

Springfield, Virginia, who share with me their pride in having his name enshrined on our local post office.

I thank the Virginia delegation for their unanimous support of this resolution, and I ask all Members to pass H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join our chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), in the consideration of H.R. 1460, legislation naming the U.S. postal facility in Springfield, Virginia, after Captain Mark Stubenhofer. This measure, which has been sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, was introduced with the support and cosponsorship of the entire Virginia delegation.

Captain Mark Norman Stubenhofer died on December 7, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire. Captain Stubenhofer, a company commander, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Captain Stubenhofer, a native of Springfield, Virginia, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed.

Mark Stubenhofer graduated from West Springfield High School in 1992. In high school, he was a student government leader, member of the homecoming court, and baseball player. After high school, Mark went on to graduate from Clemson University with a degree in history in 1996. Mark joined the Army after graduating from college. While in the Army, he was certified as an Army Ranger and jump instructor. He earned the Bronze Star during his first tour of duty in Iraq.

He left behind a wife, Patty, and three children, Lauren, Justin, and Hope. Madam Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Captain Stubenhofer by naming a postal facility in his honor in his hometown. I urge swift adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE JOHN PAUL II AND
EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW
ON HIS DEATH

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of April 5, 2005, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 190) honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 190

Whereas His Holiness Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and on October 16, 1978, was elected the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church, making history by becoming the first Pope from Poland and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years;

Whereas Pope John Paul II dedicated his long life to the peace and well-being of mankind;

Whereas Pope John Paul II risked his own life by defying the Nazi forces which occupied Poland during World War II and protecting its Jewish population, while trying to inspire faith in the oppressed;

Whereas Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland in June 1979, unleashing a patriotic and religious force that would ultimately lead to the peaceful toppling of the Communist regime in Poland;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was a unique, substantial, and historic catalyst in the demise of Soviet communism and the emancipation of hundreds of millions of people from totalitarian rule;

Whereas Pope John Paul II used public and private diplomacy and the power of moral suasion to encourage world leaders to respect the inalienable rights of the human person;

Whereas Pope John Paul II articulated the importance of individual liberty being undergirded by a "moral order", embraced the poor and oppressed masses of the world, and encouraged governments and the faithful to attend to the needs of those who are less fortunate;

Whereas Pope John Paul II ministered to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, providing a personal example of grace, endurance, compassion, courage, sacrifice, and foresight;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was an articulate and outspoken advocate for religious freedom and Christian humanism, asserting that the Catholic Church could not claim religious liberty for itself unless it was willing to concede it to others;

Whereas Pope John Paul II sought to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths, expressing sadness and regret for the acts of individual past and present Catholics who persecuted others on account of their faith, and promoting reconciliation through dialogue with Jews and Muslims and through visits to areas of historic conflict, including Ireland and the Holy Land;

Whereas Pope John Paul II traveled more extensively than any other Pope, traversing nearly three-quarters of a million miles, vis-

iting more than 125 countries, being seen by more people than any person in human history, and ministering to more than six million people at once in the closing mass of World Youth Day 1995 in the Philippines;

Whereas on January 8, 2001, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, presented Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that Congress can bestow upon any individual;

Whereas in November 2003 the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 313, which called upon the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II;

Whereas on June 4, 2004, President George W. Bush traveled to the Vatican and presented Pope John Paul II with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States Government;

Whereas, even as Pope John Paul II struggled to regain his physical strength after suffering failings in his physical condition in early 2005, he continued to minister to the faithful, while suffering with grace and in silence; and

Whereas up until the moment of his death on April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II remained faithful and principled, inspiring a continuing defense of the unique dignity of every human life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II;

(2) expresses gratitude for the life of Pope John Paul II and the innumerable blessings manifested through his service;

(3) commends the life's work of Pope John Paul II, recognizing his enduring and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace in the world;

(4) expresses condolences to the people of Poland for the loss of such an inspirational figure in Poland's transformation from a totalitarian regime to democratic government;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world, including more than sixty-six million Catholics in the United States, who looked to Pope John Paul II as Supreme Pontiff; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to reflect on the life of Pope John Paul II during the worldwide period of remembrance following his death.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with a request that the Secretary transmit it to the Papal Secretary of State at the Vatican.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 190, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to speak in honor of the life and the achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. It is hard to imagine any other person who holds so much worldwide respect regardless of religious faith. The estimated 4 million people, including 200 heads of state, expected to attend the Pope's funeral in Rome later this week will bear witness to history's high regard for this man of principle and courage.

John Paul II dedicated his long life to peace and freedom for all mankind. As a young man, the Pontiff risked his life and defied Nazi forces which occupied Poland in an effort to protect the Jewish population and others in his homeland. As the 264th Pope, his faith remained steadfast during the years of the Cold War, playing an important role in the demise of Soviet communism.

As columnist Charles Krauthammer commented this week, "John Paul II's first great mission was to reclaim his native Eastern Europe for civilization, and he demonstrated what Europe had forgotten and Stalin never knew: the power of faith as an instrument of political mobilization." Visiting more than 125 countries over his career, the Pope reached out to people of other cultures and religions in an effort toward greater understanding, healing, and harmony.

Despite the steady decline in his health due to Parkinson's disease, and especially since he fell ill in early February, John Paul II continued to lead the Roman Catholic Church with his gentle strength and noble heart. He remained faithful, principled, and resolute concerning the continuing defense of the Church's traditional belief in the unique dignity of every human life from conception until natural death.

During a long and fruitful life, he literally provided the world with an example of how to live with dignity and unshakable faith. He told us to "be not afraid" in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. He showed us how to demand justice from the unjust. His faith inspired us when we most needed reassurance. His composure and dignity during times of great suffering serves as an inspiration to us all. He bore his personal cross with grace and serenity until the very end of his long and remarkable life.

As John Paul II has said, "Faith opens us to a hope that does not disappoint, placing us before the perspective of the final resurrection." While life itself is short and tenuous, I am comforted by the fact that His Holiness is finally at home and in a place of peace and refreshment with the Father. I am sure he is praying for us even now, as we are praying for him.

It is appropriate we mourn his passing. It is right and proper that we

grieve over the loss of humanity's great champion; but we should also feel gratitude that this Pope stayed with us for so long and look forward to the time when we will hear the words he surely heard last Saturday: "Come, Beloved of my Father, and enter the Kingdom which has been prepared for you since the beginning of time."

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for authoring this resolution remembering the life of Pope John Paul II. I also welcome the wholehearted support for this measure of my friend, our Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Madam Speaker, one billion Catholics worldwide, more than 60 million of them Americans, have suffered the staggering loss of a unique spiritual leader. And for all humanity, Pope John Paul II was a towering figure in the struggle for freedom. He railed against injustice all his life. He fought tirelessly on behalf of the poor, and he kept alive the aspirations of the oppressed wherever they were.

Those of us who have shared in his fight against both Nazism and communism have a special appreciation for him. Those of us who lived in the grip of Nazism and communism will always be grateful for his eloquence and his courage in his fight against Hitler's tyranny and Soviet domination during the Cold War.

I had the profound honor, with my wife, of having a serious conversation with Pope John Paul II during the visit to Rome in 1998. In our long discussion with His Holiness, we were struck by his clarity of mind, his captivating personality, and his absolute refusal to let his deteriorating health force him to remain behind the walls of Vatican City. These impressions came back to me during these very last days when a Pope silenced by illness nevertheless continued to call out forcefully for freedom and peace and to bring comfort to millions around the globe.

In his first public address at his installation as the Supreme Pontiff in 1978, John Paul II famously urged the faithful, and I quote, "Be not afraid." In the decades that followed, this message resonated well beyond the Church and the City of Rome. Within months of assuming his papacy, Pope John Paul II traveled to his native Poland. Enormous crowds poured onto the streets to greet him. The Pope pointed

out that it was impossible to understand Poland without the context of Catholicism, and that, in his words, "There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland."

Throughout the 1980s, the Pope remained in constant contact with the nascent Solidarity labor movement and with the Polish Government, pushing successfully for the end of martial law in 1983, and, ultimately, Madam Speaker, the end of the Polish Communist regime in 1989.

The demise of communism in Poland dramatically influenced the pace of Democratic change throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Americans, together with the rest of the world, will be eternally grateful for his important role in bringing liberty and democracy to tens of millions of men and women behind the Iron Curtain.

The Pontiff went on to provide inspiration for the "people power" revolt against the corrupt rule of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, and he strongly supported the pro-democracy efforts of the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin. Marcos fell from power in 1986. Then the Pope traveled to Chile in 1987 and spoke out firmly against the authoritarian rule of Augusto Pinochet. Democracy took hold in Chile in 1990. Then the Pope traveled to East Timor in 1999, inspiring a whole generation of young Timorese to protest Indonesian occupation. East Timor won its freedom in 2002.

Pope John Paul II also made extraordinary efforts to repair relations between Catholics and Jews. In 1982, he took the historic step of establishing diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel. He became the first Pope in modern times to visit a synagogue. In 2000, he was the first Pope to travel to the State of Israel; and there, Madam Speaker, he quietly read a prayer of reconciliation at the Western Wall, requesting forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Jews through the centuries.

□ 1430

At a somber visit to the Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust, the Pope spoke movingly of his Jewish friends he had lost to the death camps during the Holocaust, and he recommitted the Catholic Church to battling anti-Semitism around the globe. He said, "The world must heed the warning that comes to all of us from the victims of the Holocaust, and from the testimony of the survivors."

Madam Speaker, with his efforts to reach out to Jews worldwide and to the State of Israel, and with his ceaseless work to promote human rights globally, Pope John Paul II, became a truly historic figure. We were all inspired by his passion for justice. His voice will be missed in the great global chorus that sings out for freedom in all corners of the world. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Abraham Lincoln was succeeded by Andrew Johnson. Johnson was impeached by his fellow Republicans. Teddy Roosevelt became so frustrated with his successor, he came back to run against him.

Great Presidents and great Popes are seldom succeeded by great Presidents and great Popes, which is why so many of us mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II so much.

I never saw him in person. As a third-generation Lutheran boy marrying a Catholic girl, I take a more ecumenical view of the papacy. Until John Paul II, I saw the Pope as generally irrelevant to matters of personal faith and world events. Karol Wojtyla changed all that. He began his papacy with those simple words, "Be not afraid." He lived those words until his dying breath. History always finds a special place for the fearless.

He understood something that many Western sophisticates do not. There is enormous persuasive power in communicating deeply held moral truths. President Victor Yushchenko reminded us today of something the Pope said. He said, "The path of truth is often difficult, but never impossible."

He literally took up his cross daily and led charismatically his massive flock. He spoke with clarity to them and to the world. He led by example, and in the process, like St. Peter before him, he changed the world.

He stared down the Soviets when they threatened to put down the Solidarity movement in his native Poland. He traveled more and touched the lives of more people than any Pontiff in history. I thank God for giving us Karol Wojtyla. He will be succeeded. He will be hard to replace.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

One of the great experiences I have had in life was to have an audience with Pope John Paul II. I traveled to Rome with the former mayor of the city of Chicago, Harold Washington; two other colleagues of mine at the time, a Jewish gentleman, Larry Bloom, and a Polish gentleman, Bill Krystaniak. The four of us met with the Pope, two African Americans, a Jewish person, and a Pole. When we were ready to leave, Bill Krystaniak replied, "We can actually end our trip because one of my wishes has been fulfilled."

Each one of us left with a tremendous sense of peace and tranquility, knowing that we had been in the presence of encompassing greatness, one who fought poverty, ignorance, discrimination, totalitarianism, whose arms were wide enough and broad enough and strong enough to embrace the hopes of the world.

I strongly support this resolution. Chicago is home to more Poles than any city in the world with the exception of Warsaw, and I know that we experienced a tremendous sense of pride, not only our Polish citizens, but all of Chicago, knowing that Pope John Paul II, had passed our way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Pope John Paul II. He served as the head of the Catholic Church during a tumultuous 26 year period that saw changes that rocked the World as well as the Church. During his life, Pope John Paul II's influence extended far beyond the Catholic faithful to non-Catholics and world leaders. As a result, his death is mourned by people of all faiths around the world.

In his role as head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II led a growing Church that spans 6 continents and consists of people from very different backgrounds. His credibility as a leader was bolstered by his willingness to take stands that were often unpopular and sometimes viewed by many in highly developed countries as anachronistic. His willingness to take stands that reflected the traditional teachings of the Church was strengthened by his willingness to acknowledge that the Church had at times failed to stress its traditional teachings during challenging periods. He did not just acknowledge past errors, but sought to prevent future ones by confronting the totalitarian threat of his time, the Soviet Union.

John Paul II was a tireless champion of democracy in Eastern Europe and an unrelenting critic of the Soviet Union and its puppet regimes in Eastern Europe. His experience growing up in Nazi occupied and Soviet controlled Poland surely influenced his pro-democracy, anti-totalitarian worldview.

As Chicago is home to the largest number of Poles of any city in the world other than Warsaw, his death hits especially close to home. Many Chicagoans of Polish descent fled Poland during the crackdowns and turmoil of the 1980s—a period during which Pope John Paul II was a major figure in the pro-democracy, anti-Soviet movement in his homeland. Developments in Poland proved decisive in ending Soviet domination in Eastern Europe as well as the collapse of the Soviet Union itself. For his leadership in the fight against totalitarianism, many people in Eastern Europe and of Eastern European descent hold him in particularly high esteem.

His leadership in the pro-democracy movements in Eastern Europe represents only one facet of his numerous accomplishments. A complete list would not be possible, though I am certain that my colleagues in the house will point out many more.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in rising to honor the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and to express profound sorrow on his death. This week is bittersweet for people of faith throughout the world. We mourn the loss of a great leader and a man respected by people of many different faiths, yet we also celebrate his life and rejoice that he is now enjoying his eternal reward.

From the selection of the first Polish Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II's leadership of the Catholic Church was truly historic. Rightfully credited with helping bring about the end of communism, he also maintained a voice of morality during a time of overwhelming secularization of the West. The Pope was a stalwart in the fight against what he termed a "culture of death." He was unrelenting in his promotion of a culture of life.

Many talk of the Pope's legacy and presumed sainthood, but it seems the only legacy Pope John Paul II ever desired was a world of hope that celebrates life.

Our great 40th President, Ronald Reagan, is credited with restoring optimism to Americans, but even before Reagan, Pope John Paul II began his mission to restore hope to a pessimistic world. In carrying his message, Pope John Paul II tirelessly traveled all ends of the globe as no Pope and no leader has done before. Even as he was in great physical pain, he did not stop visiting people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths to bring Christ's message.

