

right thing to do and that the President was the victim of an intelligence mistake. This marks the third leader to support President Bush's decision to seek a regime change in Iraq. He added that Saddam accepted the U.N. resolutions following the first Gulf War but chose to ignore them.

Before the meeting ended I asked Peres if he was really smiling in the picture where he is shaking hands with Yasser Arafat. He recalled the moment and stated that without Arafat there would have been no agreement but with Arafat the agreement would never be fulfilled.

After an overnight rest stop in Frankfurt, Germany, we returned to the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN BACHMAN

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate Newberry College and its founder, Dr. John Bachman, on the occasion of the school's 150th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1856, Newberry College has become one of South Carolina's leading institutes of higher education. I am proud to recognize Newberry and honor Dr. Bachman.

Dr. Bachman originally came to South Carolina from New York in 1815. Settling in Charleston, he became pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, where he served faithfully and honorably for 56 years. Dr. Bachman quickly became a pillar of the Charleston community. He baptized hundreds of locals into membership at St. John's during his tenure and is even known to have educated slaves as well as freemen of African descent. He helped found and served twice as president of the South Carolina Lutheran Synod from 1824 to 1833 and again from 1839 to 1840. As Synod president, Dr. Bachman took action that led to establishment in 1831 of a school to train Lutheran ministers, now known as the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Columbia, SC.

A seminal and active member of the "Circle of Naturalists," Dr. Bachman had a keen interest in the natural history of South Carolina's Lowcountry. He is known to have discovered or described many birds and mammals previously unknown to science and frequently published letters and short articles about his natural history observations in local and regional publications including the South Carolina Medical Journal.

In December 1856, Dr. Bachman helped found Newberry College as a Lutheran-based liberal arts institution north of Columbia at Newberry. Dr. Bachman served as first president of the Newberry College Board of Trustees beginning in January 1857. During his tenure, he took many actions to assure the high quality of secular and religious education that has existed for 150 years.

Dr. Bachman was a true academic, devoted to his church and to God, to science and natural history, to his community and country, and to secular and religious education. He died at the age of 84 in February 1874, but Dr. Bachman's legacy is alive and well at Newberry College. On April 20, 2006, the Newberry Alumni Association will begin the school's Sesquicentennial Celebration with a major 4-day symposium entitled "Nature, God, and Social Reform in the Old South: The Life and Work of the Rev. John Bachman."

It is with great respect that I commemorate the life's work of Dr. John Bachman and recognize the rich history he inaugurated at Newberry College.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC NAMESNIK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I, along with my colleague Senator STABENOW, would like to take this opportunity to bring our colleagues' attention to a tragic event that took place last month in Pittsfield Township, MI. On January 11, 2006, Eric Namesnik, a two-time Olympic silver medalist and University of Michigan swimming standout, died from injuries sustained during a traffic accident on January 7. Eric was best known in the swimming community for his discipline, toughness, tremendous dedication, and many accomplishments, most notably in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games. During his career, Eric broke the American 400-meter Individual medley, IM, record four times. Eric, affectionately known by many as "Snik," was remembered by his family, friends and the community in a celebration of his life at Canham Natatorium at the University of Michigan on January 17.

Eric was born in Butler, PA, on August 7, 1970, and enrolled at the University of Michigan in 1988. As a Wolverine, Snik helped lead the men's swim team to four straight Big Ten Championships and enjoyed the distinction of finishing in the top six nationally during all 4 of his years at Michigan. In 1991 and 1993, Eric earned the No. 1 world ranking in the 400-meter IM. Eric won silver in the 400-meter IM in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Eric also won two silver medals at the 1991 world championships and a bronze medal at the 1994 world championships.

To give you a sense of Eric as a person, Chuck Wielgus, executive director of USA Swimming, offered these words. "The loss of Eric Namesnik is shocking for the entire swimming community. Snik represented everything great about the Olympic movement. His work ethic, toughness and dedication were the embodiment of an Olympian, and they made him one of the most admired competitors the sport of swimming has seen." His long-time coach at Michigan, Jon Urbanchek, said of Eric, "What he did for Michigan is immeasurable. It's not just how fast he swam,

but the good person he was, the character. He had his life in perspective and knew that his family was at the center of his life. Eric was an unbelievable human being."

After Eric's competitive swimming career ended, he accepted a position as an assistant swim coach at the University of Michigan. From 1997 to 2004, he helped coach 11 Olympians, and the Wolverines won three Big Ten titles. After coaching at Michigan for 7 years, Eric became the head coach of the Wolverine Aquatics Swim Club in Ann Arbor and an assistant men's swimming coach at Eastern Michigan University.

