

all of this and nobody is watching the store. You hear the stories about us paying for reconstruction of a building in Iraq—and we are doing it for thousands of buildings. We decide we are going to put an air conditioner in that building, so it is subcontracted to an Iraq subcontracting company. First it goes to the contractors who are in Iraq being paid by our Government, some of whom I have described here, and then it goes to an Iraq subcontractor, and then the subcontractor for that subcontractor, and pretty soon that air conditioner in the building became a ceiling fan and we paid for an air conditioner and the ceiling fan doesn't work. So there you are.

The question is, who in this Congress is going to decide this matters at a time when we are up to our neck in debt, the largest debt in the history of this country, with a fiscal policy that is way off track, a President who sends us a budget with the highest Federal budget deficits in history, and trade deficits that are the highest in history, a combined fiscal policy and trade deficit of over \$1 trillion in the past year? We are sinking and drowning in debt. Who is going to care about this kind of waste, fraud, and abuse, the most serious I have seen in all the years I have served in the Congress?

I raise this because it relates to accountability, accountability with respect to the use of intelligence prior to the war in Iraq, accountability with an independent counsel who spent \$21 million 10 years after the fact when he was supposed to investigate a Cabinet official who lied about paying money to his mistress. This is an independent counsel who is still operating and has spent \$21 million. Who is accountable for that? Who is accountable for waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq?

Harry Truman had the famous sign on his desk, "The buck stops here." These days the buck doesn't seem to stop anywhere. Nobody seems to be accountable for anything.

I intend to offer another amendment. I don't know whether I will offer it on the existing bill or on the supplemental, but I will offer it again, setting up a Truman committee of sorts. In 1941, at the start of the Second World War, Harry Truman, then a Democratic Senator when a Democrat was in the White House, traveled around this country and saw waste, fraud, and abuse in military spending. He created a special committee and as a result of the investigation of that committee they unearthed massive fraud and massive waste. That was when a Democrat in the Congress did it, when a Democrat was in the White House.

These days nobody wants to raise any questions. You don't want to make any waves because we have one-party control and we don't want to talk about this, that, or the other thing. The fact is, I have never seen the kind of waste that now exists with respect to our operations in Iraq. It undercuts and undermines our soldiers' efforts, in my

judgment. It cheats America's taxpayers, and it represents the worst of Government.

We ought to be able to hire contractors who will do the job without allowing waste, fraud, and abuse to represent the major impact of what we see happening in Iraq these days with respect to these contractors.

Part of this stems from greed. Part of it stems from the fact that many of these contracts in Iraq are no-bid contracts—one company. I have not mentioned Halliburton, but I could because a lot of it deals with Halliburton and KBR—not exclusively, but a lot of it. Any time somebody mentions Halliburton, somebody says: Oh, you are attacking the Vice President. Not a bit. This happened after the Vice President left Halliburton. These are of recent vintage, these activities in Iraq. It is not an attack on anybody. It is in support of the taxpayers of this country. We ought not allow this to happen. Republicans and Democrats all ought to stand on their feet and demand accountability and demand that the waste, fraud, and abuse stop—\$8,000 a month to rent an SUV; \$40 for a case of pop or soda—Coca-Cola.

There were 50,000 pounds of nails ordered by a contractor to Iraq. They were the wrong length, so they dumped them. If anybody wants to pick up 50,000 pounds of nails, they are laying in the sand in Iraq. It is unbelievable the waste, fraud, and abuse we hear about.

The reason I have held the hearings in the Democratic Policy Committee is nobody else will hold hearings. No one else wants to hold these contractors accountable. There are whistleblowers all over who are disgusted with what they saw, working for contractors and supervising contractors in Iraq.

I have only described a brief portion of what we learned in these hearings. We intend to conduct additional hearings. My preference would be that we not conduct these hearings in my committee. My preference would be that the authorizing committees and the relevant committees that should be assuming oversight of this would hold aggressive hearings, but they don't and they probably won't, and as a result we will continue to do this.

I am intending to offer an amendment to create a Truman-type committee here in the Congress, as we did some decades ago, to take a hard look at what is happening through that kind of committee, an investigative committee that would include Republicans and Democrats, all of whom I hope would be committed and dedicated to the task of deciding that waste, fraud, and abuse is not something that should happen on any of our watches here in the Congress.

Again, I think the key issue here is accountability. There seems to be none these days in almost any direction. I hope in all of these areas we can begin to decide there is accountability, at least here in the Congress.

I yield the floor and make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING JOHN PAUL II

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise this morning, just having returned to Washington from Colorado, to share a few comments about the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

My family's faith tradition—like yours, Mr. President—since time immemorial has been Roman Catholic. In Pope John Paul II, we witnessed a great spiritual leader, a conscience and a statesman.