Pope John Paul II inspired even the most cynical demographic of the human population, young adults. The Pope's message to the students of freedom and faith led to the success of Solidarity. In later years, the annual World Youth Days were filled with students eager to hear the Pope's message of faith and hope. The Pope challenged them to a life of service in all walks of life. He said, "Jesus, Servant and Lord, is also the one who calls. He calls us to be like him because only in service do human beings discover their own dignity and the dignity of others."

Mr. Speaker, the young people touched by Pope John Paul II will continue to carry out his work as they come to shape the world in coming years. It is fitting that Pope John Paul II was carried back home to the Lord on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast day he instituted. His last message to the world, which was read posthumously, should be repeated often across the globe: "To humanity, which at times seems to be lost and dominated by the power of evil, egoism and fear, the risen Lord offers as a gift his love that forgives, reconciles and reopens the spirit to hope. It is love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much need the world has to understand and accept Divine Mercy."

Mr. Speaker, we pray that John Paul II's message will be burned in our hearts and guide us through the current and future world challenges. We also pray for the repose of his soul and are delighted that he is in the company of the Lord he dutifully served his 84 years on Earth.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support, along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), on behalf of this resolution honoring the life and achievement of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow upon his death.

Mr. Speaker, while I am a United States Representative today, my first public position ever was that of an altar boy at St. Columbus Catholic Church in Columbus, Indiana, so it is with a particular sense of privilege that I rise today in this capacity to recognize the extraordinary life and work of Pope John Paul II.

My Catholic faith and that of my entire family continues to remain the bulwark of our world view, and much of that over the past three decades has been invigorated by the leadership and eloquence and courage of this man.

Now, many in the national media have commented since the Pope's passing this last Saturday about the nature of his appeal and the source of the international grief that has attended his passing. Many commentators in print and on television have suggested that his appeal is a direct result of his well-schooled public abilities, loosely defined as his charisma.

But I rise today in support of this resolution to respectfully disagree with those commentators and to say that I believe Pope John Paul II's appeal on a global scale is grounded in his role as a moral leader; in fact, one of the chief moral leaders on the planet of the 20th century.

His moral leadership and his personal courage were forged, as we have heard even today, from an extraordinary youth in the grip of Nazi Germany's tyranny. Pope John Paul II, from very early in his life, became an opponent of every form of government organized to present tyranny against the mind of man. His stands against communism throughout his life literally were the underpinning that brought down that wall we heard President Yushchenko speak of with gratitude today.

He was also a moral leader not only for his own Christian church, but for the wider world. And as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) just shared eloquently, after centuries of silent enmity between Christendom and the ancient people of Israel, Pope John Paul II spoke words of reconciliation and healing.

In particular, his visit and prayers at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

in Jerusalem was, I believe, a watershed event in the history of the Christian church and will resonate for centuries in the work of the Catholic Church and Christians across the globe.

Pope John Paul II stood against the immorality of communism and anti-Semitism and ensured that the church would remain a bulwark of moral truth. And he stood for the sanctity of life, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) stated so eloquently. When the culture of death has made such a steady advance across Western civilization, Pope John Paul II stood for the unborn. His leadership, his voice, his compassion will be missed in the life of his church and, I argue humbly, the wider world. Pope John Paul II's death is a loss for humanity. He was not just the leader of the largest Christian church in the world, he was truly a moral leader.

May God rest his soul and bring comfort and consolation to millions of his adherents.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to tell a story. In January of 1945, a young Jewish girl, 13 years of age, stumbled from a Nazi labor camp in Poland, starved to skin and bones, and clad only in her striped rags. She shivered in the Polish winter.

□ 1445

Though she did not know it yet, Edith Zierer was completely alone in the world, her mother, father and sister murdered in Nazi camps. When she felt that she could no longer bear the cold, Edith rested in the corner of a train station.

Suddenly, a young man wearing a long robe, only 24 years of age himself, approached her. He gave Edith tea, bread and cheese and offered to help her get to Krakow to find her parents. She rose to thank him, but fell to the floor, unable to stand because she was so weak. The young man took Edith in his arms, carried her to the train, and sat down in a cattle car beside her. He shielded her from the cold with his coat, built a small fire for warmth, and accompanied her to Krakow.

Edith Zierer lived, and she still lives today as a result of the kindness of this stranger. Mr. Speaker, that generous stranger was also an orphan, a young seminarian named Karol Wojtyla, eventually Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we mean by a culture of life. A culture of life is surviving tragedy as Pope John Paul II did and pledging yourself to bettering the lives of others. A culture of life is forgiving those who try to extinguish your life as Pope John Paul II did when he visited his would-be assassin in jail and forgave him for his sins. A culture of life is knowing too well the misery of war and becoming a champion of

peace. A culture of life is embracing the diversity of people living on this planet, advocating religious tolerance, human rights, and a more equitable distribution of the Earth's precious resources.

Mr. Speaker, a culture of life is treating each human being as Karol Wojtyla treated Edith Zierer. Let a culture of life, in this fashion, be Pope John Paul II's legacy.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. PAUL. I thank the chairman for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II was one of the great religious leaders of modern times and an eloquent champion of human freedom and dignity. Unlike all too many misguided religious leaders, the Pope understood that liberty, both personal and economic, is a necessary condition for the flourishing of human virtue. The Pope's commitment to human dignity, grounded in the teachings of Christ, led him to become one of the most eloquent spokespersons for the consistent ethic of life, exemplified by his struggle against abortion, war, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

Unfortunately, few in American politics today adhere to the consistent ethic of life. Thus we see some who cheered the Pope's stand against the war and the death penalty while downplaying or even openly defying his teachings against abortion and euthanasia. Others who cheered the Pope's opposition to abortion and euthanasia were puzzled or even hostile to his opposition to war. Many of these pro-life supporters of war tried to avoid facing the inherent contradictions in their position by distorting the just war doctrine which the Pope properly interpreted as denying sanction to the Iraq war. One prominent talk show host even suggested that the Pope was the enemy of the United States for this position.

In conclusion, I am pleased to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II. I would encourage those who wish to honor the memory of John Paul to reflect on his teachings regarding war and the sanctity of life and consider the inconsistencies in claiming to be pro-life but supporting the senseless killing of innocent people that inevitably accompanies militarism, or in claiming to be pro-peace and pro-compassion but supporting the legal killing of the unborn.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding time, and

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for bringing this resolution to the floor. Might I offer my deepest sympathy to the world's family of Catholics, to those Catholics in my congressional district, the 18th Congressional District in the State of Texas, and as well allow me as a member of the ecumenical community, many different faiths, to be able to express our sympathy as well.

It is important to note what many of us believe Pope John Paul II stood for, an unyielding spine, backbone, someone who was larger than life, who believed in humanity and its safety and love and as well had the common touch, a man who understood suffering, having lost his mother at an early age of 8 years old, his older brother of scarlet fever just a few years later, and his father, who was a sergeant in the army, in 1941. He understood suffering. Yet he was the first Pope to expand his reach and understand the value of the world's religious communities coming together.

And so he paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust. He was the first Pope to visit Auschwitz and as well to visit the synagogue of Rome. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial as well. And, yes, he visited Syria. Pope John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. Later on, with the strength of his conscience, he said to us, war is a defeat for humanity and that wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore prove ultimately futile.

So I simply have these words to say, Mr. Speaker, simply to thank Pope John Paul II for his legacy and his life, to appreciate the fact that he was willing to lift those who could not lift themselves and thank him for teaching us about the genocide in Sudan and allowing us to lift ourselves to be able to stand against it and to fight with every breath in our body to be able to live his legacy, and that is a man of peace and a man who loved humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the House Resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death. Truly, billions of people around the world, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike mourn the death of Pope John Paul II. He held one of most influential positions on Earth, but his life will be remembered as a man of the people, a man who never saw any barriers between people.

I plan to travel with the Congressional Delegation to Pope John Paul's funeral at the Vatican in Rome along with an estimated two million mourners. This man has touched the life of so many both with his words and with his actions, that people now come together to honor this great man. Pope John Paul was born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. His early life was not easy, his mother died when he was only eight

years old. Three years later, he lost his older brother to scarlet fever. His father, who was a sergeant in the army, died in 1941. By the age of 20, he had lost three of his closest family members. But as he would throughout his life, he summoned his courage and his remarkable resolve to remain true to his religious upbringing. He would grow up in Poland during an era of Nazi occupation and repression. He worked as a common laborer and even as religious expression was being quelled by the Nazis he continued his Catholic teachings.

He would become the youngest bishop in modern Polish history at the age of 38 as the Archbishop of Krakow. Nine years later he was the youngest cardinal, guiding the Catholic faithful in a country that was officially atheist. He was known even then for his stance against Communism and the forces of oppression and hate. On Oct. 16, 1978 at the age of 58, John Paul II was selected to lead the Roman Catholic Church as the youngest pope of the 20th century. His relative youth allowed him to be extremely active and meet with people throughout the world. His charisma and grace allowed him to touch the hearts of people and convey a message of peace and collective humanity.

As Pope, John Paul II traveled the world to directly speak to the issues that confronted society. Whereas previous pontiffs often remained distant, never straying far from the Vatican, John Paul maintained a busy travel schedule. He completed 102 pastoral visits outside of Italy, and 144 within, visiting almost 130 countries during his 26 years as Pope. He logged more kilometers of travel than all other popes combined. His first visit as pope was to his homeland of Poland which was still beset by Communist rule. He advocated for the solidarity movement and he pushed for change, but he insisted above all else that any movement in order to be successful must be peaceful. It was Pope John Paul who aptly stated that: "Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create." His influence and guiding hand brought down the rule of Communism in Poland and ushered in a new era throughout Europe and indeed much of the world. I was honored to recently have meetings with both former Polish President Lech Walesa and current President Aleksander Kwasniewski and it seems clear that together with the Pope's influence Poland was able to transform from an oppressive communist country under strict Soviet control and with a weak economy to an independent and democratic country with a fast growing free-market economy. The end of communism fell like a series of dominoes in nations throughout the world and truly Pope John Paul was among the most influential in setting off these series of events.

Pope John Paul also used his travel to improve relations between the Vatican and people of other faiths. He grew up in an area of Poland where he lived next to many people of Jewish faith during the era of Nazi persecution where he saw his Jewish neighbors face brutality. As Pope he wrote and delivered a number of speeches on the subject of the Church's relationship with Jews, and often paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust in many nations. He was the first pope to have visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Po-

land, in 1979 and his visit to the Synagogue of Rome was the first by a pope in the history of the Catholic Church. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem in Israel and touched the holiest shrine of the Jewish people, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, promoting Christian-Jewish reconciliation. The Pope said at that time that Jews are "our older brothers". Pope John Paul was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim Mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. He used his position of influence to bring people of all faiths together and for that we should be grateful.

At each stop he made as Pope he reiterated that we only have one lifetime to live and that we must ensure that we use this time to achieve peace instead of suffering in war. It was Pope John Paul who stated: "War is a defeat for humanity." And that "Wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore . . . prove ultimately futile." His words certainly ring true for the present, as well as the past and future. Indeed, Pope John Paul II was a great man for all ages; it was he who stated: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." His presence and stature will be missed and we are right to mourn this great man. However, the Pope John Paul would be the first to tell us that the future is now and we must continue to move forward. We must all use his words and the lessons learned to help guide future generations. Because while the issues of society may change over time, the basic spirit of humanity never does.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for offering this resolution.

From the darkness, Mr. Speaker, came the words, "Be not afraid." A quarter century on, through tearful eyes, we behold the man, Karol Wojtyla, who with gentle vigor willed history toward the splendor of truth.

Born to an age of man and an era of oppression, John Paul II gave witness to all who would be free that the Author of History was too the Author of Liberty. As a secret seminarian witnessing the Nazi occupation of Poland, the Third Reich wanted him arrested. As a bishop witnessing the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, the politburo wanted him dead. And as Holy Father witnessing the degradation of human life, the culture of death wanted him silenced.

Yet in the face of their threats, not despite them but because of them, his voice rang out all the louder and his heart beat all the stronger in love for the children of God. He battled tyranny his whole life, tyrannies of the sword and of the heart, that the world, his universal flock, might throw off the yoke of evil and embrace the love of God's truth.

Against violence, oppression, materialism and hatred, John Paul defended

the dignity of human life with a warm voice and an iron will. He was the rock upon which a generation of Catholics built their churches and the walking symbol of faith, hope and charity that fuels the Christian heart. Much has been rightly said of John Paul's role in the victory of freedom over tyranny in the East; but much more will be said, Mr. Speaker, of his eventual role in the victory of freedom over license in the West. For the culture of life is the culture of John Paul II.

In his later years, the Pope gave perhaps his most profound witness to the dignity of human life as he carried age and disease around on his back like a cross. He stumbled along the way, like his Savior, but he never put it down.

In his final days, as his long-suffering body began to fail, pilgrims came to his home at the Vatican to pray and to share this particular moment in the history of faith. And still they come. Around the world, billions of every creed are treated to photographs of John Paul as a child in Poland, as a young actor, and a priest. We see footage from his decades in Rome, the smiling face, the graceful, athletic frame, the gentle voice that roared truth to power.

It is in these images, Mr. Speaker, that the grace of his late suffering can be fully understood. He gave to his God and neighbor all that he had, all his heart, all his mind, all his soul, until there was nothing left to give but his broken, weary body which he gave with a prayer of joy and a soft, final amen.

Thus shall we remember our friend John Paul, warrior-saint, the Lion of Krakow.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to the millions of Americans and people throughout the world who now mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II. He was an extraordinary man of great courage and conviction of faith. His life was consumed in sacrifice, out of love of God and love of others; and he reminded us constantly of the duty we have to the least among us, the poor, the vulnerable, the weak who have no power but the protection of those who willfully sacrifice on their behalf.

Pope John Paul II not only confronted physical deprivation but also intellectual and spiritual poverty. His constant admonishment to us, particularly those of us in power, to rebuild a culture of life is a message so desperately needed in our world. He had a heart for the youth and traveled extensively to bring a message of hope and love, saying to the young especially, act courageously and do not be afraid.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him. America will miss him. The world will miss him. I now believe that he hears the

words, Well done, good and faithful servant.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader and my friend and neighbor who will be one of the leaders of the congressional delegation leaving for Rome.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time and for his kind words. It is indeed a privilege to be part of a delegation to the funeral of the Holy Father. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the committee. I know how much he respected and admired the Holy Father. I thank him for his leadership in helping us express our condolences as well.

Mr. Speaker, my mother used to always say of John Paul II, "He is a saint walking the Earth." Indeed, he was. It is in that spirit and with deep sadness at his passing but with great thanks and joy for his life of good works that I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Pope John Paul II.

