

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, has the Senator from Alabama finished?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would like a few minutes to finish up if the Senator will yield.

Mr. TALENT. I will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank Senator TALENT for his courtesy which is well-known in this body.

Mr. President, Senator LIEBERMAN is correct. The families I talk to so often say to me about their son or daughter or spouse who lost their life that they loved their work, they were doing what they wanted to do, they believed in what they were doing, and that gives them comfort. I have heard that over and over again. It is very similar to what the Senator heard today.

I know the Senator's call was very comforting to the family because I know the Senator has the sensitivity and judgment to reach out to them in the proper way. It is not an easy thing to do, for sure.

I have, indeed, valued the Senator's partnership on the Airland Subcommittee. We have never had a harsh word nor even a serious disagreement. It does show that those of us who are from different parties love America, we want to see our military using the money wisely and doing the right things with it.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with the Senator from Connecticut. I have learned so much from him.

I will not go over the benefits of the program, which Senator LIEBERMAN has already mentioned. I think that this legislation is a step in the right direction. I would note that it is retroactive to the beginning of the war in Afghanistan. I would also note that the Defense Department has studied this legislation. I asked them to do that last year as part of our Defense bill. They support it. It will have an initial cost estimated at \$459 million, and it should drop to half of that in the future and hopefully much less than that. I think these costs are clearly justified.

Our service members are assigned all over the globe in dangerous parts of the world. As an editorial in the San Diego Union Tribune said:

The costs are beside the point. This is a case in which lawmakers have a moral obligation to do the right thing, regardless of cost.

I think this legislation is the right thing. I do believe we have great support so far and I look forward to seeing it become law. I also thank the Chair for his cosponsorship of this legislation.

I thank Senator TALENT for his courtesy, and I yield the floor.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I was happy to yield to my friend. I thought he was finished or I would not have sought the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP IN POLAND

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of Mr. WYDEN and myself to speak about a resolution we are submitting to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz, where more than 1 million people were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. Sixty years ago tomorrow, allied forces successfully liberated the most notorious of Nazi death camps, freeing those who managed to live in the most deplorable of conditions and yet somehow survive the greatest evil the world has ever witnessed.

For 5 long years at Auschwitz, men, women, and children arrived in cattle cars from all parts of Europe. Whether young or old, rich or poor, they were systematically stripped of their dignity before being murdered because of their religion and their deeply held faith in God. But 60 years ago tomorrow the genocide ended and the gates to freedom were opened.

With the passage of time, people tend to forget the events of the past, particularly if those events occurred well before their birth. The survivors of Auschwitz are elderly and they are dwindling in number, but their stories of how good successfully triumphed over evil will live on in our history and our hearts.

The resolution Senator WYDEN and I introduce today commemorates Auschwitz and urges all Americans to remember those who were murdered there, murdered for nothing more than practicing their religion. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations never to forget that horror.

I am pleased to say leaders from around the world, including Vice President and Mrs. Cheney, are traveling to Poland for tomorrow's commemoration ceremony. They will be joined by survivors who are still able to make the trip out into the Polish countryside.

I hope this resolution will serve as a reminder that the Senate, indeed all Americans, remembers the events of 60 years ago tomorrow. It is also my hope that when anti-Semitism rears its ugly head, the world will feel a collective responsibility to stand up and speak out against religious hatred. That at least will give meaning to the sacrifice of those who were murdered and incinerated in the ovens of Auschwitz.

Mr. President, I am informed that the resolution has been cleared on both sides. I am very pleased to hear that. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 18, which was submitted earlier today, the resolution about which I have been speaking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:  
A resolution (S. Res. 18) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Poland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

#### LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, perhaps more than any other word, Auschwitz is synonymous with evil.

Sixty years ago today, Russian soldiers liberated Auschwitz.

The horrors of Auschwitz are incomprehensible and undescrivable.

Over 1 million people lost their lives at Auschwitz—the largest of the Nazi death camps. Ninety percent were Jews. Hundreds of thousands were children.

Auschwitz represented the Germans' campaign to exterminate a people—the Jews. They almost succeeded—killing 2 out of 3 Jews in Europe.

As a Polish American, I carry the images of Auschwitz in my heart.

The Nazis considered all Poles to be an inferior race. After Poland was conquered, German authorities expelled much of the native Polish population from regions of the newly annexed territories. Polish cities were given German names and German settlers were colonized on Polish land. In occupied Poland, the Nazi Governor, Hans Frank, proclaimed: "Poles will become slaves in the Third Reich."

The Nazis set out to destroy Polish culture. Thousands of Polish teachers, politicians, university professors and artists were executed or sent to Nazi concentration camps. Catholic priests were among the main targets of Nazi mass murder in Poland.

In fact, Auschwitz was created as an internment camp for Polish dissidents. And thousands of Poles were murdered alongside the Jews in Auschwitz.

Many Poles risked their lives to save Jews:

Irena Sendler was a young social worker in Warsaw. She used her position to smuggle 200 Jewish children out of the ghetto to safe houses. In 1943, Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo, brutally tortured and condemned to death. On the day of her execution, she was freed with the help of the Jewish underground.

Irena Adamowicz, a Polish Catholic, aided in establishing contacts between the Jewish Underground and the main Polish resistance organization.

Jan Karski, who, while working for the Polish Government in exile, was one of the few outsiders to visit the Warsaw Ghetto. He appealed to the Allies to do something.