Pope John Paul II exemplified the values and teachings of Jesus Christ in his humility, service to others, and in his struggle to have the world recognize the dignity of every human being. John Paul II lived the creed of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 23, Verses 11–12, where Jesus, speaking to the crowds and his disciples, said:

The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

More than 26 years ago, in the eighth round of voting, Karol Wojtyla was elected to head the Roman Catholic Church. His predecessor, Pope John Paul I, had died after only 32 days as Pope. The selection of the charismatic Polish cardinal—the first non-Italian pope in 455 years—surprised many people both inside and outside the Catholic Church.

In the quarter-century since then, Pope John Paul II continued to surprise—and challenge—not only members of my church but, indeed, the entire world to recognize and celebrate the dignity of each and every person.

But that was not all "the Pilgrim Pope" revolutionized. Where previous pontiffs had often seemed distant from their flocks, Pope John Paul II traveled to more nations and spoke to more people—often times in their language—than any other pontiff in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

His first trip abroad as pontiff was to a region in crisis. Latin America, home of half the world's Roman Catholics, was ravaged not just by poverty and hunger but by violence and civil war that claimed tens of thousands of innocent lives.

His next trip was to his homeland, Poland, a land that been subjugated for decades, first by Nazism, then by communism. One journalist wrote that the pope's visit to Poland "helped bring about such profound, irreversible

changes that Poland then became a country which was clearly ceasing to be a communist country.”

John Paul also visited America during the first year of his Papacy, attracting huge crowds wherever he went. In my home State of Colorado, 1993, he came to Denver, bringing a message of substance and hope to the young people of the world. I remember that visit fondly—and recall my father’s excitement after he reached over a fence to touch the Pope.

This pope is recognized—and rightly so—as a sort of patron saint for the Solidarity movement in Poland and a catalyst for the demise of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

But that was only part of this pope’s message. He has also warned repeatedly about the shortcomings of capitalism. He reminded us all that we have an obligation to help the poor and the oppressed.

In 1998, he traveled to Cuba, strengthening a Church that is doing more and more to help that country’s forgotten, and breathing life into an opposition movement that surprised the world—and that country’s backward regime—with a grassroots call for reform.

In 1999, he again visited the US, reminding us of our duty to not forget the poor and oppressed and continuing his special outreach to America’s young people and challenging them to fight for a better America and a better world.

And in 2000, a visibly frail Pope visited the Holy Land to mark the Millennium and in an attempt to bring Jews, Christians and Muslims together. Both Jews and Muslims and Christians welcomed him—and recognized and celebrated his visit—and applauded of optimism his words and hope.

His efforts to heal the rift between the Vatican and Jews had to be colored by his own experience with the brutality of anti-Semitism that he had witnessed. In September 1939, he saw his university in Krakow shut down and eventually saw several of his friends and classmates sent to Auschwitz after the Nazis invaded Poland.

His efforts at healing historical rifts continued, evidenced by meetings with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest ranking official in the Episcopal Church. Many wished he could have done more on these hurtful rifts, but no one doubted that he began to confront these challenges like no Pope has ever done in the history of our Church.

For these nearly 27 years, the Pilgrim Pope John Paul II—an accomplished poet, an intellectual and a mystic in that fine Catholic tradition—was hailed as a visionary and attacked as a relic. Within the Church itself—as in the scores of countries he visited—he was criticized by critics on both the left and the right. That is because in the Church and on each of his many trips, he brought not only comfort and

hope—hope for peace in Latin America, freedom in Eastern Europe, reconciliation in the Middle East, and improvement in America—but he also brought discomfort and challenges for all of us to do better.

In 2003, the Vatican had this to say about the role of the Church in public life,

The Church does not wish to exercise political power or to eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions.

Instead, it intends—as is its proper function—to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good.

None of us lived up to the challenges and prescriptions the Pope mapped out in 27 years in a perfect way. We could not because Pope John Paul II challenged all of us to do more, to be better.

Physically, the frail, stooped Pope we saw in the last weeks bore little resemblance to the athletic 58-year-old who ascended the throne of Peter nearly 27 years ago. But inwardly, he remained deeply consistent—challenging us to uphold the dignity of each and every person—and illuminated and instructed, as well as challenged and surprised the entire world.

We will miss Pope John Paul II, but his vibrant legacy lives on in each of us and in the lessons and challenges he placed before us.

I thank the President and yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Polish-born national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter, tells a story about how the news of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla’s election as Pope was received by the communist rulers of Poland.