Eric's love for swimming was evidenced not only by his many accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career in the pool, but also by his efforts to help shape the lives of many young people learning the sport. At Wolverine Aquatics, Eric served as an inspirational role model for hundreds of up-and-coming swimmers. Today, his swimmers are wearing blue wristbands inscribed "Swim 4 Snik" in his honor and swim caps with the words "Snik" and one of Eric's mantras: "D3," which stands for desire, determination and dedication.

In keeping with the kind of person Eric was, his last act was to give life to others through the gift of organ donation. He is survived by his wife Kirsten, their two young children, Austin and Madison, his mother and father, Kay and John, and his sister Leesa. Mr. President, Eric Namesnik's medals may have been silver but his heart was pure gold. He will be deeply missed.●

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CURT GOWDY

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Curtis Edward Gowdy. Sadly, Curt passed away on February 20, at the age of 86.

Curt was born on July 31, 1919, in Green River, WY. Curt's passion for sports began early in life. He grew up in Laramie, WY, hunting and fishing in some of America's most beautiful country. When Curt began playing basketball in high school, he became Wyoming's leading high school scorer, standing only 5 feet 9 inches tall. After high school graduation, Curt enrolled at the University of Wyoming, where he played as a forward on the Cowboy basketball team, earning three varsity letters. He also lettered three times in tennis before graduating from the University in 1942 with a degree in business statistics.

With college behind him, Curt joined the Army Air Forces to serve his country as a fighter pilot in World War II. However, a ruptured disk from an earlier sports injury disqualified him from service, and he was medically discharged. While recuperating from a spinal operation in Cheyenne, a radio station asked him to announce for the eastern Wyoming high school football

championship game in November of 1943. And so began the career of one of the greatest play-by-play sports announcers our country has ever known.

Soon after covering the Wyoming high school football championship, Curt was hired by a CBS radio affiliate in Oklahoma City to call University of Oklahoma football games. In 1949, he joined Mel Allen to broadcast New York Yankee games, and 2 years later, he became the No. 1 broadcaster for the Boston Red Sox. He remained the radio voice of the Red Sox for 15 years. As Dick Vitale stated, "Gowdy had a love affair with the microphone and his fans had a love affair with him." During this time, Curt also began television broadcasting, covering college and American Football League games in addition to baseball.

When NBC picked up the AFL games in 1966, Curt Gowdy became the leading personality of NBC Sports. He covered World Series, Super Bowls, NCAA final four championships, Olympic Games and somehow found time for his "Game of the Week" broadcast. Curt also remained the host and producer of ABC's "The American Sportsman" for nearly 20 years.

In later years, Curt was the host and producer of the public television series, "The Way It Was," reminiscing of great games with a panel of players who had participated in them. Gowdy also provided historic commentary for the HBO Sports program "Inside the NFL." In 2003, Gowdy returned to Fenway Park to call a Red Sox game against the Yankees as part of an ESPN promotion that brought back great broadcasters. He also coauthored two books, "Cowboy at the Mike" and "Seasons to Remember: The Way It Was in American Sports."

For his outstanding work, Curt was recognized in many ways. In 1970, he was the first sportscaster to be awarded the Peabody Award for Outstanding Journalistic Achievement. He was named the National Sportscaster of the Year seven times, and he received several Emmy awards for his work in television, including a lifetime achievement Emmy in 1992.

Curt was also inducted into numerous sports halls of fame. These include the broadcast wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Sports Writers and Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, the American Sportscasters Hall of Fame, the International Fishing Hall of Fame, the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame, the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame, the Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame, the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame, and the University of Wyoming Athletics Hall of Fame. In 1993, he received the Pro Football Hall of Fame Pete Rozelle Award for longtime exceptional contributions to radio and television in professional football. In addition, the Basketball Hall of Fame media award was named in honor of Curt, who served as president of the Basketball Hall of Fame for seven consecutive 1-year terms.

Wyoming swells with pride for our native son. Our State declared March 27, 1972, "Curt Gowdy Day," and held a large celebration in his honor. During the festivities, the University of Wyoming awarded Curt an honorary law degree, and the State named an 11,000-acre State park after him. Most recently, Curt was selected as a Wyoming Citizen of the Century Sports Finalist.