□ 1500

Pope John Paul II was one of the great spiritual and humanitarian leaders of our time. His deeds, his words and his indomitable spirit of love were a blessing to this world, and the entire world mourns his passing.

Again, I am very honored to be part of the congressional delegation to the Pope's funeral on Friday, and I hope that our delegation can help convey the thoughts, prayers, and deep sympathies of the American people on his passing. We will be pleased to join our President in doing that.

Pope John Paul II was a man of God, and he was a man of the people. He was passionate in his commitment to doing God's work here on Earth. St. Francis of Assisi, who was the patron saint of my city of San Francisco, said, "Preach often, sometimes use words." The life of John Paul II was a sermon he preached every day by example. His ministry fed the hungry, cared for the sick, and invited the stranger. He was a champion for the poor, promoting justice and economic development around the world. His work built on the legacy of Pope Paul VI, not his immediate predecessor, except for 33 days his predecessor, who believed, "If you want peace, work for justice." Pope John Paul II helped to bring justice and healing to the relationship between Catholics and Jews, and I know how important that is to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). His commitment to nonviolence and to peace on Earth was heartfelt and steadfast.

With a concern and caring for all of God's children, John Paul II reached out to people of all ages, nationalities, and faiths. As we all know, he traveled to so many countries in his service as

Pope, and he spent more than 2 years in his papacy outside of Rome. I like to say that he was aptly named John Paul: John, the Apostle of love, and Paul, who preached the Gospel to such a wide range of people in the earliest days of Christendom. In doing so himself, Pope John Paul II brought the redemptive message of the Catholic Church to places it had never been, and he inspired millions of individuals who saw in his conviction and in his example the light of God.

He had a special bond with the youth of the world. I remember when I met him in San Francisco when he came there, and it was so exciting for us to welcome the Holy Father, and when he landed at Crissey Field in a helicopter, it was so dramatic. And when I met him, our Archbishop, Archbishop Quinn, said, as we were chatting, "Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's children." And he said, "That's good, that's good." And he said, "Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's five children." And he said, "That's very good, that's very good."

And as I said, he had a special bond with the youth of the world. He spoke with them as a spiritual leader, but also as a teacher and as a friend. The guidance he offered to today's youth will benefit the world for years to come.

Likewise, his influence on world events will be felt for generations. John Paul II played an enormous role in the fall of communism and ending the Cold War, and that has been mentioned here. He was a man of peace. As a priest in Poland, he waged a persistent struggle for nearly three decades against the Communist Government over the building of churches and the right of his people to worship as they choose. He continued that work as Pope, inspiring the Polish people and the Solidarity movement, and offering spiritual strength to others working to free themselves from Communist regimes.

In his later years, the Pope offered the world a very different but significant form of inspiration. Suffering from Parkinson's disease and with failing health, he struggled until the end to share God's word. He taught us about the dignity of every individual and showed us that we must always seek to make a difference on this Earth.

It is written in the Book of Genesis, "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age." John Paul II is with our Father now. We were blessed that he preached peace in this world for so long.

As we honor his memory, as we sing his praises, we must also heed his message. The Catholic Church recently gave us a guide, the compendium of Catholic social justice, for how we can address some of the issues the previous

speaker talked about, addressing the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, and the weak. President Bush mentioned that when he gave His Holiness the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he mentioned that he had championed the work for the poor, the vulnerable, the needy, he said, and the weak. We must do that in our work here. It would then be an appropriate honor and remembrance for the life, leadership, service, and holiness.

My mother said, as I said in the beginning, he is a saint walking this Earth. Anyone who was ever in his presence knew they were in the presence of a holy man. Because he lived and we observed him, we have a responsibility to follow his lead.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time, and my colleagues who are so eloquently expressing the impact that Pope John Paul II has had on all of us and on the world, and hopefully on all of us here in this House.

He became Pope in 1979, when I was a teenager. In a quiet Catholic community, one that was quietly prayerful, quietly service-oriented, but quietly, he inspired us not to be so quiet. He inspired us to change that quiet prayer into exuberant song. He inspired us to get involved, to step out of the churches, step out of our own communities, and give more direct service, become more directly involved with those afflicted with illness, with those afflicted in poverty, with those with other problems, emotional concerns, and active the Church became.

I could not even describe the difference in the church I grew up in in Pittsburgh from 1979 to today, inspired by Pope John Paul II. Young people, everyone mentions that the Pope has a very close connection with young people. World Youth Days around the world were so widely attended from children around the world that it gives me great hope for the future of the world.

A young priest at my church, who is now probably about 33 or 34, had taken a delegation to the World Youth Day last year or the year before and had come back with a pretty amazing story. In this world of corporal comfort, one of the young men in the group had complained to him that it was so crowded, he had to stand next to a pile of stinking garbage in the hot sunshine. And he was waiting and waiting and smelling the garbage and waiting and thinking, why am I here? This is so uncomfortable. And then finally the Holy Father took the podium. It was raining, it was wet. But when the Holy Father took the podium, the sun shown through. This young man conveyed to my priest what I think was the Holy

Father's point all along. This world is not perfect. This world can be made more perfect through our action, our prayer, our involvement. This young man, I am sure to this day, is a very faithful and active Catholic and a faithful and active servant, one whose attitude that day was transformed from himself to generosity and interest in others, one that I hope we all take as his legacy.

A man who grew up in such a difficult time, in a difficult oppressive time, in an area where obviously his faith was not quite permitted, was such an inspiration to world leaders, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, working hand in hand with them because he understood that the fundamental connection between redemption and human freedom was real, and he needed to participate. He showed us that every human has value. His own personal suffering is a testament to the vital sacredness of all human life.

He called special attention to the unborn. We still struggle in not paying enough attention to the unborn. Just recently we demonstrated, unfortunately, how our society does not pay close enough attention or concern to the incapacitated, the infirm. I hope this reflection today will help us do so.

The Pope said that each man in his suffering can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ. We are wise to remember him, his legacy, especially his teaching, through his powerful words, but mostly through his powerful actions.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ).

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for all of his leadership, especially for bringing this resolution to the floor today, but for all of his leadership throughout the years. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) as well for his leadership, similarly a champion of justice and a compassionate individual who speaks with tremendous moral clarity.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened today, as a lifelong Catholic, at the thought of the death of our great Holy Father, John Paul II. As I stand in the well of this Chamber, it also strikes me as curiously ironic that we come to commemorate the life of John Paul II, who spoke with enormous moral clarity, and I stand staring at the image of Moses, the first of our lawgivers, who defined moral clarity for us in those early beginnings of civilization and humanity.

The early years for John Paul II were a journey of hardship and sacrifice. Born Karol Wojtyla in a small town outside of Krakow in 1920, the same year of my mother's birth, by the way, he was the second of two sons. His mother died when he was but 9 years old, and by the time he was 21, he had

lost his dear brother and his father as well.

Young Karol found himself alone. He worked in a rock quarry and then a chemical factory to earn a living and to avoid being deported to Nazi Germany. To fulfill a wish that his father had, young Karol began preparing to give his life to the Lord by studying at an underground, clandestine seminary in Krakow, doing so in secret to avoid the wrath of the Nazis. His faith and belief in God eventually led him to the very chair of St. Peter. As the head of the Holy See, a position he held for more than 26 years, he led his flock longer than any other Pope and certainly longer than any in recent memory.

I was always humbled by this man who was able to exert so much influence on the politics of our world and the direction of mankind, yet had the ability to do so with such a quiet, gentle hand.

One must look no further than the collapse of the Soviet Empire for an example of how much influence he had. While no one person can claim that they were the lone force behind the collapse of communism, there should be no argument that the extent to which John Paul II played in defining it and defeating it was enormous. Along with another great man of his era, Ronald Reagan, they confronted their adversaries face to face and helped defeat this evil, and did so without war.

□ 1515

This man of God, who was once an avid outdoorsman, who skied and hiked the Italian mountainside, who aggressively traveled the globe more than any other Pope, became almost like a family member to everyone in the world, regardless of faith.

He embraced the modern media. John Paul entered the homes and touched the hearts of countless millions with his message of love, truth, devotion, and courage. He was unwavering in his defense of all life, limitless in his forgiveness, including of his own would-be assassin, and without peer as he embraced all the world's faiths and humbly asked forgiveness from our Jewish brethren for a Church and a world that did too little for too long.

Those of us privileged to serve in this hallowed Chamber have the opportunity to meet presidents, prime ministers, kings and queens, the famous and the fortunate of the world. Twice I was in the presence of this Pope, in 1993 in Denver and at the Vatican in 1995.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the essence of this humble man from Krakow transcended humanity. His essence emanated peace, holiness and a sense that surrounding him was a glimpse to all of us of our Creator's promise for eternity. Without so much as a single word, his spirit overwhelmed all who witnessed his being.

“Be not afraid” became the motto of his remarkable Papacy. Inspired by his commitment to peace, freedom, compassion for the poor and oppressed and for a culture of life, may we also carry on his legacy of truth in our very own lives.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member and my good friend for yielding me time; and I rise, of course, in support of this resolution, as have all my colleagues.

Pope John Paul was an exceptional person. While one would expect all kinds of accolades to come at this time, the accolades that come for him are truly heartfelt and truly deserved.

I had the occasion to meet him my very first year in Congress in 1989 in the Vatican. There is a picture that was taken of us talking. It looks like we are in very serious talk, and I am opening my mouth and speaking with him. People have always said to me when they see that picture, My goodness, what were you saying to the Pope?

The truth is that those of us that were in the first row, the Pope is moving along shaking our hands. He shook my hand. I said to him, I am Congressman ELLIOT ENGEL from New York. He looked at me and smiled and said, God bless America, and moved on to the next person. That is the remembrance I have of him.

He certainly was a compassionate man, someone who really cared about the people. Of course, he was the first non-Italian Pope in nearly 500 years. I had the occasion just a couple of weeks ago to visit Krakow, Poland, where he came from and where he did his ministry in his early years; and the people there, of course, have special, warm feelings for him.

I want to mention, as so many of my colleagues have, the Pope's tremendous gestures of reconciliation with the Jewish community, both in terms of anti-Semitism and going to Israel and having the Vatican and Israel establish diplomatic relations. He was a person that not only spoke his mind, but he put into play practical steps; and certainly the Church was on record as opposing, actively opposing, anti-Semitism under his watch.

So on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of the people of New York and on behalf of the American people, I just want to extend, first of all, my heartfelt condolences to everyone who is mourning, and all of us are mourning the Pope, and say that his life has truly touched all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He is a man that we will always remember and one who we will certainly always miss.

I also take my hat off to this great tribute that this House is now giving

by passing this resolution to honor Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for such time as he may consume.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues and the millions, if not billions, of people throughout the world in celebrating the life of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and support the resolution and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for presenting it.

Mr. Speaker, no one at the time in 1978 expected Cardinal Wojtyla to be elected the Keeper of the Keys to the Church. In his election as Pope, John Paul II became the first non-Italian Pope in 405 years of Papal history.

John Paul II was truly the People's Pope. Throughout his Pontificate, John Paul II traveled the world, visiting over 115 countries on 170 trips. It was with the people that Pope John Paul II connected the most. He called upon the world to embrace freedom and human dignity. In doing so, the Pope will be remembered for his role as peacemaker, instrumental in the fall of communism in Europe and the liberation of his own native Poland.

But the Pope also called on the world's religions to open their doors to each other. Drawing from his own experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland, the Pope advocated interfaith dialogue. He became the first Pope to enter a synagogue and embraced the leaders in Islam. His work to expand communication between the faiths has brought together a generation of the devoted, and our world is a better place for it.

During an open-air mass in St. Peter's Square in 1998, the Pope asked of himself, Have you been a diligent and vigilant master of the Church? Have you tried to satisfy the expectations of the faithful of the Church and also the hunger for truth that we feel in the world outside the Church?

Although he did not answer then, we can answer for him today. Yes, yes, you have.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for yielding me time to speak on this important issue.

As has been said many times on the floor today, we celebrate the life of a man who truly changed the world. If I were going to start a list of people who freed other people in the 20th century,

I would put the names of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and John Paul II at the beginning of that list.

This is a man whose life defied all logic and reason, because his life was about something bigger than logic and reason. His life was about faith, and faith is bigger than those things. If you wrote this individual's story in a book as a novel, it would seem too unreasonable to be the subject of that novel.

Born in an obscure part of Poland, he resisted the Nazi occupation of his country and led a resistance that exceeded anything we could imagine as the leader of the Church in Poland under the Soviet Union. All of us who were thinking about world events or even were just amazed at what was happening in the world have to remember that first trip back behind the Iron Curtain in 1980, and seeing tens and hundreds of thousands of people come to see this individual, defying their government as he defied their government, and the sudden realization to most of us in the West that there was something going on behind the Iron Curtain and in the Soviet Union and particularly in Eastern Europe that we really had not realized to be as big as it was.

This is an individual who, to my amazement, was seen by more people than any other person who has ever lived. As you think about the quarter of a century of his leadership of the Church, the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands and even millions of people that would see John Paul II at one time, more people saw him than ever saw anybody else in the history of the world.

His impact was great. His leadership was strong, his reaching out to people of all faiths, particularly his ecumenical reach to all Christians. As a Baptist, I appreciate the leadership of this Pope. He reached out to all Christian faiths, but he also reached beyond Christian faiths to people of all faiths as no Pope ever had before.

We celebrate his life. He stood for something bigger than the tangible things that we so often think about and deal with. It is a great honor to be able to stand here on the floor of the House where people reflect on freedom every day, and reflect on the life of this man who did so much to extend freedom of all kinds, with the freedom of religion being the most important of those, to so many people around the world.

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

Mr. Speaker, in concluding on our side, may I just say that for the last hour you have heard an outpouring of genuine affection and respect and admiration for a great spiritual leader. These were not empty phrases. These were heartfelt thoughts and expressions of profound respect for a person

who in a profound way has changed our world for the better.

In concluding, I again want to thank my friend for crafting this brilliant and moving resolution on which we are about to vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his usual superb cooperation, and I wish to associate myself with his remarks in closing.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, a measure honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow on his death. It is with great honor that I stand here today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II and recognize his contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace.

The leadership the Holy Father displayed during his 26-year tenure as Supreme Pastor of the Roman Catholic Church helped to shape our moral conscience. His fight to end human rights abuses and his opposition to communism not only influenced the Catholic community, but the world community. He was a defender of the faith whose leadership during a pivotal time was profound. I am truly awed by the life of the Holy Father.

Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla, Jr. in 1920, Pope John Paul II was the second son of Karol Wojtyla, Sr. and Emilia Kaczorowska Wojtyla. Karol, Sr. was a retired officer for the Polish Army as well as a tailor, and Emilia was a schoolteacher. Pope John Paul II repeatedly demonstrated his unique ability to form friendships that crossed the social norms of the time. Although his hometown of Wadowice, Poland was wrought with anti-Semitism, Pope John Paul II and his family did not share in that hatred. He was the first Pope to visit a synagogue and the first to visit a memorial in nearby Auschwitz honoring victims of the Holocaust. His Holiness was also the first Pope to visit a mosque.

Shortly after his father's death in 1941, Pope John Paul II attended an underground seminary in Krakow, where he was eventually ordained in 1946. His powerful compassion and faith carried him quickly up the ranks of the Church as he was named the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958. He was instrumental to the Vatican Council II deliberations in 1962, which encouraged diversity in language and practice of the Catholic faith in order to facilitate the inclusion of laymen in worship while also condemning anti-Semitism around the world. The profound respect he enjoyed throughout the Catholic community led to his election as Pope after the death of Pope John Paul I in September 1978, making him the first Slavic Pope in history.

Less than a year after being named Pope, John Paul II returned to his native Poland and forcefully supported the Polish Solidarity movement and opposed communism. His insistence that no system of government override religious beliefs gave hope to people of faith throughout the former Soviet Union that reforms would take place. The courage and determination that he displayed in opposition

to a world power reflected the strength of his convictions and his willingness to stand up to an institutional force that challenged the beliefs of the church.

Pope John Paul II was an indomitable figure despite increasing infirmities. Though he survived an assassination attempt in 1981, his health was never quite the same. However, his warmth and compassion shone brightly to all who met him and quickly endeared him to young people around the world. He is said to have been seen by more people than anyone else in history, exemplifying his connection to ordinary people. He was an unwavering moral leader whose power and appeal derived from the way he lived his life. He demonstrated this when he prayed for his would-be assassin.

Pope John Paul II was also an intellectual, a pragmatist, and a scholar who was a defender of liberty. His charisma and his ability to lead were intertwined with his status as the "People's Pope." He forged a bond with people of all faiths by projecting his warmth and compassion beyond his flock. Pope John Paul II's life provided strong moral leadership during a pivotal time in history that enabled the fall of communism and the victory of liberty. The world was truly blessed to have Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, during his 26 years as pontiff, Pope John Paul II spread the Catholic faith with visits to over 115 countries. His gift for uniting those of different beliefs earned him Man of the Year honors from Time Magazine in 1994, and his popularity among both Catholics and non-Catholics around the world was a testament to his genuine love for humanity. His teaching of tolerance and love for thy neighbor will be a lasting legacy for this truly great religious leader.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the life and work of Pope John Paul II and to offer my condolences to Catholics around the globe who mourn the death of their spiritual leader. For 26 years Pope John Paul II was a faithful Shepard to his flock and acted as a primary example of peace and justice to millions of all faiths.

Trained as an actor, Pope John Paul II used the world stage to promote his message of social justice and freedom for all of God's people. Upon his election to the Papacy, Pope John Paul made one of his many journeys home to his native Poland. It was upon that journey that the Pope defiantly preached against the oppressive tyranny of communism and promoted messages of solidarity and freedom. In uttering the simple words, "Be Not Afraid", John Paul II offered courage to hundreds across Eastern Europe to break free from the chains of communism.

Despite the illness that plagued him in the later part of his life, John Paul II never faltered in fighting against injustice and in protecting the most innocent in our society. Indeed, it was in the Pope's very public suffering that we are reminded of the dignity of every human life from conception until natural death. Mr. Speaker, today we join together to honor the life of a true servant of God. While we mourn Pope John Paul II and are filled with sorrow at his passing, we also rejoice in knowing that he has returned home to his Father.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man of the Catholic faith and a

hero to those of all faiths. I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope John Paul II. I join the millions of people around the world that have been mourning the loss of this great man and great spiritual and moral leader who stood firmly for the oppressed, for the downtrodden, and for people of all faiths around the world.

Pope John Paul II was a great man, and a strong advocate for equality. He spoke out time and time again against discrimination and injustice in all its forms. He believed in the "right to have a family and to have an adequately paying job" and that everyone should be able "to exist, preserve and develop one's own culture." His compassion for his fellow man and woman was overtly obvious.

Pope John Paul II has spread the word of God and the gospel to the world. He was the most traveled Pope in history as he brought these ideas across the globe, especially to the world's poorest people on the continents of Asia, South America, and Africa. He was the only pope to have visited a Caribbean country and has held mass in a host of Central and South American countries. In the last two decades under the Pontiff, the number of Catholics in Africa has doubled and the Pope has visited over a dozen countries on the continent. He appointed nearly two dozen cardinals from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras and Claudio Hummes of Brazil, and thirteen from Africa, including Francis Arinze of Nigeria.

Citing the commitment to social justice in the Old Testament, the Pope was a long-time champion of debt relief. In 1994, he called on the United States and other nations to forgive the debts of 40 of the world's poorest countries; to fight vigilantly against hunger, poverty, and disease; and to establish programs to build sound economic policies in those countries.

Though he mourned September 11th with the rest of the world, the Pope steadfastly believed that peace, not war, is the path to creating a safer world for all. He was an outspoken critic of the Iraqi war and called on international leaders to find a peaceful mechanism to address their differences.

Pope John Paul II worked to ease the centuries' old tensions between the Catholic Church and Jews. He was the first Pope to visit a concentration camp and was also the first Pope to visit a synagogue, calling Jews "our eldest brothers." He has repeatedly tried to keep the Catholic Church morally grounded in its advocacy but adaptive to changes in the world.

Not only was he a spiritual leader and warrior for civil rights of universal renown, but he was also an intellectual powerhouse. He was capable of speaking to his people in multiple languages. He wrote volumes on the philosophies of mankind and the virtues of faith.

Personally, I have always respected and admired the Pope for his humanitarianism and empathy for others. He led by example and marked a path of principle and conviction. During my second meeting in 1987 with the pontiff, I was humbled to hear his views and thoughts on drug eradication and other contemporary issues. For over a half century, he had implored the international community to

think with grace, act with compassion, and behave with deep regard and respect for our fellow man.

In his many decades of service as the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has done tremendous good for both the Catholic Church and the people of the world. He was a man who commanded my sincere respect, and his loss will be felt by me for many, many years to come. Pope John Paul II was a man who in death, as in life, was an inspiration and guide to us all.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my sadness at the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. Since 1978, he piously served as the head of the Roman Catholic Church and was an inspiration to Catholics and non-Catholics across the world.

It could be said that the Pope was a true "Renaissance Man"—with a love for literature, art, and music. Once he entered the priesthood, his passion for poetry and the written word did not wane. He continued writing about issues close to his heart, including peace, oppression and spirituality.

Immediately following his inauguration, Pope John Paul II began traveling the world. He brought global attention to the communist and socialist governments of his native Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe, and called for reform and changes. During World War II, he saw first-hand the low points of humanity's cruelty to one another and throughout his pontificate vowed to halt tyranny and hatred. His peaceful opposition to human rights violations will always be remembered and will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

He committed his life to his faith, and was instrumental in bringing attention to peace and justice, poverty and disease, and each individual's connection to one another. As a Catholic myself, I admired Pope John Paul II for his devotion to God, his involvement with global issues, and his ability to bridge gaps between the Church and its past. I join millions of others in mourning his passing.

The Holy Father will be missed, but he now joins the Father he served so dutifully during his life on earth. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and honor this great man.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. His life will serve as an inspiration to all those who seek to make this a more peaceable and unified world.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Wojtyla did not know the challenges that life would present to him, or that he would confront these challenges with great courage. His mother passed away when he was nine years old, followed by his brother several years later. It was during this time that his faith in God strengthened and he began his journey towards the papacy. Karol Wojtyla quietly studied to become a priest during the Nazi occupation of his beloved Poland, and in November 1946 he was ordained a priest.

During his service as a priest and later as Archbishop of Krakow, Father Wojtyla actively defied the Communist regimes that were attempting to end religious worship throughout Poland. In 1967, he was made a Cardinal and on October 16, 1978 he was elected as the

264th Pope of the Catholic Church and took the name Pope John Paul II in honor of the three pontiffs who preceded him.

During his papacy, Pope John Paul II showed the world the strength of his character that the people of Poland had known for years. In May 1981, he survived an assassination attempt and later met with his would be assassin and forgave him. This example of absolution showed the world the true nature of this man and the power of faith.

Pope John Paul II was instrumental in defeating Communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe. His support for the Solidarity Movement in Poland helped create a domino effect throughout Europe as people chose democracy over Communism.

His work to foster ecumenism throughout the world's principle religions will also be a part of his lasting legacy. Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem and asked for forgiveness from the Jewish people for wrongs the Catholic Church had committed against them. He also reached out to Muslims and visited with leaders of the Islamic faith.

As the most traveled Pope in history, John Paul II brought his message of hope to millions of people in 129 countries. He was also able to make a connection with the youth of the world that no other Pope had achieved. He recognized the importance of young people to not only continuing the life of the church, but also sustaining the future of our world. He championed human rights and justice for the poorest people in the developing world to the youth he met with throughout his papacy. I am hopeful that when the young people he touched with his words and actions become leaders in our world they will continue this message of hope.

Mr. Speaker, Pope John Paul II taught the world many important lessons. He taught us to forgive, to stand up for the rights of all people, and how to create change peacefully. He has touched many lives, and will continue to do so even after his passing. As we reflect on his legacy and the spiritual guidance he offered, may people of faith everywhere take guidance from the values he instilled in our world.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, which honors the life and achievements of Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was a man of devout faith who used his leadership to help the poor, mediate conflicts around the world, and fight tyranny. As a man who fought both the Nazi and the Communist regime in Poland in pursuit of his own faith, he was a strong advocate for religious tolerance and freedom. His life's work is truly inspiring to all of us.

As the most traveled Pope in history, Pope John Paul II visited more than 120 countries and traveled approximately three quarter of a million miles. During these visits he worked to bring peace to regions of the world that were in conflict. He embraced the poor and the oppressed across the world by encouraging us to help those who are less fortunate.

His hope for a better world for those who had nothing should remind us all as Pope John Paul II said to "practice mercy heroically with the lowliest and the most deprived." Pope John Paul II was able to rise above political

and religious conflict to deliver a message of peace, love, and faith all while promoting equality for all.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most influential Popes in modern history. Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland.

During his childhood the Pope was very athletic and an exemplary student. He had a passion for the outdoors and the theatre. In 1942 he felt a calling to the church. He was ordained a priest at the age of 26. Subsequently, he served as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland and was appointed a Cardinal.

On October 16, 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II. He opened the door for future non-Italian Popes as he was the first since Adrian VI in 1522. He was also the first Pope of Polish ethnicity.

Pope John Paul II impacted people of all ages world wide, especially young people. Creating World Youth Day in 1986, the Pope showed his commitment to young people worldwide. His hope was to instill the values of freedom, hope; truth, and justice in youth so they could work towards bettering the future of humanity.

Religious tolerance and acceptance were Pope John Paul's core ideals. He had a profound respect for other religions. During his childhood, he had many Jewish friends and expressed a long-standing respect for the Jewish faith. He expressed sorrow for historic hostilities toward Jews and prayed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Judaism's most Holy site. John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Mosque and visited more than 20 Islamic countries. Pope John Paul II went to great lengths to encourage religious tolerance. In 1986 the Pope invited a diverse group of 90 religious leaders to Assisi, Italy to pray and recognize the role world religions have in promoting understanding and tolerance.

An advocate for human rights, peace and justice, the Pope was the most traveled pope in history. He visited over 120 countries in every continent except Antarctica and met with a diverse group of World Leaders. Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to meet with the President of the United States. His commitment to the love of people and the love of his religion transcended political boundaries. In 1998 Pope John Paul II became one of the first leaders to visit communist Cuba and meet with Fidel Castro.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005.

Pope John Paul's II captivating personality and commitment to the church and humanity ingratiated him into the hearts of millions of people worldwide. The members of the House of Representatives remain mindful of John Paul's II message of tolerance, hope, peace, and justice.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, who traveled the world for twenty-six years and touched billions of lives. In the countries he visited, he delivered a message of peace and reminded the world about the power of love for all humanity. As the leader of the Catholic Church, he worked toward the fall of communism and spread hope to millions of oppressed people. One of the most influential figures of the modern era, this son of Poland

taught us to respect human life in all forms. His legacy will be felt for generations to come. His actions in life and his strength in death have inspired people of all faiths. I join with billions around the world who mourn the loss and celebrate the life of this great man.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, passed away on April 2nd. This extraordinary man touched millions across the world with his dynamic, courageous and compassionate leadership. I know that we in the United States join a global community in mourning this great and blessed man.

From his humble beginnings in Poland, Pope John Paul II became the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years and one of the most beloved figures in recent memory to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The first pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, he will be remembered as a spiritual leader who worked tirelessly to bring people of all faiths together. His papacy helped stem the tide of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe. His ministry on behalf of the poor and the sick is well known by worshippers worldwide.

One of the most moving moments I've ever experienced was seeing the pope speak to hundreds of thousands of Cubans at an outdoor mass in Havana in 1998. He delivered a message of religious tolerance, social justice, and human rights in the country of Fidel Castro. His powerful presence and words in Revolutionary Square were greeted by thunderous applause from the Cuban people. It was a special event I'll never forget.

During his historic first visit to the United States in 1979, the pope famously told the crowd in Boston that "the pope is your friend." Now we say goodbye to a man of hope, a man of faith and a man of dignity. Today we say goodbye to our friend. May he rest in peace.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join San Antonio and the world in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II, a great religious and humanitarian leader.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. He excelled in school as a brilliant student and athlete, gaining a passion for religion, poetry, and the theatre.

He was ordained in 1946, assuming priestly duties in 1949 as chaplain to university students at Krakow's St. Florian's Church. He rose steadily through the church hierarchy, becoming the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958 and was later appointed archbishop of Krakow in January 1964.

During this time he made a name for himself as a formidable theologian and staunch defender of the Catholic faith as he taught at the Krakow Seminary and Catholic University of Lublin.

He was later elevated to cardinal in June 1967, and elected as Pope John Paul II on October 16, 1978. He proved to be one of the most energetic and hard-working men ever to occupy the Papal See, visiting more than 120 countries, delivering more than 2,000 public addresses, and issuing a plethora of encyclicals and apostolic letters.

Pope John Paul II was the third longest serving pontiff in history, serving for 26 years.

His passing marks the end of one of the longest and most widely respected reigns in papal history.

A man of the cloth, Pope John Paul II was also a man of the people. His teachings, spiritual guidance, and leadership came from his belief in peace and justice and the goodness of mankind. It was that belief that guided him as he journeyed around the world reaching out to people of all faiths.

