

voice of reason, forged by the fires of war and tempered these last few years by yearnings for peace.

Because of my own military background, Yitzhak Rabin shared additional insights with me on the strength and force of Israeli defense forces and difficult combat environment they faced. I respected him enormously for the military prowess he demonstrated during his years of service and afterwards. His fighting skills in 1948 and 1967 earned him accolades as an authentic war hero. Most would agree that his military leadership was invaluable in securing the birth, and continuing security, of the Jewish State.

But Yitzhak Rabin left the battlefield for the political trenches in the 1970's, initially implementing iron fist policies during his first term as Prime Minister that brooked no dissent from the enemies of Israel. Hostile states, terrorist organizations committed to the destruction of the Jewish State, and other inimical forces would not push Israel into the sea.

After a stint as Defense Minister in the 1980's and then a Labor-Likud powersharing arrangement, Yitzhak Rabin returned to the Prime Minister's Office and began to lay the groundwork for comprehensive peace with the Palestinians and Arab Nations. It was not an easy decision to make, trading land for peace, but no one was more respected or qualified to lead Israel away from the bloodshed of its past to a more secure future.

The 1993 Declaration of Principles has started us down that road. I will not forget the Prime Minister's words that sunny September morning 2 years ago on the White House lawn when the accord was signed. "The time for peace has come," he said. "We, the soldiers who have returned from battles stained with blood * * * say in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

King Hussein appropriately eulogized Yitzhak Rabin as one who "died as a soldier of peace." We can only hope that his assassination imbues the peace process, pushing implementation of the Oslo II agreement forward. In earlier times Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin espoused different views and styles within the same Labor Party tent, but in an ironic twist the two forged a personal alliance these last few years in the name of peace. I have high hopes for the Acting Prime Minister carrying forward with Rabin's good work.

For if he were with us today, I think Yitzhak Rabin would urge us to finish the job he has begun. It only saddens me that this courageous leader did not live to enjoy the fruits of his own labor to create a better future for Israel.

THE DEATH OF YITZHAK RABIN

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President I, rise today to express my profound grief over the death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—a man who was brave in the conduct of war and courageous in the pursuit of peace.

Yitzhak Rabin's life embodied the very concept of leadership. He was a warrior of great skill, an accomplished diplomat, and, in the fullest sense of the term, a statesman. His leadership was a catalyst of reconciliation and peace in a region long torn by animosity and war. The dramatic progress we have witnessed over the last 2 years in the Middle East peace process would not have occurred without the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin.

One of his key strengths as a leader was his ability to bond realism with optimism. It is a trait that is all too rare and all too necessary in regions beset by conflict.

Rabin combined his acute understanding of the obstacles to peace in the Middle East with his recognition that peace was essential to security of his nation. The product is the historic roadmap in the Middle East we must now follow. It has not, nor will not, be an easy path. It will be all the more difficult in his absence.

In such endeavors, leaders matter. Rabin's tenure as Prime Minister demonstrated this clearly. Despite setbacks and ever present dangers, Rabin never allowed himself to become disillusioned with prospects for peace. He forged ahead. He marshalled support for what were initially unpopular, but nonetheless necessary, steps toward Arab-Israeli reconciliation. Rabin kept the process on track.

The death of Yitzhak Rabin is clearly a blow to the peace process. However, Mr. President, his assassination is not a reflection of the fragility of peace he has helped bring to the Middle East. It is a reflection of the urgency with which we must work to consolidate that peace.

We must remember that while leaders matter, it is their visions that are enduring. Yitzhak Rabin left to Israel and the Middle East, indeed to the world, a vision of reconciliation that will be his lasting legacy. Our greatest contribution to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin must not be our grief over his departure, but determination to ensure that his vision of peace and reconciliation becomes an enduring reality in the Middle East.

REMEMBERING YITZHAK RABIN: WARRIOR FOR PEACE

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember one of America's greatest friends—my friend Yitzhak Rabin—who was tragically murdered Saturday in Israel. His sudden death is even more shocking because he was assassinated just after making an impassioned speech for peace in the Mideast.

Mr. President, Yitzhak Rabin was the strongest leader in today's world. Period. As he guided the ship of Israel through a sea of hostility, he forcefully led the troubled Mideast toward peace. We can only hope that we continue to seek the Prime Minister's goal—peace among Moslem, Christian, and Jew—

and continue to turn away from the violence that always bubbles just under the surface in that part of the world.

