THE PASSING OF PAULINE ISRAELITE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today with profound sadness to discuss the passing from this life of a remarkable and beloved woman, Pauline Israelite of Norwich, Connecticut.

On the day of Pauline’s funeral at the Beth Jacob Synagogue in Norwich, some 1000 people arrived to pay their respects. Hundres of them were required to stand throughout the service because there was not enough seating to accommodate all those in attendance. Everyone and every attendee all agreed that they could not recall a funeral service held in that particular house of worship that was ever attended by more individuals.

Those of us privileged to know Pauline can well understand the outpouring of affection shown for her on that day. She was an extraordinary individual in so many ways: a devoted wife, a loving mother, a successful business owner, and not least, an extraordinarily generous and energetic community servant.

For many years, Pauline owned and operated the Norwichtown Mall Bookstore. The true business of her life, however, was not running a business, but serving others. She was an active member of Beth Jacob Synagogue. She served as President of Beth Jacob Sisterhood, and as an active member of Hadassah and a Hands of Healing honor society. She was a volunteer for Hospice; a member of and volunteer for the William W. Hackett Hall Auxiliary, for the Adult Probation Department; and an ombudsman for the Area Agency on Aging. She served as a member of the board of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, and of the Norwich Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she volunteered for We Care Delmar, and for the Literacy Volunteers of America.

I first met Pauline more than a quarter of a century ago. Her husband, Stanley, had just left a successful business career to become a member of my congressional staff. At Pauline’s funeral, I was introduced as someone for whom Stanley worked. I hastened to correct that mis-impression. It is I who work for Stanley, I said. And it was Stanley, I added, who worked for Pauline. Therefore, in a very real sense, I worked for Pauline.

Indeed, so many of us worked, in a manner of speaking, for Pauline. I recall numerous times over the years when Stanley and I would wrestle with a tough problem about how to best help someone in need, or how to bring about some positive result for our community or our state. On those occasions, we would invariably arrive at the same conclusion: “Ask Pauline.” Countless others no doubt uttered those same words over the years. And just as invariably, Pauline knew how to help. And those of us who worked with her—or, I should say again, for her—came to rely on her sound judgment, her instincts for doing the right thing, and her understanding of how to help others—concretely, discretely, and in a spirit of generosity and understanding.

Over the course of her rich and vibrant life, Pauline developed a deep love of books. She didn’t just sell them. She read them, and read them with the same passion she brought to the other facets of her life. It is appropriate, therefore, that I close these remarks by referencing two passages that I believe capture much about Pauline, her family, and her mourn her unexpected passing, and who wish to celebrate the blessed achievement of her life.

The first passage comes from Seamus Heaney’s “Clearances”, a poem about the death of a mother that evokes how her spirit survives in those left behind:

In the last minutes he said more to her Almost than in all their life together. ‘You’ll be in New Row on Monday night, and I’ll come up for you and you’ll be glad When I walk in the door . . . Isn’t that right?’ His head was bent down to her propped-up head, she could not hear but we were overjoyed, He called her good and girl. Then she was dead.

The searching for a pulse beat was abandoned And we all knew one thing by being there. The space we stood around had been emptied Into us to keep, it penetrated Clearances that suddenly stood open.

The second passage is from “Tuesdays with Morrie,” a touching account of a beloved teacher’s last months. It serves as a reminder that our death, like our lives, is part of a larger scheme composed by the hand of a Creator whose purposes may not always be apparent to us, especially in times of sorrow:

I heard a nice little story the other day,” Morrie says. He closes his eyes for a moment and I wait. “Okay. The story is about a little wave, bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He’s enjoying the wind and the breeze—until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore.

“My God, this is terrible,” the wave says. “Look what’s going to happen to me!”

“Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him, ‘Why do you look so sad?’

‘The first wave says, ‘You don’t understand! We’re all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn’t it terrible?’

‘The second wave says, ‘No, you don’t understand. You’re not a wave, you’re part of the ocean.’”

I smile. Morrie closes his eyes again.

“Part of the ocean,” he says, “part of the ocean.” I watch him breathe, in and out, in and out.