He was a world leader and respected statesman who challenged communism and advocated democracy, and who always championed the causes of the poor and our great responsibility to them.

Pope John Paul II was a blessing to this world, and though he has left us now, his spirit, his love, and his lessons should guide us for a lifetime.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Rome 1993. I knew the City. Except for the machine-gun carrying Carabinieri at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, and the cars whizzing by me on the autostrada at 150 kilometers per mile, Rome seem strangely familiar. Perhaps it was the ten years studying Latin, following the exploits of Caesar, Veni, Vedi, Vici, except Caesar never had to drive his chariots in rush hour. Nor did anyone dare crowd his style along the Appian Way. Everywhere I looked cars were bumper on bumper, I did a sidewalk survey and noticed that about seven of ten cars parked along any given street had body damage. Rome was very personal like that. My friend Judy and I had come to visit the Eternal City to study the cradle of our faith. As we toured, it became clear that just as Washington is a monument to Presidents, Rome is a celebration of the Papacy.

Prior to leaving for Rome I had lunch with an old friend, Dr. Robert White, the famed neurosurgeon and physician to the Pope. I told him I was soon going to be visiting Rome. He made a call to his friend at the Jesuit's headquarters in Rome and was able to arrange for a special visit to the Vatican, including attendance at a general Papal audience, Judy and I, and about five thousand other persons.

Minutes before we left the hotel for our Vatican tour, I received a call that there had been a change of plans. Judy and I were to come immediately to a certain entrance off St. Peter's Square. Just in case I was going to meet someone I always wanted to meet, I brought with me a ceremonial presentation of a Key of the City of Cleveland, although they changed the locks when I left the Mayor's office. When we arrived, we were greeted by Swiss guards. Then we were ushered into the large hall where the general audience was held. It had the air of carnival, colorful, noisy, boisterous. Slowly we were escorted past one jammed pew after another to the front pew, et introibo ad altare Dei . . .

A priest in a simple black cassock, a former resident of Milwaukee, who followed American politics, approached smilingly, "Mayor Kucinich?" I accepted the honorific though it had been thirteen years since I left Cleveland City Hall, concluding my own personal experience with Manichean struggles with the forces of power and light. The years after City Hall were, well, different. Except for brief service in City Council, filling an unexpired term, I could not win an election to save (or lose) my soul.

"Yes. We're very excited to be here," I said. The priest, now a personal assistant to the Pope responded: "We're really glad you could make it." Wait a minute. I waited my whole life just to get into close proximity to the Pope and one of his assistants is telling me he's glad? "The Holy Father will be here shortly. There will be a general audience. Afterwards, people will file out and then he will come over to talk with you."

That is the moment I knew I was about to meet Pope John Paul II. I was lost in thought. Judy feigned panic "Omigosh," she kept saying over and over.

The General Audience is something like Cleveland's West Side Market on a Saturday, except many a pilgrims dancing, playing music, and singing, while wearing the colorful costumes of their native lands.

The Pope enters to wild applause. He sits on a simple throne and after about an hour and a half his right hand is supporting his head. I thought how physically demanding it was for him.

The General Audience ended. The Pope had brief discussions with a group of clergy. He then walked in our direction. He stopped and spoke to two other couples. Then he approached.

He looked at Judy, and greeted her first. He then turned to me. "Is this your wife?" he asked, in English. She wasn't. Neither of us were married. I wasn't going to lie to the Pope. Talk about setting yourself up to go to Hell . . .

"A friend, Holy Father."

He nodded.

"Holy Father, I come from Cleveland. . . ."

"Yes, we were talking about you earlier, about your public service," he said.

"I remember Cleveland."

Indeed the Pope had visited Cleveland, as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, at St. Stanislaus Church in the Slavic Village Neighborhood. One of his closest friends was John Cardinal Krol, whose family came from St. Stanislaus Parish. There was a great joy in Cleveland when he was chosen Pope. The Polish community brought together 10,000 people in Public Hall to celebrate in prayer and song. We spoke for a few minutes about how the same Polish community was instrumental in my election as Mayor in 1977.

"Holy Father, I have a special gift I would like to give you, a Key to the City of Cleveland. It was one of the last Keys from my Administration. I supposed he received a thousand like it, but he accepted it and an accompanying certificate graciously as several cameras flashed around us. He turned to Judy and he thanked her for coming.

Then my life changed. John Paul II put his hand on my head. He looked into my eyes and said in a Polish-accented English I have come to know so well in my own neighborhood: "My son, I give you my special blessing." I felt something at that moment. Whether it was a connection with his charisma or grace, I felt something, a different energy field, a buzz, my imagination? A sense of peace? I felt something. Later I would mark that bright encounter as one when conditions began to change for the better in my own life.

I thanked him in Polish. He smiled.

He invited us to visit again. Ever the altar boy, as he was about to leave, I offered to him

a prayer in Latin: "Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam." Send forth your light and your truth. It was said as an affirmation of his spiritual leadership, his own quest to bring peace to the world.

He said goodbye. Judy and I were suddenly alone in the pew. The Audience had ended.

There are millions of people the world over who felt a personal connection to John Paul II. Yet his passing may become significant not for that aspect of him which died in us, but for something within each of us that was reborn through his life.

It was the only time I would ever meet him. I have often thought back to that moment when he offered me his blessing.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the world this week suffered an immeasurable loss, and millions of men, women, and children in all corners of the globe lost their champion and a voice for those who do not have a platform to speak for themselves. His Holiness John Paul II, Bishop of Rome, head of the Catholic Church, and the spiritual leader of nearly one billion people, was a man who made an immeasurable difference in the path taken by the world in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century and the first part of the Twenty-First Century.

His quiet strength, determination, and belief in the power of non-violent opposition were instrumental, along with the efforts of President Ronald Reagan and many other leaders around the world, in bringing an end to the old communist regimes which had become entrenched in the capitals of Europe. He was a man who had developed an insurmountable inner strength and faith which, even after the loss of his entire family during the early years of his life and the perils he faced under the heel of Nazism and communism, was unshakable. His love and work on behalf of the Catholic Church and of the people of his native Poland—indeed, of men, women, and children of all faiths and all walks of life—were the driving force in his rise to become a bishop and archbishop in Krakow, Poland, and ultimately his election as pontiff.

I was never fortunate to meet the Holy Father myself, but I have met many individuals who had such an opportunity. In talking with them, and in reading the countless reports of people around the world who were in his presence, it is clear to see how truly remarkable this man was and how moving a meeting with him could be. He was a man of hope, a man of vision, and a man of unceasing faith, and in his 26-year papacy those qualities were shared with peoples and nations around the world in his over 100 trips away from Vatican City.

Mr. Speaker, there are many times in life where we refer to someone's character and manner of living their life as signs that they are a saint. Karol Wojtyla was such a person who may indeed receive sainthood for his work—a young man from Poland who early on dedicated his life to his faith and his church and who grew into Pope John Paul II, a man who never lost that dedication and who impacted countless people around the world. His life and his work will be discussed and, remembered far into the future, and it is my hope his life and his leadership serve as an inspiration for all of us for many years to come.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in my estimation, the Pope was instrumental in helping to bring down communism. His words in Poland, "Don't be afraid," resonated throughout the world against tyranny, despotism and injustice.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Pope John Paul II, a moral, political, and religious leader who helped re-shape the Catholic Church and the entire world.

The story of a small town boy from Poland, who grew up to become one of the longest serving and most influential Popes in history, is an inspiration. He survived the destruction of his homeland first by Nazi invaders, and then by Communist occupiers, despite his strong commitment to a religion those powers despised.

During World War II, Pope John Paul II was forced to attend an underground seminary to further his religious education, and as a priest he needed to be constantly mindful of Poland's communist regime. Yet, when he was asked if he feared retribution from the government, he replied, "I'm not afraid of them. They are afraid of me."

Once he became Pope, however, His Holiness was able to come to the aid of others fighting for freedom and human rights. His support for the Solidarity movement in Poland and opposition to communists and dictators around the globe remade our world. When he became Pope in 1978, communism had a stranglehold on Eastern Europe and was on the march around the globe. As Pope, he encouraged opposition movements and gave hope and guidance to millions in their struggle. Thanks in large part to his leadership, in 2005, at the close of his papacy, communism is confined to the dustbin of history, and it is freedom that is on the march.

Not only did Pope John Paul II lead political change, but he encouraged moral change as well. In 1981, when a Turk named Mehmet Ali Agca shot the Pope twice in an assassination attempt, the Pope later went to the cell of the man who tried to kill him, and personally forgave him. By both preaching and practicing forgiveness, Pope John Paul II demonstrated the enormous potential of human kindness.

In a time when many leaders look to the polls and test political winds for guidance, Pope John Paul II stood unflinching at the center of the most controversial moral debates of our time, and held firm, while always supporting the sanctity and dignity of human life. His presence will be sorely missed, but his accomplishments will long be relished.

May God bless his soul.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 190, which honors the heroic life and historic pontificate of Pope John Paul the Second.

For over a quarter century, John Paul the Second provided powerful, charismatic, and effective leadership for the world's one billion Catholics. But his legacy will forever reach far beyond the boundaries of faith or nationality.

In the faithful service of God, he confronted evil and injustice wherever he found them, from the Nazism and Communism that gripped his beloved Poland to the hunger, suffering, and poverty that continues to afflict the world.

He affirmed life through his teachings and through his example. He lived vigorously and

inquisitively—and he confronted suffering and death with courage and serenity.

Today, we mourn his passing—while celebrating with thanksgiving the powerful and eternal spiritual model he left for us all.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for this resolution and my deep regret of the recent passing of Pope John Paul II. I also extend my special sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world and the more than 66 million Catholics in the United States.

Pope John Paul II was one of the most significant leaders of our time. He worked tirelessly to promote the basic freedoms and dignities shared by all humanity. He was instrumental in serving as a catalyst for the fall of the Soviet Union and the emancipation of millions from totalitarian rule. More broadly, he worked in public and in private to persuade world leaders to respect their citizens' basic human rights. The Pope consistently embraced the poor and the oppressed masses of the world, and urged governments to take care of the needs of all its citizens.

One right of particular importance to John Paul II was freedom of worship. Ministering to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, the Pope took unprecedented steps on behalf of the Catholic Church to promote religious freedom for all citizens, regardless of their particular religious belief. To that end, he became the first Pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, and made numerous public pronouncements committing the Vatican to upholding religious tolerance.

As ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I met John Paul II during a 2003 trip to the Vatican, and listened to his address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In that speech he praised the work of the OSCE to encourage the recognition of religious freedoms among its member nations. He observed that maintaining a secular state while promoting the ability of individuals to worship as they choose in private "corresponds, among other things, to the demands of a healthy pluralism and contributes to the building up of authentic democracy, to which the OSCE is truly committed."

The Pope took historic steps to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths. I was pleased that the Vatican strongly supported our efforts to host the first-ever OSCE conferences on the issue of anti-Semitism. These conferences produced the "Berlin Declaration," which unambiguously condemned all forms of anti-Semitism and committed the members of the OSCE to collect and maintain statistics on anti-Semitic crimes and hate crimes, and to promote Holocaust education and remembrance programs.

In September of 2004 Archbishop of Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, who has fought tirelessly to ensure that discrimination and racism have no place in the public dialogue, attended the OSCE's Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in Brussels. I hosted a roundtable with Cardinal Keeler and other religious leaders in Baltimore in October 2004 to discuss the conference and how we can work to prevent racism and xenophobia and promote tolerance. I wish Cardinal Keeler well as the cardinals meet in a conclave over the next several weeks to elect a new pope.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiring leader in the battle to stamp out religious discrimination and ensure that all individuals have the freedom to worship as they desire. Future generations must work to promote his legacy, so that we may one day live in a world in which no individual is denied their inalienable right to worship as they see fit.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, those of us who have lived in the era of Pope John Paul II have had the great privilege during the past twenty-six years of witnessing the important work of this great leader.

John Paul II was an extraordinary theologian, a brilliant statesman who worked ceaselessly for peace and freedom, and a brave Polish patriot. He embodied the Christian, Marian doctrine of love and mercy; millions throughout the world have been forever changed for the better by the life of Pope John Paul II.

Perhaps his most important accomplishment was lifting the ban on the devotion to the message of divine mercy as explained by our Savior directly to Sister Faustina, and the Pope's institution of Divine Mercy Sunday by the Church, as well as the canonization of Saint Faustina. Our prayers of gratitude for those great works of Pope John Paul II accompany our prayers for his eternal rest.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, people around the world of all faiths share a deep sadness for the passing of His Holiness John Paul II.

New York City mourns the loss of John Paul II with special remembrance and appreciation for the care and attention he showed our city, visiting twice as Pope and before that as Cardinal.

I was personally touched and grateful for the prayers and blessings he offered to the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, their families, and all the rescue and recovery workers who responded to Ground Zero after the attacks.

He met personally with several New York firefighters who had responded to the attacks, praying for their strength and the health of their fellow firefighters, families and fellow New Yorkers in a dark and difficult hour.

This is just one example of how Pope John Paul II was always attentive to the needs of those suffering.

His Holiness John Paul II traveled the world for twenty six years in his Papacy, delivering a consistent message of the need for peace and the promise of hope.

Through his faith, his words, and his example in life, Pope John Paul II helped democracies to blossom and greater tolerance to flourish across the world.

Crowds of thousands will mourn the passing of Pope John Paul II in the days and weeks ahead.

I hope that in this time of sadness and reflection, we also remember the gifts that John Paul II brought into the world, celebrating his life and his ministry to the world's greatest troubles and needs.

We should keep Pope John Paul II's actions for the betterment of others always in our mind.

He fought for the dignified treatment of all people, he stood up for the downtrodden, and

he worked to unify the world in common missions for greater good.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the millions of people across the globe paying public, private and prayerful tribute to the life of Pope John Paul II.

The experiences of Karol Wojtyla's youth and priesthood in Poland created a unique depth of faith and empathy with the human condition perfectly suited for the times in which he led. Through the early death of his parents, he understood the fragility of life, empowering him with an unshakable devotion to the preciousness of all humanity. His young adulthood under Nazi and Soviet occupation gave him an acute understanding of oppression, inspiring him to become the most significant vessel of peaceful subversion to the forces of communism in Eastern Europe and apartheid in South Africa. His intimate exposure to the holocaust and enduring friendships with Polish Jews in his community allowed him to become a conduit of contrition and fellowship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish faith.

He was one of the most vigorous, charismatic and universally admired religious leaders in the history of the modern world. His travels, visiting 129 countries during his papacy, delivered the Christian message to every corner of the planet. His many trips, particularly to the Third World, illustrated his identification with the poor. His prolonged health struggle was a powerful example of dignity and spiritual deliverance in the face of human suffering. While on his deathbed he wrote, "I am happy, and you should be as well. Let us pray together with joy." Upon being informed of the masses of young people holding vigil outside his window, the Pope, who had worked so tirelessly advocating for the young, said: "I have looked for you. Now you have come to me. And I thank you." He reportedly looked out the window and uttered his last word: "Amen."

