

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,  
MAY 8, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12.30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas.

There was no objection.

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS  
ON DEATH OF JOHN CARDINAL  
O'CONNOR, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW  
YORK

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 317) expressing the sense of the Congress on the death of John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 317

Whereas His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor was born John Joseph O'Connor on January 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of Thomas and Mary O'Connor;

Whereas his duty to God and country led him to serve loyally as a chaplain in the United States Navy, counseling thousands of brave young men and women during his tenure, which included tours of duty during the Vietnam War;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor served the people of the Archdiocese of New York with honor and distinction for over 15 years;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor became an internationally recognized leader in the field of human rights, working for peace and justice;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor was a champion of Catholic schools, particularly in inner-city communities;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor has always spoken out and acted to aid the elderly, homeless, working people, the mentally disabled, and the poor;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor has provided compassion through his words and actions and made it known that everyone was a child of God and was deserving of love, compassion, and respect;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor led the Catholic Church in recognizing the terrible toll of AIDS and opened New York State's first AIDS-only unit, at St. Claire's Hospital;

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor worked tirelessly to strengthen relations between Catholics and followers of the Jewish faith, recognizing the power of the interfaith alliance and leading the Vatican to recognize the State of Israel; and

Whereas John Cardinal O'Connor was guided in his actions by the Spirit of the Lord: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor on May 3, 2000, and extends condolences to his family and to the Archdiocese of New York;

(2) expresses its profound gratitude to John Cardinal O'Connor and his family for the service that he rendered to his country and his faith; and

(3) recognizes with appreciation and respect John Cardinal O'Connor's commitment to and example of faith, love, respect, and dignity for all mankind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time be divided, 30 minutes on each side, with the 30 minutes on the other side being controlled by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the words of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and also to express our appreciation to him and the Speaker as well in allowing Members to pay our respects to the great Cardinal O'Connor, who we bury on Monday in New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for New Yorkers and the Nation. America has lost a good priest and a great leader, John Cardinal O'Connor. Normally, resolutions such as this are tinged with regret. For often, when someone passes away, we worry that we may have missed the opportunity for not having said something to one that we loved or respected; for not expressing something that we felt. But I am pleased that this is not the case today. I am pleased because this House expressed the gratitude of the Nation for the work of John Cardinal O'Connor while he was still alive.

Just a few weeks ago, the House voted to recognize Cardinal O'Connor with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that this Nation bestows upon a civilian. And sadly, while he will never have the opportunity to see or to hold that medal, I know that he was deeply touched by being recognized by Congress. Just to have his name placed up for the Congressional Gold Medal was an honor to him, and I

would like to thank each and every Member of this House for voting to award Cardinal O'Connor that great honor.

He considered his work that of a simple priest. We here today know that his modesty cannot obscure his greatness. John Cardinal O'Connor touched the hearts and lives of millions of people. He was a man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless devotion. His words transcended religion, and his actions reminded us that American heroes still exist. The cardinal was a guiding light for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He was and is truly loved, truly admired; and he will truly be missed.

Cardinal O'Connor served this Nation for 27 years in his military career. He had a tour of duty in Korea, where he volunteered to become a chaplain; two tours of duty in Vietnam, often giving mass and celebrating mass in a foxhole, and giving the last rites to so many young men who gave their lives for their country. He was there in the heat of battle. And when he came back, I think above all he had the fondest memories of being a chaplain in the United States military. I am sure there are people around the country who remember Cardinal O'Connor as that chaplain, and I am sure they share the grief that we all have today.

In his responsibilities as Archbishop of New York, as a great spiritual leader, perhaps one of the most influential in this country, he was truly committed to those who needed help the most, the poor and the homeless. And when it came to education, he was steadfast in his commitment to ensure that Catholics and non-Catholics alike have the greatest opportunity to receive a quality education.

But for the strength, the guidance, and the principal positions that he often took, and that sometimes were referred to as controversial, his commitment to the church, his commitment to his people, his commitment to parishioners was a force that could never be forgotten. So his legacy will live on in many ways, and I thank the House for giving us this opportunity to honor his life and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my colleague and my good friend, the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), for joining me in offering this resolution today and for his outstanding work in recognizing the life of our friend, Cardinal O'Connor.

I would also like to thank the other original cosponsors on this side of the aisle: the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the gentleman from New

York (Mr. WEINER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES), the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

All of these Members are also original cosponsors of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to express my profound sorrow at the passing of John Cardinal O'Connor. As a spiritual leader of over 2 million Catholics in one of the most diverse archdioceses in our Nation, Cardinal O'Connor was an active participant in the debate of the role of the church and the role of society in helping those who could not care for themselves, those least fortunate amongst us.

