the group of men were shouting derogatory terms regarding their sexual orientation before and during the beating.

I believe that our Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF KEN SARO-WIWA

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution submitted by Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and myself on the 10th anniversary of Ken Saro-Wiwa's death. On November 10, 1995, a terrible injustice occurred when Mr. Saro-Wiwa and eight of his countrymen were hanged by Sani Abacha's regime in Nigeria. While we cannot undo that tragedy, we must never forget it.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa led the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, dedicated to defending the rights of his fellow Ogoni in the Niger Delta through nonviolent means. Over the course of his life, he had dozens of opportunities to take a different path, to stop speaking out, to let someone else intervene. Instead, he risked everything, over and over again, to call the world's attention to suffering and injustice, to demand action. In May 1994, Abacha responded by imprisoning Mr. Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni men, the Ogoni Nine, and unjustly accusing them of murder.

Ten years ago on this day, Mr. Saro-Wiwa is said to have told his executioners: ''Lord, take my soul, but the struggle continues.''

Sadly, the struggle has indeed continued for the Ogoni people, whose standard of living is among the lowest in the world, and whose oil rich land remains severely polluted. The names of the Ogoni Nine have yet to be cleared, and they remain convicted of the crime for which they were unfairly tried and hanged.

This resolution acknowledges not only the tremendous legacy left by Ken Saro-Wiwa, but also the battles that remain to be fought in the Niger Delta and beyond. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to honor his memory, his vision, and his struggle which continues today.

LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS

ENHANCED STUDY AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I want to bring the attention of my colleague from Kentucky to a provision Senator BINGAMAN and I offered to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill regarding a strategic plan for enhancing access of legitimate foreign students, scholars, scientists, and exchange visitors in the United States for study and exchange activates. Since September 11, restrictive visa policies and negative perceptions of the United States have led to a drastic decline in the number of foreign students studying in the United States, a development which has a negative consequences for both American foreign policy and economic competitiveness. A strategy is needed to proactively counter negative perceptions about America as unwelcoming to foreign students, and to enable us to successfully compete with places like the EU, the UK, and Australia, which have developed strategies to recruit the world's best and brightest. In my amendment to the Labor-HHS bill, I initially requested the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretaries of State, Commerce, Homeland Security and Energy and others, to prepare this plan.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am aware of this provision and have been alerted by the State Department that they would prefer that the Secretary of State take the lead in coordinating this strategic plan, given Secretary Rice's jurisdiction over this matter. Had this provision been offered to the fiscal year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, I can assure my friend that it would have been included as a requirement for the State Department to fulfill.

Mr. COLEMAN. I, too, have been informed of the State Department's jurisdictional concern. Given that this issue is more appropriate to the Foreign Operations bill, I wonder if my friend from Kentucky will work with me and the State Department to ensure that this provision is fulfilled, specifically that within 180 days of enactment of the foreign aid bill the Department provide the relevant congressional committees with a report detailing this strategic plan, in consultation with the Departments of Education, Commerce, Homeland Security, and Energy, as well as institutions and organizations involved in international education. The strategy should seek to use innovative media like the Internet to develop a marketing strategy. It should also include policy recommendations for streamlining the procedures related to international student access.

Mr. MCCONNELL. My staff has already discussed this matter with the State Department and they have committed to providing such a plan within that timeframe.

Mr. COLEMAN. I thank the chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I proudly join as a cosponsor of Senator OBAMA's Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2005. This important legislation will protect voters from the deceptive practices that aimed to keep them from the polls on election day.

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy—a democracy built on the unassailable principle that every single American should have an equal say in their government. No American should ever approach their polling place in fear. No American should ever worry that they will somehow be penalized for exercising their fundamental right to vote. No American should ever be tricked into thinking they do not have the right to vote.

The Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevent Act takes great strides towards ensuring that no American will ever be denied the right to vote. It both criminalizes deceptive practices and provides affected individuals with a private right of action. It prevents the negative effects of deceptive practices by ensuring voters get accurate election information. It also requires the Attorney General to report allegations of deceptive practices, the actions taken to correct them, and any prosecutions resulting from those allegations.

