

Wagner's Czech-made helicopter, it ended up being a fatal problem.

As I mentioned, apparently the crash was not the consequence of any foul play. The accident occurred while Ambassador Wagner's party was on a regular peacekeeping mission. The sacrifices of these brave individuals point out the dangers that international peacekeepers, mediators, diplomats, USAID workers, and others face in Bosnia every day, even if they may not be the direct victims of the ethnic fighting.

If the cause of stabilizing the fragile peace in Bosnia and putting that country back on the road to political and economic recovery is important to the United States and its allies, as I firmly believe it is, then we must take the risks to achieve our goals. Our diplomats in Bosnia understand that simple truth, our volunteer professional soldiers in SFOR understand that simple truth, our USAID workers in Bosnia understand it, and our volunteers working for the International Police Task Force in Bosnia understand it. And Gerd Wagner understood it.

Mr. President, our hearts go out to the families of all the victims, the relatives of the as yet unnamed Americans on board, and Ambassador Wagner's wife, Mrs. Sandra Wagner, their two sons, and their daughter, who has been studying at the University of California at Berkeley. Gerd Wagner was a fine German diplomat, a dedicated international civil servant, and a good friend of the United States of America. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Iowa for allowing me to speak ahead of him, and I yield the floor.

Mr. HARKIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise now to pay tribute to a great friend of mine, a close personal friend and someone who has added significantly to the Senate and the House over the course of almost an entire adult lifetime of work and, moreover, who has added to moving America forward in terms of how we feel and how we care about each other and really moving America forward toward the ideal of our Nation. And that is a nation without barriers to anyone, a nation of opportunity for all.

Mr. President, I speak of Bobby Silverstein, who later this month will leave the Senate to teach and establish a center for the study and advancement of disability policy at George Washington University.

For the past decade, Bobby has been my chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Disability Policy. During this time, he has been the behind-the-scenes architect of legislation that has truly revolutionized our Nation's policy towards its citizens with disabilities and expanded opportu-

nities for the more than 49 million Americans with disabilities and their families. There is simply not a more knowledgeable, skillful, accomplished and respected person in the field of disability policy in our entire Nation.

Bobby Silverstein played a significant role in crafting the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA. Before the ADA, discrimination on the basis of disability was wrong, but it was not illegal. Bobby helped me fashion a coalition of grassroots and Washington-based advocacy groups and demonstrated the significant political strength of this unity. Through this coalition, every Member of Congress was educated that disability is a natural part of the human experience, that discrimination on the basis of disability can be tolerated no longer, and that people with disabilities must be judged on what they can do, not on the basis of myths, stereotypes or fears.

His mastery of the issues, unrivaled negotiating skills, patience, and excellent working relationships with those in the disability community, the business community, the Congress, and the White House enabled what many have called the emancipation proclamation for people with disabilities—the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Under Bobby's behind-the-scenes leadership, public policy for infants, children, and adults with disabilities and their families has been strengthened and expanded in every aspect of life: education, employment, civil rights, housing, income maintenance, health, transportation, telecommunications, and recreation. In addition to the ADA, he was my chief aide responsible for securing passing of legislation establishing the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health. This Institute has contributed significantly to the knowledge of deafness, and has led to improvements in the lives of millions of Americans who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including senior citizens. Bobby also shaped legislation to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act, which supports essential job training, employment, and independent living opportunities for thousands of adults with disabilities. On October 16, 1990, the Television Decoder Circuitry Act became law and opened up the information available on television to the millions of individuals who can benefit from captioned television, including deaf individuals and those children and adults who are learning English.

Prior to this time, people who were deaf, like my brother Frank, had to have a great big box that they set on top of their television set that would receive the signal and decode it for that television. Those units cost, if I am not mistaken, in the neighborhood of a couple of hundred dollars. But as my brother said to me one time, that's fine when I'm home watching television; I can get the news and the weather and other information I need

through my decoder on my television. But what about when I travel and I stop at a motel or hotel and I want to find out what the weather is going to be, or I want to listen to the news? I can't take that box with me.