Yitzhak Rabin trained to be a farmer. Like one of our greatest Presidents, Harry S. Truman, Prime Minister Rabin had the plain-speaking, straightforward, blunt common sense of farmers. But also like Truman, Rabin's destiny led him to the army and to becoming a world leader whose strategic intellect was respected all over.

Just 6 years ago, Senators DANIEL INOUE, Jake Garn, and I spent several hours with Rabin when he was Israel's Defense Minister. To this day, I will not forget the time that Mr. Rabin spent showing us the intricate desert defense preparations made by Israel. His courtesy, combined with his intense attention to detail, made our mission a learning success.

Mr. President, if there is one thing that I have realized in recent years, it is that Yitzhak Rabin was a warrior for peace in the Mideast. When Israel's security was in grave danger, he fought and led military battles, notably the Six-Day War in 1967. But over time, he came to embrace peace as the only way for Mideast stability.

Just 90 minutes before he was gunned down in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Rabin stood before more than 100,000 people at a rally to implore them to harvest the fruits of peace. He said, "I waged war as long as there was no chance for peace. I believe there is now a chance for peace, a great chance, and we must take advantage of it for those standing here, and for those who are not here." A few moments later, he added, "The people truly want peace and oppose violence. Violence erodes the basis of Israeli democracy."

Mr. President, today, in our grief, as we remember our friend Yitzhak Rabin, let us all look to his last words for the guidance to achieve the greatest legacy we can give our friend—a lasting peace.

Mr. President, an editorial in today's edition of the State of Columbia is a fitting tribute to Prime Minister Rabin. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

RABIN: "BEST IN WAR, BUT * * * GREATEST IN PEACE"

Among the thousands who will experience the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin in front of an international audience today, the thoughts should be on the peace process the Israeli prime minister was setting up when an assassin struck him.

As Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said, Mr. Rabin was "at his best in war, but at his greatest in peace."

There was more truth than hyperbole in this. The man was a warrior who served as chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, overseeing the dramatic victory over Arab armies in the Six-Day War of 1967. He had risen to this position after more than 20 years as a soldier, a career that began in the Jewish underground before independence, as a commando in Haganah.

That victory gave Israel territory in the Sinai that was released when Egypt's Anwar Sadat made peace with the Jewish state. And it also brought Israel captured land that his country is giving back now in negotiations with the once-hated Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin's superb marks as a warrior helped position him as a man of steel, one who could be depended upon to hold the security of Israel foremost as he slipped into his role as statesman.

He became ambassador to the United States after the Six-Day War. By 1973 he was back in Israel as a Labor Party member, becoming prime minister in 1974 in the wake of the difficult Yom Kippur War. He became the first sabra—native-born Israeli—to serve as prime minister.

A minor scandal helped send Mr. Rabin packing in 1977 when the Likud conservative party took over for some years. Then in 1984, he returned to government as defense minister in a coalition regime headed by Likud leaders. His political rehabilitation was kindled by the Palestinian intifada (uprising) that began in 1987 and caused the defense minister to order the breaking of limbs instead of shooting. Ultimately, he lost faith in that policy, and came to believe that territorial concessions to the Palestinians were a requirement for peace.

The election of 1992 restored Labor and made Mr. Rabin prime minister again. An old Labor rival, Mr. Peres, became foreign minister and soon started the Oslo talks that set up the first meeting between the PLO's Yasser Arafat and the Rabin-Peres team at the White House. That was the beginning of the current West Bank talks.

Those discussions enraged the Israeli right. Right-wing Israelis paraded effigies of Mr. Rabin as a Nazi officer or portrayed him wearing a kaffiyeh (Arab head dress). And so it was that on Saturday, after a peace rally with 100,000 Israelis, a Jew broke a commandant never to shoot a Jew. Like Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Yitzhak Rabin was killed by one of his own people. In the assassin-filled Mideast, he is the first Israeli prime minister to die at a terrorist's hand.

Despite a seven-day period of mourning, the Labor Party has already reestablished itself under Mr. Peres. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu has lamented, "We debate, we shout, we don't shoot." But it does not appear that Netanyahu will seek another election soon, although about half the populace seems to be on his side. Among them are the zealots who must be restrained.

As the architect of peace, Mr. Peres knows the process and the principal players. He can lead if he's not considered too dovish. Maybe a Rabin is necessary to act firmly. Let's hope not.