□ 1600

The Cardinal has always embodied the biblical passage of the Good Samaritan. In both his words and actions, Cardinal O'Connor clearly demonstrated his devotions to the teachings of Christ and his spirit of the principles of that passage.

I can daresay that no individual who ever came before Cardinal O'Connor was ever left on the side of the road. He used not only his pulpit to teach the word of Christ but also the true meaning of those words as he saw them.

He was one of the first Church officials to recognize the horrible toll of the AIDS epidemic and used his moral authority to open New York State's first only unit to treat AIDS at St. Clare's Hospital in New York City.

Additionally, he also provided compassion through words and actions and made it known that every one of us was a child of God and was deserving of love, compassion, and respect.

He strove to strengthen relations between his flock and those of other faiths, recognizing the value of all people and the power of the interfaith alliance. He was a man who has dedicated his life to helping lift others up, all the while never seeking out worldly possessions or public accolade.

These are just some of the reasons I rise today. But there are others, more

personal reasons. In my own family, three of my relatives received the divine calling to dedicate themselves to do the work of the Lord.

My uncle, Father John Crowley, is currently the pastor of St. John of the Cross Church in Vero Beach, Florida.

My other uncle, Father Paul Murphy, is a Catholic priest in Philadelphia, a member of the Vincesian order. He, like Father John Crowley, has been inspired by Cardinal O'Connor and viewed him as a personal figure of inspiration.

My aunt, Sister Mary Rose Crowley, is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame and is based in West Palm Beach, Florida, as well. She, too, has reflected upon the grace, the power, and the compassion of Cardinal O'Connor.

These people, all dedicated to the teachings of Christ, have received both encouragement and guidance from Cardinal O'Connor. The Cardinal has always served as a role model of conduct and solid Christian behavior for my relatives and for millions of other Catholics not only in New York but throughout the Nation and throughout the world.

As the leader of New York's Catholics, he has also been influential in establishing and maintaining a series of high quality, Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese.

In fact, I attended Power Memorial High School in Manhattan and, as a graduate of parochial schools, I have been brought up with the values of the Cardinal, and I hope that I at some point will be able to instill those same values of my family that I was taught, values of family and faith, into my son, Cullen, who was baptized recently into the Catholic faith.

No other person, I do not think, in the city of New York did more for relations, especially between the people of the Catholic faith and the Jewish faith. In fact, I think Cardinal O'Connor can be credited with much of the movement we saw recently out of the Vatican toward revisiting World War II and the Holocaust and the role of the Church during that time.

I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) would remember the great warmth between Cardinal O'Connor and the former mayor of New York Ed Koch. I think that said an awful lot about how New Yorkers felt about Cardinal O'Connor from all persuasions.

On behalf of all my constituents in the Bronx, which is part of the Archdiocese in New York, and my constituents in Queens, a part of the Brooklyn/Queens Archdiocese, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution in honor of this great man, Cardinal O'Connor.

May God bless his soul.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution in honor of Cardinal O'Connor, particularly for his effort in racial and spiritual harmony.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and I thank those who have cosponsored this resolution, as I have.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I take this time to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for all of his efforts and support, especially in garnering support for the Congressional Gold Medal. He was very instrumental in that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and my other colleagues in expressing our sadness on the death of a great human being, his Eminence Cardinal John O'Connor, a man who I was honored to consider a friend.

Cardinal O'Connor was a humble man, and one of his final requests was to have his epitaph simply read, "He was a good priest."

Since the Cardinal was a good friend, I comply with his wish and say, Your Eminence, you were a good priest.

His Eminence Cardinal O'Connor dedicated his life to the Catholic Church. His allegiance to God and to his religion is well known throughout our Nation, throughout the world.

For all or most of our colleagues in this chamber, Cardinal O'Connor was and will remain an outstanding example of virtue, of honor and moral fortitude.

For me and my colleagues who represent congressional districts within the New York Archdiocese, the news of Cardinal O'Connor's passing came with even greater sorrow. He was a living personification of love for one another, for peace, and for living up to the ideals of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Cardinal O'Connor was known for promoting racial and religion harmony. On Yom Kippur last year, the day of atonement, the Cardinal sent a letter to Jewish leaders expressing his sorrow for any member of his church who committed any acts of violence or prejudice against members of the Jewish faith. The work that he did in advancing good relations among all faiths of this land will never be forgotten.