The life and times of Pope John Paul II constitute a portrait of greatness seemingly without precedent in modernity. Throughout his 26 years as Pope, one man, Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, spread faith, uplifted the poor, challenged political oppression, worked to heal centuries-old inter-faith rifts, and inspired billions with his quiet grace. His legacy shall endure for the ages.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the world's most remarkable leaders of the past century, Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was special not only to Catholics, but also to those of us outside his religious faith. He was a giant in the advancement of peace, spirituality and human dignity. I join the rest of the world in grieving his loss and celebrating his life.

After witnessing two of the greatest evils of the past century firsthand, Nazism and Communism, Pope John Paul II made the betterment of humanity the centerpiece of his service both to the church and to the world. Having emerged from poverty and oppression to become the first Polish Pope in history, Pope John Paul II became a beacon of good will.

Pope John Paul II worked to breakdown barriers between countries, faiths, and people. Among many other profound and

groundbreaking gestures, this Pope was the first to visit a German death camp, visiting Auschwitz in 1979. There he prayed first at a Hebrew stone and second at a Polish stone.

The Pope understood that different people saw the world through different lenses but he fought the biases that long characterized the fault lines of differing cultures. He counseled us, "Peace is not built in mutual ignorance but rather in dialogue and encounter. Unity is not uniformity." Pope John Paul II built a culture of tolerance, openness and understanding. "Solidarity helps us to see the other not as an object of exploitation but as a neighbor in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited," he reminded us.

Let me close by capturing a deeply held conviction of the Pope's that I have long held dear to my own service as a Member of the United States Congress. The Pope steadily and forcefully worked towards a better future for all of mankind and he saw this future embodied in children.

He remarked, "We must all work for a world in which no child will be deprived of peace and security, of the right to grow up without fear and anxiety." The greatest challenge for any generation is to leave behind a better world for our children. This Pope truly understood and embraced this challenge.

We will miss Pope John Paul II for his spirituality, for his dignity, for his leadership and for his profound humanity. But, much as his faith indicates that his soul will live on eternally, the impetus and legacy of his principled life will live on eternally here on earth.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who embodied the message of peace and compassion. John Paul II was a man of God and a missionary of faith. He led the Catholic Church through an eventful and revolutionary quarter century in the world, inspiring hundreds of millions of people in dozens of countries to throw off the yoke of dictatorship and oppression, His Holiness' motivation and ethical leadership were guiding lights in a time that struggled with darkness. His vision will, very simply, be missed.

To be Pope is to not only lead the Catholic Church, but to lead the world. Pope John Paul II was an ardent protector of global human rights. His stubborn opposition to the world's dictatorships ushered in profound movements of change. At the same time, His Holiness also deeply believed in the importance of forgiveness, as he demonstrated when he forgave his would-be assassin. His courageous efforts to repair the long, tumultuous relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people opened a meaningful dialogue that will continue for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember meeting the Pope in 2003, and, in fact, I have in the center of my office wall the picture taken of the two of us in the Vatican. As I shook his hand, I deeply appreciated and admired the fact that His Holiness cared not for the color of my skin or my faith. He was a messenger of peace above all. He preached about the culture of life, the culture of faith, and the brotherhood of all mankind. He led by example and his strength was evident, even in his final days.

I share the Pope's insistence that peace and compassion can overcome the influence of evil in the world. The global community must continue to take up this message. Action is the only way to apply the teachings we acquire in life, and so I call on all individuals to live with compassion for your brothers and sisters, just as the Pope did throughout his life. He will truly be missed.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II, a true statesman and defender of faith. The Pope's death is truly a loss to the world. Many are the people he touched with his unconquerable quest for peace and equality.

Pope John Paul II brought hope to all corners of the world, to people of all faiths and backgrounds, with his powerful belief in the human spirit. I will always remember the Pope's visit to St. Louis in 1999. Having the opportunity to meet him was a special moment in my life, and his visit was one of the great moments in our region's history. He will be remembered as a tremendous spiritual leader and as a force for good in the world, and his legacy will last a long time.

He was a man who truly reflected justice and the sanctity of life in his teachings, travels and way of life. From making landmark trips to various parts of the world to strongly upholding the Christian way of life, I will always intensely admire his moral courage and integrity.

For all of humanity, Pope John Paul II has been an inspiration in a troubled world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 190 and paying respect and recognition to Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of Pope John Paul II and to strongly support H. Res. 190. The world has lost a great moral leader his Holiness. Pope John Paul II was a man who held profound convictions, displayed enormous compassion, and continuously reminded us of our common humanity and obligations to each other. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who mourn the passing of this remarkable spiritual voice.

As a young seminarian in 1945, Karol Wojtyla came across a small girl who had just been liberated from the Nazi labor camp in Czearochowa, Poland. She had boarded a passing coal train and rode it until she could no longer stand the cold. That is how she ended up in the train station in the small town of Jdrzejows. It was here, sitting alone in the corner of the train station in her striped prison uniform, that Karol Wojtyla discovered her. She told him that she was trying to get to Krakow to find her parents and other family members. He provided her with food and shelter, and helped her get back to Krakow. Even as a young man, the future John Paul II had the humanity, compassion, and courage to help this young girl when others passed her by.

When he became Pope in 1978, his Holiness took his convictions and moral strength around the world. In more than 200 visits to 126 countries over the course of his papacy, Pope John Paul II exhibited charisma and a set of core beliefs that focused people worldwide on the plight of the less fortunate and the forgotten. He inspired faith not only in God,

but in ourselves. He articulated a message that every person matters, and every child of God has a purpose on Earth.

This philosophy was writ large when it came to world affairs. Just eight months after his inauguration, Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland, still under communist rule, and reminded the massive crowds—and the authoritarian leaders who oppressed them—of their fundamental, God-given human rights. By supporting the Solidarity movement within Poland, he helped to break the back of the authoritarian communists in Poland and then the rest of Western Europe. Pope John Paul II was a catalyst for change at a key moment in history, and millions of people live more freely today due to his efforts. He always believed in, and never stopped fighting for, a world in which people were free from tyranny, poverty, and war.

On that first visit to Poland in 1979, Pope John Paul II offered a prayer: "Spirit," he said "come and renew the face of the earth." Let us renew that prayer today. There is still too much suffering in this world, too much oppression, poverty and abuses of human rights. His Holiness Pope John Paul II would want us to continue doing our best, individually, and collectively, to address these challenges. There are many lessons he taught to me, so much to draw from his remarkable life. Above all, let us remember this: one person can change the world. He showed us that as Pope, yes. But he also showed it in 1945, when he changed the world for Edith Zierer. With faith we can renew the face of the earth. With his faith Karol Wojtyla changed lives. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we need to remember to start today by extending the hand of human kindness to our fellow humans, just as that young seminarian did at the end of the Second World War a half century ago for Edith Zierer.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of El Paso, Texas join with Catholics and people of faith and compassion around the world in expressing their profound grief at the death of a great man, Pope John Paul II. I am grateful to have the opportunity to join with my colleagues today to give thanks for Pope John Paul II's many contributions to mankind and to express our deep sorrow at his passing.

A small-town boy from Poland who became the first non-Italian to assume the pontificate in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II expanded the Church and welcomed into its faith millions of souls around the world. At the same time, he was an unflinching advocate for the poor, weak, and vulnerable, a strong voice for global peace, and a great champion for the sanctity of life.

Through his unprecedented travels and many sermons and writings, Pope John Paul II awakened in people—from Asia to Africa and from the former Soviet Union to Latin America—the innate human desire to shake off the yoke of autocracy and social inequity. By the power of his faith and charisma, he empowered the oppressed to seek freedom and demand human rights. Also, at a time of global turbulence and uncertainty, his words and actions provided an essential moral deterrent to Communism.

Mr. Speaker, the world has been truly blessed by the life and legacy of Pope John

Paul II. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I join with fellow Catholics around the world in mourning the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The world has seen the passing of a great man dedicated to peace throughout the world. His actions reflected his preaching of love, healing and forgiveness, advocating for peace and reaching out to other faith traditions. Despite turmoil and controversy, he held fast to his beliefs, gaining the respect of many around the world, even those who did not agree with him. His teachings will be remembered by millions and his influence will guide world leaders for years to come.

Throughout his ministry, he remained firm in his beliefs, leading by word and deed, fearless in his efforts to spread the Gospel of Christ. He believed in the inalienable right and dignity of the human person from conception through the moment of death. He was unafraid to shape world events, speaking passionately for peace and advocating for human rights. From his early years during the Nazi occupation of Poland where he risked his life to protect Polish Jews from persecution to his forgiveness of his would-be assassin, he has led by example, in faith and humility.

His steadfast support of the Solidarity movement in his homeland of Poland provided hope and encouragement to the Polish people and led to peaceful government reforms that precipitated the collapse of communism in Poland and the eventual fall of the Soviet Union, bringing freedom to millions of people. As these events were unfolding, Pope John Paul II was also reaching out to other parts of the world, using his influence to bring about change.

Through his efforts, he helped reduce tensions between world leaders, advocating for peace and justice. He sought to heal divisions across the different faith traditions, promoting reconciliation and dialogue between members to further understanding and respect for all people.

Pope John Paul II traveled all over the world. For millions, his visits would be the only opportunity to see a pope in person. Despite his afflictions of arthritis and Parkinson's disease, the Holy Father continued to travel the world, bringing hope and encouragement to the millions still oppressed by tyranny, hunger, disease and despair.

Pope John Paul II was especially dear to the people of Guam. He was the only Pope to visit Guam and he mesmerized our people with his dignity, kindness and sincerity. From his first words upon his arrival, spoken in the native Chamorro language, and throughout his short visit, his presence brought a spiritual renewal to the island's Catholics, many of whom camped overnight in streets and parking lots near the plaza where he was to say Mass. On February 23, 1981, tens of thousands of people gathered at the Plaza de Espana in Agana, Guam, to attend the service and receive his blessing. The crowd was captivated by this gentle man who spoke passionately of his love for God and his love for humanity, praising the dedication of Catholics in Guam and Micronesia for their faithfulness while reminding them that their faith should be practiced in all that they do. He then took time to

comfort the elderly and the sick in our hospital who were unable to attend his Mass, blessing and encouraging them with his words, "You are the strongest among all of us, who build the church through your suffering."

It was an awesome sight to see children with their parents and grandparents, religious and government leaders, gathered to welcome the Holy Father, to celebrate Mass and to bid him farewell as he departed our island.

His visit marked a turning point for Catholics in Micronesia. In 1984, three years after his visit, the Pontiff honored our island and the Chamorro people with the elevation of the Diocese of Agana to a Metropolitan Archdiocese, naming the late Bishop Felixberto C. Flores, the first Chamorro Bishop, the first Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana and appointing another Chamorro, Father Anthony S. Apuron as Auxiliary Bishop. A year later, he approved the creation of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and appointed Monsignor Tomas A. Camacho, a Chamorro and a native of Saipan, as its first Bishop.

Also in 1984, the Holy Father announced the beatification of Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, the Jesuit priest who brought Christianity to Guam and was later martyred for baptizing the child of a Chamorro chief. Over two hundred people from Guam went on the pilgrimage to Rome to attend the beatification ceremony.

Although he would not return to the island before his passing, his visit will never be forgotten. From the street named in his honor, Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos, to the bronze statue erected to commemorate his visit, the people of Guam will always remember this man of faith and vision who taught us "not to be content to boast of a glorious heritage from the past without turning to the demands of the present moment." Rather, we must put our faith into practice each and every day, seeking more effective ways to proclaim the message of love to all those we meet.

Pope John Paul II was beloved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Through the many challenges confronting the Catholic faith and the world, Pope John Paul II as the Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church was the rock of the Church and the conscience of the world. At his passing, we mourn the loss of a great person. For Catholics, we take comfort in the knowledge that he is at peace with God the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in heaven. On behalf of the people of Guam, "Adios Santo Papa yan in guiya hao."

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a great spiritual and moral leader for the world. Throughout his lifetime, he experienced Fascism, Communism and rampant materialism. He never lost sight of his own values and beliefs and lived his life as an example that all of us regardless of faith could look to.

The earthly light of this Pope has been lost but his eternal light will shine forever. The millions of pilgrims flowing into St. Peter's Square reflect the genuine warmth and respect this man of God had throughout the world. He spoke for the poor, the homeless, the infirmed, the oppressed and everyone listened. His message of caring and love certainly played a

major role in many of the changes we have seen across the global map. Walls came down and individual freedom arose from rubble.

To me it was especially noteworthy to watch the Pope reach out to the youth of the world and how warmly they returned his affection. Their bond will long be remembered.

In life Pope John Paul II showed us how to live and in death, showed how to die. He has returned to his Lord and Savior having earned the reward of "Welcome home my good and faithful servant." We have been blessed by his presence on earth and his legacy will be a strength for generations to come.

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 2nd, 2005 the world lost a great leader, a champion of peace and a beacon of hope to so many.

The life of Pope John Paul II exemplified the virtues and duties of the faith he so devoutly taught. As a young man, he fought oppression by defying the Nazi regime to secretly study the teachings of his faith. As a priest, he fought for freedom by defying the Communist regime of Poland to teach the cherished values of Catholicism. As the Holy Father, he worked to end tyranny throughout the world.

After surviving an attempt on his life, John Paul II—with unparalleled compassion and mercy—beseeched humanity to "Pray for the brother who shot me, whom I have sincerely forgiven." Yet, just as his willingness to forgive was unmatched, so were his efforts to unite the global community.

As the world's leading arbiter of peace, John Paul II rejected efforts to use religion as a barrier or as a reason for war, instead using it as a bridge to bring people of different faiths together.

He traveled the world more than any other Pope, preaching non-violence and mediating conflicts.

He reached out to the most vulnerable—the sick, impoverished and abandoned children—never letting religion determine who to care for and help.

He unambiguously rejected anti-Semitism, asking for forgiveness for past Christian intolerances to Jews and courageously recognizing the state of Israel.

The world will forever be grateful for the conviction with which John Paul II served and led. And, he will be missed by the people of all faiths and of all regions. Through his love and service to God he served billions of Catholics, but through his love and service of humanity he served us all.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

As the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Karol Wojtyla would have drawn distinction no matter what his papacy held. However, his 26-year reign as the 264th pope has proven to be a remarkable and historic papacy.

