

had to be better than they were before, better than the rest of the world. He fought for that vigorously and tirelessly.

He was someone who understood it very well and every day gave his all so every child in our State would have a better chance to make the progress that is the essence of this country and seize all its opportunities.

Paul's greatest passion was for his family, Diana, and their three children, Meredith, Matthew, and Edward. In his family, he has a reflection of all the values he stood for, honesty, decency, integrity, effort, success and community spirit—reaching out to help others. All of these good people do it every day. They are inspired and sustained by his example.

Also high among his cherished ideals was his Irish heritage. Paul looked like a map of Ireland, with a shock of white hair and his ruddy complexion and his great Irish tenor voice. He would sing Irish ballads with his musical group, and he would remind us all of the great poets of Ireland and the great dreamers of Ireland. But similar to many of them, he transformed the songs, the poems, and the dreams into real action.

Today we come to this floor to praise him, to thank him, to let his family know what they already know. He has won the esteem and the love of his neighbors in Rhode Island, richly deserved for a life well spent serving others.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to join my distinguished senior Senator JACK REED in remembering a great Rhode Islander, Representative Paul Crowley, of Newport. With his passing early last week, the "Ocean State" lost not only a champion for our children and powerful advocate for Newport, the city he loved, but a friend and mentor for many of us who served and worked with him. In a place such as Rhode Island, a loss like that of Paul touches us personally as well as politically.

So together with Senator REED, I wish to share briefly with the Senate the Paul Crowley I know.

Paul was a Newporter heart and soul, a lifelong resident of the fifth ward and a warm and generous host at Laforge Casino Restaurant, long owned by his family. He loved his old city and worked tirelessly to strengthen its economy and bring new vitality to its proud history.

Paul's role in founding the Newport County Convention and Visitors Bureau helped make Newport a world-class destination, and he led efforts to build a sister city relationship that endures today, between Newport and Kinsale, Ireland.

A loyal member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and former Grand Marshal of the Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade, Paul treasured his Irish heritage. He loved his family, his native

city, and his ancestral Ireland, I think in that order.

Paul was a deeply respected leader. In 27 consecutive years of service in our General Assembly, his work as deputy chair of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee, among many other posts, cemented Paul's reputation as a hard worker, an honest broker, and a skilled negotiator.

Paul relentlessly dedicated those skills to improving education in Rhode Island. He believed Rhode Island children deserved the best education and he never compromised that commitment. He pushed schools and teachers to take responsibility for their students' successes and failures, and he pushed the State to ensure that schools improved, from accountability measures to State aid for poorer districts. Paul was particularly focused on middle schools, a concern he and I shared.

His legislative deeds are the shoulders on which education reform in Rhode Island will stand for a generation. Paul was a friend especially to Senator REED's colleague and mine in our delegation, PATRICK KENNEDY. Paul befriended PATRICK when they both served together in the General Assembly. I know Paul watched with great pride as PATRICK rose first in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, and later in Congress, where he has earned the great honor and responsibility now of serving on the House Appropriations Committee.

Paul will be so deeply missed. Hearts all over Rhode Island go out to Paul's family—his wife Diana, his daughter Meredith, his sons Matthew and Edward, and his entire family.

I join Senator REED in offering my condolences, on behalf also of Sandra, my wife, who worked with Paul in the legislature and who was so fond of him.

Newport, the city Paul loved, and the Ocean State, whose people he served unselfishly and with great integrity, are lessened today because he is no longer with us.

Paul, may the road rise up to meet you, and the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; may the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, hate crimes violate everything our country stands for. They send a loud and clear message to some of our fellow citizens that they are not welcome in our society. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act, passed last week by the Senate as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill, makes clear that we will not stand by and allow our fellow citizens to be brutalized.

Enactment of such legislation is vitally important to the Arab-American community, that has suffered a surge in hate crimes against them in recent years because of 9/11. After the ter-

rorist attacks that day, the FBI documented a ninefold increase in hate crimes against persons believed to be Arab or Muslim and a 130-percent increase in incidents directed on individuals because of their ethnic background or national origin. When the terrorists attacked our Nation, they also delivered a second attack against Americans who shared their ethnic background and religion but not their hate or violence.

