

JAY has always been willing to work with members from both sides of the aisle and all sides of an issue. That is why he has been able to accomplish so very much for West Virginia and the Nation.

As we have heard, JAY has quite a remarkable story to tell. It truly began years ago when a younger—but equally committed—JAY ROCKEFELLER came to work in a small town in West Virginia as a part of the VISTA program. The plan was for him to work with the people of the area for about a year. As the old adage says so well, “God had other plans.” That experience changed his life and his goals for the future. It led him to run for office and then progress in opportunity and service to the people of West Virginia as he worked his way to the United States Senate and this moment on the Senate Floor.

So, that is what I have learned from you, JAY. As I mentioned, there are times when we are sure what we want to do with our lives, but “God has other plans” which often leads to something better for us and the world around us than what we were planning on. If JAY hadn’t made that decision back when he first arrived in West Virginia to do whatever he could to make life better for the people of that State it might never have been accomplished quite the way he has been able to do it. I have always suspected that God gives us all a mission in life, a chance to respond to a higher calling and make that inspired moment the beginning of our life’s work. JAY ROCKEFELLER did that and that is the lesson I have learned from him.

Thanks for your service in the Senate, JAY, and for all you have done for West Virginia and our Nation. Thanks, too, for your friendship. Fortunately, you will never be more than a phone call away. Keep in touch. Your comments, suggestions and West Virginia common sense ideas will always be welcome. Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you. We will look forward to seeing you in the days and months to come.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today we honor the distinguished career of my dear friend and colleague, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia.

As a young man, with all his talents—and coming from a prominent family—there were many things JAY ROCKEFELLER could have done with his life.

His choice says more about him than any speech in the Senate ever could: He chose to devote himself to serving others.

So he volunteered for the Peace Corps, and then the AmeriCorps VISTA program, which brought him to the small mining town of Emmons, WV.

That is where he discovered the purpose that would define his career—and his life.

From that day forward, he took a personal stake in the issues that affected West Virginians.

That passion became stronger as he climbed the ranks of government, from Secretary of State, to Governor, and finally to U.S. Senator. Through it all, he remained grounded by a sensibility of what was best for the people he met in Emmons—and throughout the Mountain State.

He met West Virginians who could not afford basic health care—and so Senator ROCKEFELLER became a champion for reform that made health care a right, not a privilege.

He met West Virginians who were hurt in mining accidents, or made ill from the air they breathed, and he fought for reforms that improved their safety.

He has always understood that our Nation is best when we have jobs that make the middle class strong, like manufacturing. The coal, steel and chemical industries in West Virginia have all relied on his support.

He believed that government should fight for those who were least able to fight for themselves.

This compelled him to go to work on behalf of children whose families did not qualify for Medicaid—and yet could not afford private insurance. In 1997, he was a leader in creating the Children’s Health Insurance Program, known as CHIP, and ever since, those children would not be allowed to slip through the cracks in our health care system.

Senator ROCKEFELLER’s impulse to speak up for those who did not have a voice led him to seek improvements for the care of foster children, working to expand incentives for parents to adopt so that foster children could have a permanent home.

On the other end of the spectrum, he was compelled to fight to keep Medicare strong, so that it had the funding it needed to make good on its promise to our Nation’s seniors. He was committed to making sure that all safety net programs stayed true to their founding principles, which is why he has resisted efforts to privatize Social Security and promoted programs that increase seniors’ access to affordable prescription drugs.

Even as he tackled the tough issues, Senator ROCKEFELLER’s charm and sincerity were key to bridging partisan gaps and building consensus necessary to get bills passed.

Senator ROCKEFELLER leaves the Senate, after a distinguished career. Fortunately for us, his legacy of compassionate and conscientious service will endure long into the future.

I know how hard it is for Senator ROCKEFELLER to leave this Chamber. I hope he knows that it is hard for us to watch him go.

I thank Senator ROCKEFELLER, for his tireless service to this country, and for his faithful service to the people of West Virginia.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, Senator ROCKEFELLER’s nearly 50 years of public service has left West Virginia and our country a better place. Whether it is promoting health care, edu-

cation, economic growth, or veterans, Senator ROCKEFELLER has led the way, acting to improve the lives of hard-working Americans.