Perhaps it was the very nature of the Holy Father's upbringing—the personal tragedies he underwent as a youth, as well as his firsthand experiences with the totalitarianism of Nazism, then Communism—that shaped his world view and enabled him to serve as pope with such zeal and commitment.

His was a lifespan that began in a world of biplanes and horse-drawn carriages, saw the advent of spaceflight and nuclear bombs, and

ended in a "global neighborhood" made possible by personal computers and instant communications. Perhaps only someone with these experiences could have appropriately taken on the challenges of the 21st Century in such a dynamic and tireless manner.

His worldwide travel, where he gained the attention of people of many faiths and embraced Catholics on all continents, will constitute a lasting legacy. Many Americans witnessed, first hand, the strength of his conviction and dedication to his mission during the Holy Father's 7 historic visits to the United States. In 1987 he honored my home city of Los Angeles with a visit that Angelinos still talk about. Those arduous travels, even during his years of declining health, demonstrated the importance of perseverance and faithful struggle.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiration to all generations throughout his 26-year reign. He inspired in us a sense of hope and self worth that encouraged us to live better, fuller lives. He reached out to the world's youth and taught them the value of integrity, courage, honesty, and forgiveness.

And despite the many challenges the Church faced during his papacy, he was admired for his resoluteness, even as Catholics around the world reacted in numerous ways to his direction of the church.

John Paul II was not just the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, however, he was a world leader, and he actively shaped world affairs including negotiating peace treaties and helping ensure the end of European Communism. He reasserted the Church's role on the world stage and was a global champion on issues of conscience, social justice, and peace. The tremendous outpouring of genuine sorrow throughout the world since the Pontiff's death is a testament to the impact his ministry had on people of all continents and all faiths.

Mr. Speaker, the "Shoes of the Fisherman" are empty, and I extend my sincere sympathy to my constituents, including Roger Cardinal Mahoney, all Los Angeles-area Catholics and all people of good will who mourn the Pontiff's passing.

Pope John Paul II's life of service was a life well lived, and it will be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people he touched around the globe for many generations to come.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to support H. Res. 190, a resolution passed April 6 that commended the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Likewise, I am proud to say I was the lead sponsor of legislation that was passed by the House and Senate in 2003, House Concurrent Resolution 313, that urged President Bush to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the Pope. Thankfully, President Bush did just that in June of last year.

In a time when many leaders look to the polls and test political winds for guidance, Pope John Paul II stood unflinching at the center of the most controversial moral debates of our time, and held firm, always supporting the sanctity and dignity of every human life. His presence will be sorely missed, but his accomplishments will long be relished.

Mr. Speaker, as a reminder of the Pope's enduring and historic contributions to world

peace, human freedom and to the security and national interests of the United States, I request that the following remarks that I delivered on the House floor on November 18, 2003 be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida. I rise to pay tribute to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, who in October marked his 25th year as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church.

I also wish to offer my sincere appreciation to all my friends and colleagues in the House who have joined together to urge the President to present the Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II.

The celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Pope John Paul II's pontificate is but the latest in a series of remarkable milestones that have characterized his life and his ministry.

From his birth on May 18, 1920, Karol Jozef Wojtyla's life has been intertwined with the fate of his native Poland and synonymous with the struggle for his individual freedom and dignity.

In 1978 when then-Cardinal Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Krakow, was elected Pope, the world was a much different place. For the more than 3 decades since Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech, people around the world prepared for what many regarded as the inevitable new war that would someday engulf the East and the West. To win the Cold War, geopolitical strategists honed and implemented various policies including the doctrines of containment and mutual-assured destruction.

At this pivotal moment in history, when the status quo included the subjugation of half the populations of Europe and the omnipresent threat of nuclear annihilation, a remarkable and energetic new Pope set foot on the world stage. To many in the West, this new Polish Pope was an unknown entity. While we recognized immediately his energy, courage and leadership, these same qualities were reviewed with suspicion by some in the East, particularly the communist rulers in Poland.

Pope John Paul II's commitment to freedom, his affection for his native Poland, and the devotion of his countrymen to him were never more evident than the summer of 1980. That August, the Solidarity Workers Union, which Cardinal Wojtyla had nurtured and protected, organized a peaceful strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

With the Pope's portrait suddenly appearing everywhere and the admonition from his inaugural sermon, "Do not be afraid," on the lips of the workers, his support and reassurance provided vital sustenance for the strikers and ignited a spiritual spark in their struggle to secure dignity and freedom. Ultimately, that spark would lead to the demise of Soviet communism and the liberation of hundreds of millions in Eastern and Central Europe.

History has recorded the remarkable achievement of Pope John Paul II and his relentless advocacy in pursuit of individual dignity, freedom, and peace. The Pope has not confined his efforts solely to the struggle against totalitarianism. He has engaged wherever people are downtrodden and oppressed.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress should pass House Concurrent Resolution 313 and urge the President to present the Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian award, to His Holiness.

In authorizing the first Medals of Freedom in 1963, President Kennedy proclaimed that

persons who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors should be so recognized. By any measure it is apparent that there is no individual more deserving of this recognition than Pope John Paul II.

Two other recipients of the Medal of Freedom, President Ronald Reagan and Lady Margaret Thatcher, shared the Pope's commitment to Solidarity in the 1980s. In my estimation, their leadership changed the course of human history. In 1984, while welcoming the Pope to the United States, President Reagan spoke of the connection between freedom, the founding of our own Nation, and America's debt to His Holiness.

President Reagan stated, "I can assure you, Your Holiness, that the American people seek to act as a force for peace in the world and to further the cause of human freedom and dignity. Indeed, an appreciation for the unalienable rights of every human being is the very concept that gave birth to this Nation. Few have understood better than our Nation's founding fathers that claims of human dignity transcend the claims of any government, and this transcendent right itself has a transcendent source."

The President went on to state, "To us, Your Holiness, the Holy See and your pastorate represent one of humanity's greatest moral and spiritual forces," and "your words, your prayers and your example have made you, for those who suffer oppression or the violence of war, a source of solace, inspiration and hope." It is no exaggeration to recognize that this remarkable man has brought hope, comfort and faith to literally billions of people around the world during the course of his ministry.

Three weeks ago today I was honored to be joined by 30 Members of the House in introducing this resolution. Since that time we have gained additional support for which I am grateful, and I particularly appreciate the work of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the Committee on Government Reform who reported our resolution to the floor in such a timely manner.

As stated previously, our bipartisan resolution calls upon the President on behalf of all the people of the United States, to present the Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II as a sign of our gratitude for his significant, enduring, and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace. We urge the President to do so without delay.

Finally, I include an article by Carl Bernstein entitled "The Holy Alliance," which appeared in the February 24, 1992, edition of Time, as well as an article by Father Robert A. Sirico entitled "The Cold War's Magnificent Seven; Pope John Paul II; Awakener of the East," which was published in the Winter 1992 edition of Policy Review.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would invoke President Reagan once more. When asked his assessment of the Pope before meeting him the first time, the President replied, "He is an example of what so many people have always said about Christian and Judaic tradition, and that is, that when really needed, God provides a man. And I think in Pope John Paul he did just that."

Billions around the world are thankful that God has provided such a man.

The articles referred to are as follows:

[From Time Magazine, Feb. 24, 1992]

THE HOLY ALLIANCE
(By Carl Bernstein)

Only President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were present in the Vatican Li-

brary on Monday, June 7, 1982. It was the first time the two had met, and they talked for 50 minutes. In the same wing of the papal apartments, Agostino Cardinal Casaroli and Archbishop Achille Silvestrini met with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Judge William Clark, Reagan's National Security Adviser. Most of their discussion focused on Israel's invasion of Lebanon, then in its second day; Haig told them Prime Minister Menachem Begin had assured him that the invasion would not go farther than 25 miles inside Lebanon.

But Reagan and the Pope spent only a few minutes reviewing events in the Middle East. Instead they remained focused on a subject much closer to their heart: Poland and the Soviet dominance of Eastern Europe. In that meeting, Reagan and the Pope agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the dissolution of the communist empire. Declares Richard Allen, Reagan's first National Security Adviser: "This was one of the great secret alliances of all time."

The operation was focused on Poland, the most populous of the Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe and the birthplace of John Paul II. Both the Pope and the President were convinced that Poland could be broken out of the Soviet orbit if the Vatican and the U.S. committed their resources to destabilizing the Polish government and keeping the outlawed Solidarity movement alive after the declaration of martial law in 1981.

Until Solidarity's legal status was restored in 1989 it flourished underground, supplied, nurtured and advised largely by the network established under the auspices of Reagan and John Paul II. Tons of equipment—fax machines (the first in Poland), printing presses, transmitters, telephones, shortwave radios, video cameras, photocopiers, telex machines, computers, word processors—were smuggled into Poland via channels established by priests and American agents and representatives of the AFL-CIO and European labor movements. Money for the banned union came from CIA funds, the National Endowment for Democracy, secret accounts in the Vatican and Western trade unions.

Lech Walesa and other leaders of Solidarity received strategic advice—often conveyed by priests or American and European labor experts working undercover in Poland—that reflected the thinking of the Vatican and the Reagan Administration. As the effectiveness of the resistance grew, the stream of information to the West about the internal decisions of the Polish government and the contents of Warsaw's communications with Moscow became a flood. The details came not only from priests but also from spies within the Polish government.

DOWN WITH YALTA

According to aides who shared their leaders' view of the world, Reagan and John Paul II refused to accept a fundamental political fact of their lifetimes: the division of Europe as mandated at Yalta and the communist dominance of Eastern Europe. A free, non-communist Poland, they were convinced, would be a dagger to the heart of the Soviet empire; and if Poland became democratic, other East European states would follow.

"We both felt that a great mistake had been made at Yalta and something should be done," Reagan says today. "Solidarity was the very weapon for bringing this about, because it was an organization of the laborers of Poland." Nothing quite like Solidarity had ever existed in Eastern Europe, Reagan notes, adding that the workers' union "was contrary to anything the Soviets would want or the communists [in Poland] would want."

According to Solidarity leaders, Walesa and his lieutenants were aware that both Reagan and John Paul II were committed to Solidarity's survival, but they could only guess at the extent of the collaboration. "Officially I didn't know the church was working with the U.S.," says Wojciech Adamiecki, the organizer and editor of underground Solidarity newspapers and now a counselor at the Polish embassy in Washington. "We were told the Pope had warned the Soviets that if they entered Poland he would fly to Poland and stay with the Polish people. The church was of primary assistance. It was half open, half secret. Open as far as humanitarian aid—food, money, medicine, doctors' consultations held in churches, for instance—and secret as far as supporting political activities: distributing printing machines of all kinds, giving us a place for underground meetings, organizing special demonstrations."

At their first meeting, Reagan and John Paul II discussed something else they had in common: both had survived assassination attempts only six weeks apart in 1981, and both believed God had saved them for a special mission. "A close friend of Ronald Reagan's told me the President said, 'Look how the evil forces were put in our way and how Providence intervened,'" says Pio Cardinal Laghi, the former apostolic delegate to Washington. According to National Security Adviser Clark, the Pope and Reagan referred to the "miraculous" fact that they had survived. Clark said the men shared "a unity of spiritual view and a unity of vision on the Soviet empire: that right or correctness would ultimately prevail in the divine plan."

"Reagan came in with very simple and strongly held views," says Admiral Bobby Inman, former deputy director of the CIA. "It is a valid point of view that he saw the collapse [of communism] coming and he pushed it—hard." During the first half of 1982, a five-part strategy emerged that was aimed at bringing about the collapse of the Soviet economy, fraying the ties that bound the U.S.S.R. to its client states in the Warsaw Pact and forcing reform inside the Soviet empire. Elements of that strategy included:

The U.S. defense buildup already under way, aimed at making it too costly for the Soviets to compete militarily with the U.S. Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative—Star Wars—became a centerpiece of the strategy.

Covert operations aimed at encouraging reform movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Financial aid to Warsaw Pact nations calibrated to their willingness to protect human rights and undertake political and free-market reforms.

Economic isolation of the Soviet Union and the withholding of Western and Japanese technology from Moscow. The Administration focused on denying the U.S.S.R. what it had hoped would be its principal source of hard currency in the 21st century: profits from a transcontinental pipeline to supply natural gas to Western Europe. The 3,600-mile-long pipeline, stretching from Siberia to France, opened on time on Jan. 1, 1984, but on a far smaller scale than the Soviets had hoped.

Increased use of Radio Liberty, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe to transmit the Administration's messages to the people of Eastern Europe.

Yet in 1982 neither Reagan nor the Pope could anticipate the accession of a Soviet leader like Mikhail Gorbachev, the father of glasnost and perestroika; his efforts at re-

form unleashed powerful forces that spun out of his control and led to the breakup of the Soviet Union. The Washington-Vatican alliance "didn't cause the fall of communism," observes a U.S. official familiar with the details of the plot to keep Solidarity alive. "Like all great and lucky leaders, the Pope and the President exploited the forces of history to their own ends."

THE CRACKDOWN

The campaign by Washington and the Vatican to keep Solidarity alive began immediately after General Wojciech Jaruzelski declared martial law on Dec. 13, 1981. In those dark hours, Poland's communications with the noncommunist world were cut; 6,000 leaders of Solidarity were detained; hundreds were charged with treason, subversion and counterrevolution; nine were killed; and the union was banned. But thousands of others went into hiding, many seeking protection in churches, rectories and with priests. Authorities took Walesa into custody and interned him in a remote hunting lodge.

Shortly after Polish security forces moved into the streets, Reagan called the Pope for his advice. At a service of meetings over the next few days, Reagan discussed his options. "We had a massive row in the Cabinet and the National Security Council about putting together a menu of counteractions," former Secretary of State Haig recalls. "They ranged from sanctions that would have been crushing in their impact on Poland to talking so tough that we would have risked creating another situation like Hungary in '56 or Czechoslovakia in '68."

Haig dispatched Ambassador at Large Vernon Walters, a devout Roman Catholic, to meet with John Paul II. Walters arrived in Rome soon after, and met separately with the Pope and with Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state. Both sides agreed that Solidarity's flame must not be extinguished, that the Soviets must become the focus of an international campaign of isolation, and that the Polish government must be subjected to moral and limited economic pressure.

According to U.S. intelligence sources, the Pope had already advised Walesa through church channels to keep his movement operating underground, and to pass the word to Solidarity's 10 million members not to go into the streets and risk provoking Warsaw Pact intervention or civil war with Polish security forces. Because the communists had cut the direct phone lines between Poland and the Vatican, John Paul II communicated with Jozef Cardinal Glomp in Warsaw via radio. He also dispatched his envoys to Poland to report on the situation. "The Vatican's information was absolutely better and quicker than ours in every respect," says Haig. "Though we had some excellent sources of our own, our information was taking too long to filter through the intelligence bureaucracy."