In their recent publication, "Report on Hate Crimes & Discrimination Against Arab Americans: The Post-September 11 Backlash (2003)," the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee identified a number of confirmed and suspected hate crime murders of Arab Americans and those perceived to be Arab or Muslim. In Mesa, AZ, Balbir Singh Sodhi, an Indian Sikh, was shot while he was planting flowers outside his Chevron station. His murderer, Frank Roque, had spent the day drinking and raving about how he wanted to kill the "rag heads" responsible for the terrorist attacks four days earlier. After being kicked out of a bar, Roque went on a shooting rampage. He first shot and killed Sodhi, and afterwards fired on the home of an Afghan family. He then fired several times at a Lebanese-American clerk, who, fortunately, escaped injury. During his arrest he yelled, "I am a patriot!" and "I stand for America all the way!"

In Dallas, Waqar Hasan, a Pakistani Muslim, was shot in the face while cooking hamburgers in his grocery store. Mark Anthony Stroman confessed on a Dallas radio program to the murder, saying he killed Hasan and another man and shot a third person in revenge for the terrorist attacks. During an interview, Stroman confessed that he wanted to "retaliate on local Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them." He also added that he "did what every American wanted to do but didn't. They didn't have the nerve." Stroman was convicted and sentenced to death. In Lincoln Park, MI, Ali Almansoop, a U.S. citizen originally from Yemen, was shot to death while fleeing his attacker. The victim was asleep with his girlfriend when her ex-boyfriend broke into her apartment and dragged him out of bed. According to his own police confession and the woman's statements, he threatened, "I'm going to kill you for what happened in NY and DC." The victim fled outside and was shot in the back trying to escape.

Several other incidents have also occurred that are suspected to be hate crime killings, including the murder of an Egyptian-American grocery store owner, who was killed at work. He was confronted by two men who shot him and rode off in a Honda driven by a third man, leaving the money in the cash register intact.

In Reedley, CA, Abdo Ali Ahmed, a 50-year-old Arab-American store employee, was shot several times and

killed at work late one afternoon. Witnesses told detectives that they saw four males leave the site in a white four-door sedan. No money or merchandise was stolen. The employee had received threats since mid-September.

In Minneapolis, a Somali man waiting at a bus stop was beaten unconscious and later died in the hospital. His son believes the assault was the result of an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, which reported that local Somalis might have inadvertently donated to an organization now linked to Osama bin Laden. In Los Angeles, Syrian-born liquor storeowner, Ramez Younan, was shot to death behind his cash register. Police said they had no suspects and no clear motive for the shooting and no money was stolen from the store. The Los Angeles Police Department found Younan's body but no witnesses.

These examples emphasize the need for effective legislation and the importance of providing adequate resources to state and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute hate crimes. Violent hate crimes can't be tolerated. We can reverse the tide of hatred and bigotry, by sending a loud, clear message that hate crimes will be punished to the full extent of the law, and will not be tolerated against any member of society.

The Matthew Shepard Act is supported by a broad coalition of 210 law enforcement, civic, disability, religious and civil rights groups, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Anti-Defamation League, the Interfaith Alliance, the National Sheriff's Association, the Human Rights Campaign, the National District Attorneys Association and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. All of these diverse groups have come together to say now is the time for us to take action to protect our fellow citizens from the brutality of hate-motivated violence. The Senate did just that last week, and we must do all we can to see that this urgently needed federal legislation is enacted into law as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I commend the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee for calling the Nation's attention to this serious problem, and I ask unanimous consent that an excerpt from their recent report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
COMMITTEE

Passing legislation to prevent hate crimes is also vitally important to the Arab American community. Arab Americans have experienced a surge in hate crimes directed against them over the past several years. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks on our nation, the FBI documented a 1,600 percent increase in hate crimes against those perceived to be Arab or Muslim and a 130 percent increase in incidents directed at individuals on the basis of ethnicity or national origin. When terrorists attacked our nation,

they served a second blow against Americans who shared their ethnicity and religion but not their hate and violence.

Taken from the landmark report, Report on Hate Crimes & Discrimination Against Arab-Americans: The Post-September 11 Backlash (2003:69-70) produced by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Research Institute, the following are examples of confirmed hate crime murders and those suspected to be hate crime murders against Arab Americans and those perceived to be Arab or Muslim. As hate crimes continue against the community, ADCRI will issue their next report on hate crimes in late fall 2007.