The Cardinal was known for advocating the best education possible for all children regardless of their race, religion, or financial status. He welcomed AIDS patients into the Catholic

hospitals of New York at a time when other medical institutions were turning them away. The Cardinal always administered to the sick and to the disabled and remained a staunch friend of the poor.

It was unfortunate that Cardinal O'Connor was a victim of abuse from certain elements in our society who feel comfortable attacking those institutions who continue to uphold our ancient moral standards. His Eminence, however, knew the value of his words and deeds and never flinched at dissent, for he knew he was doing God's work on Earth.

Perhaps the motto on Cardinal O'Connor's personal coat of arms sums up the philosophy of this outstanding leader: "There can be no love without justice."

Earlier this year, several of my colleagues and I supported the legislation to award Cardinal O'Connor with this country's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. God works in mysterious ways, and he allowed the Cardinal to live long enough to see our appreciation for his good works.

The Cardinal always said that he would have been satisfied with being just a teacher or parish priest without all of the media attention of his valiant works. Thank God people like him exist on this planet, for they serve as models for our younger generations in how to live meaningful and successful lives.

My heart and prayers go out to the Cardinal's family, and I hope that the Archdiocese of New York will be blessed with another archbishop as honorable and dedicated as our good friend, his Eminence Cardinal O'Connor.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Manhattan, New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for being thoughtful enough to give some of us in the Congress an opportunity to express the appreciation that we have in having from our city, and indeed from our country, someone like Cardinal O'Connor.

I knew and respected and admired him and worked with him on so many different occasions. And because of the splendor of his vestments and the manner in which he carried himself, it is impossible for me, even now, to think of him as being gone.

But I would suspect that, with all of the spirituality, that he would want us to not think of him as being gone but, rather, to carry out some of the things that he would want us to do and some of the things that he has just built such a wonderful reputation on.

We pride ourselves in New York for our parades. The older we get, the

longer it seems like the parade lasts in terms of marching. But one of the brightest spots that we all looked forward to, no matter what ethnic group it was, was reaching St. Patrick's Cathedral and knowing that, no matter what the weather was like, the Cardinal would be there with a smile on his face.

And it was just unbelievable to see how, no matter what the religion or the faith or the background was of the sponsors of the marchers in the parade, Cardinal O'Connor was their spiritual leader.

When the Haitians were trying so desperately hard to reach our shores and the Coast Guard was meeting them halfway and turning them back, the Haitian community was so frustrated that they did not know what to do. And I went to the Cardinal and reminded him that so many of the Haitians that were being persecuted were Catholics. And time after time and mass after mass, he would hold for Haitians to come into St. Patrick's Cathedral and, believe it or not, the mass, which I knew as an altar boy in Latin, he would say patios so that the Haitians would feel not only a part of being loved but a part of the spirituality.

How would he be remembered? In Harlem, we have a church called the Convent Avenue Baptist Church. For over 20 years, we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday and Baptist ministers and ministers from all over the country come to speak.

We can rest assured that one person would be there early and stay late with all of his beautiful vestments in the middle of Harlem, and that would be Cardinal O'Connor.

The things that he allowed Catholic charities to do, and Catholic charities took care of the needs of the poor, and not all of the poor are minorities but, unfortunately, too many are, and if we took a look and found out where the resources were being spent, we would find it would be in the south Bronx, south Jamaica, and in Harlem.

The Cardinal was not satisfied to allow lay people to do it, but if a building had to be open or a ribbon had to be cut, he would cause excitement of the people in the community to know something was happening because he would be there smiling and blessing the opening of those things.

Yes, I do not know how we all are going to get along without remembering our great Cardinal. But again, in closing, I would say that he would want us to remember him for all the good he tried to do. And I think that all of us would be better people if we recognized that, whether we are Jewish or gentile or Muslim or Hindu or Catholic or Protestant, that somehow this great person was able not just to preach to Catholic catechism but to give a sense to all of us that we were loved by God and that we have a responsibility to love our fellow man.

He will be missed, but there will be enough of us that could try to fill the gap and I do hope that the spiritual community will never forget that we were not made to compete with each other but we were made to be like the Cardinal, to bring each other together.

I thank my friends and colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), for giving us this opportunity to thank God for having a chance to have known and to have worked with his Eminence.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his beautiful words. He truly was a friend of the Cardinal, and I thank him for his leadership and eloquence on this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

□ 1615

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, today all of New York grieves for the passing of his eminence John Cardinal O'Connor, the archbishop of New York. Cardinal O'Connor was a tireless advocate for the disadvantaged, the poor, the working class. His passing is a tremendous loss to the Nation.

