

after 12 years as Quincy's mayor, Chuck Scholz is stepping down.

It was clear from his earliest days as mayor that Chuck Scholz was a leader. Days after he was sworn in, the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1993 deluged Quincy and many other towns up and down the Mississippi. Even when the flood waters made the bridges connecting Quincy to West Quincy, MO, impassable—leaving the region isolated—Chuck Scholz never panicked. He led a relief effort that brought together Federal, State, and local resources. After the flood waters receded, he worked with communities in three States to lay the foundation for cooperative economic development efforts that continue to this day. He turned destruction and despair into focused determination. His influence on Quincy is so positive and so pervasive that today, many of us cannot think of Quincy or western Illinois without thinking of Chuck Scholz.

Chuck is a compassionate public servant and a talented lawyer. He is also an avid Quincy historian. In 1994, he was able to relive an important chapter in Quincy's history when he welcomed President Abraham Lincoln to the city. Actually, it was a very convincing actor who was playing Lincoln in a re-creation of the famous 1860 Lincoln-Douglas Presidential debates in Quincy. The debate was covered live on C-SPAN.

Mayor Scholz also welcomed a living President to Quincy. Hours after President Bill Clinton delivered his final State of the Union Address in 2000, Air Force One touched down at Quincy's Baldwin Field, and President Clinton delivered a speech in Washington Park. That visit and so many other remarkable events—would not have happened without Mayor Scholz's leadership.

The Scholz administration leaves an impressive list of accomplishments, from lowering property taxes to improving city services and enhancing public safety. Working hard and in a bipartisan manner, Chuck Scholz has made the "Gem City" shine even brighter. Quincy is a more prosperous, more vibrant, more beautiful, and more hopeful place than when he first became mayor.

Chuck Scholz is proud of the sister city bonds he helped forge between Quincy and the cities of Hereford, Germany, and Jiaying, China. He has hosted Presidents, bishops, Supreme Court Justices, and dignitaries from many nations. But his favorite conversations have always been with Quincians. He loves chatting with local grade school students and rewarding them for good grades with one of his famous red, white, and blue bookmarks.

Retiring as mayor will allow Chuck to spend more time with his wife Becky and his sons Charles and Jake. He will rediscover the law and maybe even spend a bit more time on the golf course or conducting the Quincy Park Band. But I know his service to his hometown will never stop.

As Chuck Scholz prepares to begin this next chapter in his life, I wish him well and I join many others in thanking him for 12 years of remarkable service to his community.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT ROCKY PAYNE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of SGT Rocky Payne, a soldier in the Army's 497th Transportation Group, who bravely gave his life in service to his country. Sergeant Rocky Payne, a native of Howell, UT, was killed on March 16, 2005, in an explosion created by a roadside bomb in the city of Baghdad. Sergeant Payne is a true hero who died defending his Nation and bringing freedom to an oppressed people.

Sergeant Payne's dream of being a soldier was fulfilled when he joined the Marines at the age of 20, serving 4 years. Shortly after the end of his enlistment with the Marines he joined the Army and was again sent to Iraq, this time as a gunner protecting the supply convoys that make our operations in Iraq possible. In honor of his dedication and service he was posthumously advanced to the rank of sergeant.

I have been told that as a young man SGT Payne exhibited an unusual ability to work with his hands. Old bicycles and electronics found new life under his determined resourcefulness. He restored an old rusty truck which hadn't run in years to working condition in only 2 days. Possessing the ability to play piano by ear, SGT Payne apparently could reconstruct a tune he had heard only once and play it on the piano. But it was when his hands were placed in the service of others that they did the most good. "He was a good, good person," his brother is reported as saying. "One of the kindest people you would ever come across." As a soldier SGT Payne fought bravely to ensure that the people of Iraq would one day enjoy freedom from oppression. "He loved serving," said his father in one newspaper story. "He honestly felt like he was helping the Iraqi people."

Sergeant Payne served his country with courage and honor and his loss is one that our entire country will share forever.

FREEDOM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this past weekend millions of Jews around the world celebrated the beginning of the Passover holiday. Gathered at Seder tables with family and friends, they commemorated the Israelites' exodus from Egypt almost 4,000 years ago.

Jewish law dictates, however, that the Jewish people must do more on Passover than merely remember their ancestors' time in bondage. They must strive to reenact the experience.