As a Polish American, I traveled to Poland in the late 1970s. I was a Congresswoman. And I wanted to see my heritage. I went to the small village where my family came from. It was a very moving and historic experience.

But I also wanted to see the dark side of my history, and I went to Auschwitz.

In touring Auschwitz, it was an incredibly moving experience to go through the gate, to see the sign, to go to see the chambers. I went to a cell that had been occupied by Father

Kolbe, a Catholic priest who gave his life for a Jewish man there.

And then, for those of you who don't know, I am a social worker, I have been a child abuse worker and I don't flinch.

But then I got half way through that tour and I came to a point in that tour where I saw the bins with glasses and the children's shoes, and this 40-something-year-old Congresswoman could not go on.

I became unglued. I had to remove myself from the small tour, go off into a private place in Auschwitz, cry in a way that shook my very soul. And when I left there, I thought, now I really know why we need an Israel.

And that is why I will fight so hard to ensure the survival of Israel. I know its importance. I know why it exists. I will always fight for the survival and the viability of the State of Israel. My support is unabashed and unwavering.

I also know why it is so important for us educate our young people—about the effects of hatred, about the importance of history.

That is why I have worked with the Polish and Jewish communities in Baltimore to develop a U.S.-Poland-Israel Exchange program. Young people from America, Poland and Israel will join together to learn about each other's history and culture. They will visit Poland and Israel, to visit historical and religious sites, to learn together about history and to work together to build a brighter future.

In closing, I would like to read the words of Eli Weisel:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreathes of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God himself.

Mr. President, 60 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, let us pledge never to forget. And let us honor those who died in the holocaust by fighting against bigotry, hate crimes, and intolerance.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, since I am going to ask on behalf of the leader the resolution be agreed to, I want to express my gratitude to his office and the Democratic leader's office for their expeditious handling of this resolution, and also Senator WYDEN and all those who have cosponsored it.

On their behalf, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the able.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 18

Whereas on January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz extermination camp in Poland was liberated by Allied Forces during World War II after almost 5 years of murder, rape, and torture;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 innocent civilians were murdered at the Auschwitz extermination camp;

Whereas the Auschwitz extermination camp symbolizes the brutality of the Holocaust;

Whereas Americans must never forget the terrible crimes against humanity committed at the Auschwitz extermination camp and must educate future generations to promote understanding of the dangers of intolerance in order to prevent similar injustices from happening again; and

Whereas commemoration of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp will instill in all Americans a greater awareness of the Holocaust: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates January 27, 2005, as the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp by Allied Forces during World War II; and

(2) calls on all Americans to remember the more than 1,000,000 innocent victims murdered at the Auschwitz extermination camp as part of the Holocaust.

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

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

#### DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on Friday of this week we will be holding in the Democratic Policy Committee a hearing that deals with part of our overall goal to hold oversight hearings that are not being held by committees. This Friday's hearing will be on the subject of Social Security. Among the witnesses at this hearing will be Franklin Delano Roosevelt's grandson, the AARP, and we will have a couple of employees of the Social Security Administration who will testify about efforts inside the Social Security Administration to get some of the career employees to push the issue of privatization and the issue that there is, in fact, a crisis in Social Security. We are going to have a hearing on these issues.

Incidentally, we have invited witnesses who will provide a full range of opinions. A representative of the Cato Institute is invited to appear. As we have always done with our hearings, we have people with divergent viewpoints. As I indicated previously, I would invite any Republicans to join us at any of our hearings at any time.

Our intention is not to have hearings that are "gotcha." Our intention is to have hearings, however, in circumstances where we believe oversight

has not occurred. These hearings will give us an opportunity to explore issues in a more aggressive way.

We held hearings previously, for example, on contract abuses in Iraq by the Halliburton corporation. We will have another hearing on that subject, along with allegations about another company engaged in contract abuses in Iraq, because there is substantial waste, fraud, and abuse. The evidence of that is all around us. There is precious little effort or energy on the part of some in Congress to take a look at it and deal with it and do something about it.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to make a couple of comments about the future of Social Security because the President talked about this issue again this morning. This is a big issue. I noticed in a recent newspaper article that someone, who philosophically doesn't appear to believe in Social Security, said: "Social Security is the soft underbelly of the welfare state."

Social Security is a program that was signed into law by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1930's. It is an insurance program. Money is taken from workers' paychecks in the form of something called FICA taxes. The "I" in FICA is insurance, not investment. Social Security is an insurance program. It has lifted tens of millions of elderly people out of poverty in this country. It has been amazingly successful. It is not in crisis. The President did not use that word—"crisis"—today, but he has used it the past, and others also have. It is not in crisis.

We have a responsibility with respect to the Social Security system to make some adjustments as we go along. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Social Security system will be fully solvent until the year 2052. In the period beyond 2052, if no changes are made, Social Security would be able to pay about 80 percent of what we now pay in benefits. In fact, people are living longer, healthier, better lives as a result of Social Security. Yes, it is successful. People are living longer and healthier lives. We can and will and should make some adjustments in Social Security, but major surgery is not needed. I do not support privatized accounts in the Social Security system.

With respect to retirement security, we have two things. Social Security is the foundation. That is the basic retirement insurance. It is the one without risk and that will be there no matter what. Above that, we have retirement investments, 401(k)s, IRAs, and other private pension programs. I support those as well. I have supported aggressive incentives for the American people to invest in the stock market, in 401(k)s and IRAs and other retirement accounts. That is different than Social Security, the basic foundation of retirement security. The President suggests we should begin taking apart