On that day in October 1978, Mr. Brzezinski said, a group of communist writers and party leaders were meeting in Krakow. A police colonel was speaking, complaining about the opposition of the church, when a woman ran into the room and said, “Wojtyla has been elected Pope!”

The second secretary of the party, not realizing his microphone was still on, turned to the first secretary and said, “My God, my God, now we will have to kiss his”—and he did not say “ring.”

The first party secretary, understanding the enormity of the moment, replied, “Only if he lets us.”

In neighboring Czechoslovakia, a disident playwright was with friends when news of the new Polish Pope came. Vaclav Havel, who would go on to become the first elected president of the Czech Republic, said he and his friends literally danced with joy when they heard the news. “We felt,” he said, “that he was a great and charismatic man who will open the door to an unprecedented renaissance in Christianity and through it, to human spirituality in general, and who will fun-

damentally influence the future destiny and political order of the world.”

More than 26 years later, those stories seem prophetic. Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II, did indeed change the world.

Today, he is being mourned not only in his beloved Poland, and not only by Catholics, but by people throughout the world: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, people from every faith tradition, and many with no religious connections.

Last Friday, when it was clear the Pope was dying, a man in Havana, a self-described communist, told an Associated Press reporter, “I don’t believe in God. But if there is a God, let him send us a Pope as good as this one.”

In Istanbul, Turkey, the brother of the man who nearly killed the Pope said his brother is grieving. “He loved the Pope,” his brother said.

Among the places in this country where this Pope’s death has left many with an aching sadness is the Five Holy Martyrs Church on the southwest side of Chicago, the historic heart of Chicago’s large Polish community. More Poles live in Chicago, IL, than any other city in the world, other than Warsaw.

In October 1979, when Pope John Paul II made his first visit to America as Pope, he said Mass at the Five Holy Martyrs Church, where the Eucharist is still celebrated in Polish, on an altar in the church parking lot, surrounded by more than 17,000 people.

Today, the altar still stands in the parking lot; it is used once a year for a special commemorative Mass. A portion of 43rd Street near the Five Holy Martyrs Church has been renamed in the Pope’s honor. And many who saw him still recall it as one of the greatest days of their lives.

Think of this: half the people in the world today were not even born when Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II. Most people under 40 have no memory of any other Pope, and remember John Paul only as an elderly and frail man.

Those of us who are a little older, though, remember just as clearly what a strong, athletic man he was before age and Parkinson’s disease began to take their toll. “God’s athlete,” some called him, and he showed in his life how much strength he had.

He was a traditionalist and a revolutionary, a son of Poland, and a citizen of the world. He was a mystic and a man of prayer, but he was also a man of action and seemingly inexhaustible energy. Reporters decades younger who accompanied him on his travels even in recent years, said they returned home exhausted. But John Paul never stopped.

He was more than a spiritual leader; he was a major player on the world diplomatic stage.

He visited more than 100 nations and every continent except Antarctica. All told, he traveled more than three times

the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

He spoke more languages than many people can name. In 1993, he visited Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—his first trip as Pope to the former Soviet Union. For that trip, he learned his 14th language, Lithuanian, which I am sure my Lithuanian-born mother was very happy to hear.

Everywhere, his message was the same. It is what he told his fellow Poles on his first visit home as Pope in 1979: "Be not afraid." There is more to this life than what you can see here and now. "The moral arc of the universe is long," as another great moral leader told us, "but it bends toward justice."

He sided always with the oppressed, the marginalized, the voiceless, the victims of war and injustice.

He was fearless and unflinching in the face of leaders of governments that suppressed human rights and crushed human hopes. He defied the Nazis who occupied Poland when he was a young man, and the communists who followed them. He showed real strength that all of us admire.

His role in ending communism in Poland and bringing about the end of the Soviet empire is well documented and rightly praised. He also helped to bring an end to apartheid by refusing to visit South Africa until that repugnant form of government was abolished.

Peace, non-violence, the sanctity of life, the dignity of work, the realization that we are all part of one human family and that every person on earth shares "a common dignity and a common destiny," the belief that those who have much owe those who have less true justice, not mere charity, these are the lessons John Paul preached.

He taught us about reconciliation. He apologized for the Church for the Crusades, the Inquisition and the persecution of the Jews.

He showed us how to ask for forgiveness on his first trip home to Poland, when he visited the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz and knelt in prayer before a memorial to Holocaust victims. He showed us again on his first visit to Israel, in 2000, when he reached out his shaking hand to touch the Western Wall and leave a written prayer, a plea for forgiveness.

He showed us how to grant forgiveness when he visited the prison cell of the man who tried to kill him, and prayed with him.

