

airports. [Laughter] So let's give Senator Schumer a big hand, because he's got to go. [Applause] Thank you.

Well, I want to thank Walter and Thelma and Cathy. Thank you, all of you who worked on this wonderful party for Hillary tonight. I want to thank the people of New York for being so good to my wife and to me and Al Gore for 8 years.

This is a special day for Hillary's mother and her brothers and my family, but especially for Chelsea and me. We were in the Senate gallery today at noon, Chelsea and I were, holding hands, trying to keep from laughing out loud and embarrassing Senator Clinton. [Laughter] I resisted all temptation. I didn't take one of those little Kodak cameras in there. [Laughter] I did everything I could to avoid spoiling what was, for me, one of the truly wonderful moments in my life and our family's life. So, for all of you who helped Hillary over this last almost year and a half, I want you to know I am profoundly grateful to you.

You also have taken a huge load off my mind. [Laughter] Because, you know, for 30 years, I've been guilt-ridden that I, when Hillary came to Arkansas and married me, that I kept her out of a career in politics that she should have had. So I don't have to feel bad about it anymore. [Laughter] And I really thank all of you for doing that. I say it laughingly, but I'm dead serious about it. I have always felt that Hillary had the best combination of mind and heart and passion and strength about the issues that we have always cared about than anyone I ever knew.

And I also believe that the American people understand now that there really is a connection between the ideas you have and the level of

commitment you have to implementing them, and what happens out there in the country. And if you have any doubt, you're about to find out. [Laughter] Because—[applause]—wait a minute—I say that in all seriousness. There were, in this election, which was so closely fought out in so many places, there are real differences between the way we view the world. And they are honest and heartfelt. But at least our ideas have been tested for 8 years, and most of them have worked pretty well.

Quite apart from the enormous personal pride I have in Hillary and the enormous gratitude I feel and the incredible—just sheer happiness that we all felt today, I am gratified to know that when my term of service as President ends, there will be one more magnificent voice sticking up for the folks that are too often forgotten and the causes that have too often been left behind.

I'll leave you with this thought. Public service, like a political campaign, is a team sport. It's not like tennis; it's not something you play by yourself. It's a team sport. And even if you get to be quarterback, no matter how good you are, you'll lose if you don't have a good team. I have been blessed to have supporters like you, people like you, all over this country. Don't ever forget it's a team sport. You stick with Hillary, and you guys will do great things for America.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:43 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Walter and Thelma Kaye and their daughter, Cathy. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Clinton.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Jack McAuliffe in Syracuse, New York January 4, 2001

Millie; John, Joe, Tom, Terry; all the family and the grandchildren; reverend clergy. I want to thank the people who came with us today: our leader, Dick Gephardt, and his wife, Jane, and Senator Dodd and Congressman Coelho.

Hillary and I are here because we really liked Jack McAuliffe. And I know most people will

say, "Well, the President came because Terry did so much for him." Truth is, I came for Joe. I thought we ought to have an Irish-Protestant support group here in this church. [Laughter]

One wonderful nun reached over to me during communion and said, "Thank you so much

for what you did for Ireland.” I said, “I had to do it. It’s about time we started getting along.”

I want to say just a few things. I spent quite a bit of time thinking about what I would say in my couple of minutes. Most of what I wanted to say has been said. But you know, when a great human being passes away, people search around in their minds for some part of the Scripture that captures that person. We talked about it a lot already today. Proverbs says, “A happy heart doeth good like medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bone”—that God loves a cheerful giver. That’s what Jack McAuliffe was. He knew it was more blessed to give than to receive. But nothing is more distasteful than someone who’s out there doing good and wants you to know it every minute of the day.

Jack McAuliffe was a cheerful giver. Whether it was in risking his life in the Pacific or leading campaigns here to build a church for his neighbors or schools for the kids or cheering and giving to Notre Dame or the Democratic Party or spending time imparting all the lessons to his children that you heard about or just buying a round at the local bar, he was a cheerful giver.

And every time I was around him, I felt better. And so did you, and that’s why you’re here today. He gave more to us than any of us outside his family gave to him. And we showed up to say, “You gave us a lesson in life. We loved you for it, and we’re grateful.”

I have to say a little something about his ties to the Democratic Party. He was the county Democratic treasurer here for decades. And he started Terry out as a political fundraiser when he was 6 years old. I’ve heard this story—no matter how many times, I never get tired of it.

When Terry was 6, on the night of the Onondaga County Democratic dinner, his dad sat him down at a card table outside the ballroom at

the Hotel Syracuse and said, “Don’t let anybody in who hasn’t paid.” [Laughter] Terry immediately found his true calling in life. [Laughter] And you know, when he got up here, the first words out of his mouth were that his Republican brother paid. [Laughter] So thanks, Jack, you did good.

I’ll always be grateful because Jack showed me something about going through life and staying young by never losing your enthusiasm. You know, he didn’t take—he was very proud of Terry’s role in politics, but he didn’t think it meant that he was now too good to do the basic work of politics. He was out there putting up yard signs for Hillary in this campaign when he was 83 years old. And I think he was pretty pleased at the way things came out.

I also like the fact that he didn’t lose his spirit when it didn’t all work the way he thought it should. I mean, he thought Notre Dame should never lose, and he had what in this year turned out to be a bizarre idea: He thought all votes should actually be counted. [Laughter] But he just kept chugging along, you know? And he made me even feel better about all of that.

Terry, of all the things you’ve done for me, turns out none of them was better than the chance you gave me to be your father’s friend. His memory will always bring a smile to the face of all of us who knew him, and we’ll always miss him. But I rejoice in the fact that Jack, the cheerful giver, is in his rightful place, where the road is always rising and the wind is always at his back, and he is always in the hollow of God’s hand. Thank you, Jack.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In his remarks, he referred to Jack McAuliffe’s widow, Millie, and their children, John E., Jr., Joseph R., Thomas J., and Terence McAuliffe; and former Congressman Tony Coelho.

Remarks Celebrating the Enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000

January 4, 2001

Thank you very much. Well, first, I think we all should thank Tonia again for coming all the

way from Oklahoma, where it’s been hazardous even to drive around, if you’ve been seeing—