

Yes, God watched out for Jimmy O'Connell, and Jimmy O'Connell watched out for God.

His faith anchored his life. It gave him perspective, and purpose, and humor and the courage and strength to face and overcome the troubles and challenges he faced, as he did so successfully and inspiringly. Jimmy didn't just go to church faithfully; he lived a life of faith. You could see it in this strength and in his selflessness, in the way he treated everyone he met with the respect and interest and joy due to each of God's children. He loved people. He particularly loved talking to people. Part of that, of course, was the Irish gift with language. But talking was also Jimmy's way of connecting with people, of engaging them, of sharing what he knew and learning what others had to teach him. And, in that, he taught us all a lot about life.

In the days since Jimmy's death, I have been impressed and touched by how many people he knew and how many people knew Jimmy, and by how many of them remember how interested he was in them, and how much he cared about them.

Jimmy was a devoted and loving son and brother, a good and trustworthy friend, and a generous and involved uncle, to his own nieces and nephews, of whom he was so proud, and to so many others he adopted, including my own children and grandchildren for whom he became "Uncle Jimmy." Warm, caring, fun, I cannot remember an important event in the lives of any of them or us, happy or sad, when Jimmy was not there.

Jimmy's faith also helped to shape his politics. Of course, he loved politics as process and got much pleasure from the rich mix of people in it. But Jimmy also had a philosophy, a point of view that I believe came from the social ethics of his Church, and I learned it well in the thousands of conversations we had in the car over the years. He respected people of wealth, particularly those who made it on their own, but Jimmy's heart was with the working men and women, with people in need, particularly children, with poor people trying hard to move up and build a better life for their children. As our mutual friend, Jim Kennedy said, "Some politicians pay consultants to tell them what people are thinking. Jimmy O'Connell was the voice of the people." He wanted government to be there for them when they needed it, as Jimmy himself was there for them when they needed him. He was a doer of good deeds and was so proud of the work his elementary school, St. Francis in Fairhaven, was doing to educate the next generation of America's children who are working their way up.

Jimmy was devoted to the Roman Catholic Church, as he liked to call it, but he also had the greatest respect for, and interest in other people's faith. I often said that James Kevin O'Connell knew more about Judaism than most Jews. Over the years he also taught me a lot about Catholicism, its rituals and rules, and its history and heroes. In fact, Jimmy's love of this church and love of his politics came together in a great fascination with movements within the church hierarchy.

For instance, when Edward Egan became the Bishop of Bridgeport, Jimmy wryly prophesied to me that Bishop Egan would not be buried in Bridgeport. In other words, that Bridgeport would not be his last stop. And, of course, this is the very same Edward Egan who is now Cardinal Egan of New York.

Jimmy's love for politics was joined naturally with his belief in public service and civil service. For almost three decades he served the city of his birth with skill and

honor as a proud member of its police department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant at his death. He loved his New Haven Police colleagues and greatly enjoyed our meetings with police around the state, and throughout the country, who were members of what he thought of as a great fraternity.

Jimmy's passing early Sunday morning came much too soon. But I can assure you, as a matter of faith, that he was more prepared for his death than we were. The loss of Jimmy is very painful to me. I will miss him deeply as will so many others who are here today. But as we experience our grief, we should remember Jimmy's faith and Jimmy's words.

He said to me more than once, "Remember none of us is getting out of here alive." And he believed with a perfect faith that this life, as enjoyable as he found it, was just a bridge to an even better place, and so he did not fear death.

Jimmy often asked me to do something for somebody else, but he never asked me to do much of anything for himself. Years ago a mutual friend told me that he had asked Jimmy what he really wanted from me, and Jimmy said, "I want to be there to turn the lights off when he leaves the office for the last time." That was Jimmy.

Well, if the good Lord gives me the privilege of exiting the office on my own for the last time, I'm going to leave the lights on, for Jimmy.

Once in the car we were talking about our visions of the world to come, and I thought I would end the conversation when I said that I would probably go first because I was older, and so I would send him a report on what it was like up there. But Jimmy, as usual, had the last word.