He was the first Pope ever to visit a synagogue, or visit a mosque in an Islamic nation.

In his final days, he taught us another lesson: how to die with dignity.

John Paul II lived his life to try to heal the wounds that divide humanity. It is a measure of this extraordinary man's success that he has been praised in death by both Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

Karol Wojtyla had tears in his eyes when he became Pope. Many of us have

tears in our eyes as he leaves the papacy and this world.

Those of us who are Catholic feel a special connection to this Pope. Many of us did not always agree with him on matters of Church teaching and practice. That is not unusual. In every family, there are disputes. But there is also great love. Even when we differed with him, we believe the Pope tried to do what he believed was right, and that is all we can ask of anyone.

During his visit to Chicago more than 25 years ago, the Pope said mass in Chicago's Grant Park. Many business closed that day to let their workers attend the mass. People stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the park.

Later that night, thousands of Chicagoans gathered at the Cardinal's mansion to sing "good night" to the Pope. It was late, but they weren't ready to let him go. He smiled as the crowd sang—and sang some more. Finally, with that huge smile and that big, booming voice, the Pope told them, "Now you must go sleep." When no one moved, he smiled again and repeated, like a stern but loving father, "You must go sleep."

All these years later, many of us still wish he could have stayed with us just a little longer. But it was time for him to sleep.

So let us treasure the memory of this good man. And if we are moved to pay tribute to him, let us do our best to try to live the lessons he taught us with his own extraordinary life.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Holy Father.

Pope John Paul II was an extraordinary ambassador for the betterment of humankind in every corner of the globe. His humanity shone through every day for two and a half decades of his papacy and his impact on the world will be everlasting.

He was a moral leader in so many of the great battles of our time. He fought Communism without violence, and he was dogged in his battles against war, injustice, and intolerance wherever he found them. He viewed the world in clear terms of good and evil, but he never once descended to demagoguery. He was a man who at once understood both the frailty and potential of the human spirit.

What other kind of man could have forgiven his would be assassin in person and prayed with him in his jail cell?

His capacity for belief in the betterment of man moved the world.

What other kind of man could overcome centuries of mistrust and conflict to establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and the State of Israel. That was truly a bold and historic move.

As a New Yorker, I also must offer to say a special thanks to the Pope from the residents of our State and city. New York is an international city that attracts immigrants from all over the world who come with the dream of finding a better life.

While the Pope might be the most famous Pole of his time, every one of our citizens admired and often shared his pluck, his expansiveness and his optimism, qualities that make New York the greatest city on Earth. That is one of the reasons he was revered as such a hero by all New Yorkers, because the qualities that he exhibited of optimism and pluck and expansiveness are characteristics of our city as well. So every time he came here, there was a beautiful union. Like the Statue of Liberty that he quoted in his visit to Giants Stadium in 1995, his life and work was a symbol to millions on these shores and beyond that they, too, if they worked hard and stuck to their principles and moral values, could enjoy a better life.

And when terrible tragedy struck our city that awful day 4 years ago, the Pope's poignant statements reassured all New Yorkers and all Americans. He said at that time:

May the Blessed Virgin, bring comfort and hope to all who are suffering because of the tragic terrorist attack that profoundly wounded the beloved American people in recent days. To all the sons and daughters of that great nation I now address my heartfelt thoughts and participation. May Mary receive the dead, console the survivors, sustain the families which have been especially tried and help everyone not to give in to the temptation to hatred and violence, but to commit themselves to serving justice and peace.

And he didn't stop there. After the attacks he convened an inter faith pilgrimage for peace to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis. He only led such a pilgrimage twice before—once during the Cold War, once during the Balkans conflict. He led leaders of Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Zoroastrian, Tenrikyo, Shinto and traditional African faiths in prayer and meditation. It was only a delegation he could have led.

Personally, I will never forget the Pope's visit to New York City in 1979. One glance at him and you saw that his nobility and his common touch combined so well in one human being was unforgettable for the millions of New Yorkers who lined the streets to greet him. People of all faiths and background mourn his passing. I join the billions of citizens around the world in a solemn prayer and remembrance of this great, wonderful, and holy man, Pope John Paul II.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I add my voice to the millions of people throughout the world as we try to put in perspective the passing of Pope John Paul II.

As has been said many times in many ways, probably more than anything what struck me the most about the Holy Father was his ability to understand what could be when other people only saw what couldn't be. He understood that communism was an oppressive system. He lived under Nazi rule, and as he had the power to bring about change, he used that power for the

good. He went back to his home country of Poland and challenged his people to expect better and to demand better. That is what he did for the world.

