

who speak against the drift of the prevailing culture. Reverend Falwell chose to adopt a national profile and received a good amount of criticism for taking public stances on difficult issues. But he accepted consequences and was not above admitting and apologizing for his mistakes or, after more thought and reflection, adjusting some views and adapting to change.

Reverend Falwell was not nearly as easily labeled as some might think. For all the opposition he received from those on the left, some on the right criticized him for appearing to move away from the fundamentalist and toward the evangelical camp. Others attacked him for his friendship with leaders of the charismatic movement, speaking at conferences hosted by groups or leaders from different Christian traditions, or working closely with Roman Catholic leaders. His Liberty Baptist College has hosted speakers from Reverend Billy Graham to, yes, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. Through it all, Reverend Falwell stayed true to his own convictions while working with others on issues of common purpose to help people and to make our country better.

One of the most telling tributes about Reverend Jerry Falwell comes from a most unexpected source. After losing a libel suit to Penthouse publisher Larry Flynt in the Supreme Court back in 1988, Reverend Falwell befriended Flynt and the two appeared together in numerous media venues, visited each other, and even exchanged Christmas cards. In a column published just a few days ago in the Los Angeles Times, Flynt declared that while he disagreed with everything Reverend Falwell preached, he found that they actually had a lot in common. He wrote: "The more I got to know Falwell, the more I began to see that his public portrayals were caricatures of himself." The ultimate result of their relationship was, as Flynt put it, "just as shocking a turn to me as was winning that famous Supreme Court case: We became friends."

Jerry Falwell leaves behind Macel, his wife of nearly 50 years, his three children and eight grandchildren. His son Jerry has taken up the mantle as Chancellor of Liberty University and his son Jonathan had already been named Executive Pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church. Reverend Falwell's example, his legacy, is so much more than the controversial remarks, views, or positions that some want to emphasize. Reverend Jerry Falwell lived what he believed, he put action to his faith, he inspired and educated, he led and equipped. He was a pastor, a teacher, and a leader. He helped change countless lives and helped make our country better. For all those reasons and so many more, he will be missed.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

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 18, 2007, in Greenville, SC, Sean Kennedy was beaten by an unnamed man which resulted in his death. Kennedy, a gay man, was punched in the face and knocked to the ground where he sustained injuries to his head. Kennedy died of his injuries later that night at a local hospital. The attacker was later brought into custody and charged with murder. Because Kennedy was attacked while leaving a gay bar and the attacker used anti-gay epithets, the Greenville County Sheriff turned the case over to the FBI for investigation as a hate crime.

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 Matthew Shepard 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the 2007 recipients of the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. These prestigious awards, commonly called the EDies, are presented each year to individuals and schools who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education.

The EDies were founded as a way to honor the best of the best among New Hampshire's educators. In the 14 years since, there has been a rich source of talented and successful teachers, administrators, schools, and school boards to draw from to honor at each annual event. This year was no exception.

Those individuals selected have been compared against a criteria set by others in their discipline through their sponsoring organization. Schools are also chosen by experienced educators and community leaders in New Hampshire based on guidelines established by the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Board of Directors. I am proud to recognize the individuals and schools who will receive this year's awards on June 9, 2007.

In addition, I would also like to recognize the many teachers who have played such an important role in my children's lives and in my own life, as well. As I serve in the Senate, I remain proud and grateful for the excellent education I received in the public education system of the State of New Hampshire.

Mr. President, I ask that the list of the 2007 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners be printed in the RECORD.

The list following.

2007 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Susan E. Auerbach, Ph.D.; Officer Robert Bennett; Susan Bradley; Linda Burdick; Marjorie Chiafery; Deborah Couture; Debora Crowder; Judith Elliott; Debbie D. Gay; William Gibson; Christina Gribben; Jack Grube; Kathleen Hill; Russell Holden; Dr. Steven Kelley; Carolyn Kelley; Dr. Beverly R. King; Joseph Kopitsky; Bruce Larson; Dr. Patricia "Irish" Lindberg.

Shari J. Litch-Gray, Ph.D.; Constance Manchester-Bonefant; Deborah Nichols; Rosemary Nunnally; Jason Parent; William Ranauro; David Remillard; Linda Sherouse; Kathryn L. Skoglund; Marcia Trexler; Debra Vasconcellos; Karen P. Whitmore; Dr. Barbara Young-Hoffman.

Ashland Elementary School; Belmont Middle School; Chichester Central School; Claremont School Board; Hampstead Central School; Hampstead Middle School; Kearsarge Regional Middle School; South Londonderry Elementary School; Adeline C. Marston School; Pembroke Academy.●

RECOGNIZING FRANKFORT, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Frankfort, SD. Founded in 1882, the town of Frankfort will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Spink County, Frankfort was named after Frankfort I. Fisher, a settler who explored the area. It was also named in part after Frankfort, Germany. Frankfort has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Frankfort on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING WARNER, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Warner, SD. Located in Brown County, the town of Warner will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Since its beginning in 1881, Warner has been a strong reflection of South Dakota's values and traditions. Their community spirit was recognized in 2000, when Warner was honored as South Dakota's "Community of the Year." As they celebrate this milestone anniversary, I am confident that Warner will continue to thrive and succeed for the next 125 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Warner on their anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING LETCHER, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Letcher, SD. The town of