

Would the Senator from New Hampshire withhold so the Chair can make an appointment?

#### APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-83, appoints the following individuals to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad: Rabbi Chaskel Besser of New York, E. William Crotty of Florida, and Ned Bandler of New York.

The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO DMITRY VOLKOGONOV

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, earlier today in Moscow, the world lost a renowned, first-class historian with the highest of morals, Russia lost a key reformer, America lost an ally in the search for the truth about missing American servicemen, and I lost a friend and colleague.

I am speaking of retired Russian Gen. Dmitry Volkogonov who passed away earlier today at the age of 67, following a long battle with cancer.

I first met General Volkogonov in February, 1992, when Senator JOHN KERRY and I traveled to Moscow as the cochairmen of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

More than any other person in Russia at the time, General Volkogonov was eager to assist the United States in finding answers about missing American servicemen from the cold war, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and even World War II. This was a very difficult situation for General Volkogonov because he had to deal with the archives, he had to deal with the KGB, and others who had much information that they would have preferred not to come to the surface. But General Volkogonov bravely pursued it on our behalf.

I will never forget sitting in the general's top-floor office in the Russian Duma in February, 1992, listening to the general detail his preliminary work in Soviet archives on the issue of missing Americans.

It was a cold, winter afternoon in Moscow that day, but as the meeting progressed, the Sun began to shine. In fact, the sunlight was so strong that we literally had to close the blinds in the office. The sunlight was a good sign that day, Mr. President. I knew we were on the right track to seeking answers now that we had found General Volkogonov.

I also knew it would not be long before the Sun began to shine on important information previously tucked away in the darkest corners of the Soviet archives.

Following my first trip to Moscow with Senator KERRY, then-President George Bush and President Yeltsin for-

mally established a Joint Commission on the MIA issue between the Russian and the United States. The Russian side was headed by General Volkogonov.

I was happy that Senator KERRY and I were appointed to serve on that Commission, along with Congressmen SAM JOHNSON and PETE PETERSON, both of whom were POWs in Vietnam. During the last 4 years, it was a privilege to work with General Volkogonov, and I was thankful for the opportunities I had to meet with him here in Washington, as well as in Moscow.

Because of the research conducted by General Volkogonov, the United States has received important documentary evidence concerning the fate of unaccounted-for Americans captured or lost in North Vietnam, North Korea, China, and along the borders of the former Soviet Union.

It is the kind of information, Mr. President, that never would have seen the light of day had it not been for General Volkogonov.

He has turned over documents concerning discussions between Joseph Stalin and Chinese officials in 1952 about how many American POW's would be held back during the Korean war. He has also handed over Russian translations of North Vietnamese politburo sessions where it was indicated that more American POW's were secretly being held in North Vietnam than those eventually released.

These documents are both dramatic and disturbing, and it remains for Vietnam, North Korea, and China to fully explain these documents.

I will never forget General Volkogonov sitting in my office telling me that these documents were authentic, and that he would do everything in his power to get them and to get access to them on behalf of the American people. And this is a Russian general.

When these documents were formally turned over to the United States by Russia, General Volkogonov stated—

It's a delicate issue, but we can't be quiet about it any longer, since it's a humanitarian issue . . . we are talking about men's fates . . . there is no political spin. We want to help the families.

Those were the words of General Volkogonov.

Mr. President, this was obviously a noble cause for the general. America could not have asked for a more committed ally on this issue. He fully understood our joint quest for the truth, and the importance that Americans attached to this inquiry. He had a way of knowing how we felt, how deeply we felt about this issue, specifically our Nation's veterans and the families of our unaccounted for Americans.

When you think of the thousands, if not millions, of people lost in Soviet wars, most of them attributed to Stalin, General Volkogonov took the time to spend looking for these few—compared to the Russian losses—Americans.

General Volkogonov always stood on principle. He took action when he knew

it was morally correct to do so. He was not afraid, and he was not deterred. Nothing showed those traits more clearly than when he wrote his books on Stalin and Lenin, based on his archival research, and when he admitted he had been wrong in believing that Soviet-style communism could be more "human and effective" as he put it. Can you imagine the courage of a man who would write something like that?

General Volkogonov was the first Russian general to admit the system had failed—he was the "black sheep" as he put it in an interview earlier this year.

Mr. President, history will judge General Volkogonov very kindly. And historians will owe him a great debt for years to come.

I know both the Russian people and the American people will always be grateful for his enormous contributions. I also hope both our governments understand how important General Volkogonov was in helping to build a bridge of partnership and cooperation between Russia and the United States on these humanitarian issues of missing American servicemen.

I am going to miss my friend, Dmitry Volkogonov, and I know the American people join me in sending our condolences to his wife and two daughters.

Let me conclude by expressing my heartfelt hope that President Yeltsin and the Russian Duma will find someone—it will be difficult—but will find someone to follow in the general's footsteps who is equally committed to disclosing information about unaccounted for American POW's and MIA's.

I can think of no finer tribute to this great man. And let me just say, it would be appropriate, I think, for us to remember him tonight because he is a part of history and he was a great historian. This is what we should have for the historical record for General Volkogonov.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two obituaries on General Volkogonov from newswire services be printed in the RECORD, and I also ask unanimous consent that the statement by the American chairman of the United States-Russian joint commission, Ambassador Malcolm Toon, be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### RUSSIAN HISTORIAN VOLKOGONOV DIES AT 67 (By Anatoly Verbin)

MOSCOW, Dec. 6 (Reuter).—General Dmitry Volkogonov, one of the best-known Russian historians of the past decade, died on Wednesday at the age of 67.

Volkogonov was both famed and hated for his revealing works on Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin.

The State Duma lower house of parliament stood in silence to pay final tribute to the man who called himself the "black sheep" of the Soviet generals.

He transformed from an orthodox communist standardbearer to a writer triggering the nomenklatura's outrage with books mercilessly stripping away decades of myths