He tried to challenge his church, to stick to the principles of the church as he saw those principles to be. He challenged the world to do better when it came to the less fortunate. He was consistent. He saw war as a bad thing. He understood that life was sacred and that the state should not take life. He was in opposition to the death penalty. There I may disagree, an honest disagreement.

But he had a consistency about him. When we try to put his beliefs in secular terms of being liberal or conservative, we totally miss the mark of understanding the Pope. He understood the past, he changed the present, and the future will be better because of his time on Earth.

His passing has left a void in a great religion. The Catholic faith has lost a great leader. The world has lost a great voice for humanity, for decency, for love, for caring, and that voice will echo throughout the ages. As the Catholic Church embarks on picking a new Pope, I can understand the legacy that will have to be fulfilled.

The great religion called the Catholic faith is in mourning for the loss of a great leader, but all of us are in mourning for the loss of a great leader. Anyone who loves freedom, anyone who believes that there is a right and wrong when it comes to certain issues, has lost a great guidepost. I believe his legacy will be in challenging the status quo for the common good, seeing pain and hearing the cries of the oppressed when other people only heard faint noises, and having the courage of his convictions. He said, Be not afraid, and that is a lesson for us all.

He has gone to his eternal home. He deserves all the accolades he has been given. The world is better for his time on Earth.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, also part of the greatest generation is someone whom I rise to pay tribute to today and that is to Pope John Paul II. I was saddened at the passing of Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father was an inspiration to me as well as to millions around the world. His faith, his compassion, his eloquence, transcended religion or nationality. We so admired His Holiness because he stood for those who suffered, those who were oppressed, those who could not give voice through their own advocacy for human rights. He offered faith and hope and courage with his famous phrase "be not afraid," as he reached out to young people to give them a moral compass that they needed—that we all need to guide our lives.

Pope John Paul was the true people's Pope. Gosh, he traveled to over 100 countries. He didn't just speak from the pulpit; he reached out and touched people. He moved into the crowds, and he spoke the language of the people,

often literally because he spoke so many languages. The Pope was the father of the church, but he was also a son of Poland, my own cultural heritage. I remember when I heard the news about the new Polish Pope, the first non-Italian in over 400 years. I live down the street from the Polish parish, St. Stanislaw's in Fells Point. We felt such pride and joy. The bells rang, the tugboats tooted. We closed the streets and had a fantastic party. We were so excited.

In Baltimore we even knew him before he became Pope. He came to visit us as the cardinal from Krakow. He visited Holy Rosary Church, again one of the Catholic churches serving large numbers in the Polish community. I was so pleased to be there that day for this young, vigorous, athletic man who came from Poland to speak to us, wanting to know about our own country, speaking to us in English also about our own hopes and aspirations. But because he had grown up under Nazi fascism and lived under the boot of communism, he spoke to us about what it was like to live behind the Iron Curtain.

As you so well know, he came from the captive nations. I was so proud then to be part of the American delegation when he was Invested over 2 years later. And even then we could see the hint of things to come. There was a mass for hundreds of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, where His Holiness gave his first blessing and spoke the Word to the people in many tongues. Before he came over to greet the diplomatic corps, he went over to a special section of children, and not just ordinary children but extraordinary children—the mentally retarded, those with birth defects, cerebral palsy. And the first touch of the Pope was to those children. I think it touched us all.

One of my best memories was taking my parents to meet the Pope at the White House when Jimmy Carter was President and Brzezinski was his National Security Adviser. I took my mother and father through the receiving line, and they had a chance to talk with him in both Polish and English. He turned and smiled with his wonderful humorous way and said: Don't forget to listen to your mother and father and to the Holy Father.

Twenty-five years later, I joined my colleagues in the Senate to present the Pope with our Congressional Medal, the highest honor we can bestow. The Pope doesn't usually accept awards, but he made an exception because we wanted to thank him for his stand for human rights and for peace and justice around the world. After the presentation and the blessing, he said to us: God bless you and God bless America.

The Pope visited this country seven different times, both as a bishop and as Pope. And during those times, he always spoke to us about the need for freedom. He knew what it was like to live under the occupation. During the dark days of communism, he led the

church's support of the Solidarity movement. In 1979, after he became Pope, he made his very first visit to his own native land. In 9 days, he was seen by 13 million people, from Warsaw to Krakow to Czestochova. He touched every part of Polish society, and he encouraged them once again to be not afraid. One year later an obscure electrician working in a shipyard, named Lech Walesa, jumped over that wall. And when he jumped over the wall of the Gdansk shipyard, he took the whole world with him. That was the beginning of the end of Communism.

