

quote the other day. I was home this weekend with my wife and was looking over remarks made about John Paul II. The Archbishop said this:

He will be known, I firmly believe, as John Paul the Great in the long history of the church. This will be because of his profound writings and for his unceasing focus on the dignity of each and every human being and the paramount value of human life. To my mind, his election to the pontificate was made possible by the providence of God and demonstrates God's love for his church.

I agree with my friend Archbishop Flynn that John Paul II will be known in history as John Paul the Great.

The human family is plagued by many artificial divisions. Once in a great while, a figure emerges whose ideas and example resonate across all boundaries and brings us together. John Paul II was such a person.

As a Jew, I feel a deep sense of personal loss because the person I looked to for leadership and who I deeply and profoundly respected has passed on. I have the image of John Paul II at the western wall in Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall it has been called, the last remains of the outer part of the second temple, perhaps one of the holiest spots in the Jewish faith. I believe, if my recollection of Jewish tradition is correct, as you walk along the western wall, about 100 yards inward is the place where Abraham was going to sacrifice his son and the covenant with God was formed. I remember John Paul there praying, inserting his prayer—one of the things you do at the western wall is oftentimes you take a prayer and put it in one of the crevices of the wall as you say a prayer.

His feeling was so deep and rich. I can see him there praying in front of the western wall, I believe asking for forgiveness for the church for the history of antisemitism.

I have heard the essence of leadership described in this way: A leader maintains order in the midst of change and change in the midst of order. That was John Paul's outstanding gift. He held strongly to eternal values while he was a force for dynamic and even revolutionary change. He played a decisive role in the liberation of Eastern Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union. He has passed on within a few months of the other central figure in that historic change, Ronald Reagan. But Pope John Paul II did not wield military power. He was a man whose strength came from moral force and a conscience governed by peace.

Remarkably, he was able to lead with equal impact in the vigorous early days of his papacy and in the weakness of his latter years.

There has been so much that has been written and said about this Pope in the last few days that I believe has captured the essence of this great man. There is a piece I saw in Larry Kudlow's column. I would like to read from it:

John Paul II reached across all religious lines, becoming the most evangelical pope in recent memory. He was tireless as he spread

his message of traditional religious faith and values to anyone who would listen—believers, nonbelievers, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews. This will surely be one of his most enduring legacies. You do not have to be Catholic to be grateful for the service John Paul II rendered to all mankind.

He did a tremendous service by the way he reached out to Israel and Jews around the world. His visits to Holocaust sites healed generations of misunderstanding and underscored the world's conviction that events such as this must never be allowed to happen again.

His constancy showed us how to live. His forgiveness showed us how to deal with evil. His generosity showed us our obligation to the less fortunate. His faith showed us that we all live for purposes far beyond ourselves.

I was the mayor of St. Paul, MN, so I am happy to quote St. Paul's words to sum up the Holy Father's life:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

John Paul II was an ambassador of love, and his love will continue to bless the world. I said to my wife the other day: How blessed we are to have lived in his time.

John Paul the Great is no longer physically with us, but he has touched all our souls in extraordinary ways. We thank God to have known him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a number of years ago, maybe 15 years ago, I had the opportunity to read a biography of Pope John Paul II. It was a big book given to me by a friend. I started reading it and I couldn't put it down. It read like a novel. He was a tremendously interesting, fascinating, wonderful human being I came to appreciate. I did not know much about the Pope, but after reading that book I tried to read everything I could about him.

The only personal situation I ever had involving the Pope was shortly after I read that book I traveled to Central America with a congressional delegation. This was during the time of the Iran contra conflict. One of the people we met was the Interior Minister of Nicaragua, a Communist. I met him. He was a pleasant man. He was a Catholic priest.

He talked about the fact he had been to Nevada. He was a relief priest. He would relieve priests in rural Nevada for their vacations. He talked about Battle Mountain where he had administered the last rites to a sheep herder. He was a very pleasant man. I learned later, however, about a story when the Pope had been through Nicaragua earlier. There was a long line of priests, as is traditional in the Catholic faith, that kiss the ring of the father, the Pope. When this man came by, the Pope withdrew his ring. He knew what this man had done in Nicaragua. He was a Communist, and he did not like what he had done, and he didn't kiss his ring; the Pope pulled it back.

Pope John was a man of conviction and very strong feelings. One of the strongest convictions he had was about communism. He knew what it had done to his country of birth.

He is exemplary of why the former Soviet Union could beat down religion in every country it oppressed except Poland. It couldn't do it. And Pope John was an example of how the Poles reacted to communism. They tried to shut the schools. The Catholic schools flourished during all the time of communism. They could not shut them down.

This weekend, the Catholic Church lost its spiritual leader and a spiritual leader of the world. Just because you are not of that faith does not take away from the spiritual power of this man. I acknowledge his spiritual power. In the book I read, I learned it was not unusual for Pope John Paul II to pray for 4 or 5 hours at a time. He was a man of great spirituality. Without any reservation, the world lost its spiritual leader and incredible role model. He displayed amazing strength, courage, and compassion throughout his life, his life of service to his fellow man.