Let peace, not war, be Yitzhak Rabin's legacy. His own countrymen, more so than the 40 heads of state at his funeral today, hold the key to this.

GORDON ELDREDGE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who has made a substantial investment in the future of my State of Montana. Gordon Eldredge is retiring as executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Billings after 25 years.

I believe it is important for people to know about someone like Gordon. Many children already do. They know and trust him as a man who understands them, their families, their problems, their hopes and dreams. He gives them a safe haven and a sense of be-

longing. We should all take heed of his example.

Gordon will give credit for his success to his father, his family, his board and the families he serves before taking any for himself. His background is steeped in the Boys and Girls Club tradition, with his father and two brothers serving as executive directors for clubs and his own career encompassing 37 years.

Gordon has established the club's reputation for being one of the best-equipped clubs in the Nation. The club, which has about 1,000 members, has built its soccer program into one of the premier youth sports activities in Billings. The inviting new building serves not only club members, but any child who cares to participate.

This is all due to the vision and compassion of one man, the man I am so proud to recognize today. To quote from the play, "The Fantasticks," "a man who plants a garden is a very happy man." Gordon, enjoy your retirement. You have tended your garden well.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the skyrocketing Federal debt, now slightly in excess of \$15 billion shy of \$5 trillion, has been fueled for a generation by bureaucratic hot air—sort of like a hot air balloon whirling out of control—which everybody has talked about, but almost nobody even tried to fix. That attitude began to change, however, immediately after the November 1994 elections.

The 104th Congress promised to hold true to the Founding Fathers' decree that the executive branch of the U.S. Government should never be able to spend a dime unless and until it had been authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

So, when the new 104th Congress convened this past January, the House of Representatives quickly approved a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On the Senate side, all but 1 of the 54 Republican Senators supported the balanced budget amendment.

That was the good news. The bad news was that only 13 Democrat Senators supported it, and that killed the balanced budget amendment for the time being. Since a two-thirds vote—67 Senators, if all Senators are present—is necessary to approve a constitutional amendment, the proposed Senate amendment failed by one vote. There will be another vote during the 104th Congress.

Here's today's bad debt boxscore:

As of the close of business Monday, November 7, the Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at exactly \$4,984,737,460,958.92.

That amounts to \$18,922.15—on a per capita basis—for every man, woman, and child in America.

A TRAGEDY FOR ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, the death of Yitzhak Rabin was many things—the loss of a hero, a blow to the momentum of the peace process, a vile act of political terror. Israel, whose people are accustomed to tragedy and unspeakable inhumanity, has been confronted with something unexpectedly sinister. An attack from within. While Israel has taught the rest of the free world to bear the burden of terrorism and fight back, it has never had to cope with the assassination of a leader by a fellow citizen. Something has changed forever with the death of Yitzhak Rabin. But much more remains the same.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Israelis poured out into the streets, lighting candles and keeping an all night vigil of prayer. The next day, as Yitzhak Rabin lay in state at the Knesset, a million mourners—a quarter of Israel's population—paid their respects. Israelis of all political viewpoints united to mourn their prime minister. In a unique and historic tribute, leaders of Arab countries, including King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt, and a Palestinian delegation, attended the funeral alongside mourners from all over the world. Finally, Israel's leader in war and peace was laid to rest at Mount Herzl, Jerusalem's military cemetery, near graves of other soldiers who died defending Israel.

Just before the funeral began, a siren sounded across Israel, signaling Israelis everywhere to observe a moment of silence. Every year, on Israel's Memorial Day, this siren signals Israelis to stop whatever they are doing to honor the nation's fallen soldiers. On Monday, heads of state and royalty from all over the world paid tribute to Yitzhak Rabin. Yet it is the image of Israel's people, making pilgrimages to his home in Jerusalem, lining the route of the funeral procession, and standing silently during the siren that epitomizes for me the death of a hero.

Time and time again, Israel has endured crises and tragedies. Time and time again the Israeli people have grown stronger and more committed to their Zionist mission. The people of Israel have, in a short time, accomplished many dramatic successes. They have farmed the desert. They have welcomed hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from diverse backgrounds, not to mention refugees from Vietnam, and Bosnia. They have fought wars, and repelled terrorist attacks, while establishing a democratic Jewish state, based on the rule of law. I have been to Israel and met with its leaders and ordinary citizens. Now, as Israel faces yet another difficult challenge, I have faith that the Israeli people will come together in their grief to carry on Israel's role as the strongest democracy and United States ally in the Middle East.