We have worked hard to bring fair and free elections to people around the word-including the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. We must do everything in our power to ensure that our own elections are at least as fair and as free.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN HARRIS

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am here today to honor my fellow Vermonter, Carolyn Harris, who has spent the last four decades improving the management and implementation of long-term health care.

A nurse by training, Carolyn Harris has worked in the management, administration, and certification of long-term care systems, as well as acting as a care provider. Additionally, through her work with the Vermont association of the American Health Care Association, AHCA, a national health organization representing more than 10,000 long-term care facilities and providers Ms. Harris has trained fellow physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to provide appropriate and effective long-term care to patients.

Along with the Vermont Health Care Association, VHCA, Ms. Harris has worked for more than 30 years to promote affordable, accessible quality care in Vermont nursing and assisted-living facilities. Her efforts have gone a long way to assure the privacy, rights, dignity, comfort, and well-being of Vermont nursing home residents and to foster a spirit of cooperation and excellence in long-term care. Most remarkably, Ms. Harris continues to provide personal attention and care to her patients while sharing her wisdom, energy, and compassion with her colleagues. Carolyn Harris has met the

challenge of providing long-term health care head on and has become a trusted adviser to long-term care providers and patients throughout Vermont.

Today, at the Helen Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury, VT, Carolyn Harris is being honored by the VHCA and the AHCA for her service to all long-term care recipients and Vermonters. Ms. Harris is a valuable member of the long-term health care community, and I am proud to be able to honor her before the Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO PAULA YEAGER

●Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of Paula Yeager, a distinguished Hoosier and executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, who passed away yesterday following a 7-year battle with cancer. Over the years, I have valued Paula counsel and advocacy on behalf of conservation in Indiana.

After studying business at the University of Nebraska, Paula began a career as a travel agent. Eventually, this career brought her into close contact with John Denver, a singer who shared Paula's respect for the importance of nature and dedication to wildlife conservation. The two became close friends and their friendship inspired Paula to use her remarkable talents to make a difference in conservation.

This dedication led Paula to pursue an opportunity as executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. In that role, she reinvigorated the organization as she worked with like-minded groups to advance initiatives and become effectively engaged in the political process at both the State and Federal level.

Paula's efforts have been recognized across Indiana. She has twice been recognized with the President Award from the Indiana Wildlife Federation and was named Conservationist of the Year in 2001 by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

While I know that this is a difficult time for Paula's family and many friends, my thoughts are with her husband John and their two children Stephanie and Corey as they remember her life of leadership.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered to Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2490. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the ''Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office''.

H.R. 3339. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the ''James T. Molloy Post Office Building''.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 1:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1751. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1894. An act to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for the making of foster care maintenance payments to private for-profit agencies.

At 5:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1953. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the ''Granite Lady'', and for other purposes.

H.R. 3665. An act to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member, to make certain improvements in veterans employment assistance programs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3057. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of November 10, 2005, the enrolled bill was signed subsequently on today, November 10, 2006, by the Majority Leader (Mr. FRIST).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1751. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1953. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the ''Granite Lady'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3665. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member and to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–4604. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Exclusion of Vendor Purchases Made Under the Competitive Acquisition Program for Outpatient Drugs and Biologicals Under Part B for the Purpose of Calculating the Average Sales Price'' (RIN0938–AN58) received on November 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4605. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; E-Prescribing and the Prescription Drug Program'' (RIN0938–AN49) received on November 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4606. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2006'' (RIN0938–AN44) received on November 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4607. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Calendar Year 2006 Payment Rates'' (RIN0938–AN46) received on November 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4608. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 2006 and Certain Provisions Related to the Competitive Acquisition Program of Outpatient Drugs and Biologicals Under Part B'' (RIN0938–AN84 and RIN0938–AN58) received on November 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4609. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Review and Report on Current Standards of