

These families know the tape might not give them all the answers they're looking for. But many believe it's the only way to cement in their minds what they already know in their hearts—that their husbands and fathers and best friends died as heroes, selflessly doing everything they could to protect their fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I have urged the FBI to immediately consider letting Deena Burnett hear this tape. For 7 weeks I have waited for an answer. Even worse—so have all those families.

And while Deena Burnett and all these other people have been waiting, someone shared information about their loved one's final moments with reporters. But the families' requests still go unanswered. This is heartless, and it is unacceptable.

The FBI can no longer delay making this important gesture to respect and honor the families of these American heroes.

Please, Mr. Speaker, help us give these families the best holiday gifts they could receive—the memories of those they lost.

U.S. CONGRESS MUST SUPPORT
AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, since 1998, foreign governments have been masterfully propping up their inefficient domestic steel producers. The result to the United States has been disastrous. In three years, 26 domestic steel companies have either been forced into bankruptcy proceedings or shut down altogether, amounting to 40 percent of America's former steel production capacity. The number of American workers who have lost their jobs, due to no fault of their own, stand at 28,000 and rising. Currently, foreign steel making corporations produce 300 million metric tons per year—nearly double the annual U.S. consumption.

Unfortunately, this problem is nothing new. Ever since the United States began to abandon its protective anti-dumping laws, American steel and steelworkers have been hung out to dry. In 1980, there were 547,500 American steelworkers; today there are 211,300.

This problem hits too close to home for the residents of my Congressional district. For example, last week, LTV Corporation petitioned a federal bankruptcy judge to close its coke plant at 11600 S. Burley in Chicago. This closing alone will send 3,500 employees in the Chicago area a pink slip just in time for Christmas. Last month, Acme metals of Riverdale shut down and resulted in 1,100 unemployed steelworkers.

Perhaps more damaging to my district is the fact that retired pensioners risk losing their negotiated benefits and health insurance. In 1993, when U.S. Steel closed its Southworks plant on 89th Street in Chicago, hundreds of my constituents were forced into early retirement. Today, they worry their retirement pensions will not be subject to another broken promise. Locally, 4,600 former LTV and Acme

employees will join their ranks, hoping that their struggling former companies will at least be able to pay out health and pension annuities.

I would like to thank Congressman VISCLOSKY from my neighboring state of Indiana for bringing forth his Steel Industry Relief legislation to the floor of the House today. As numerous steel companies begin to move from Chapter 11 to Chapter 7 bankruptcy, it is becoming obvious that pension and health commitments will fall with the corporations. His amendment will address the needs of retired workers and allow steel companies to merge and restructure to survive in the predatory world steel market of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, the Steel Industry Relief legislation will only begin to address the amount of assistance Congress needs to give to the vital domestic steel industry. But it is a good start. Again, I would like to thank my colleague from my neighboring state of Indiana, Mr. VISCLOSKY, for his thoughtful amendment. His northwest Indiana district may be the most affected congressional district in the nation as a result of closing steel mills. Some congressional districts like mine will be substantially affected by these problems. But in time, all of America will surely suffer if these troubling trends continue. We must protect and support American steel.

EULOGY FOR HONORABLE JOE
MOAKLEY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a submission into the RECORD. During the funeral mass for our late colleague Joe Moakley, Monsignor Thomas McDonnell of St. Augustine's Parish in South Boston gave a wonderful and very moving eulogy. I'd like to share his words with the House.

St. Augustine once wrote that if we ever wish to find hope, we must learn to remember. And it is this remembering that leads to the hope that must be the center of our reflection today as we give our brother, friend, colleague and public servant back to God.

My own memories will, I know, color my words. I remember a political novel about a thinly-disguised mayor of Boston. And years later, I can remember the words of the fictitious Monsignor about his hero. With due adaptation, they apply so aptly to Joe. His words were to the effect that "to die in God's grace, to have loved many and left behind many friends, and to have done a great deal of good—what more needs to be said about any man." Indeed, we might leave our thoughts here, except for one thing. The phrase quoted above overlooks what contributed to Joe's goodness and greatness. It overlooks the Congressman's roots as a South Boston Irish-Italian Catholic American.

There was a spiritual depth in Joe which could easily be overlooked. After his public announcement regarding his disease, he asked to meet with me—and had one question: "What more should I be doing to get ready to

meet God?" He had received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and he was given the sacrament of the sick by his friend Cardinal Law. But being the pragmatist he was, he wanted to know if he should be doing anything else.

This question, coming from the deepest part of himself, was a natural one to those of us who were raised in the Catholic tradition—where we were taught that the purpose of our existence was to lead us to spend an eternity of happiness with God. It was a question which took on the aspect of prayer—spoken in the language of the heart. And ultimately, it pointed to the faith-dimension of Joe's life.

Without breaking any confidentiality, I can say that I could only point Joe to the truth which I believe is so important for all of us to recognize: God's infinite, affectionate love that He has for every one of his children—the love about which Isaiah wrote:

Even if a mother would forget the child of her womb,

I can never forget you—

I have carved you on the palm of my hands.

Somehow I believe that at the moment of our death, God who has been supporting us and holding us will simply grasp us gently by the hand and lead us home.

On another level, one of the great saints of the Catholic tradition, St. John of the Cross, wrote: "In the evening of our life, we will be judged upon love." And in this context, Joe would pass with flying colors. There is no doubt that Joe was loved. The outpouring of affection for him was made known to us through the media. For Joe, however, the letters he received from people whom he knew all his life—or people for whom he did favors were equally if not more important.

But we are loved because we love. True Love, as we know, is ever-expansive. And the lists of Joe's loves are as endless as they are impressive. He loved His God, his church, his special and enduring love for his wife Evelyn, his family, his constituents, South Boston, the Democratic Party and his country. In a way, I am reminded of the poet Dante's description of God, whom he described as having His arms wide-open to embrace all who turn to Him. In an analogous way, Joe's arms were open to all who turned to him, especially the poor and the needy. Because we are all made in God's image, we should learn that lesson.

It would be wrong, however, to look at Joe simply in terms of a local politician. I believe his pursuit of justice for those murdered in El Salvador proved that Joe was a true statesman who did not, however, forget his roots. His was a passionate pursuit of justice. And as the first Scripture reading notes, the just are in the hands of God.

I doubt whether Joe ever read Aristotle on his frequent trips between Boston and Washington, but he instinctively embraced the ideas of this Greek philosopher that the vocation of the politician is to strive to make others happy. This idea, combined with the Christian belief expressed in the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus was one who "went about doing good" explains the motivating forces for Joe's political life and successes. As the Gospel points out, there are many ways to our Father's home.

As we have seen in the past few months, Joe exercised a great appeal to so many people. I believe people saw in him 2 virtues for