So, beginning in 1988, 1989, we began having hearings on the possibility of mandating every television set sold in America have a little chip put in it so that every television could decode the signal for closed captioning. I remember the hearings. The companies came in and said, "Oh, no, this was going to cost too much money."

Bobby wasn't satisfied. He went to the manufacturers of the chips, asked how much it would cost to produce the chips, and if every television set had them in it how much would it cost. And it came down to mere pennies. So, armed with that information, we were able to get that information to our committee, to Members of the Senate and the House. The bill passed and, as I said, was signed into law by President Bush on October 16, 1990.

So, every time when you turn on that television and a phone call comes in and you want to watch what is going on but you want to turn the sound down so you punch that button on your remote and the captions come up so you can follow the news and still answer that phone call, think of Bobby Silverstein. He is the one who made it happen. It was a great law and one that has just helped millions of Americans, including people like me who do not suffer from deafness, for just the very kind of purpose I just mentioned.

Bobby also championed the Assistive Technology for Individuals With Disabilities Act, protection and advocacy legislation for individuals with mental illness, the Development Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and landmark family support legislation. Most recently, Bobby was the lead Democratic staffer for the negotiations that led to the bipartisan enactment of Public Law 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—known as IDEA—Amendments of 1997. This passed this year. IDEA guarantees a free, appropriate public education for more than 6 million children with disabilities.

Bobby came to the Senate after several years working for Congressman Pat Williams of Montana in the House of Representatives, where his skills resulted in landmark legislation that established early intervention and preschool opportunities for very young children with disabilities—what we now call part H. These two programs have enabled hundreds of thousands of children to obtain the services and support they need to live with their families and develop to their potential.

In addition to his impressive legislative achievements, Bobby has extensive experience working in Federal agencies and the private sector. He has drafted policy interpretations for the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health, Education and

Welfare on issues related to persons with disabilities under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; race and national origin issues under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and gender issues under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In private practice, he trained professionals on the legal framework of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as serving as legal counsel for parents of children with disabilities in cases relating to securing a free appropriate public education for their children.

Bobby Silverstein has won not only my unquestioned respect and deep admiration, but that of Republican and Democratic Senate and House Members, leaders of the disability community, the business community and grassroots activists. His knowledge of the issues and his intellectual rigor and honesty are recognized by everyone with whom he's worked.

If Bobby Silverstein says something or is involved with putting forward a point of view, everyone knows that he has come to that position after meticulous study and careful, objective and reasoned analysis. Bobby has taught us all the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. He was able to achieve consensus among parties with strongly held competing views. The great respect he commands from those across the political spectrum is rare and is clearly a tribute to his abilities and tireless dedication to good research and sound analysis. It is this widespread trust and respect for Bobby and his work that has made much of the legislation we've enacted possible.

Mr. President, I, along with every American, owe a great debt to Bobby Silverstein. In all my years in public service, I have not encountered a more dedicated, caring and good-hearted person. He exemplifies all that is good about public service. He is truly among the best and the brightest individuals in the field of public policy. In the field of disability policy, he has no equal.

Mr. President, as you know and as I know and so many people know, as we pass legislation here, it gets our name on it. We are the sponsor of the bill. When it is enacted into law, it is our name that is on it. So often we know it is dedicated staff that really do the work.

I said so many times that most of the legislation that we pass dealing with people with disabilities, if it were not for Bobby Silverstein, it never, ever would have happened.

So, in that way his mark will remain for a long, long time, not only here in the Senate but all across America.

I will yield to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I could not help but come in and join you, associate myself with your remarks for Bob, because I worked with him both in the House and the Senate. I agree with everything you said. He did so much to assist all of us who wanted to benefit those in the most needy situations. I agree with

you. If it wasn't for him—and also of course Patricia Morrissey on my side, those two who worked so very closely together all during that period of time—we would not have accomplished so much. Bobby was incredible. I know he is going to have even, perhaps, a more useful role now that the basic work is done in the profession he is going into. But he is one wonderful person.