Mr. President, Pauline Israelite is survived by a large and loving family: Stanley, her husband of 53 years; her son Michael and his wife Donna; her son Jon; her daughter Abby and her husband Bill Dolliver; her daughter Mindy and her husband Bill Wilkie; several siblings; and six wonderful grandchildren. I extend to them all my deepest sympathies, and my profound gratitude for granting me and so many others the opportunity to know and love Pauline Israelite.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DEBORAH C. BALL

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge one of Georgia’s outstanding citizens. On November 16, 1999, the Senate announced the appointment of Dr. Deborah C. Ball of Columbus, Georgia, to the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse. This group of 16 individuals serve as advisors to the Director of National Drug Control Policy on issues including drug prevention, education and treatment.

Not only does Dr. Ball bring to the group her knowledge as a parent of three sons, but also over 27 years experience as an educator and coach. In addition, she is very active in her community through her local church and anti-drug organizations. Dr. Ball has been nominated for, and won, numerous awards for her work as a coach in the sports of basketball, softball, tennis and cheerleading. This year, she has been nominated for the Channel One National Coach of the Year. The youth drug problem in our nation has been an issue of major concern to me for quite some time, and it is my hope that Dr. Ball and the other members of the Parents Advisory Council
will bring their insight and innovation to the task of helping to end this epidemic. I was proud to be a supporter of the legislation which established this group, and am pleased that such an eminently qualified Georgian has been selected to serve as a member. Mr. President, I congratulate you on your accomplishments and service. Our country is better because of your leadership.

A TRIBUTE TO ERIC HARNISCHFEGER

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I want to mention the efforts of Special Agent Eric Harnischfinger, who has been on detail from the FBI, FBI, to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary for the consideration of the fiscal year 2000 bill. Eric has been a considerable asset to the subcommittee, assisting in the preparation of our very difficult law enforcement accounts. His management of counterterrorism programs, office of justice programs, and state and local law enforcement accounts is greatly appreciated. Eric’s ability to provide keen insight and a friendly manner toward any task he is asked to deal with assured a competent resolution.

Eric’s professionalism, wit, and jovial manner will be missed. Agent Harnischfinger adheres to the high standards that the Secret Service is known for and has done an excellent job for us. I just want to thank him publicly for all his efforts over the past year. Based on his performance here, I am sure he has a bright future at the Service. We wish him the very best.

IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the week of Nov. 21–28 is an important time for houses of worship and individuals of all religions across the country—National Bible Week.

As this year’s National Bible Week co-chair, it is my privilege to pay tribute to its remarkable influence on American life. As in past years, the National Bible Association is hosting the week-long salute to the Good Book. This year, the tribute happens to fall during the Thanksgiving holiday; this seems fitting, because we should be eternally thankful that we have the teachings of the Bible to help guide our daily lives.

And old maxim states that “A reformation happens every time you open the Bible.” Indeed, no book over the course of human history has had a more profound effect on how we live and act. The Bible has influenced Western culture in myriad ways, shaping areas as diverse as government and art.

John Wycliffe, the great religious reformer, once wrote, “The Bible is for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” The writings found within it inspired many of our nation’s founders’ most cherished ideals—ideas that remain cornerstones of democracy today. The Bible, for example, advocates faith in a greater good, the glory of freedom, the importance of family, and the sanctity of every human life. The Bible is at the heart of America’s civic religion.

Far from archaic, the Bible is as important today as it has ever been, particularly as many Americans feel this country slipping into moral decline. Our best hope of righting our national ship is to instill in future generations the core values of love, truth, honor, and service enshrined in the Bible.

As an Orthodox Jew, my faith orders me to have a sense of purpose and direction, and provides comfort in uncertain or difficult times. The Old Testament or Torah serves as a constant reminder of my obligations to God, country, and family.

So as Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage every believer in this land to open the Bible, read a favorite passage or two, and give thanks to God for this wonderful, sacred Book.