I was privileged to have had the opportunity to meet with the cardinal on more than one occasion, and to say that I was impressed is really a vast understatement. I have to say he was a wonderful man to work with when we had common cause with which we were trying to achieve a goal. He was there, he was present, and he was always working very hard for all of us.

His presence commanded attention and respect. His awareness of individuals, their hopes, aspirations and desires brought him an empathy that very few can duplicate.

His humor was gentle, sometimes trenchant, and always amusing. John Cardinal O'Connor built bridges of understanding among the most diverse communities of New York and won the respect of the leaders of many faiths in the city. Today, we mourn the loss of a true leader, a visionary and a peacemaker whose moral convictions continue to stand as a great example for all of us. Even when he was suffering from the ravages of brain cancer, his humor was irrepressible and his advocacy undiminished. As Cardinal O'Connor is in our prayers, we must now also pray for the Archdiocese of New York that his successor can fill his tremendous shadow with the same qualities that made him such a great man.

We all pray for you, John Cardinal O'Connor, as we do for the Archdiocese of New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from upstate New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to my friends and colleagues for providing us with the opportunity to reflect for a moment on the life of this great and wonderful man, and to join with millions of other New Yorkers, others across this country and indeed in many places around the world who are feeling a deep sense of loss and a deep sense of sorrow at the death of John Cardinal O'Connor.

He was, in many ways, a very unique man. At the same time he prided himself on his own simplicity and his own sense of simple relationships with others. He was the classic parish priest, the classic pastor, peacemaker, working with others in the community wherever he found himself, whatever that community might be, helping people meet their obligations and helping them to get over the more difficult parts of their life.

He was a volunteer in the service of his country. He was a chaplain in the United States Navy. He spent a good part of his life ministering to servicemen, and the ministering that priests and other religious people do to servicemen is often some of the most difficult ministering because these are people away from home, away from their families and often under difficult and troubling circumstances.

He rose in that order to become chief of chaplains in the United States Navy. He was also, of course, a great leader in New York, in Pennsylvania, and other places where his ministry took him.

Among other things that I recall about him was his great advocacy on behalf of working people. He was a great believer in the right of working people to organize, to bargain collectively, to work in unions; and he was a great fighter against those who would impede that right. He went out of his way many times to make it clear that he was a strong believer in the right of people to organize collectively to try to improve their lives and the lot of their families.

This, among other things, stands out among this great and wonderful religious leader, great and wonderful American. We are all saddened by his passing. We are all saddened by our loss as a result of that passing, but we do have this opportunity, thanks to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), to reflect in this way on his life to pay tribute to the contributions that he made and to the great example that he has set for all of the rest of us.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), a good friend of the cardinal, the man from Nassau County.

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for yielding me this time.

At the very outset, I want to commend the gentleman from New York

(Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for the great leadership they have shown in bringing this to the floor so all of us today can have the opportunity to reflect on the great contributions that were made by John Cardinal O'Connor.

I was very proud to call Cardinal O'Connor a friend. He was a man of great vision, a man of great dignity, a man of great moral capacity; and certainly he was a giant of the church. In many ways, too, he was also the ultimate New Yorker. He had a fighting spirit. He had a sense of self-deprecating humor. He took issues very seriously but never took himself seriously.

At a time of moral relativism, Cardinal O'Connor had the courage to stand for lasting truths and immutable principles. He spoke out on behalf of the unborn. He spoke out on behalf of working men and women. He spoke out on behalf of the impoverished, those suffering with AIDS, and he always made it clear to all men and women, no matter what their religious faith, that they had an obligation to look beyond themselves, to look for those who have been left behind and take care of them.

I had many personal experiences with Cardinal O'Connor. He was very, very active in bringing the Irish peace process forward. Certainly, from the time he came to New York in 1984, the St. Patrick's Day parade in 1985 where he stood up to pressure from the British and Irish governments to review the St. Patrick's Day parade. In 1994, when Jerry Adams received his first visa to reach this country, Cardinal O'Connor insisted on meeting with him to send a signal that this was important to the peace process to go forward.

In 1996, when there was a break in the peace process, it was Cardinal O'Connor who publicly met with leaders at St. Patrick's Cathedral from Ireland, including Jerry Adams, and there are so many others. As the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) said, he spoke out on behalf of Haitians. So it was not just one particular ethnic group or one particular religion. It was all people that were oppressed that Cardinal O'Connor identified with.

