

down on illegal guns and convince state legislatures and Congress to take ideology out of law enforcement.

The coalition's basic principle is that keeping illegal guns off the street is not an issue of ideology but of law enforcement. It, therefore, is united in taking a commonsense approach to fighting illegal guns at the local, State and Federal levels. The vast majority of guns used in crimes are purchased and possessed illegally. Most gun dealers, however, are honest business people that carefully follow the law. According to gun crime trace data, 85 percent of dealers do not sell any guns used in crimes. It is only a small number of irresponsible dealers that cause the vast majority of problems. In fact, it is only about 1 percent of gun sellers who account for 60 percent of all guns used in crimes.

According to a national survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research and the Terrance Group on behalf of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, 84 percent of Americans say they are concerned about gun violence. This concern crosses partisan lines, and spans big cities and small rural areas alike. Eighty-two percent of Americans favor either tougher enforcement of existing laws or tough new laws. This strong public support for commonsense measures serves to reinforce what we should already know. I would like to urge this Congress to follow the example of these mayors and work in a bipartisan manner to promote and pass sensible gun safety legislation.

HONORING INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Super Bowl Champions from my home State of Indiana, the Indianapolis Colts. The Colts' 29-17 historic win over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI was the first professional football championship for the State of Indiana and a proud moment for our State and country.

As Tony Dungy hoisted the Lombardi Trophy high into the rainy Miami night, the first African American coach to do so, I was reminded of what people used to say about the great Joe Louis: "He is a testament to his race, the human race." This was a great moment for African Americans but one that we all should take pride in. Tony Dungy, Peyton Manning, Jim Irsay, and the entire Colts team and organization are a testament to what professional athletes should be, and they should be commended for winning with class, courage, and character.

It is rare in today's sports world that an organization carries itself with such character and class, on and off the field. Throughout the year, the Colts battled week after week, fighting uphill, and never buckling under the pressure.

Once the playoffs started, the Colts' true character shined even brighter. They never lost faith in themselves and prevailed as a team. Their conduct this

season should be an example for all other teams, not an exception.

I will never forget sitting with my two young boys cheering as our team won the Super Bowl, but it was just as important that they got to see professional athletes carry themselves with such integrity. I congratulate the Indianapolis Colts on their Super Bowl victory and for the example they set for my children and the millions of others who I hope are inspired by their example.

DOMESTIC PET TURTLE MARKET ACCESS ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as a cosponsor of the Domestic Pet Turtle Market Access Act of 2007. If enacted, this bill would re-open the U.S. market to allow the sale of baby turtles as pets. In Louisiana, we have 72 licensed turtle farmers who produce over 13 million turtles year with a farm value of \$9 million. Unless Congress enacts this bill, this industry will die and Louisiana will bear the brunt of the loss.

Since 1975, the FDA has banned the sale of turtles sold as pets due to health concerns regarding salmonella poisoning. The FDA, through its Center for Veterinary Medicine, banned the sale of baby turtles in the U.S. due to salmonella poisoning occurring in children in households with pet turtles.

The industry has survived by taking their market abroad to Asia. Asia has developed their own turtle market and is no longer in need of U.S. turtles. As a result, U.S. turtle farmers have nowhere to sell their product, and they are barely getting by.

Three decades have now passed and our knowledge of the salmonella bacteria and the technology for treating this bacterium has greatly advanced. Scientists at Louisiana State University have developed salmonella treatments for pet turtles. Thanks to these methods, pet turtles can be treated for salmonella before they are shipped for sale. This treatment, combined with a much higher awareness of how serious salmonella poisoning is and how one prevents transmission of the bacteria, is more than enough to protect individuals who seek to own pet turtles—in fact, it will be more protection than any other amphibian or reptile seller currently provides.

Other similar amphibians and reptiles are not banned for sale in the United States and they also carry salmonella and are a potential health threat. There is no requirement that these pets be treated for salmonella before sale. As a result, the FDA has singled out one industry primarily located in Louisiana.

This bill will require the turtle industry to submit a plan to the FDA for approval. Turtle farmers will be required to demonstrate how they will treat turtles and ensure compliance with this act. The FDA must approve the plan if an acceptable treatment is

chosen by the turtle farmer and it exceeds current similar methods being used by other amphibian and reptile pet sellers.

The Louisiana turtle industry will become a dead industry this year unless Congress enacts this bill and allows the U.S. market to re-open. In 30 years, our understanding of salmonella prevention and the technology and science has advanced tremendously. This bill keeps intact important safety provisions to protect individuals and at the same time allows the re-opening of a market to stop an important industry in Louisiana from dying. I support this bill, and I hope the rest of the Senate will join me in supporting this commonsense bill that will protect consumers, protect farmers, and bring the joy of caring for pet turtles to millions.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB N. PERKINS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today with a deep sense of sadness, I wish to speak in honor of a wonderful man, Jacob N. Perkins—a former staff assistant in my office, who passed away on February 5, 2007. Although "Jake" worked for me some time ago—in 1990 and 1991—he remained a key part of what I like to call the extended Warner staff family.

Jake first came to my office as a summer intern from Virginia Tech University. From day one, he impressed all of us with his profound work ethic, his absolute dedication and loyalty, his keen interest in government and politics, and his generosity of spirit. In fact, Jake was such an impressive young man that, after his internship, he was hired on as a member of my permanent staff to serve as my chief mail clerk. He always carried out his responsibilities in an exemplary fashion, giving 150 percent of effort each and every day.

Upon leaving my office, Jake returned to Virginia Tech to finish his undergraduate work. In 1994, he received his bachelor's degree in political science, compiling nearly a 4.0 average his final 2 years of school. After graduating at Virginia Tech, Jake attended law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

Through all the time that has passed, Jake has remained a steadfast friend of my office, supporting my campaigns and projects whenever possible and maintaining warm and important friendships with current and former staff members. Indeed, only this past Christmas, he was the principal organizer of our annual staff alumni luncheon.

In recent years, Jake began to have significant health problems. His passing away this past Monday at the early age of 37, reportedly due to kidney transplant complications, is a tragedy.

Jake was a remarkable man in so many ways. For one, you would never have known he was ill, not even for a day. He was the type of man who never