Using matzah and bitter herbs, the Seder is an endeavor to recreate the past. To literally taste the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of freedom.

It is also an opportunity to sharpen awareness of an alarming yet oft-overlooked truth: that millions of men, women and children around the world are still enslaved and have yet to know freedom.

Ultimately the Passover Seder is a modern call to action. It reminds that until all people know the joy of freedom, none of us is truly free.

Many Jews use the Seder not only to celebrate the value of freedom, but to call attention to regions of the world where the spirit of slavery lives on in places like Darfur, Sudan.

For over 2 years now, the Darfur people have been terrorized by violence. Millions have been oppressed by threats of death and destruction. Meanwhile, untold numbers of refugees have fled across the scorched earth, seeking refuge from their taskmasters.

The genocide that rages on in Darfur is a modern derivative of slavery. With the support of the Khartoum Government, Janjaweed militia groups commit mass looting, raping and violence inspired by ethnic hatred.

A recent analysis by the coalition for International Justice indicates that nearly 400,000 civilians have died since the conflict began 2 years ago. Over 140,000 have been killed by Sudanese Government forces. And an estimated 250,000 Darfur civilians have perished from disease and starvation stemming from displacement.

Recently, there has also been a disturbing trend of intimidation directed at aid workers in the region. The Red Cross reports that attacks on aid convoys in Darfur have increased in recent weeks. And last month, a USAID worker was intentionally shot point blank in an attempt to thwart humanitarian efforts and spread fear and intimidation.

Having personally visited the refugee camps on the Chad-Sudan border and met with survivors, I know that millions of our brothers and sisters are still crushed under the yoke of slavery and fear. Millions of them still do not know what it means to be free.

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel recently commented that "All are entitled to live with dignity and hope. All are entitled to live without fear and pain. Not to assist Sudan's victims today would for me be unworthy of what I have learned from my teachers, my ancestors and my friends, namely that God alone is alone: His creatures must *not* be."

We must reject this form of slavery by oppression. We must stop the killings. The death toll will only rise without immediate, convincing and unified intervention by the international community.

It is our obligation as free people to bring hope and banish repression.

And it is my belief that we should use the message shared by the Passover

story, and, indeed, the wisdom of all traditions, to guide us wisely on our Journey.

RUSSIA'S G-8 PROBLEM

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, this summer Russia will assume the rotating leadership position of the Group of Eight nations for the first time. I have expressed my concern repeatedly about the democratic deterioration in Russia and I believe that, unless the Russian leadership makes significant democratic progress, its continued membership in the G-8 should be blocked. Since Senator LIEBERMAN and I first expressed this view in a resolution we submitted in 2003, I have heard similar sentiments from Senate colleagues and individuals outside the Congress. Many observers across the political and ideological spectrum are concerned by Russia's retreat from core democratic principles.

President Vladimir Putin recently delivered an address aimed at reassuring the world that he takes democracy seriously. And while a number of the passages were welcome, others displayed a view of history and of Russia's role in the world that is simply astonishing. I would like to share with my colleagues today's Washington Post editorial that makes this point in detail.

Moscow's commitment to democracy and the rule of law is a vital element of America's relationship with Russia, and with Russia's ties to various multilateral institutions. I hope that the Russian leadership might see that its national interests lie in cooperation, not competition, with democratic countries. I also hope that Russia will change many elements of its policy toward smaller neighbors. Russia has based Russian troops in Georgia and Moldova without the consent of those countries, thereby undermining their sovereignty and violating international law.

If the Kremlin persists in persecuting Mr. Putin's political rivals, cracking down on the free media, and intimidating countries along Russian borders, I believe that Russian chairmanship of the G-8 is entirely inappropriate. Again, I recommend to my colleagues the Washington Post editorial I submit for the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 27, 2005]

MR. PUTIN'S VERDICT

What was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century"? The rise of Nazi Germany? The spread of genocide as a tool of state power? Some might say it was the crushing of a host of nations by the totalitarian Soviet Union, at the cost of millions of lives. But not Russian President Vladimir Putin. For him, the greatest catastrophe was not the Soviet Union's rise but its collapse—an event that freed 14 of those nations, from

Latvia to Kyrgyzstan, from Moscow's domination. "The old ideals were destroyed," Mr. Putin lamented during his annual state-of-Russia address on Monday.