The Pope forged a special relationship with President Ronald Reagan, and I believe helped bring about the end of the Cold War and pulled down that Iron Curtain.

Pope John did more than any other leader of the church to reach out to different faiths. He was the first Pope to visit a synagogue. He was the first Pope to visit a mosque. He reached out to Anglicans and to Eastern Orthodoxy. But he didn't just reach out to different faiths; he reached also to the human heart. He reached back to the darker side of history. He was the first to acknowledge the Holocaust and to say that antisemitism was a sin and to officially visit Israel. He wanted the improvement of relationships.

If we want to honor the Pope, we should do it not with words but with deeds: To be not afraid, to speak up for truth, to speak truth to power, speak about justice, speak about human rights, to speak about the marginalized and the oppressed. Today we grieve the death of the Pope. We express our gratitude for his remarkable life and his remarkable leadership and legacy of faith and freedom and the enduring promise of the Gospels calling us to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and turn our spears into plowshares.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, when Pope John Paul II died over the weekend, the Catholic Church lost its spiritual shepherd. The world lost a giant of a man. As successor of St. Peter, he began his papacy by reminding the world to "Be not afraid." The captive people of Eastern Europe and Latin America heard that message loud and clear. And as he prepared for his own death, he met his suffering with a fearlessness and hopefulness that was heard by us all.

For millions of American Catholics, including many Utahns, and many of my colleagues in this body, Pope John Paul II's passing represents the loss of a profound spiritual leader. My prayers are with all of you and with the Pope.

For non-Catholics like myself the Pope's death is a cause for mourning as well. His was an example of strength, commitment, and moral courage that we will all miss and that we will never forget. The Communist tyranny that the Pope ultimately triumphed over once mocked the power of the Catholic Church, asking how many divisions the Pope had. While it is true that the Pope possessed no military might, his

witness to hope, his faith that life would triumph over death, that the light would prevail over the darkness, was more powerful than any army.

As a result of his simple faith, this humble man from Krakow, Poland emerged from behind the Iron Curtain, became the first non-Italian Pope in nearly 500 years, and concluded his life as one of the towering figures of the Twentieth Century. I have no doubt that his example will guide us in the Twenty-first Century as well, and I understand why it is that so many Catholics are already referring to him as John Paul the Great.

My career as a public servant began shortly before John Paul II became Pope. I am fortunate to have spent time with him on two occasions over the years, and so it was no surprise to me to watch the world's and this country's admiration and love for him grow. I was struck by his joyful and his charitable spirit. Yet behind that peaceful demeanor was a determination to challenge the totalitarian assaults on human dignity that stained much of the last century.

As a young man he was witness to the Nazi terror in his native Poland, and later as Pope he went to Poland and encouraged the Solidarity movement. He understood that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and that no matter how small, old or weak, no person is without significance. I have no doubt that his powerful witness to the dignity of all people contributed as much to the downfall of the horror of communism as anything we accomplished in Washington. A year after he assumed the papacy, John Paul II went to Poland and awakened a sleeping giant. Today, I hear that over a million thankful Poles are en route to Rome to pay their respects to their native son.

As the Pope grew older and he lost his youthful vigor, his own suffering served as a powerful reminder of the need to nurture a culture of life. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have heard this call. As President Bush put it the other day, it remains the duty of the strong to protect the weak.

It only took about twenty-four hours before some commentators came out to declare the Pope's legacy a mixed one. The Pope was too strident on certain issues, they say. He left certain groups unsatisfied. Perhaps. But I think that these criticisms really miss what this man was about. John Paul II reminded us of the meaning that our human lives can have. This truth is not something that you can focus group. The truth about the universe, about our duty to God and to our fellow man, is not something that you can triangulate.

Still, some fault the Pope for not being more like a politician. He was not accommodating enough. He should have compromised and found a middle ground. As elected officials, that is our charge. But as the spiritual head of the Catholic Church, the Pope's duty was greater than what we work to accom-

plish. He was a witness to truth. His message was not always one that people on either side of the aisle wanted to hear, but the call to the faithful is not often an easy one to swallow. The Pope reminded us of the splendor of truth. I think what is revealed in these criticisms of the Pope is the knee-jerk aversion by some to the very idea that there are eternal truths. The Pope should be commended, not criticized, for reminding us of them.

The talking heads have this exactly backward. They think that it was the Pope who was inconsistent because he was not easily labeled as politically liberal or conservative. It never occurs to them that it is we who are conflicted; that our divisions are something to be overcome. The Pope spoke to what Abraham Lincoln called the better angels of our nature. He was not someone seeking political advantage or gain. He sought peace and unity, and nowhere was this more clear than in his historic outreach to non-Catholic Christians, to the Jewish people, and to moderate Muslims.