Mr. President, Curt made a point to get back to his home State regularly. He once referred to Wyoming fondly as the place "where I grew up with a fly rod in one hand and, a little later, a radio mike in the other." Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Curt remember him that way. He will be sorely missed.●

TRIBUTE TO PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wish to pay my respects to someone I knew very well, Preston Robert Tisch, who passed away last month of brain cancer. He was a distinguished American who, along with his brother, Laurence, built a giant financial enterprise. Bob was eminently successful at everything he did, particularly in his role as a husband, father, and grandfather.

I, like all who had contact with Bob Tisch, treasure my times with him. I send my deepest condolences to his wife and family. I ask to have printed in the RECORD a statement released by the New York Giants organization that so perfectly describes the life and accomplishments of Bob Tisch.

He will be long remembered for his productive life and his legacy of important leadership in all of his endeavors. We are all better off for Bob Tisch's contributions to our country.

The material follows.

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH (1926-2005)

Preston Robert "Bob" Tisch, the Giants' Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer, one of the nation's most respected and successful businessmen, a former United States Postmaster General, and an extremely generous philanthropist, died Tuesday night.

Tisch passed away from inoperable brain cancer, which was first diagnosed in the summer of 2004. He was 79. His death comes just three weeks after the passing of his fellow owner, Wellington Mara, who died of cancer on October 25 at the age of 89.

Tisch realized a longtime dream in 1991 when he completed negotiations with Wellington Mara's nephew, Tim Mara, and his family and paid \$75 million for a 50 percent interest in the Giants.

"I was very fortunate," Tisch said in a 2002 interview. "I got a call from (former Cleveland and Baltimore owner) Art Modell telling me that Tim Mara wanted to sell his half of the team and asking me if I would be interested in purchasing it. I met with Wellington Mara and John Mara and said I'd be very interested. There were no problems with them, and then I bought my share of the team from Tim Mara. It's been a great relationship and a great boon to me. I'm very happy to be the 50 percent owner of the New York Giants."

Tisch played an active role in the organization. As a member of the National Football

League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, he attained a prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

Owning the Giants was one of many careers Tisch pursued simultaneously. Forbes magazine ranks him 56th on its list of the country's 400 wealthiest people and estimates his net worth to be about \$3.9 billion.

He was the Chairman and Director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies. The company, with a 2004 net income of \$1.2 billion and assets exceeding \$74 billion, owns and operates 91 percent of CNA Financial Corporation; 100 percent of Lorillard; 100 percent of Boardwalk Pipelines, which consists of Texas Gas Transmission and Gulf South Pipelines; 52 percent of Diamond Offshore Drilling; 100 percent of Loews Hotels and 100 percent of Bulova.

Tisch served as Postmaster General of the United States from August 1986 until returning to New York in March 1988. Prior to his appointment as Postmaster, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Loews Corporation and its corporate predecessor, Loews Theaters, Inc., a position held from 1960 until his appointment as Co-Chairman and Co-CEO.

Tisch also served as Chairman of the New York Convention & Visitors Bureau for 19 years and currently serves as the Bureau's (now called NYC & Co.) Chairman Emeritus. He was also founding Chairman of the New York City Convention and Exhibition Center Corporation and Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Democratic National Conventions held in New York City in 1976 and 1980.

In May 1990, Mayor David Dinkins appointed Tisch as New York City's Ambassador to Washington, D.C. Through 1993, he served as a liaison between the City of New York and his friends and colleagues in both the national government in Washington, D.C. and the business community in New York City.

From 1990-1993, Tisch served as Chairman of the New York City Partnership, Inc. and the New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was instrumental in developing a campaign to enhance New York's position as an international business center. After completing his stint as chairman, Tisch remained on the Board of Directors of both organizations, now merged.

Tisch was also a Trustee of New York University.

The Giants, however, were truly a labor of love for Tisch, a lifelong sports fan. He attended every Giants game, home and away, and spent as much time working in his stadium office as possible. His two sons are now important members of the organization: Steven as executive vice president and Jon as treasurer.

The process of going from fan to owner took at least three decades for Tisch.

"I came to New York in 1960, and a couple of propitious things happened," he said. "Our company owned a radio station at that time, WHN. During the 1950s they broadcast Giants games. The president of the radio station had ten 50-yard-line tickets at Yankee Stadium. When we sold the radio station he decided he wanted to stay with us, so he came over to Loews Theaters to become the controller. So for about seven or eight years, I had the use of these tickets.

"Also, when we came to New York we moved to Scarsdale, and I got to know Allie Sherman, who was then coach of the Giants. Actually, Allie's son Randy and my son Jon were born one day apart. So we got to know the Sherman family. Then in 1975 or '76, Pete Rozelle moved to Harrison. We lived in the city, but we have a house in Harrison, which