worked closely with Sonny Montgomery.

On a personal note, I met my wife Lilibet in 1982 when she was working for Sonny Montgomery. Lilibet is from Meridian, MS. That is where Sonny Montgomery was born 86 years ago. That is how Lilibet got a job on Capitol Hill, and that is how I met her.

It is those kinds of personal stories that are by the hundreds, people who somehow Sonny Montgomery was close to and had some responsibility for connecting. His reach was long, and it is appropriate that not only we recognize him but remember him and thank him, but again, as I said earlier, at a time when our country is divided in a very dangerous way—and that is reflected to a great extent in the Congress of the United States—there are those to whom we can reach back to inspire us to greater heights, to expect more from ourselves, and do more for our country, if we would take the Sonny Montgomery model of service to his country and service to those he had the privilege of leading.

I appreciate very much the opportunity to make these remarks about a dear friend, one we will all miss, especially those who had the opportunity to serve with him in some capacity over his glorious 30 years in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING, INDIANA

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to celebrate the

10th anniversary of the founding of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, TMMI, and their operation of the state-of-the-art production facility in Princeton, IN. The continuing success of TMMI and the nearly 5,000 team members at the facility demonstrate the remarkable capabilities of many Hoosiers as they work together as innovators and leaders of the automotive industry in Indiana, the United States, and abroad.

In addition to TMMI important leadership in the automotive industry, the company's more than \$2.6 billion investment in Princeton and surrounding communities has been an important engine of economic growth and development in southwestern Indiana. A study by the University of Evansville concluded that TMMI's production in Princeton has created 8,865 jobs in Gibson County, 12,990 in the Evansville metropolitan area, and 31,385 across the State of Indiana. TMMI's investment has resulted in more than \$5.5 billion in business sales. This economic activity has strengthened communities and improved lives across the State.

I am also pleased that TMMI's dedication to the State of Indiana will be growing in the coming years. In March, I had the privilege of sharing with my fellow Hoosiers news that Toyota will begin production of the Camry in Lafayette. It is expected that this venture will create an additional 1,000 jobs in Indiana. This decision signals a recognition by Toyota that the highly skilled Hoosier workforce and attractive business climate in Indiana will allow them to achieve their goals in the coming years.

I am hopeful that you will join me in congratulating Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, and in wishing them many years of success and leadership in Indiana.

TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Toyota Motor Company for their 20 years of successful and prosperous operations in Georgetown, KY. This stunning achievement serves as a shining example to us all in regards to leadership and innovation in the American workforce.

Since coming to Kentucky in 1986, Toyota has provided our State with thousands of job opportunities while giving the employees the ability to contribute ideas for product improvement, oversee quality control, and continually strive for perfection. This strive has resulted in the Toyota Camry being named the most popular car on the American automotive market eight times out of the last 9 years.

With three locations in Kentucky, the Georgetown manufacturing plant, the North American Parts Center—Kentucky, and the company's largest North American manufacturing headquarters in Erlanger, KY, it is easy to see the economic benefits that Toyota

has brought to our State. The Georgetown plant alone employs over 7,000 team members and has generated over 34,000 jobs in Kentucky and nearly 100,000 jobs across the United States. So often we hear about jobs being lost to overseas firms, but in Kentucky we are fortunate the Toyota jobs came to us. This partnership has benefited Toyota and Kentucky, and I know both parties will reap the benefits for years to come.

Today, the Georgetown production facility is Toyota's largest production plant in North America. Kentucky's dedicated skilled production team has been key to Toyota's success.

Toyota has proven its commitment to Kentucky by supporting the interests of the Commonwealth and giving back to our State in so many ways. By contributing to education, the arts, local business leadership organizations, and supporting women's rights, this company has proven time and again the importance of a strong business and community partnership.

Words cannot express the generosity that Toyota has shown Kentucky through industry job opportunities and community service. I am excited to see what this partnership will bring to Kentuckians and generations to come. Once again, I want to congratulate the Toyota Georgetown facility and its employees on 20 years of success. I also want to thank them for all they have given to our State.

EXTENDING THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE DEADLINE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, WHTI, currently requires anyone entering the United States via a U.S.-Canadian land border to have a passport or other acceptable alternative document by January 1, 2008. I am pleased to join my colleagues from Alaska and Vermont as a cosponsor of their amendment to extend the WHTI implementation deadline by 18 months to June 1, 2009.

The WHTI will play an important role in securing our borders, but it must be implemented in a reasonable, fair, and well-thought-out manner. This amendment responds to concerns I have heard from various constituents, including those in the travel, tourism, and shipping industries.

My home State of Michigan, like other northern border States, enjoys a close economic and social relationship with Canada. It is important that the WHTI be implemented in a way that minimizes negative impacts on trade, travel, and tourism.

We must ensure that our border crossings are both secure and efficient. This amendment would provide additional time for the Departments of State and Homeland Security to study the various implementation issues related to the WHTI. This delay would enable a more in-depth examination of

issues including the economic impact of the WHTI, the civil liberties and security concerns related to new passport technologies, and the feasibility of creating a single border crossing identification card that will satisfy the requirements of both the WHTI and the REAL ID Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On May 16, 2006, a 20-year-old Washington, DC, lesbian died after being shot in the head in what appears to have been a hate crime.

Crystal Smith died shortly before midnight when two unidentified men opened fire on her while standing on a street corner in Southeast Washington, DC. According to reports, the police department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit is assisting in the investigation. The fact that Smith was shot in the head makes it appear more likely that she was targeted.

I believe that the 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.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TAX RECONCILIATION

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I regret that rehabilitation following back surgery prevented me from being on the floor to cast my vote against the tax reconciliation package which the Senate narrowly approved on May 11. Today President Bush will sign that bill into law, and I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts with my constituents and my colleagues. I am extremely disturbed by the Nation's fiscal mismanagement over the past several years, and this new tax cut bill was another disappointing step in the wrong direction.

On February 2, I voted for the Senate's version of the tax reconciliation bill. That legislation protected middle-class taxpayers from the alternative minimum tax and extended some widely supported tax provisions that recently expired. The Senate bill also included urgently needed incentives for