

# ***PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW***

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington May 9, 2003**

## **THE LINCOLN COMES HOME TO EVERETT**

On Tuesday I helped welcome the crew of the U.S.S. Lincoln back home to Everett. I had the privilege of speaking with these brave men and women and thanking them for their heroism and service to our country.

The dedicated crew of the Lincoln earned their homecoming not once, but twice. After our country was attacked on September 11th, the crew of the Lincoln answered the call of duty and helped fight the global War on Terrorism. But as they were returning home from the Middle East and looking forward to returning to their families and friends, they were called back for another mission. Once again, they answered that call with the type of skill and courage that made all of us in Washington state, and across the country proud.

The crew has received a lot of attention in the past week, but I wanted them to know that they will not be forgotten once the festivities have ended and the TV cameras have gone home. We all are grateful for the service of the U.S.S. Lincoln, and will continue to support them whenever they need us in the future.

## **HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES PAY FOR BORDER SECURITY**

This week I was joined by Senator Cantwell and Senator Crapo (R-Idaho) in introducing legislation to help our Northern Border communities pay for their efforts to prosecute federal crimes.

Our legislation, called the Northern Border Prosecution Initiative Reimbursement Act, would authorize federal dollars to help local law enforcement prosecute border-related and other federal immigration cases.

Efforts to increase homeland security are critically important, but the costs of homeland security programs are increasingly falling to our states and local governments. Without the necessary resources to pay for cases initiated by federal authorities other important local projects will be shortchanged.

Our federal government has done the right thing by increasing security at the Northern Border, but so far it has left local taxpayers to foot the bill for jailing, prosecuting and defending the hundreds of people who have been arrested. That's why the legislation that Sens. Cantwell, Crapo and I introduced this week is so important. It will help our local communities and local taxpayers handle the consequences of a federal action.

## **MOSES LAKE NATIVE NOMINATED FOR FEDERAL POST**

On Thursday, I had the opportunity to introduce Annette Sandberg, a fellow Washington-stater, at her confirmation hearing to become the new head of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. I applaud President Bush for selecting such a qualified person to fill the role.

From overseeing the commercial drivers' license program to the transportation of hazardous materials, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration plays an extremely important role in supervising our nation's commercial motor-vehicle industry and Annette would bring vast experience and knowledge to the role of Administrator.

I have worked with Annette for many years. She is uniquely qualified to be the agency's Administrator, coming to the position with a strong background in law enforcement, including over 17 years with the Washington State Patrol. Annette has also served as the Deputy Administration of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Acting Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

When I speak with young girls at elementary and middle schools across our state, I always use Annette as an example of women who succeed and excel in nontraditional roles. Annette has earned her way to the top of her field, and I strongly urged the Senate Commerce Committee to quickly approve her nomination.

## **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK**

Next week is National Women's Health Week, a national effort by an alliance of organizations to educate, screen, and counsel women on preventive health issues and help prevent the onset of targeted health conditions like breast cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis.

As a woman, a mother of two, and a caregiver for my own mother in her later years, I understand the unique health care concerns facing women. That is why, particularly during a week where we celebrate our mothers, that we also encourage good practices in women's health.

I invite women across our state to take part in National Women's Check-Up Day (Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>) and other events throughout National Women's Health Week. For more information on National Women's Check-Up day, including local events, health information, statistics and prevention tips, please call the National Women's Health Information Center at 1-800-994 WOMAN. Or, visit the website at: [www.4woman.gov/whw](http://www.4woman.gov/whw)

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