Most accounts of Mr. Putin's speech focused on the passages intended for Western consumption: his claim that "the development of Russia as a free and democratic state" is now his highest priority; his assurance to Russian and foreign business executives that their investments will not be seized by rapacious authorities, despite the state's recent confiscation of the country's largest oil company; his announced plans to strengthen political parties and make the state-controlled media more independent.

Yet the former KGB officer's nostalgia for the former Soviet empire seemed as telling as any of his promises. So did his denunciation of the "disintegration" of Russia before he came to power, which he defined as the "capitulation" of granting autonomy to Chechnya and the "unrestricted control over information flows" that allowed private business executives to operate newspapers and television networks. Mr. Putin has reversed both of those liberalizations—in Chechnya's case, by means of an ongoing war that has killed tens of thousands.

The Russian president has a short-term interest in burnishing what even he must recognize as a tarnished image. Early next month he is due to host numerous world leaders, including President Bush, in a celebration of the Soviet victory in World War II. This summer Mr. Putin is due to take over the rotating leadership of the Group of Eight, a club of industrial democracies in which Russia, an increasingly autocratic state that ranks 97th in the world in per capita gross domestic product, is glaringly out of place.

As Mr. Putin acknowledged Monday, his strategy for restoring Russian greatness depends heavily on his ability to attract Western capital and to maintain partnerships with the European Union and the United States.

But Mr. Putin would like to achieve these goals while consolidating the Kremlin's restored diktat and reviving what he called "the Russian nation's civilizing mission in the Eurasian continent." That's why the best measures of Mr. Putin are not speeches but actions. One important test will be his handling of neighbors such as Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, which have embraced democracy and rejected Mr. Putin's neoimperialism. Will he adjust his approach to those countries, and withdraw unwanted Russian troops from Georgia and Moldova?

Another comes today at the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the entrepreneur who built the Yukos oil conglomerate and used it to help finance Russia's liberal democratic opposition. For daring to behave as if Russia were the free and capitalist-friendly country that Mr. Putin describes, Mr. Khodorkovsky was arrested and subjected to a show trial, even as his company, Russia's most modern, was broken up.

Today he will receive his verdict; prosecutors have requested a prison sentence of 10 years. The outcome ought to tell the Bush administration and other Western governments something important about a leader who would set the agenda for the world's advanced democracies.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of a resolution currently before the Senate

commemorating law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty. Every day, men and women all across our nation put their lives on the line to protect our citizens, our families, and our communities. Having served as Attorney General for the State of Colorado, I know first hand how dedicated our law enforcement professionals are, and I strongly believe that one of our Government's most important priorities is supporting these men and women—not only by providing them with the resources they need to get the job done, but by publicly recognizing the truly unparalleled work they do each and every day.

While we frequently commend law enforcement officers for their willingness to put their lives on the line for the safety and security of our citizens, and while we are right to do so, it is still unfathomable when one of these men and women does make the ultimate sacrifice. It is unfathomable that those who volunteer for such noble work, as well as the families who support them, should pay such a price.

Next week, I will be attending a law enforcement memorial event in Colorado. Like the resolution my colleagues and I are submitting today, this annual event commemorates those law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty. This year, we will remember the lives and work of two Colorado law enforcement officers killed in the past year: Deputy Travis Sass of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and Deputy William Truesdale of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

In memorializing Deputy Sass, Deputy Truesdale, and others like them across the country, we should remember them not for the tragic way they died, but for the noble way they lived—risking their own lives to protect others. That is why the resolution my colleagues and I are submitting today is so important. As difficult as it is to accept that their lives have been lost, it is imperative that we always remember the contributions they made, and that our dedicated men and women in law enforcement continue to make each and every day.

ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I join my colleagues Senators CANTWELL, CRAIG, MURRAY, and SMITH, in support of S. 206, the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2005.

Thousands of years ago, Glacial Lake Missoula broke through its ice dam, releasing cataclysmic floods that forever changed the terrain of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This natural phenomenon is responsible for the unique beauty of western Montana. However, few people know the history behind our rugged landscape.

The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2005 designates a trail, primarily public roads and highways, from Missoula, Montana