I think at this time when again there are few real heroes in our country, it is important to look to someone who did stand for what was right and was not afraid to say so. Also I think it is very important to note that during this past 8 or 9 months when he was suffering from brain cancer, he showed the same class, the same courage, the same sense of dignity that he displayed throughout his life. He certainly displayed grace under pressure, and that is the ultimate definition of class. It is also the ultimate definition of a man who has a true faith and a true belief in God.

Again, I am proud to stand here today with all of my colleagues in honoring John Cardinal O'Connor. I was

proud to call him a friend. He certainly will always be in my prayers and the prayers of my family. May he rest in peace.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) for his words, especially bringing light and attention to the fact that Cardinal O'Connor had played such a major role in the Irish peace process and in many, many different ways. He had a tremendous amount of pride in his Irish heritage, and I probably dare say that one of his greatest days was March 17 every year. When the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) talked before about all the parades, I have to say that March 17 was probably his favorite day of all the parades, and he had the biggest smile on that particular day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my very able colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and also the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for sponsoring this resolution and my dear friend and our leader, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), for sponsoring this resolution this evening.

I, as an Ohioan and a daughter of the Buckeye State, rise with a heavy heart along with our colleagues from New York to extend deepest sympathy to the family, the friends and the colleagues, both in public life, in private life, in church life, for the unselfish life of John Cardinal O'Connor. We mourn with all the loss of this truly great spiritual leader and world figure of enormous proportion.

It is amazing. I guess one could say there are cardinals and then there are cardinals, and without question those of us who hail west of Long Island and New York City kind of viewed Cardinal O'Connor and the New York archdiocese as our connection to the world, and his role stretched beyond the diocese of New York.

I have to think back to a wonderful invitation that was extended to us by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) to meet with Cardinal O'Connor about 2 years ago when many of us who are very concerned about rebuilding in the former Soviet Union had brought visitors from, in that instance, the Ukraine to New York, people who had never traveled to the United States before, and Cardinal O'Connor agreed to hold mass to introduce these individuals in front of his magnificent congregation in New York City and then afterwards to privately meet with these individuals who could not even imagine that they would have had that set of experiences.

I can remember the cardinal afterwards hosting them in his private residence, something he did not have to do.

I can recall during the mass, when it began, how he as a great moral leader but also an individual with great discipline and dispatch walked down the middle aisle of St. Patrick's Cathedral. I will never forget that. He had such a long gait because he was so tall, and he had so much energy you just felt like he lifted New York up; and he lifted all of us by the way he carried himself, and then to listen to his homily, the great humor, the keen mind that he displayed.

And every moment during that very, very special day for us is something I shall never forget and even then more importantly for the people who were our guests from the former Soviet Union, he, through the Catholic Near East Welfare Fund, began to work with them. Again, the branches of America's free society, with all of our institutions, including those of our religious institutions, began to build back and began to plant seeds that will bloom in generations to come.

I will always remember the fact that he was able to host us and he did that. We were not from New York. We were not from that archdiocese. In fact, some of our visitors were from around the world, and I really gained a much deeper appreciation of the importance of the New York diocese, the importance of that particular cardinal, and his own commitment to those who were not of his congregation there inside of New York City.

So tonight we mourn his passing from this life, but I want to again acknowledge the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for bringing us together and also the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for placing in the RECORD the life story and the contributions of this truly world spiritual leader who has made such a difference in the lives of Americans but also people around the world whose lives he touched. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, to his friends, to the people of New York, and people of spiritual conviction around the world.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for again her thoughtful words and words of praise for the cardinal.

While New York claimed him as our own, he was born in Philadelphia and immediately before coming to New York he was the Bishop of Scranton, a great town in Pennsylvania, for one year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), who is here to speak for those great folks of Scranton and who represents Scranton.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the

gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for the opportunity to speak today as we mourn the passing of a great American, John Joseph Cardinal O'Connor, the archbishop of New York. I rise this afternoon to join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to Catholics throughout the Nation and around the world. From Cardinal O'Connor's home in Philadelphia, where he was ordained, across the globe with the United States Navy Chaplain Corps, to the Scranton diocese where he served as our Bishop, to the diocese of New York, he ministered with grace, love, compassion and humility.

I first knew the cardinal as the bishop of Scranton, and even though that is almost 2 decades ago, he is still revered in Scranton as a man of great compassion and wisdom and, most of all, his relationship with people.

□ 1630

Several months ago, I stood in this well as an original cosponsor of legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Cardinal O'Connor in recognition of his devotion to faith, service, and country. Americans of all faiths owe a debt of thanks to the Cardinal. He worked tirelessly to encourage respect and cooperation among secular leaders and believers of Christian and non-Christian religions. He was a spiritual humanist who believed in the fundamental value of every human life.