When it comes to protecting consumers and children, Senator ROCKEFELLER has been a legislative partner and a national leader. I want to especially point out his tireless efforts to increase educational opportunities for children around the country.

The E-Rate has proved essential and exceptional in linking up schools and libraries to the Internet. The E-Rate has democratized access to brighter futures and better technology. The E-Rate is the only technology that has been deployed as fast in poor neighborhoods as it has in rich ones.

Chairman ROCKEFELLER, your legacy will live on for decades to come. Whether in rural areas, or urban ones, affluent, or low-income communities, all corners of our great Nation will continue to feel your impact.

Finally, I want to personally thank you for your friendship throughout my tenure in Congress.

These walls will feel emptier without you next year.

I wish you, your wife Sharon, and the rest of your family many more years of fulfillment in your next endeavors.

INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL MUST BE CHALLENGED

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as we hope for peace in the Middle East, some parties in the region are making peace less likely by inciting violence against Israel. It is imperative to recognize these words and actions for the poisons they are to achieving peace. An excellent November 23, 2014, opinion piece by Jeffrey Robbins in the Boston Herald entitled “U.S. mute as Abbas incites violence” articulates why silence is the wrong response to the anti-Israeli rhetoric and ideology that encourage further violence and terror. Jeff is a former delegate from the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and I believe my colleagues and the American people would benefit from reading the entire piece, which I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Boston Herald, Nov. 23, 2014]

ROBBINS: U.S. MUTE AS ABAS INCITES

VIOLENCE

(By Jeff Robbins)

At a meeting in Jerusalem last December, a State Department official was asked about the unremitting anti-Semitism emanating from Palestinian officials, their continuing celebration of the murderers of Israeli civilians and what the United States was doing about it. It was “a challenge,” she said, adding that it was “our position” that Palestinian incitement of violence was “unhelpful” to peace. Beyond this banality, she had nothing to offer.

This week’s massacre of worshippers in a Jerusalem synagogue—following the Palestinian murders of Israelis in recent days by

stabbing them and by running them over—raises yet again the disquieting question: has the Obama administration's fecklessness about confronting Palestinian incitement of terror served to enable it?

In the last few weeks alone, the Palestinian Authority has posted cartoons of an Israeli pulling down his pants and preparing to "rape" an Arab woman representing a Muslim holy site. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas praised the Palestinian shot while attempting to assassinate an Israeli as a "martyr" who was destined for heaven. A new hit song on Palestinian social media calls for listeners to "destroy, annihilate [and] blow up" Israelis. Al-Quds University has created the "Martyr Ibrahim Al-Akhari Tournament" to honor the man who recently murdered two Israelis and injured 13 others by running them over with his car.

Despite the fact that American taxpayers provide \$500 million to the Palestinian Authority annually, the Obama administration has failed to use that leverage to pressure the recipients of American aid to stop its incitement. Though then-U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton warned back in 2007 of the need to "stop the propaganda to which Palestinian children are being exposed," the administration has declined to demand that the Palestinians cut it out.

It is bad enough that the president has not lifted a finger to pressure the Palestinian Authority to put an end to incitement to murder. Even worse, his administration has conducted itself in a way which, however unintended it may be, has effectively green-lighted anti-Israelism of the most vicious sort—which in turn fuels the kind of violence that has left European Jews fearful for their lives and Israelis reeling.

This has included years of publicly derisive treatment of Israel that has conveyed to Israel's enemies and others that it stands alone, encouraging the conclusion that attacks on Israel—political and physical—have no consequences as far as the United States is concerned.

Earlier this month the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, told the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs that Israel deserved credit for having gone to "extraordinary lengths to limit collateral damage and civilian casualties" in trying to defend itself from Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza. Dempsey's praise placed the administration's scornful, damaging criticism of what were obviously unintended deaths of civilians in Gaza during this summer's wholly defensive war in stark relief.

Whether by giving interviews witheringly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at particularly sensitive moments or by using obscenities to castigate him, the White House has encouraged the impression that Israel is a fair target for those who wish it ill.

The administration's scornful treatment of Israel has registered deeply with Israel's enemies, who have been encouraged to believe that America's ally is being cut loose. And it has registered with particular force in the Middle East, where the intensity of anti-Semitic incitement has grown steadily.