You are to be commended for recognizing that and utilizing him, of course, to benefit all of us. I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my friend, the Senator from Vermont, who again is known for his keen intellect, but also a big heart. I appreciate what he just said about Bobby Silverstein. I should have recognized the fact that the Senator would have worked with him, of course, on the House side.

Again, the people who worked so hard to make our country more fair and to break down barriers of discrimination against people—surely no one can claim that Senator JIM JEFFORDS needs to take a back seat to anyone.

Certainly, Senator JIM JEFFORDS of Vermont need not take a back seat to anyone. Senator JIM JEFFORDS has always been in the forefront of those fights, especially working on the issue I have been talking about, people with disabilities. The Senator from Vermont has always been in the forefront assuring that people with disabilities have their full constitutional and civil rights in this country. So I appreciate what he said about Bobby Silverstein, and coming from the distinguished Senator from Vermont, believe me, it means a lot to me and it means a lot to Bobby Silverstein.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I have enjoyed working with the Senator from Iowa. I think we have been together on every issue here over the course of the years. I have been with him, or just a little bit behind him, on all of these. I commend him for all the work he has done. We both know that without Bobby and Pat Morrissey, we would not have been as successful as we were.

Mr. HARKIN. Absolutely true. I appreciate what the Senator said. It has been a real joy working with the Senator from Vermont both in the House and in the U.S. Senate.

So, Mr. President, as the Senator from Vermont said, Bobby is moving on. I am absolutely certain that his next endeavor, which is the center for the study and advancement of disability policy located at George Washington University, will have an immediate and long-term effect on national policy for Americans with disabilities. I might just add as an aside, Bobby is capable of nothing less.

So as Bobby Silverstein leaves the Senate, I congratulate him on his outstanding accomplishments. I thank him for his tireless service to his country. I extend my best wishes to Bobby, to his wife Lynne and their sons, Mark

and Evan, for continuing success in the many years ahead. So, Bobby, thank you for a job well done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, while we are waiting for a final draft of the amendment I intend to offer, I thought in the meantime I might just as well talk about it, and then we can take care of it when it is ready.

Senator TORRICELLI and I had a very interesting time earlier this week in helping celebrate the aftermath of the reenactment of the Battle of Antietam which occurred this past weekend, which reenacted one of the most, if not the most, violent battles in the history of warfare in the Civil War.

It was a remarkable experience, because not only were there thousands of people participating in the reenactment, but there also were over 100,000 people who watched the reenactment of that incredible battle which was, they say, the most bloody of the Civil War.

It reminded me of this Nation, as we march on toward the end of this millennium, that we do have an obligation to make a commitment to ourselves in this interim before we go to the next millennium to ensure that we have learned the lessons of history, especially in this Nation, now the most proud and important and strongest Nation in the world, of how we formed and how we lived our lives up through the time it was created in respect to its modern form of people arriving from Europe and other places, and the struggles that we had which were not easy ones.

We are still, in a sense, living some of the aftermath with respect to some of the biases and problems of discrimination in this Nation against those in the black community, who, as we all know, came over here as slaves, and then the great Civil War between the North and the South fought, to some extent, based upon the principles of the States rights, and yet also the very, very difficult question of abolishment of slavery in this country.

I have had the opportunity over the course of time to study a great deal about that war, for Vermont was very dedicated and, in many ways, was the leader in the sense of commitment, for it was early on that Vermonters participated in a higher number per capita than any State in the North. In battle after battle, Vermonters were at the head of the troops. In fact, Lincoln at one time commented after reviewing the efforts of Vermonters, "Just tell them to follow the Vermonters."

When I was first in the Senate, our Vermont Legislature, in commemoration of the 100th year of the Battle of