Mr. Speaker, it has been spoken today of his great friendship with Mayor Koch of New York, and I think it has been said that if he had not devoted his life to the Church, he could have easily been the mayor of Philadelphia. He had those kinds of talents.

We would all do well to strive to emulate his commitment to love and service.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He reminds us all that although Cardinal O'Connor spent the last years of his life in New York, he really was not a New Yorker by birth, and he never really belonged just to New York, he belonged not only to the United States, but to this world. I think the next speaker would like to expand upon that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from San Francisco, California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague for his leadership in bringing this to the floor, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and Mr. RANGEL, both of whom spoke earlier. I thank my colleagues for giving us the opportunity to mourn publicly and in this Chamber the death of John Cardinal O'Connor.

I was raised in Baltimore, Maryland. We have the oldest archdiocese in the country, but everyone in the country

thinks of New York in terms of the greatest, because of size and because of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

I want to address both the national and international aspects of this great Cardinal. Both Baltimore and New York have wonderful basilicas and cathedrals and wonderful, wonderful religious leadership, and that leadership was not only there to guide us in our inner spiritual lives about religion, but also about the dignity and worth of every person.

When we talk about human rights throughout the world, a guiding message among Catholics is the message of Pope Paul VI who said if you want peace, work for justice. John Cardinal O'Connor was the living embodiment of that statement. He became an internationally recognized leader in the field of human rights working for peace and justice. He recognized the dignity and worth of every person, no matter how humble, no matter living in how remote an area of the world. He was not only a leader, but an inspiration, and, again, a disciple of the words of Pope Paul VI, and he brought that home. He brought that home. He not only promoted justice, economic and social justice, throughout the world, but he did so at home.

He had always spoken out and acted to aid the elderly, the homeless, working people, the mentally disabled and the poor. He was, again, the living embodiment of the corporeal works of mercy, the Sermon on the Mount, the gospel, the Gospel of Matthew. When I was hungry, you gave me to eat; when I was naked, you clothed me; when I was homeless, you sheltered me; when I was in prison, you visited me. Not just for those who were poor, but those who were disadvantaged in other respects as well.

His illness was a tragedy for our whole country, and we viewed it, many of us, as his purgatory, so we know he went directly to heaven. He would have anyway, probably, but God chose to give him this suffering to atone not for his sins, but for others. So we know he is in heaven.

So as we pray for the people of New York and on behalf of my own constituents extend condolences to the people of New York, and recognize his role as a national leader, and a special claim that all people in America have on St. Patrick's Cathedral and its Cardinal, and, in this case, John Cardinal O'Connor, we have all been diminished by his death. So in extending sympathy to the people of New York and to our country and to the family of John Cardinal O'Connor, I do so in prayer, prayer for his family, prayer for his constituents, but knowing that he is in heaven, beseech him to pray for us. He knows how badly we need his prayers.

Again, I thank our colleagues for giving us this opportunity to recognize the life and works of John Cardinal

O'Connor and to extend sympathy to the people he served in his state, in this country, and throughout the world.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just in closing on our side, I just want to say that I do not think anything more can be said about this great man that has not been said already here on the floor.

All of New York will miss Cardinal O'Connor. I speak for all my constituents, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He was a man who touched the heart and soul of every person in this country and in this world, and the world is lesser for not having him anymore.

Before I came to the floor this evening to manage debate on this, I called my mother to let her know that we would be doing this, and to maybe give my aunt and uncles a call in the religious community, that they might want to tune in to hear a few words about Cardinal O'Connor. She said, "You know, I loved him;" and my mother means she really loved him.

I think that is really representative of so many people. My mother was not even in his diocese, but she loved Cardinal O'Connor, and she was not ashamed to say it, and there are millions and millions of people who feel the very, very same way.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Staten Island once again for his work on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my good friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his leadership on this issue, and also again for helping us out so much with getting a Congressional Gold Medal to be bestowed upon Cardinal O'Connor, and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for coming in and offering her thoughtful words as well.

As the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) said, Mr. Speaker, it has all been said. As Catholics, as Christians, we are taught to believe in eternal life, and the Cardinal through his daily mass celebrated the Eucharist and celebrated not only life here on Earth, but what he thought would be entering into the Kingdom of God, where he will rest forever in peace and love.

I am very fortunate to represent the people of Staten Island, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Dykker Heights, Bensonhurst and Grave's End. While those folks are not in the diocese that the Cardinal controlled, like Mr. CROWLEY's mother, they loved the Cardinal as well.