No serious person can claim that the administration wants an upsurge of terror. But it is hard to deny that it bears a share of responsibility for it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ELIJAH MOMENT CAMPAIGN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we have recently returned from the

Thanksgiving holiday, when Americans from all walks of life come together with family and friends to express gratitude for our good fortune and great blessings. The weekend following Thanksgiving was devoted by many to holiday shopping—a good opportunity to support local businesses but also too often a spectacle of commercialization that threatens to obscure the true meaning of the holiday season.

Today, I would like to honor the work of two Connecticut community leaders for their laudable efforts to remind us of the holiday's true meaning. Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford and Pastor Greg Doll of Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien have together launched the Elijah Moment Campaign. Named after a figure in Jewish tradition who appears spontaneously to help those in need, this interfaith campaign seeks to encourage simple acts of kindness between friends and strangers alike. Each recipient of an act of generosity goes on to "pay it forward" by helping someone else. Even seemingly minor gifts like buying a stranger's cup of coffee, as occurred en masse during a campaign-organized kindness event at a Stamford Starbucks last week, can motivate significant acts of charity and promote a prevailing spirit of benevolence.

I am grateful to Rabbi Cohen and Pastor Doll for coming together to remind us, in their words, that "an act of generosity as simple as a kind word can transform a fleeting moment into an eternal one." The simplest acts of giving highlights the strong connections we all share, even as divisive rhetoric at home and violent acts abroad threaten our solidarity and safety. I honor and admire the spirit of the Elijah Moment Campaign, and I encourage all to do the same.●

RECOGNIZING GLEN HURT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Glen Hurt, who will retire as the Mansfield city mayor after more than 25 years of public service to the community as a city council member and mayor.

As city mayor, Glen is credited with improving the city's fire and police departments, upgrading Mansfield's waste and sewer systems, bringing a new grocery store to the community and helping build a new city senior center in 2004. Glen's commitment to public service led him to serve on the boards of the Solid Waste District and Area Agency on Aging.

I applaud Glen for his outstanding contributions and achievements as city mayor. We are all grateful for his dedication, leadership, and eagerness to serve honorably during his years of service to the city of Mansfield and the State of Arkansas. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Mayor Hurt on the projects important to Mansfield. I am truly grateful for his years of honorable service and dedication to com-

munity and wish him continued success in his future endeavors and many years of good health to enjoy with his granddaughters.●

TRIBUTE TO AL FELDSTEIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an outstanding public servant of Western Maryland, Al Feldstein, who will be retiring at the end of this year after 42 years of public service. As Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC, State Program Manager for Maryland, Al has played a critical role in the success of countless projects and initiatives aimed at advancing economic progress and improving the lives of the residents of Maryland's three Appalachian counties. His passion for his community is boundless, and his careful stewardship of public resources has consistently set a high standard to which we can—and should—all aspire.

An exemplary leader in public service, Al's positions as grants administrator with Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and ARC State program manager at the Maryland Department of Planning enabled him to realize the importance of investing in Federal, State, private, and local economic development projects. He was committed to creating conditions for economic growth, many of which strengthened parts of the Appalachian region by constructing and improving basic public infrastructure.

Under Al's leadership, several rural counties in Western Maryland have benefited from carefully targeted ARC investments in economic development—including the financing of high-speed telecommunications infrastructure to increase local and regional connectivity and affordability. These accomplishments have leveraged far greater support for workforce development and job creation in a region that continues to battle economic distress, high unemployment rates, and severe educational disparities.

ARC's regional development roles—as advocate, knowledge builder, partner, investor, and catalyst—underlie the commission's strategy to invest in people, basic infrastructures, and job creation and retention. ARC helps create economic opportunities by making its funds available for seed capital, gap funding, and investments in innovative programs. Although the Appalachian region has not fully achieved socioeconomic parity with the rest of the Nation, greater involvement in the region—not only through funding but also public service like Al's—will continue to help Appalachia's communities take advantage of emerging economic opportunities and diversification.

Knowing that accomplishing the four goals of ARC's strategic plan requires intense collaboration and civic engagement, Al was steadfast in working to achieve these objectives: to increase job opportunities and per capita income, strengthen the capacity of Appalachia's citizens to compete in the