

Often these trips would keep Fred away from home during the holidays, an enormous sacrifice that I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate. Whenever we traveled, my visits to other parts of the world were always greatly enhanced knowing that Fred was at my side.

Fred is respected throughout the Senate for his outstanding work and breadth of knowledge. He has built a reputation with Senators and staff from both sides of the aisle for always being willing to take into account everyone's views and work together to reach a consensus. He is a true professional in the very best sense of the word.

I am deeply grateful to Fred's wife, Claudia, for her understanding of the marathon hours and taxing travel schedule that was so often demanded of Fred. Having been lucky enough to have gotten to know her and their two daughters, Dawn Harvey and Kelly Emery, I can only surmise that they served as an endless source of strength for him as he grappled with the tough issues facing the world today.

My entire Senate staff has been extremely fortunate to work with Fred, who was always willing to share his broad knowledge and counsel with his coworkers. When things would sometimes get hectic, Fred was a beacon of calm and stability; ready to impart the wisdom he had accumulated from his vast experience to help us all weather the storm. Many new legislative aides and fellows would find that Fred was someone they could approach whenever they needed assistance, and we have all been touched by his graciousness and sense of humor. He will always remain a treasured part of our office family, and the office will never be the same without him.

I am honored to have had Fred as a trusted advisor for all these years, and I am even prouder to call him my friend. While he will be missed immensely, my staff and I wish him happiness and health, knowing that he will be equally successful in his next endeavor. On behalf of myself, my staff, and the country, I sincerely thank Fred Downey for his many years of public service.

233RD BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to wish happy birthday to the oldest branch of our Armed Forces, the U.S. Army. Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress approved the creation of a Continental Army—10 companies of riflemen, to defend American liberty. From the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan, our men and women have served with bravery, selflessness and noble purpose.

Love of their country has inspired men and women to serve a cause greater than themselves. Regard for the principles our Nation was founded on

motivates them to continue to fight and defend.

To say simply our Armed Forces have shaped history is an understatement. They have not only shaped history, they have defined America, and represented our nation's highest values . . . "Duty, Honor, Country."

Every generation of soldiers since the foundation of our country has protected our democracy and helped make the world more peaceful, secure and prosperous.

The sacrifices our soldiers have made in service to our country, and the price their families have paid are worthy of America's honor and respect. So as we celebrate the Army's 233rd birthday, we really celebrate our men and women in uniform who have given so much. Thank you.

In the Army's grandest tradition and as a proud Army veteran, I proclaim my annual Senate floor . . . "HOOAH!"

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

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.

Last month, I came to the floor to speak about the death of Sean Kennedy of Greenville, SC. This young man was attacked outside a local bar and sustained fatal injuries. His attacker, Stephen Moller, had punched him in the face and left a message on a friend of the victim's cell phone, calling Sean a faggot and bragging that he had knocked him unconscious. Sean died 20 hours later.

Sean's mother, Elke Parker, watched as Moller pled guilty to manslaughter, for which the judge gave him a 5-year sentence. The sentence was then reduced to 3 years. For the mother of a son killed in a hate crime, this is not justice. Had the Matthew Shepard Act been signed into law before Sean's death, prosecutors would have been able to charge the defendant with a violent hate crime under the law. Additionally, the Federal Government would have been authorized to provide investigatory and prosecutorial assistance, which could have led to a sentence commensurate with the brutality of this attack.

After the trial, Elke told reporters that she would push for Federal hate crime legislation. "It may not help Sean today, but I want it to help future victims that they can be assured that there is justice. If your son or daughter is different, you need to support them for who they really need to be," she said. I was honored to speak with her about this legislation last month and

look forward to working with her as we push for its passage.

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.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARAIS DES CYGNES MASSACRE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, last month in Kansas, I was able to be present for the commemoration of an important, but little known, event in American history. 150 years ago, May 19, 1858, a little defile in Kansas near Mine Creek was the site of one of the incidents that led up to the Civil War; the massacre of free State settlers by proslavery men.

The Marais des Cygnes Massacre is considered the last significant act of violence in Bleeding Kansas before the final cataclysm of civil war engulfed the Nation. On May 19, 1858, 30 men led by Charles Hamilton, a southern proslavery leader, crossed into Kansas from Missouri. Once there, they captured 11 free State men, none of whom was armed and none of whom had engaged in violence. Many of them knew Hamilton and didn't suspect he meant to harm them. These prisoners were led into a defile, where Hamilton ordered them shot and fired the first bullet himself. Five men were killed.

Hamilton's gang went back to Missouri, and only one man was ever brought to justice. William Griffith of Bates County, MO, was arrested in the spring of 1863 and hanged on October 30 of that year.

The incident horrified the Nation, and inspired John Greenleaf Whittier to write a poem on the murder, "Le Marais du Cygnes," which appeared in the September 1858 Atlantic Monthly. The incident and the poem strengthened the resolve of the antislavery cause around the Nation.

In 1941 the Kansas Legislature authorized acceptance of the massacre site, including Hadsall's house, as a gift to the State from the Pleasanton Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1961 it provided funds for the restoration of the building, and in 1963 the entire property was turned over to the Kansas State Historical Society for administration. A museum was established in the upper floor of the building in 1964. The Kansas Historical Society has done great work in administering the site since 1963. Just recently Riley Albert Hinds, a young man from Pleasanton, did some work for an Eagle Scout project that was very important for the restoration of this site, and contributed greatly to the existing historical research on Marais des Cygnes.

From 1854 to 1861 Kansas was the scene of a bitter struggle to determine whether the territory should enter the Union as a free or a slave State. We