If anything, New York, this country, the Catholic Church, has lost a bit of

its soul with the passing of Cardinal O'Connor, but it has not lost the legacy that he has left for all of us to emulate.

A true leader, Mr. Speaker, does not say do as I say; he says do as I do, come follow me. Whether it was at the altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral or on the 5th Avenue on the St. Patrick's Day parade, or just touching the hand of a young child in a Catholic school who might not otherwise get a good education but for his steadfast commitment to ensuring that he gets one, or that person suffering from AIDS who had but a few moments left on this Earth, he was there to lend a helping hand and prayers, or for the homeless or the poor, the working men and women who were just looking for a better life when they land on these shores, Cardinal O'Connor, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, will go down as a truly great American.

I thank and applaud my colleagues, especially the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and others who have spoken for taking the time to acknowledge his greatness, his contributions to this country and his church, and, above all, Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for allowing us to bring this to the floor in such an expeditious manner, and all my colleagues here, both Democrats and Republicans, for paying tribute to a great man.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a truly great man—John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York. Cardinal O'Connor's death is a tremendous loss not only for the people of New York, but for the country and for the world.

I have always admired Cardinal O'Connor. I understand that he was from southwest Philadelphia. I was from the same neighborhood, right around the corner from the parish he grew up in, St. Clement Parish, which is at 71st Street and Woodland Avenue. I'm from 70th and Reedland Streets, and I went to Patterson Elementary School and Tilden Junior High, which I understand is where Cardinal O'Connor also went to school.

Cardinal O'Connor lived a long and full life, and it was one which was marked by service to others. He was a voice for the voiceless and a champion of human rights, both here in this country and for all people everywhere.

He delivered a homily on January 30 of this year which I think epitomizes the values for which he stood, and I'd like to quote a few closing remarks that he made that day:

Perhaps the time has come for a new and deeper reflection on the nature of the economy and its purposes. What seems to be urgently needed is a reconsideration of the concept of prosperity itself, to prevent it from being enclosed in a narrow utilitarian perspective which leaves very little space for values such as solidarity and altruism . . .

We are not simply looking for economic benefits. We are looking for human benefits.

When we recognize that the human person comes before all else under God, then the economy will be measured, will be truly rooted in helping every human person become everything that God intended him to be.

In the book of Isaiah, the first chapter, it says, "Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."

That is a command that the Lord tells those who seek to follow Him. Cardinal O'Connor was a true man of God who will be deeply missed, but hopefully we can follow the example of his life in our lives as well.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened to hear about the death of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor and wish to announce my support for the resolution sponsored by Representative VITO FOSSELLA to express the condolences of the House of Representatives on His Eminence's death. His Eminence was a man of compassion and devotion to people of all faiths and will be forever remembered for his service to the Catholic Church and his country. His Eminence was, and will always be, an inspiration to me and Catholics around the world for his leadership. As an adoptive father, I want to take this time to recognize His Eminence's devotion to protecting the life of the unborn by promoting adoption as an alternative to abortion.

On October 15, 1984, His Eminence announced for the first time that, "any women, of any color, of any religion, of any ethnic background, of any place, who is pregnant and in need, under pressure to have an abortion, can come to us in the Archdiocese of New York, can come personally to me. If she is in need, we will see that she is given free medical care and free hospitalization. If she wants to have her baby adopted we will provide free legal assistance. If she wants to keep her baby we will provide free assistance.

His Eminence expanded on this by saying during his January 17, 1999 Respect Life Sunday Homily, "Since the 15th day of October in 1984, many thousands of women have come to us and many thousands of babies have been saved. Equally important, the lives of their mothers have been made whole. The infants in their wombs have leaped for joy at the news that they would be brought safely into this world, as the infant in the womb of Elizabeth leaped for joy when Mary came bearing within her womb the Lord of Life Himself. Every human being in this Church, every human being that any one of us will meet this day or on any day of our lives is a sacred human being."

This country owes debt of gratitude for His Eminence's leadership on important issues of the day, and I want to personally single out his efforts to protect the sanctity of life and promote adoption.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor will be missed by our entire nation. He was quietly courageous—unafraid to take positions that might not be popular, while always approaching people with dignity and humility. Earlier this year, Congress had the privilege of bestowing on Cardinal O'Connor the Congressional Gold Medal, our highest civilian honor.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Cardinal O'Connor said he wanted

to be remembered simply as a "good priest." Cardinal O'Connor was more than a good priest, he was a great man. He was an example to people of all faiths about how to live a truly God-filled life. Whether it was his work with AIDS patients or his commitment to education, Cardinal O'Connor kept himself immersed in helping others.

