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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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remembered him to have always treated citizens with respect and dignity, while also being a loyal partner and friend.

With our hearts broken for those who knew him, we also respect and admire Corporal Cooper for his lifetime of service. He truly was someone who ran toward danger in order to protect others. Corporal Cooper was a hero, and today we honor his sacrifice. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ruth, his son Scott, along with many other family members, friends, and colleagues in the law enforcement community.

I humbly and sincerely offer my condolences and my gratitude to them as well.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the U.S. International Trade Commission, or the USITC, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. That makes today an appropriate day for us to acknowledge the distinguished service that this independent and nonpartisan Federal agency has provided, and continues to provide, in the field of international trade.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I concur with Senator HATCH and also congratulate the USITC on its centennial and commend the agency for its service over the last century.

Established by the Congress as the U.S. Tariff Commission on September 8, 1916, the agency was reconfigured and redesignated as the USITC by the Trade Act of 1974. As mandated by Congress, the USITC performs three principal functions: No. 1, fairly and objectively administer U.S. trade remedy laws within its mandate; No. 2, provide the President and the General Counsel with independent and bipartisan analysis, information, and support concerning matters related to international trade, tariffs, and U.S. competitiveness; and No. 3, maintain the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

By successfully executing these functions, the USITC provides a valuable service to the U.S. Government and the American people. Those of us in Congress particularly appreciate the high-quality technical data and analyses that the USITC provides to help inform our formulation of U.S. trade policy.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, of course, the core of the USITC’s success derives from the agency’s people. For decades now, the impressive and skilled commissioners and staff at the USITC have driven the agency’s work. We now take the opportunity to gratefully the USITC for reaching this centennial milestone and for accomplishing a well-deserved tenure of valuable and professional service.

Recognizing the Jeffersonville Police Department Angel Program

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have spoken many times on this floor about the threat that opioid abuse represents to our country. Rates of substance abuse have risen in recent years, and Kentucky has been hit particularly hard by this epidemic. A recent State report from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy said that, in one year, over 1,300 deaths in the Commonwealth were caused by drug abuse.

Well, I am glad to share with my colleagues some good news in the fight against opioid abuse in Kentucky. This August, I visited with and saw up close a program that is changing how law enforcement deals with drug addiction, a program that is saving lives. It is the Jeffersonville Angel Program, an initiative spearheaded by the Jeffersonville, KY, Police Department.

At the Jeffersonville Police Department, a priority has been placed on getting treatment for folks who request help for their addiction to opiates by connecting them with local treatment facilities. In many cases, those with substance-abuse disorders can be taken immediately to a treatment facility to start their recovery.

People who abuse drugs can also turn over their drugs or drug equipment without being charged with a crime.

The new Jeffersonville Police Department Angel Program is the first of its kind in Kentucky. It is modeled after a successful program launched in Gloucester, MA, in 2013, which has so far referred more than 480 people to treatment and produced a 33 percent reduction in property crime rates.

That evidence was enough to convince Gloucester Police Chief Ken Hatmaker. “When you can have a 33 percent drop in property crime,” he says, “I’m going to listen.”

While the Jeffersonville Police Department remains strenuously committed to investigating, pursuing, and arresting drug traffickers to the fullest extent of the law, the Angel Program helps reduce those traffickers’ clientele by working to remove the stigma of addiction and making it easier to access recovery programs.

Fighting drug abuse is a cause I have embraced here in the Senate as well, and it has been a focus of mine for many years. I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth speaking with people, learning about the scope of substance abuse in my State, and working with Kentuckians to combat it.

A few years ago, I convened a listening session in northern Kentucky, a region particularly hard hit by this epidemic, to hear from informed Kentuckians in the medical, public health, and law-enforcement fields. I testified before the Senate’s Drug Caucus to share my findings with my colleagues.

I have also met with the Nation’s Director of National Drug Control Policy—better known as the drug czar—and successfully persuaded him to visit Kentucky to see firsthand the damage done by drugs. His visit and greater Federal funding for law enforcement in Kentucky have both been a part of a multilayered strategy to stop drug trafficking.

I also made it a priority to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, a bill I was proud to see recently signed into law. CARA is a comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid epidemic that bolsters treatment, prevention and recovery efforts, and gives law enforcement tools to help those already suffering with addiction and help prevent more senseless loss of life.

CARA authorizes new grants for vital, lifesaving programs to help treat those suffering from drug addiction. It also includes several important policy reforms. It will expand treatment by giving prescribing authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants to administer medication-assisted treatments for opioid addiction. It will increase the availability of naloxone, a drug that can instantly reverse a drug overdose, to law enforcement agencies and other first responders. And it will strengthen and enhance prescription drug monitoring programs to crack down on “doctor shopping.”

Substance abuse destroys lives. It increases crimes, rips apart families, and leaves too many bodies in its wake. I want to commend the Jeffersonville Police Department for launching the Angel Program and leading the way in Kentucky in efforts to battle substance abuse. With the good work done by the Jeffersonville Police Department, along with the continued efforts we are doing here in Congress, I believe we can fight back against this scourge of addiction, and reduce its devastating effects.

The Louisville Courier-Journal recently published an article describing the Jeffersonville Police Department’s Angel Program. I ask unanimous consent that article be printed in the Record.

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