Our commentators might not get this, but the world's people certainly do. As is clear from the different languages one hears in Rome as people wait to file past the Pope, this was a man who belonged to the world. And the Pope's trips to this country will never be forgotten. People in this country stood in the rain to attend papal masses in Boston and Miami, New Orleans and New York. Youth from around the world came to celebrate with him in Denver. Though this was a man with a universal message, I think that he had a certain American spirit as well. He was a kindred spirit. His faith in the future, and in the inherent dignity of man, made him at home with the American people, and it is appropriate that this nation, which was blessed with his visits on numerous occasions, will be flying its flags at half staff until his interment on Friday.

This weekend the Catholic Church lost its shepherd. For over a quarter of a century, Pope John Paul II watched over his flock. With his death this weekend, I am sure that there are some who feel lost, but they should not forget the Pope's reminder: "Be not afraid." When he reminded his native Poles of this, they changed the course of history. In his passing we should take heed as well. We will miss him, and we will mourn, but we have faith that he is now at peace and at one with his Lord.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on Saturday evening the world lost a voice for peace, justice, and human dignity.

Born in Poland in 1920, Pope John Paul II grew up in the aftermath of World War I. As a young man, he witnessed the injustice of the Nazi occupation of his country, lived amid the horrendous crimes of the Holocaust, and survived decades of repression behind the Iron Curtain.

Out of those experiences, he developed a hopeful view of the world that

defined his 26 years as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, and he shared that vision with Catholics and non-Catholics worldwide.

As the first non-Italian Pope since 1523, Pope John Paul II was a truly groundbreaking figure. He redefined the papacy, coming out from behind the walls of the Vatican to travel to 129 countries and literally reach out to people wherever he went.

Through his travel—more than any other Pope—he helped rejuvenate and expand Catholicism to areas far beyond its roots.

During his 26 years as Pope, the Catholic Church grew from 750 million people to over 1 billion, with most of that growth coming from the third world.

For those in developing countries who struggled merely to survive, the Pope was a strong advocate for economic justice. And for those who lived under repression, he was a powerful voice for freedom.

His 1979 visit to his native Poland is viewed as the spark that ignited the labor movement which toppled communism in Poland and led to its demise throughout Eastern Europe a decade later.

It was his powerful yet simple belief in the value of human life that brought him to challenge violence wherever he saw it.

He chastised the brutal Communist governments of Eastern Europe. He criticized the military junta that governed Brazil in the early 1980s. He condemned nuclear war while meeting with survivors of the Hiroshima bombing. He called for an end to the violence in Northern Ireland. And he appealed for human rights in Cuba.

The Pope consistently urged leaders and citizens alike to seek peace and respect human life.

The Pope also sought to heal wounds. He apologized for the errors of Catholics over the last 2,000 years and for injustices against Jews, women, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and the poor. He acknowledged the failure of many Catholics to help Jews during the Holocaust. And more recently, he condemned the sexual abuse of children by priests in the United States.

The Pope reached out to members of other faiths at a time of growing sectarian violence and religious strife.

He was the first Pope to pray in a synagogue, the first to visit Auschwitz, and the first to make an official papal visit to the Holy Land—John Paul II made great strides in improving relations between Catholics and Jews.

And just as he acknowledged the mistakes made by his Church and its members, he also demonstrated a willingness to forgive those who had done harm to him.

In December 1983, he met with the man who had attempted to assassinate him 2½ half years earlier. During that meeting, the Pope forgave the man who had shot him three times.

The Pope regularly visited the United States and met with five Presidents. He believed that the U.S. had a

special responsibility to the world calling on our Nation to be “for the world, an example of a genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society.”

In recent years, even as his health deteriorated, he refused to give up. And in this, he served as a model to millions of people throughout the world about how faith and willpower can overcome adversity.

Indeed, I cannot remember a Pope who has been more warmly received and loved. I had the great honor to meet him at the Vatican in 1982 where I presented him with a cross sculpted from handguns melted down after being turned into police when they were banned in San Francisco. He received my gift warmly, giving me a rosary in return.

The world has lost a strong voice for peace, justice, and human dignity. Pope John Paul II will be dearly missed.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I watched with great sadness this weekend as the world lost a remarkable leader and faithful servant. Pope John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyla, was the leader of the world’s largest church and shepherd to more than a billion Catholics throughout the world. In my home State of North Dakota, more than 130,000 Catholics are mourning the Pope’s death this week and praying for the repose of his soul. I join these faithful and millions of others in grieving for the Holy Father who spread a message of peace and charity during his 26-year-long pontificate.

