

Delaware, could not make it. He had to drive 35, 40 miles.

Again, we send our condolences to Tom, his son, and Mike, his widow. As a Senate family, we felt so good about Senator Heflin in life and in death.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO

I also say this to the majority leader.

I had the good fortune during this break to lead a bipartisan CODEL. We had the opportunity to sit down and talk to President Yushchenko. Here is a man they tried to kill. We think we know who tried to assassinate him. Here is a man whose face is a little disfigured, but his spirit is not. He has the ability, I believe, to bring about a change in that country that will be for generations to come. It is a burgeoning democracy. Things are on the move, and he has a dynamic personality. I am glad he is going to be able to address a joint session of Congress because he is what our country is all about. So I commend and applaud the Speaker for arranging for this man, a good man, to speak before a joint session of Congress. It will make us all better for having the ability and the opportunity to listen to him.

I apologize to the leader for taking more time than usual, but I will return at a later time and make some remarks about the Pope, who passed away.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, this body, the Senate, and the world community grieve for the passing of Pope John Paul II. He passed away Saturday evening, April 2, in his bed overlooking St. Peter's Square. Millions of Catholics and non-Catholics alike mourn the departure of one of the greatest spiritual leaders and moral teachers of the modern era.

Pope John Paul set an extraordinary example of personal integrity and courage, not only for his fellow Catholics but for people of every religious and philosophical viewpoint.

Pope John Paul was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Poland, a country which at the time was a desolate, impoverished, and war-torn place. By the time John Paul reached the age of 21, every close member of his family had died. Most people would have been devastated by such losses. But for John Paul, this early experience of suffering deepened his spirituality and his capacity to find meaning in man's frailty.

John Paul was ordained as a priest at the age of 26. In 1964, he became the Bishop of Krakow. Three years later, he was elevated to cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1978, he became the first non-Italian in 455 years to be elected Pope of the Catholic Church.

For the next 2½ decades, Pope John Paul campaigned tirelessly for human

rights and dignity throughout the world. He practiced and inspired resistance to the great totalitarian systems that rose and, with his help, fell in the 20th century. He had the key insight that, in his words, "the historical experience of socialist countries has sadly demonstrated that collectivism does not do away with alienation, but rather increases it, adding to it a lack of basic necessities and economic inefficiency."

His historic trip to Poland in 1979 catalyzed the Solidarity movement and led to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet empire.

John Paul fostered harmony between Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant Christians. He reached out in friendship to Jews and members of other faiths, and he warmly promoted interfaith understanding.

He was the first Pope to visit a mosque and the first Pope to visit a synagogue. A poet, a playwright, and a philosopher, Pope John Paul II dedicated himself to the defense of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

He eloquently defended the right to life of every human being, irrespective of race or sex, age or size, stage of development, or condition of dependence. He believed that "science can purify religion from error and superstition. Religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes."

On his visits to the United States, he called on all Americans to be faithful to the great principles of liberty included in our Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution. Even in his last frail moments, he remained devoted to God and the cause of justice. His selfless service to God and man will remain an inspiration to all people of good will across the globe.

I will close with a poem he wrote for his mother at the age of 19. It reflects his extraordinarily sensitive nature and closes with a prayer the world now sends out to him. It is entitled "Over This, Your White Grave":

Over this, your white grave,
The flowers of life in white,
So many years without you,
How many have passed out of sight?
Over this, your white grave,
Covered for years, there is a stir
In the air, something uplifting
And, like death, beyond comprehension.
Over this, your white grave,
Oh, Mother, can such loving cease?
For all his filial adoration
A prayer:
Give her eternal peace.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I believe we secured acceptance from the other side for me to speak for 45 minutes. I might go 10 minutes longer. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 55 minutes as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA'S SPREADING GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as I have done many times before on this floor, I rise to address a national security issue of the highest importance, one that demands our utmost attention. I wish to alert this body and the American people to China's spreading global influence and the imminent threat this poses to our national security.

Our past concerns have come to fruition on all levels—economically, militarily, and ideologically. We are on a collision course. As I will detail, China has become a progressive danger we can no longer afford to overlook. As I said, this is not new. Over the years I have made numerous remarks on the Senate floor regarding our national security and China.

During the Clinton administration, there were growing concerns about Chinese espionage, which were later confirmed in the Cox report. The report showed that reality surpassed our worst fears. China had been stealing U.S. nuclear secrets. The W-88 warhead, with which we are all familiar, was the crown jewel of our nuclear program which allowed for up to 10 nuclear warheads to be attached to the same missile. In 1995, we discovered that China had stolen this technology.

Under President Clinton, U.S. companies such as Loral Space and Communications and Hughes Electronics were given the green light to improve the precision and reliability of China's satellites and their nuclear missiles, undoing 50 years of technology export restrictions. China also gained the capability of accurately reaching the continental United States with nuclear missiles and targeted between 13 and 18 U.S. cities. All of this occurred while President Clinton proclaimed "not one missile is pointed at American children." This body responded by investigating to what extent we were lied to and our security was compromised, but ultimately nothing changed.

From those events, the Chinese Government learned that it could rely on our acquiescence and charged ahead.