"You never know," he said, "I might go first. And if I do, when you get to the gates, just give me a call, and I'll drive over and pick you up."

I will do that, James, and I know we'll have a lot to talk about.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.●

HONORING OUR NATION

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President. I ask to print into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a prayer delivered by Mr. Clarence Hodges, President of the North American Religious Liberty Association, on November 21, 2001, on the grounds of the United States Capitol in honor of our Nation.

The prayer follows.

AMERICA, MAY GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE.

(By Clarence E. Hodges)

God bless America, land that we love. Please stand beside her and guide her with your light from above.

Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. . . . And ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid; and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall

fall before you For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. (Lev 26:2-9)

And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror . . . and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. (Lev 26:15-17)

I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. (Lev 26:22)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chr 7:14) (King James Version)

With an attitude of gratitude, we will come closer to each other as we come closer to God. With love, we will save our children from destructive attractions. Love will serve as our motivator as we serve mankind and our Creator. Faith will overwhelm our doubts and fears. The spirit of humility will balance our competitiveness. Patience will fortify our discipline. Excellence and a desire to serve others will be intertwined in our ambitions. Tolerance will replace our prejudice and opinionation. We will stand strong for religious freedom with accommodation in the workplace. And the best America possible will be our dream of dreams. We will rid the land of those who are dedicated to evil acts against mankind. We will not tire. We will not falter. And we will not fail. Now let's roll, with liberty and justice for all.●

COMMENDING DURAND MIDDLE SCHOOL'S INVEST IN AMERICA PLAN

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the students of Durand Middle School in Durand, MI, for showing the kind of spirit that will get our nation through the economic aftershocks of September 11.

When the attack of September 11 sent our airline industry into an economic tailspin, the students of Durand Middle School created the Invest in America Project to show their faith in the travel and transportation industries.

Under the Invest in America project, families across the Nation were encouraged to buy at least one share of stock in the transportation or travel company of their choice.

The students believed this would show the world that we have faith in our economy and that Americans are ready to travel again.

Given the fact that the travel and tourism industry is worth about \$93 billion to our economy, renewed confidence in the industry by both investors and consumers is important.

This project will also give the students and their families valuable first-

hand experience in how the stock market works.

I hope you will all join me in wishing these students good luck with their investments and thank them for their show of confidence in our economy.●

HONORING TERESA POOLE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of one of my staff members, Teresa Poole, who works in my Springfield District Office in Missouri. On January 3, 2002, Teresa will celebrate her 25th anniversary of working for the Senate. When Teresa started her career, Senator STROM THURMOND was a mere 74 years old. Teresa has worked for three U.S. Senators during her career. She began working for Senator John Danforth's office in 1977 until he retired in 1993. In 1987 she started working with my office and continues that service today. When John Ashcroft came to the Senate in 1995, Teresa worked for both of our offices until 2001 when Ashcroft became Attorney General of the United States.

When I look back at Teresa's career two words come to mind, commitment and loyalty.

For the past 25 years Teresa has been committed to handling the entire military academy nomination process for this office. Teresa has set a high standard for this process and fields numerous calls from other congressional offices throughout the State and country when they have questions about academy nominations. Teresa is committed to helping students who are interested in military careers receive all the information they need to complete their applications, and spends hours each week answering questions from parents and applicants about their files. Teresa loves to make those phone calls informing individuals of their acceptance into the various service academies.

For the past 25 years Teresa has been loyal to the Senators she has served and the constituents they represent. Teresa has worked tirelessly on behalf of each of us ensuring that our positions are known and communicated in an accurate and precise manner. Teresa is a true public servant and a faithful and constant part of this Senate office. Attorney General John Ashcroft said, "Congratulations are in order for Teresa Poole, who has served 25 years as staff in the U.S. Senate. Mrs. Poole was a great help to me during my 6 years in the Senate. My wife, Janet and I wish her all the best as she celebrates this milestone in her life."