Cardinal O'Connor loved God. He loved the Church. He loved his family, and he loved his friends. But he also loved and was committed to the less fortunate. His life serves as an example to us all.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sorrow to the people of New York and to pay tribute to a great man. We all are much poorer today, because during the night, His Eminence, John Cardinal O'Connor died.

Cardinal O'Connor was a spiritual leader to 2.3 million Catholics. Despite this challenge, he did not limit his advocacy to strictly Catholic matters. Rather, he spoke out on a variety of issues. For example, Cardinal O'Connor has condemned racism in any and all forms. Cardinal O'Connor has also reached out to New York's Jewish community. He has issued condemnations of anti-semitism and spearheaded the effort to establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel. An endowed chair of Jewish Studies is named in his honor at the Catholic Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York.

But more importantly, the Cardinal was not only a man of words, but of action. During the early and most frightening stages of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, he opened New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Clare's Hospital. He remained a frequent visitor and volunteer at this unit, spending untold hours with those in pain and suffering, and counseling patients in their last moments on this earth. Catholic parishioners in America knew well of Cardinal O'Connor's contributions for the betterment of our society, most especially his many humanitarian endeavors such as his work on behalf of disabled persons and the people who care for them.

Cardinal John O'Connor was a great man, who has finally found peace from a devastating illness and we are all better people for having known him.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues who spoke today about the death of Cardinal O'Connor. In the passing of this tremendous spiritual beacon, millions of American worshippers have lost a great shepherd of the faithful.

Cardinal O'Connor was an unabashed champion for human life and human dignity. His presence will be missed. Throughout his illness he showed us how to face death with dignity as well.

John Cardinal O'Connor was a giant. He lived his life as a true pillar of faith. In a time when our nation and our world has witnessed a general move toward the devaluation of our common humanity, this man stood firm against the grain. There has never been a time when it has been as difficult as it is now for people to stand against the worst traits of modernity. Cardinal O'Connor's example shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that humans can continue to stand firm for noble goals even in this most difficult of times.

Having had the opportunity to correspond with him recently, I can attest that he remained a gentle and principled man until the very end of his earthly life. May God continue to bless the Cardinal and reveal Himself in all of His majesty to this great man in the place he has now been welcomed.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 317.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, in addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, appointed on February 14, 2000:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina, Vice Chairman;

Mr. DREIER of California;  
Mr. BARTON of Texas;  
Mr. EWING of Illinois;  
Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois;  
Mr. BILBRAY of California;  
Mr. STENHOLM of Texas;  
Mr. PASTOR of Arizona;  
Mr. FILNER of California;  
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD of California;  
and

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa.

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Washington Post and also in today's Washington Post there were two articles in which Vice President GORE is scolding Governor Bush, candidate for president, on Social Security. In today's article, Vice President GORE in a speech yesterday to labor union members in Atlantic City said that Governor Bush had a secret plan to gut the Social Security program.

Now, the vice president is quite effective in being an advocate for the politics of fear, and it is a shame that he would be using this opportunity to scare those most vulnerable in our society, and particularly those senior citizens who depend upon Social Security for their livelihood. So today I just wanted to take a few minutes to talk about Social Security.

The Social Security program began in 1936, and between 1936 and 1998, a period of 62 years, in about 47 of those 62 years there was a surplus in the Social Security account. In other words, there was more money coming in through the payroll tax than was being paid out to beneficiaries.

During those 47 years of surpluses, the Democratic leadership controlled the Congress for about 95 percent of that time, and during that time in excess of \$800 billion was spent by the government from that fund.

Now, the sad thing about it was not only was the Congress during that period of time spending all of the income tax, both personal and corporate, but they were also spending all of the Social Security surplus, and they still were creating deficits, annual deficits, in excess of \$200 billion a year in many of those years.

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So I went back and I wanted to look at Vice President GORE's record while he was in Congress. Now, he served in the U.S. Congress and in the U.S. Senate from 1977 to 1992. During that time, Congress spent \$269 billion of the surplus of Social Security. At least from the research that I looked at, I did not see anywhere that Vice President GORE expressed any opposition to spending that surplus money. Then, during that period, from 1977 to 1992, the Federal debt increased by \$2.4 trillion. I did not find any record where Vice President GORE objected to that kind of addition to our Federal debt.

So I read this article about the Vice President using the politics of fear to scare senior citizens about the future of Social Security, and I said, what is the real issue here? When we have people come to Congress to lobby on Social Security, we obviously have senior citizens who depend upon it for their livelihood. But we also are having more and more young married couples with children coming, and they are paying