

I visited the Holodomor monument in central Kyiv, a poignant reminder of the suffering perpetrated by Soviet dictator Stalin's deliberate and inhumane policy to suppress the Ukrainian people and destroy their human, cultural, and political rights. Requisition brigades, acting on Stalin's orders to fulfill impossibly high grain quotas, took away the last scraps of food from starving families and children. Eyewitness accounts describing the despair of the starving are almost unfathomable. Millions of rural Ukrainians slowly starved—an excruciatingly painful form of death—amid some of the world's most fertile farmland, while stockpiles of expropriated grain rotted by the ton, often nearby. Meanwhile, Ukraine's borders were sealed to prevent the starving from leaving to less-affected areas. International offers of help were rejected, with Stalin's henchmen denying a famine was taking place. At the same time, Soviet grain was being exported to the West.

The final report of the congressionally created Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded in 1988 that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-33." No less than Rafael Lemkin, the Polish-Jewish-American lawyer who coined the term "genocide" and was instrumental in the adoption of the 1948 U.N. Genocide Convention, described the "destruction of the Ukrainian nation" as the "classic example of Soviet genocide."

We must never forget the victims of the Holodomor or those of other republics in the Soviet Union, notably Kazakhstan, that witnessed cruel, mass starvation as a result of Stalin's barbarism, and we must redouble our efforts to protect human rights and democracy, ensuring that 20th-century genocides such as the Holocaust, Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, Ukraine, Bosnia, Cambodia, and Rwanda become impossible to imagine in the future.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, 150 years ago today, President Abraham Lincoln gave one of the greatest speeches not just in U.S. history but in human history. In under 3 minutes and using just 10 sentences, President Lincoln spanned the past, present, and future of the American experiment and spoke to the aspirations, rights, and responsibilities not just of Americans but of humankind.

It is astounding for us to realize that President Lincoln was invited to the dedication of the Nation's first national military cemetery almost as an afterthought. The event was organized around the schedule of former Harvard president Edward Everett, who was thought to be one of the Nation's greatest orators of the time.

Everett was the featured speaker and, in the custom of that era, addressed the crowd for over 2 hours.

President Lincoln, who had been invited to say "a few appropriate words," followed Everett.

President Lincoln wrote for the ear; he recited words and phrases as he committed them to paper. When he gave speeches, he spoke deliberately. His great speeches, including the Gettysburg Address, were as much theological in nature as they were political arguments.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

President Lincoln borrowed a method of referring to time from the Psalms of the King James Bible, Psalm 90:10. It seems idiosyncratic to our ears today, but his listeners would have immediately grasped that he was going back not to 1789, when the first Congress convened in New York City and George Washington was inaugurated as our Nation's first President. He was not going back to 1788 when the Constitution was ratified or back to 1787 when the Constitutional Convention met. He was going back 87 years, to 1776 and the Declaration of Independence, citing the proclamation of our Founding Fathers who were from the North and South alike—of the universal truth "that all men are created equal."

In the very next sentence, President Lincoln pivoted to the present and proceeded to explain the purpose of the Civil War: to determine whether the United States of America or any other nation "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" could succeed and last:

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

And then President Lincoln, with characteristic humility, paid homage to those who had fought and died at Gettysburg before pivoting again, to the future and to laying out the responsibilities of his and future generations of Americans:

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

As historian Ronald C. White, Jr., has written, "Lincoln was finished. He had not spoken the word 'I' even once. It was as if Lincoln disappeared so Americans could focus unhindered upon his transcendent truths." Those "transcendent truths" are apparent to us today but things weren't so clear 150 years ago, in the midst of the horrific brutality and death of the Civil War. On November 20, 1863, the New York Times reported that President Lincoln's address was interrupted by applause five times and followed by sustained applause, but historian Shelby Foote said that the reaction to the speech was delayed and "barely polite." On November 23, 1863, the Chicago Times—an anti-Lincoln paper—editorialized that President Lincoln's address "was an offensive exhibition of boorishness and vulgarity" and "a perversion of history so flagrant that the most extended charity cannot regard it as otherwise than willful."

Initially, President Lincoln believed that the Civil War was being fought simply to preserve the Union. But his thinking evolved to the point where the war was about the abolition of slavery. It became the testing ground of whether the United States of America—or any other nation dedicated to human liberty and equality—could endure.