As we know, he was born in Poland near Krakow. During his 84 years, he had enormous impact on the people and politics of his time. His lifetime and acts are full of lessons for all of us. But as so often is the case with life, you may not have guessed this from his early years. He was also a gifted athlete and extremely smart. He spoke fluently seven languages. His favorite sport was soccer. He, in his adult life, was an actor. He enjoyed acting. He wrote poetry. At the university he studied literature and philosophy and still found time to take part in the theater they had, becoming what many have called a gifted actor. That is what they called him at the time. For a while, his ambition was to be a professional actor.

Pope John did not become part of the priesthood as a teenager. He was in his midtwenties before he became a priest. In the early 1940s, his life led him to the priesthood and his ultimate calling. He was elected not long thereafter to be head of the Catholic Church in 1978. For 27 years he has changed lives and touched the world in countless

ways. Some say he was too conservative. Some say he was not progressive enough. But he made his mark wherever he went.

I will remember the Pope for the strength he showed throughout his life. It all started in reading the book about this great man. In the face of communism, he stood with the people of Eastern Europe and empowered them in their pursuit of freedom. In the face of hunger and despair, he challenged powerful nations, including our own to do more to reach out and lift up our struggling neighbors. In the rush to war, he sought peace always. At the end of his days when sickness had taken his physical strength, he still showed grace and courage in tending to his flock.

The last pictures we see of the Pope in some of our minds' eye, having gone through surgery, he was still standing in front of the throng that came to see him, and still doing his very best to speak. He couldn't speak. How frustrating that must have been.

There are many lessons we can draw from the life of Pope John Paul II. He traveled the globe more than any Pope in history. He was a skier in addition to being the Pope. He skied while he was the Pope.

He did not have to travel the world, but he did, realizing that he brought the spotlight of media and attention to the cause of many who otherwise would have been ignored.

He was shot by a would-be assassin. As soon as he was physically able, he went to the prison cell of the man who shot him and forgave him in the prison cell in a one-on-one meeting with his would-be assassin.

We now know as a result of that assassin's attempt they developed a new vehicle for him. In this age of terror, the Popemobile is something we all understand. He waved to people from this little bulletproof vehicle which he rode around in like a golf cart. It was not a limousine. It was the Popemobile.

He also reached out to leaders. He did not always agree with these leaders he reached out to, recognizing that problems are better solved by working together. In our own country, he reached out to former Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, and worked closely with our current President. He did not alienate or reject leaders who disagreed with him. He sought common ground in championing the causes of his fellow man.

But ultimately, I believe the life of Pope John Paul II is a reminder that one man or one woman can make a difference. It does not matter where we are born. It does not matter what we aspire to early in life. It can change for the better. It does not matter what paths we have wandered. We all have the ability to rise up and help our fellow man in immeasurable ways. There is no better example of that than Pope John Paul II.

As the world mourns the loss of the Pope, may we keep that lesson in mind,

and find inspiration in his life and the work he has accomplished.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL HIESTER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Bluffton. Master Sergeant Michael Hiester, 33 years old, was one of four Indiana National Guardsmen who died on March 26 when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle south of Kabul. With his life before him, Michael risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A devoted father of two young children, Michael served as a part-time firefighter in his hometown of Bluffton, in addition to being a member of the Indiana National Guard. Like most things Michael set his mind to, he was successful in his military career. A full-time Guardsman since 1990, Michael was promoted to master sergeant 3 months ago. He had previously served his country in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the Indiana Guard's peacekeeping assignment. According to friends and family, Michael was also a real estate appraiser and an avid athlete who loved diving and cycling. Mayor Ted Ellis shared memories of Michael with the Associated Press, saying, that he "was just the kind of guy that every parent wants their child to be like—outgoing and hardworking and always thinking about something that they could do out there for the community." I stand here today to express gratitude for Michael's sacrifices and for those made by the entire Hiester family on behalf of our country.

Michael was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade. This brave young soldier leaves behind his wife Dawn, a 6-year-old daughter, Emily, and a 4-year-old son, Adam.

Today, I join Michael's family, his friends and the entire Bluffton community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Michael, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Michael was known for his dedication to family and his love of country.

Today and always, Michael will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Michael's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Michael's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Michael Hiester in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Michael's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Michael.

##### ARMY SPECIALIST BRETT M. HERSHEY

Mr. President, I also wish to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in Indianapolis. Army SPC Brett M. Hershey, 23 years old, was one of four Indiana National Guardsmen who died on March 26th when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle south of Kabul. With his entire life before him, Brett risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2000 graduate of North Central High School in Indianapolis, Brett was just seven credits shy of graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, when he left for Afghanistan. Friends and teachers recount that at North Central, Brett was a model student with an ever-present smile, who was involved in religious groups, varsity lacrosse and student government. Brett's older brother, Nate, recalled his brother's vibrant spirit when speaking to the Indianapolis Star saying, Brett "loved people very well, and he loved them because his first love was Jesus. He was funny, witty and passionate about just sucking the marrow out of life. He always wanted people to know they were loved."

Brett was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade. This brave young soldier leaves