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ON THE DEATH OF AKIO MORITA

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today I rise to note the passing of Akio Morita, the brilliant Japanese business leader who did so much to rebuild his country after World War II. I ask that his obituary that appeared in the October 4 New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

(From the New York Times, Oct. 4, 1999)

AKIO MORITA, Co-founder of Sony and Japanese Business Leader, Dies at 78

(By Andrew Pollack)

Akio Morita, the co-founder of the Sony Corporation who personified Japan’s rise from postwar rubble to industrial riches and became the unofficial ambassador of its business community to the world, died on Sunday in Tokyo. He was 78.

Morita died of pneumonia, according to Sony. He had been hospitalized in Tokyo since August, after returning from Hawaii, where he had spent most of his time since suffering a debilitating stroke in November 1998. More than anyone else, it was Mr. Morita and his Sony colleagues who changed the world’s image of the term “Made in Japan” from one of poor parasols and shoddy imitations to one of high technology and high reliability in miniature packages.

Founded in bombed-out Tokyo department store after World War II, Sony became indisputably one of the world’s most innovative companies, famous for products like the pocket-sized transistor radio, the video-cassette recorder, the Walkman and the computer disk.

And Mr. Morita, whose contribution was greater in marketing than in technology, made the Sony brand into one of the best respected in the world. A Harris poll last year showed Sony was the No. 1 brand name among American consumers, ahead of American companies like General Electric and Coca-Cola.

A tireless traveler who moved his family to New York in 1963 for a year to learn American ways, Mr. Morita also spearheaded the internationalization of the business. Sony was the first Japanese company to offer its stock in the United States, in 1961, one of the first to build a factory in the United States, in 1972, and sell one of the only ones to have even a couple of Wester

ers on its board.

Sony also became a major force in the American entertainment industry. In 1988, during its efforts to acquire CBS Records in 1989 and Columbia Pictures, the Hollywood studio, in 1989. The latter purchase, however, turned into an embarrassing debacle as Sony suffered big losses in Hollywood.

A JAPANESE EXECUTIVE AMERICANS RECOGNIZED

In the process, Mr. Morita, with his white mane and quick tongue, became the unofficial representative of Japan’s business community, generally working to smooth trade relations between his country and the United States, but sometimes actually in both countries with his pointed criticisms.

“He was truly a statesman par excellence in a business sense,” Mike Mansfield, the former senator and United States ambassador to Japan. “Internationally, he did more for Japan in a business sense than any other in Japan.”

In Japan, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, who was one of several hundred people to visit Mr. Morita’s Tokyo home following his death, called Mr. Morita “a leading figure who played a pivotal role in developing Japan’s postwar economy,” according to Kyodo News Service.

Sony’s current president, Nobuyuki Idei, said in a statement, “It is not an exaggeration to say that he was the face of Japan.”

To the day of his death, nearly six years after the stroke that removed him from an active role in business, he was still no doubt Japan’s most famous business executive, and the only one many Americans could name or recognize in a photograph. Mr. Morita was recently selected him as one of 20 “most influential business geniuses” of the 20th century, the only non-American on the list.

In a world where leaders tend to be self-effacing, Mr. Morita was viewed as a bit flamboyant and arrogant. He was the first to fly around in a corporate business jet and helicopter. He appeared in a television commercial for the American Express card. He served on the boards of three foreign companies. He took up sports like skiing, scuba diving and wind surfing in his sixties. He carto

vored with the rock star Cyndi Lauper after Sony bought CBS Records.

Shortly before he suffered his stroke, Mr. Morita made waves in his home country by saying that Japan was like a “fortress” and that its unique business practices were alienating its trading partners. Although there is much to commend in Japan’s economic system, it is simply too far out of sync with the West on certain essential points,” he wrote in The Atlantic Monthly in June 1993.

Both countries with his pointed criticisms. In Japan, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, who was one of several hundred people to visit Mr. Morita’s Tokyo home following his death, called Mr. Morita “a leading figure who played a pivotal role in developing Japan’s postwar economy,” according to Kyodo News Service. Sony’s current president, Nobuyuki Idei, said in a statement, “It is not an exaggeration to say that he was the face of Japan.”

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