CONFIRMED HATE CRIME MURDERS

September 15—Mesa, AZ: 49-year-old Indian Sikh, Balbir Singh Sodhi, was shot while planting flowers outside his Chevron station. His murderer, 42-year-old Frank Roque, had spent the day drinking and raving about how he wanted to kill the "rag heads" responsible for the terrorist attacks four days earlier. After being kicked out of a bar, Roque went on a shooting rampage. He first shot and killed Sodhi, and afterwards fired on the home of an Afghan family. He then shot several times at a Lebanese-American clerk who escaped injury. During his arrest he yelled, "I am a patriot!" and "I stand for America all the way!" The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

September 15—Dallas, TX: 46-year-old Pakistani Muslim Waqar Hasan was shot in the face while cooking hamburgers in his grocery store. 32-year-old Mark Anthony Stroman, confessed on a Dallas radio program to having committed the murder, saying that he had killed Hasan and another man (see below) and shot a third out of revenge for the terrorist attacks (see also below) battery, September 21—Dallas, TX. During the interview, Stroman confessed that he wanted to "retaliate on local Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them." He also added that he "did what every American wanted to do but didn't. They didn't have the nerve." (AP, 2/16/02) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder. Stroman was convicted and sentenced to death.

September 19—Lincoln Park, MI: A 45-year-old U.S. citizen, Mr. Ali Almansoor, originally from Yemen, was shot to death while fleeing his attacker. The victim was asleep with his girlfriend when her ex-boyfriend, Brent Seever, 38, broke into her apartment, dragged him out of bed and, according to his own police confession and the girlfriend's statements, threatened, "I'm going to kill you for what happened in NY and DC." The victim fled outside and, as he was running, he was shot in the back. The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

October 4—Mesquite, TX: Vasudev Patel, a 49-year-old Indian gas station owner, was shot to death during an armed robbery. His killer, Mark Anthony Stroman (see above), initially explained that the killing resulted from the robbery, but later gave a conflicting explanation, telling police that he was motivated by vengeance for the terrorist attacks. Stroman alleged that he had lost a relative in the World Trade Center. A security camera recorded the armed man walking into the station, ordering the owner to give him all of the money before shooting him. Stroman then attempted to open the cash register and failed. He then fled without taking any of the money. (The Dallas Morning News, 11/3/01) On April 4, 2002, Mark Anthony Stroman was sentenced to death for this slaying. (Also see above, September 15—Dallas, TX, and Attempted Murder, September 21—Dallas, TX) (Reuters, 4/4/02)

SUSPECTED HATE CRIME MURDERS

September 15—San Gabriel, CA: An Egyptian-American grocery store owner Adel Karas, 48, was shot to death while at work. After a confrontation between the owner and two customers, the two men shot him and sped off in a Honda driven by a third man, leaving the money in the cash register intact. (AP, 10/10/01) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

September 17—Haines City, FL: 45-year-old Indian American businessman Jayantilal Patel was found gagged, bound and beaten at the motel he owned and operated. A month later, police arrested Patel's murderers Sean Russell, 23 and Kimberly Williams, 20. The pair confessed to killing Patel, stealing his money and fleeing in his car. (The Washington Post, 1/30/02) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

September 18—Ceres, CA: The body of Surjit Singh Samra, a 69-year-old Sikh, was discovered two days after he had left his home for an evening walk. His body was found beneath about five feet of water in a nearby irrigation canal. Samra still was clothed, but his turban and glasses were missing. His wallet was in his pocket, money still intact. An autopsy determined the man had drowned and there was no significant trauma that suggested foul play. However, Samra's family suspects he was the victim of a hate crime and pushed into the water. (Modesto Bee, 10/18/01)

September 29—Reedley, CA: A 50-year-old Arab-American store employee, Abdo Ali Ahmed, was shot several times and killed while at work in the late afternoon. Witnesses told detectives that they saw four males speed from the store in a white four-door sedan. No money or merchandise was stolen. The employee had received threats since mid-September. (The Fresno Bee, 10/2/01) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

October 3—Los Angeles, CA: A 53-year-old Palestinian-born clothing salesman, Abdullah Mohammed Nimer, was killed in Los Angeles while making his door-to-door rounds. There are no known witnesses but Mr. Nimer's family is convinced that the killing was a hate crime. Neither money nor goods were stolen. (AP, 10/9/01) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

October 14—Minneapolis, MN: A 65-year-old Somali man, Ali Warsame Ali, was beaten unconscious while waiting at a bus stop. He later died in the hospital. His son believes the assault was the result of a recent article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, which reported that local Somalis might have inadvertently donated to an organization now linked to Osama bin Laden. (Pioneer Press) The U.S. Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

October 17—Los Angeles, CA: A Syrian-born liquor storeowner, Ramez Younan, was shot to death behind his cash register. Police said they had no suspects and no clear motive for the shooting. No money was stolen from the cash register. Alerted by an anonymous 911 call about * * *

NURSING HOMES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for 10 years, I have advocated for stronger measures to ensure that America's nursing home residents receive the quality of care they deserve. Currently, over 1.7 million Americans live in nursing homes. This number will grow by leaps and bounds as the baby boomer