It is an honor for me to join with my staff in Washington, DC, and in the great State of Missouri to recognize Teresa Poole for the 25 years of distinguished service to the people of Missouri and three U.S. Senators.●

HONORING JOHN O'CONNOR

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, all of us in Massachusetts continue to mourn the loss of one of our State's most passionate, committed, and effective activists, John O'Connor, who died on Friday, December 7. John brought an enthusiasm and commitment to civic life that inspired everyone around him. His legendary appetite for life was bound by a steady moral compass, one that envisioned a world where water, air and land are free of pollution and every individual, from all walks of life, has access to the full measure of the American Dream.

After John disclosed the fact that a small baseball field in his neighborhood of Stratford, CT, was actually built on the waste site of asbestos manufacturer Raybestos, he embarked on a journey that spanned from the fight to clean up sites like it all across the country to advocating for universal health care. That early spark of environmental awareness proved to be a model for all the struggles he engaged in throughout his life. As a young graduate of Clark University, he organized the poor neighborhoods of Worcester so that they could have a stronger voice in their community's policies, and joined up with Massachusetts Fair Share, a grassroots group that was pursuing the same goal statewide. His humor and enthusiasm gained traction in the group's newsletter, 'The Squeaky Wheel,' as well as the street organizing and guerilla theater strategy that helped illuminate the organization and its mission.

These community and State-wide efforts led to larger pursuits on the national stage. One of John's crowning achievements, one that will reach generations into the future, was his work on the National Toxics Campaign. This watershed moment in the environmental movement resulted in the \$8 billion Superfund legislation that turned the tide in cleaning up industrial waste sites, and it echoed back to the ballfield that ushered John into the activism that defined his life. His campaign for environmental protection inspired him to write two books, "Getting the Lead Out," and "Who Owns The Sun," both of which elevated the dialogue surrounding the environmental issues that impact communities across the country. Throughout all of this he realized the potent force the market could be in the struggle to protect the environment, and towards that end he founded Greenworks in 1991, which provided financial backing for fledgling environmental businesses.

John's national focus never took his attention far away from the communities he came to love. Along with his wife, Carolyn Mugar, he reached out to countless organizations in Watertown, Cambridge and Greater Boston, nourishing them with resources and copious amounts of his own time and energy.

He served on boards and fund-raising committees for shelters, after-school programs and local youth programs, and was a fixture at City Year events. He helped start the Irish Famine Memorial Committee, which honored the victims of the Irish famine with a statue in Cambridge Common that was unveiled by former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This work, as well as his commitment to other organizations like the Irish Immigration Center, reflected a deep love of his own history, but for John it was larger than an effort just for the Irish. His commitment to immigrant advocacy evidenced a deep belief in this country's ability to improve and re-create itself through the welcoming of people from all over the world.

Nothing carries more grief than the loss of a young man of such talent, full of life, brimming with the truly American notion that everyone can and must improve life for themselves and their community. Surely John O'Connor accomplished this and more—and that legacy, the fact that he filled 46 years with more than many achieve in many lifetimes will, I hope, make his family's sorrow today a little lighter and leave them knowing that his work lives on in the countless acts of goodwill John performed before he was taken from us.

Even though John was taken from us long before nature intended, I think an activist of his deep commitment would know that he leaves us with more than just his record of good work—he leaves us with a challenge, one that was presented to us over the course of his 46 years. John's challenge to all of us is to expand our world and expand the circle of people we care for and love. The compass that pointed him in the direction of taking on polluters and fighting for access to health care is with us still, pointing to the world he envisioned and began to realize through his work. Our mission now is to follow that compass, take up those battles, and complete the work that John challenged us with in his life and inspires us with in his death. We are better people for his time here, but, as he surely would remind us, there is much work to be done. Now, we will set about doing it with John O'Connor as guide and inspiration.●

MAINTAINING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, during these troubled times, our need to connect and communicate with family and friends becomes all the more important. The tragic events of the last four months and questions about the security of mail may cause some hesitation about continuing long-held traditions in which we typically participate at this time of the year. But now more than ever, renewing and maintaining ties to others is vital.