Reflecting on the Pope’s legacy, I will forever admire his bravery, both in answering God’s call and in challenging corrupt governments for the sake of humanity. In his first mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in 1978, Pope John Paul II called on Catholics throughout the world to “be not afraid.”

The Pope spent his entire life living that call. Born on the eve of World War II, Pope John Paul knew the horrors of war; the Nazis forced him into labor when they invaded Poland in 1939. During this period, he found comfort in his Catholic faith and challenged the Nazis by attending illegal prayer meetings. These experiences hardened his conviction that war is “always a defeat for humanity.”

He again answered the call to “be not afraid” when he challenged the Soviet Union and the tyranny of communism in his homeland, Poland. Both as Archbishop of Krakow and then as Pope, John Paul II provided religious strength to those fighting these regimes. He is credited with helping to topple communism in Poland, and his steadfastness against oppression in all forms will forever be honored.

There may be no event more telling of his commitment to bravery and mercy than the attempt on his life in 1981. After being shot twice, nearly resulting in his death, the Pope recovered and continued his public works. Two years after the shooting, he visited his attacker in jail and offered his

forgiveness. Responding to this act of evil with compassion and grace, John Paul served as a witness to what humanity should strive to become.

The world has lost a great leader and the father of a religious family. John Paul II will be remembered as a teacher and defender of the faith he was called to serve. He will be honored as a diplomat and as a revolutionary in the fight against injustice and oppression. And he will provide us ongoing inspiration to respect human dignity and the worth of all humankind.

I am saddened by the loss of this just and holy man; however, I am joyful that he surely has passed to a more perfect place and is in communion with the God he served so faithfully. My thoughts and prayers are with the Catholic community and all those who mourn the death of Pope John Paul II.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (No. S. 600) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be considering S. 600, the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. The Foreign Relations Committee passed this bill on March 3 by a vote of 18-0. This is the third successive year that the Foreign Relations Committee has reported out a comprehensive Foreign Affairs Authorization bill by a unanimous vote. We are pleased to have this opportunity to bring it to the floor for the Senate’s consideration. I want to especially thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader for their assistance and support in bringing this measure to the floor.

This legislation gives voice to Senate views on issues touching every continent—from the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, to the safety of Americans working in our embassies overseas, to an increased and focused effort to spur economic growth in the poorest countries. It authorizes the executive branch to take important actions on a wide range of issues. And, it authorizes appropriations for our diplomats, our foreign aid workers, and our Peace Corps volunteers, as well as the programs and policies that they manage on behalf of the United States.

These people are our civilian soldiers—they pursue a bold war on terrorism and a noble and far-sighted battle against disease, poverty, and humanitarian disasters. Most work in circumstances where the threat level is severe. American diplomats and aid workers frequently have been targets of terrorism while serving overseas. But they understand the importance of representing the United States, and they go anyway.

At this time in our history we are experiencing a confluence of foreign policy crises that is unparalleled in the post-Cold War era. Our Nation has lived through the September 11 tragedy, and we have responded with a worldwide war against terrorism. We have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are likely to be engaged in security and reconstruction efforts for years to come. We have been confronted by nuclear proliferation problems in North Korea and Iran that threaten U.S. national security and regional stability. We are continuing efforts to safeguard Russia’s massive stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and to prevent proliferation throughout the world. We have experienced strains in the Atlantic Alliance, even as we have expanded it. We are trying to respond to the AIDS pandemic in Africa, the natural disasters in the Indian Ocean region, and the man-made calamity in Sudan. We are trying to take advantage of openings in the Middle East peace process and spur the advance of democracy in many countries. Emerging powers, including China, India, and Brazil, may soon reconfigure the world economically and politically in ways that we do not yet comprehend.

There is a tendency in the media and sometimes in this body to see diplomatic activities as the rival of military solutions to problems. We have to get beyond this simplistic formulation. We have to understand that our military and our diplomats are both instruments of U.S. national power that depend on one another. They both help shape the international environment and influence the attitudes of governments and peoples. They both gather information and provide expertise that is vital to the war on terrorism. And they both must be unsurpassed in their capabilities, if the United States is going to survive and prosper.

Americans rightly demand that U.S. military capabilities be unrivaled in the world. Should not our diplomatic strength meet the same test? If a greater commitment of resources can prevent the bombing of one of our embassies, or the proliferation of a nuclear weapon, or the spiral into chaos of a vulnerable nation wracked by disease and hunger, the investment will have yielded dividends far beyond its cost.

In considering this legislation today, it is important to remember that since the end of the Cold War, the Foreign Affairs Account frequently has suffered