There is a popular legend that President Lincoln jotted down a few notes on his way to Gettysburg or that he spoke extemporaneously. That isn't true. He prepared the speech beforehand and there was one improvisation only: He added the words "under God." As White noted, "'Under God' pointed backward and forward: back to 'this nation,' which drew its breath from both political and religious sources, but also forward to a 'new birth.' Lincoln had come to see the Civil War as a ritual of purification. The old Union had to die . . . Death became a transition to a new Union and a new humanity."

And so President Lincoln—in theological as well as constitutional language—laid out for his listeners, for us, and for our grandchildren "the unfinished work" and "the great task remaining": namely, to promote "a new birth of freedom." As the American poet Archibald MacLeish wrote, "There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American dream." We Americans are singularly fortunate and privileged to hail from the first Nation in history "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." It is our solemn responsibility not only to protect and expand freedom here but to promote and nurture it abroad so that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND THEODORE JUDSON JEMISON

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of Louisiana's courageous civil rights leaders, the Reverend Theodore Judson "T.J." Jemison, who passed on November 15, 2013, at the age of 95 in Baton Rouge, LA. Reverend Jemison, the youngest of six children, was born in Selma, AL in 1918.

Reverend Jemison attended Alabama State College for his undergraduate degree and received a master's of divinity degree from Virginia Union University. He became a heroic leader in the civil rights movement, served as pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church for nearly a half century, and was president of the National Baptist Convention for 12 years.

Reverend Jemison orchestrated the Baton Rouge bus boycott of 1953—a model that would later be adopted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Montgomery, AL. Reverend Jemison actively pressured the Baton Rouge City Council to ensure equal treatment for African-American passengers who were barred from seating in areas designated White-only. Through this work Reverend Jemison helped expand the civil rights to many of the citizens of Louisiana.

Reverend Jemison served as president of the National Baptist Convention, the largest Black Baptist organization in the United States, from 1982–1994. As the organization's president, Reverend Jemison worked to promote the principles of the social gospel. He also oversaw the construction of the Baptist World Center in Nashville, TN. Reverend Jemison worked tirelessly to fight for equality, education, and opportunity not only for African Americans in Louisiana but across the country as well.

Reverend Jemison was a true inspiration to all that had the great privilege to know him. I am grateful and honored to have known him. My deepest condolences go out to his family and all of those whose lives he touched. My deepest condolences go out to his family and all of those whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

Since its founding, the University of Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of education. It is one of the oldest universities in the United States, founded in 1740 by Benjamin Franklin who later went out on to found the Nation's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital. From its inception the university was a leader in medical care and research which culminated in the creation of the Na-

tion's first school of medicine in 1765 and then the first teaching hospital, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1874. Today, the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania is ranked in the top 5 best medical schools in the country and the hospital is ranked in the top 15 best hospitals.

With the growing diagnoses of cancer throughout the world, in 1973 a dedicated team of specialists established a center that would bring together all cancer research at the university, which one year later was designated a comprehensive cancer center by National Cancer Institute, NCI, one of only 41 in the country. In 2002, the center changed its name to the Abramson Cancer Center after the generous donation from Leonard and Madlyn Abramson. This gift allowed the center to conduct innovative cancer research and improve the quality of care for patients.

The Abramson Cancer Center is composed of 318 faculty members from 37 departments and 8 schools within the University of Pennsylvania. In 2010, the NCI described the quality of care at the center as "exceptional." One of the reasons the Abramson Cancer Center is ranked among the top 15 cancer centers in the country is because of its outstanding faculty collaboration. Healthcare professionals including medical and radiation oncologists, counselors, dietitians, and rehabilitation specialists work together to ensure that patients receive the most comprehensive care possible.

Having the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute as a part of the university research facilities ensures that the transition between the laboratory and the clinical care setting is expedited. This guarantees that patients are able to receive the cutting-edge treatment and prevention options they need.

Since its establishment, the Abramson Cancer Center has been essential in the fight to cure cancer. The center works to achieve this through extensive research, innovative clinical trials and exceptional cancer care.

I am proud that the Abramson Cancer Center is located in the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and wish to congratulate and recognize them on their 40th anniversary. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for activities associated with the ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Native American code talkers.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 272. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA–DOD Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 2061. An act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the rules regarding the determination of the compensation of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 3487. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission, to expand such authority to certain other violations, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2061. An act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1737. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3601. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of