

and Senator REID's amendment in the nature of a substitute. I oppose any efforts to lower guaranteed funding levels for all States.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

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

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge that today, March 6th, 2007, we celebrate the 17th annual National Sportsmanship Day. Created by the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island in 1991, this initiative seeks to promote and develop the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fair play among not only America's youth but also the international community. Over its 17 years, more than 13,500 schools and 80 million individuals across all 50 States and many countries around the world have participated in National Sportsmanship Day activities. On this day, in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges, students, teachers, coaches, and parents will discuss issues regarding sportsmanship and fair play.

This year, National Sportsmanship Day will focus on the themes "Don't Punch Back, Play Harder" and "Defeat Gamesmanship." These themes will prompt participants to explore the practical values of "competitive self-restraint" and playing within the intended spirit of the rules. It is important for both our society and our culture that we instill these values in our youth. Additionally, the celebration will include the 14th annual USA Today National Sportsmanship Day Essay Contest.

I am pleased to say that Rhode Island is home to the Institute for International Sport and National Sportsmanship Day. For 17 years, the institute and this initiative have enhanced the nature and health of competition among our Nation's youth. The efforts of Senator Claiborne Pell and his able staff member Barry Sklar, Senator John Chafee, founder Dan Doyle, and many others have contributed to the success of this endeavor. I know that this year's National Sportsmanship Day celebration will continue to promote fair play and in so doing ensure a

sound foundation of sportsmanship for today and for the future.

VANDALISM OF AHAVAS TORAH SYNAGOGUE

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I bring to the attention of the Senate the recent vandalism and desecration of Eugene, OR's only conservative synagogue, Ahavas Torah Synagogue, on February 22, 2007. The targets of this vile act were two sacred Torah scrolls and accompanying prayer books. Police officers responding to neighbors' calls found the building ransacked and a locked wooden chest containing the Torah scrolls pried open; the scrolls themselves were torn and damaged.

This event comes as a shock to the dozen families who make up Eugene's small Orthodox community, but unfortunately is not an isolated event. In 2002, Temple Beth Israel Synagogue was vandalized during a Shabbat service; in 2001 the congregation received hundreds of hate-filled letters; and in 1994 the synagogue was fired upon with armor-piercing rifle rounds.

I am compelled to speak out against this deplorable act of vandalism at the Ahavas Torah Synagogue, which proves that hate crimes still pose a serious threat to our Nation's security and values. All forms of hatred and intolerance should be combated with every available tool and America's leaders need to send a clear message that acts of violence targeted at individuals of any group will not be tolerated. For this reason, I have been a cosponsor and strong supporter of hate crimes prevention legislation.

The Talmud teaches us that he "who can protest an injustice, but does not, is an accomplice to the act." Even though the existence of hatred is foretold in the Torah, acts of anti-Semitism and hate must be stopped before anyone can truly worship safely and freely.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING RITA A. ALMON

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to honor Ms. Rita A. Almon, who has served as program director for the U.S. Senate Youth Program for 29 years. She will retire after this year's 45th anniversary program, which is currently being held March 3 to 10, 2007, in Washington, DC.

During her tenure Ms. Almon has overseen the education and safety of thousands of high school student delegates who come annually to the Nation's Capital for this unique educational program about government, leadership and public service. She has worked closely with Senators and their staffs as well as with senior officials from each branch of Government to secure an opportunity for these young men and women to see their Govern-

ment up close and to meet the individuals who make it work.

The mission of the U.S. Senate Youth Program, as set out in S. Res. 324 in 1962, states that "the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the citizens of the United States; and the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership."

Rita A. Almon has achieved the mission of the U.S. Senate Youth Program by adhering to the highest standards of ethics and integrity, setting a shining example for the young men and women who participate. I join my colleagues in commending her and wish her well in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MARVIN VAN HAAFTEN

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of the joys of my job as a Senator is working closely with talented, dedicated Iowans from all walks of life. One of the exceptional people is Marvin Van Haaften, director of the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. With his retirement in January, he will conclude an extraordinary career in public service spanning over three decades.

Marvin Van Haaften has lived in Marion County most of his life, but his law enforcement experience and expertise has been felt throughout the State of Iowa. Before being named by Governor Tom Vilsack to be Iowa's drug policy coordinator in December 2002, he served as Marion County sheriff for 18 years. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, certified as a peace officer by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, served in the National Guard, and was a licensed medical examiner investigator.

One key to his success is that he speaks with the authority of a seasoned veteran of decades on the front line fighting crime and improving public safety. Marvin was named Sheriff of the Year in 1991 by the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association and served as its president in 1996. With more than 32 years of law enforcement experience, he has taught extensively in the field of rural law enforcement, particularly death investigation and domestic violence crimes. He has provided local and national leadership on the role of law enforcement in strategic victim safety and offender apprehension, and served on the board of directors of the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement. Marvin also served on many local and State committees such as the Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, the board of the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force, the board of the 18-county South Central Iowa Clandestine Laboratory Task Force, and was third vice president on