In the first hours of the crisis, Reagan ordered that the Pope receive as quickly as possible relevant American intelligence, including information from a Polish Deputy Minister of Defense who was secretly reporting to the CIA. Washington also handed over to the Vatican reports and analysis from Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, a senior member of the Polish general staff, who was a CIA informant until November 1981, when he had to be smuggled out of Poland after he warned that the Soviets were prepared to invade if the Polish government did not impose martial law. Kuklinski had issued a similar warning about a Soviet military action in late 1980, which led the outgoing Carter Ad-

ministration to send secret messages to Leonid Brezhnev informing him that among the costs of an invasion would be the sale of sophisticated U.S. weapons to China. This time, Kuklinski reported to Washington, Brezhnev had grown more impatient, and a disastrous harvest at home meant that the Kremlin did not need mechanized army units to help bring in the crops and instead could spare them for an invasion. "Anything that we knew that we thought the Pope would not be aware of, we certainly brought it to his attention," says Reagan. "Immediately."

THE CATHOLIC TEAM

The key Administration players were all devout Roman Catholics—CIA chief William Casey, Allen, Clark, Haig, Walters and William Wilson, Reagan's first ambassador to the Vatican. They regarded the U.S.-Vatican relationship as a holy alliance: the moral force of the Pope and the teachings of their church combined with their fierce anticommunism and their notion of American democracy. Yet the mission would have been impossible without the full support of Reagan, who believed fervently in both the benefits and the practical applications of Washington's relationship with the Vatican. One of his earliest goals as President, Reagan says, was to recognize the Vatican as a state "and make them an ally."

According to Admiral John Poindexter, the military assistant to the National Security Adviser when martial law was declared in Poland, Reagan was convinced that the communists had made a huge miscalculation: after allowing Solidarity to operate openly for 16 months before the crackdown, the Polish government would only alienate its countrymen by attempting to cripple the labor movement and, most important, would bring the powerful church into direct conflict with the Polish regime. "I didn't think that this [the decision to impose martial law and crush Solidarity] could stand, because of the history of Poland and the religious aspect and all," Reagan says. Says Cardinal Casaroli: "There was a real coincidence of interests between the U.S. and the Vatican."

The major decisions on funneling aid to Solidarity and responding to the Polish and Soviet governments were made by Reagan, Casey and Clark, in consultation with John Paul II. "Reagan understood these things quite well, including the covert side," says Richard Pipes, the conservative Polish-born scholar who headed the NSC's Soviet and East-European desks. "The President talked about the evil of the Soviet system—not its people—and how we had to do everything possible to help these people in Solidarity who were struggling for freedom. People like Haig and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and James Baker [White House chief of staff at the time] thought it wasn't realistic. George Bush never said a word. I used to sit behind him, and I never knew what his opinions were. But Reagan really understood what was at stake."

By most accounts, Casey stepped into the vacuum in the first days after the declaration of martial law in Poland and—as he did in Central America—became the principal policy architect. Meanwhile Pipes and the NSC staff began drafting proposals for sanctions. "The object was to drain the Soviets and to lay blame for martial law at their doorstep," says Pipes. "The sanctions were coordinated with Special Operations [the CIA division in charge of covert task forces], and the first objective was to keep Solidarity alive by supplying money, communications and equipment."

"The church was trying to modulate the whole situation," explains one of the NSC officials who directed the effort to curtail the

pipeline. "They [church leaders] were in effect trying to create circumstances that would head off the serious threat of Soviet intervention while allowing us to get tougher and tougher; they were part and parcel of virtually all of our deliberations in terms of how we viewed the evolution of government-sponsored repression in Poland—whether it was lessening or getting worse, and how we should proceed."

As for his conversations with Reagan about Poland, Clark says they were usually short. "I don't think I ever had an in-depth, one-on-one, private conversation that existed for more than three minutes with him—on any subject. That might shock you. We had our own code of communication. I knew where he wanted to go on Poland. And that was to take it to its nth possibilities. The President and Casey and I discussed the situation on the ground in Poland constantly: covert operations; who was doing what, where, why and how; and the chances of success." According to Clark, he and Casey directed that the President's daily brief—the PDB, an intelligence summary prepared by the CIA—include a special supplement on secret operations and analysis in Poland.

The Pope himself, not only his deputies, met with American officials to assess events in Poland and the effectiveness of American actions and sent back messages—sometimes by letter, sometimes orally—to Reagan. On almost all his trips to Europe and the Middle East, Casey flew first to Rome, so that he could meet with John Paul II and exchange information. But the principal emissary between Washington and Rome remained Walters, a former deputy director of the CIA who worked easily with Casey. Walters met with the Pope perhaps a dozen times, according to Vatican sources. "Walters was sent to and from the Vatican for the specific purpose of carrying messages between the Pope and the President," says former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Wilson. "It wasn't supposed to be known that Walters was there. It wasn't all specifically geared to Poland; sometimes there were also discussions about Central America or the hostages in Lebanon."

Often in the Reagan years, American covert operations (including those in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Angola) involved "lethal assistance" to insurgent forces: arms, mercenaries, military advisers and explosives. In Poland the Pope, the President and Casey embarked on the opposite path: "What they had to do was let the natural forces already in place play this out and not get their fingerprints on it," explains a analyst. What emerges from the Reagan-Casey collaboration is a carefully calibrated operation whose scope was modest compared with other CIA activities. "If Casey were around now, he'd be having some smiles," observes one of his reluctant admirers. "In 1991 Reagan and Casey got the reordering of the world that they wanted."

THE SECRET DIRECTIVE

Less than three weeks before his meeting with the Pope in 1982, the President signed a secret national-security-decision directive (NSDD 32) that authorized a range of economic, diplomatic and covert measures to "neutralize efforts of the U.S.S.R." to maintain its hold on Eastern Europe. In practical terms, the most important covert operations undertaken were those inside Poland. The primary purposes of NSDD 32 were to destabilize the Polish government through covert operations involving propaganda and organizational aid to Solidarity; the promotion of human rights, particularly those related to the right of worship and the Catholic

Church; economic pressure; and diplomatic isolation of the communist regime. The document, citing the need to defend democratic reform efforts throughout the Soviet empire, also called for increasing propaganda and underground broadcasting operations in Eastern Europe, actions that Reagan's aides and dissidents in Eastern Europe believe were particularly helpful in chipping away at the notion of Soviet invincibility.

As Republican Congressman Henry Hyde, a member of the House Intelligence Committee from 1985 to 1990, who was apprised of some of the Administration's covert actions, observes, "In Poland we did all of the things that are done in countries where you want to destabilize a communist government and strengthen resistance to that. We provided the supplies and technical assistance in terms of clandestine newspapers, broadcasting, propaganda, money, organizational help and advice. And working outward from Poland, the same kind of resistance was organized in the other communist countries of Europe."

Among those who played a consulting role was Zbigniew Brzezinski, a native of Poland and President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser. "I got along very well with Casey," recalls Brzezinski. "He was very flexible and very imaginative and not very bureaucratic; if something needed to be done, it was done. To sustain an underground effort takes a lot in terms of supplies, networks, etc., and this is why Solidarity wasn't crushed."

On military questions, American intelligence was better than the Vatican's, but the church excelled in its evaluations of the political situation. And in understanding the mood of the people and communicating with the Solidarity leadership, the church was in an incomparable position. "Our information about Poland was very well founded because the bishops were in continual contact with the Holy See and Solidarnosc," explains Cardinal Silvestrini, the Vatican's deputy secretary of state at that time. "They informed us about prisoners, about the activities and needs of Solidarity groups and about the attitude and schisms in the government." All this information was communicated to the President or Casey.

"If you study the situation of Solidarity, you see they acted very cleverly, without pressing too much at the crucial moments, because they had guidance from the church," says one of the Pope's closest aides. "Yes, there were times we restrained Solidarnosc. But Poland was a bomb that could explode—in the heart of communism, bordered by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Too much pressure, and the bomb would go off."

CASEY'S CAPPUCCINO

Meanwhile, in Washington a close relationship developed between Casey, Clark and Archbishop Laghi. "Casey and I dropped into his [Laghi's] residence early mornings during critical times to gather his comments and counsel," says Clark. "We'd have breakfast and coffee and discuss what was being done in Poland. I'd speak to him frequently on the phone, and he would be in touch with the Pope." Says Laghi: "They liked good cappuccino. Occasionally we might talk about Central America or the church position on birth control. But usually the subject was Poland."

"Almost everything having to do with Poland was handled outside of normal State Department channels and would go through Casey and Clark," says Robert McFarlane, who served as a deputy to both Clark and

Haig and later as National Security Adviser to the President. "I knew that they were meeting with Pio Laghi, and that Pio Laghi had been to see the President, but Clark would never tell me what the substance of the discussions was."

On at least six occasions Laghi came to the White House and met with Clark or the President; each time, he entered the White House through the southwest gate in order to avoid reports. "By keeping in such close touch, we did not cross lines," says Laghi. "My role was primarily to facilitate meetings between Walters and the Holy Father. The Holy Father knew his people. It was a very complex situation—how to insist on human rights, on religious freedom, and keep Solidarity alive without provoking the communist authorities further. But I told Vernon, 'Listen to the Holy Father. We have 2,000 years' experience at this.'"

Though William Casey has been vilified for aspects of his tenure as CIA chief, there is no criticism of his instincts on Poland. "Basically, he had a quiet confidence that the communists couldn't hold on, especially in Poland," says former Congressman Edward Derwinski, a Polish-speaking expert on Eastern Europe who counseled the Administration and met with Casey frequently. "He was convinced the system was falling and doomed to collapse one way or another—and Poland was the force that would lead to the dam breaking. He demanded a constant [CIA] focus on Eastern Europe. It wasn't noticed, because other stories were more controversial and were perking at the moment—Nicaragua and Salvador."

In Poland, Casey conducted the kind of old-style operation that he relished, something he might have done in his days at the Office of Strategic Services during World War II or in the early years of the CIA, when the democracies of Western Europe rose from the ashes of World War II. It was through Casey's contacts, his associates say, that elements of the Socialist International were organized on behalf of Solidarity—just as the Social Democratic parties of Western Europe had been used as an instrument of American policy by the CIA in helping to create anticommunist governments after the war. And this time the objective was akin to creating a Christian Democratic majority in Poland—with the church and the overwhelmingly Catholic membership of Solidarity as the dominant political force in a post communist Poland. Through his contacts with leaders of the Socialist International, including officials of socialist governments in France and Sweden, Casey ensured that tactical assistance was available on the continent and at sea to move goods into Poland. "This wasn't about spending huge amounts of money," says Brzezinski. "It was about getting the message out and resisting: books, communications equipment, propaganda, ink and printing presses."

LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL

In almost every city and town, underground newspapers and mimeographed bulletins appeared, challenging the state-controlled media. The church published its own newspapers. Solidarity missives, photocopied and mimeographed on American-supplied equipment, were tacked to church bulletin boards. Stenciled posters were boldly posted on police stations and government buildings and even on entrances to the state-controlled television center, where army officers broadcast the news.

The American embassy in Warsaw became the pivotal CIA station in the communist world and, by all accounts, the most effective. Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO, which had

been the largest source of American support for Solidarity before martial law, regarded the Reagan Administration's approach as too slow and insufficiently confrontational with the Polish authorities. Nonetheless, according to intelligence sources, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland and his aide Tom Kahn consulted frequently with Poindexter, Clark and other officials at the State Department and the NSC on such matters as how and when to move goods and supplies into Poland, identifying cities where Solidarity was in particular need of organizing assistance, and examining how Solidarity and the AFL-CIO might collaborate in the preparation of propaganda materials.

"Lane Kirkland deserves special credit," observes Derwinski. "They don't like to admit [it], but they literally were in lockstep [with the Administration]. Also never forget that Bill Clark's wife is Czechoslovak, as is Lane Kirkland's wife. This is one issue where everybody was aboard; there were no turf fights or mavericks or naysayers."

But AFL-CIO officials were never aware of the extent of clandestine U.S. assistance, or the Administration's reliance on the church for guidance regarding how hard to push Polish and Soviet authorities. Casey was wary of "contaminating" the American and European labor movements by giving them too many details of the Administration's efforts. And indeed this was not strictly a CIA operation. Rather, it was a blend of covert and overt, public policy and secret alliances. Casey recognized that in many instances the AFL-CIO was more imaginative than his own operatives in providing organizational assistance to Solidarity and smuggling equipment into the country. According to former deputy CIA director Inman, Casey decided that the American labor movement's relationship with Solidarity was so good that much of what the CIA needed could be financed and obtained through AFL-CIO channels. "Financial support wasn't what they needed," says Inman. "It was organization, and that was an infinitely better way to help them than through classic covert operations."

The Solidarity office in Brussels became an international clearinghouse: for representatives of the Vatican, for CIA operatives, for the AFL-CIO, for representatives of the Socialist International, for the congressionally funded National Endowment for Democracy, which also worked closely with Casey. It was the place where Solidarity told its backers—some of whose real identities were unknown to Solidarity itself—what it needed, where goods and supplies and organizers could be most useful. Priests, couriers, labor organizers and intelligence operatives moved in and out of Poland with requests for aid and with detailed information on the situation inside the government and the underground. Food and clothing and money to pay fines of Solidarity leaders who were brought before Polish courts poured into the country. Inside Poland, a network of priests carried messages back and forth between the churches where many of Solidarity's leaders were in hiding.

In the summer of 1984, when the sanctions against Poland seemed to be hurting ordinary Poles and not the communists, Laghi traveled to Santa Barbara to meet with Reagan at the Western White House and urge that some of the sanctions be lifted. The Administration complied. At the same time, the White House, in close consultation with the Vatican, refused to ease its economic pressures on Moscow—denying technology,

food and cultural exchanges as the price for continuing oppression in Poland.

Much of the equipment destined for Solidarity arrived in Poland by ship—often packed in mismarked containers sent from Denmark and Sweden, then unloaded at Gdansk and other ports by dockers secretly working with Solidarity. According to Administration officials, the socialist government of Sweden—and Swedish labor unions—played a crucial role in arranging the transshipment of goods to Poland. From the Polish docks, equipment moved to its destination in trucks and private cars driven by Solidarity sympathizers who often used churches and priests as their point of contact for deliveries and pickups.

"SOLIDARITY LIVES!"

"The Administration plugged into the church across the board," observes Derwinski, now Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Not just through the church hierarchy but through individual churches and bishops. Monsignor Bronislaw Dabrowski, a deputy to Cardinal Glemp, came to use often to tell us what was needed: he would meet with me, with Casey, the NSC and sometimes with Walters." John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, whose father was born in Poland, was the American churchman closest to the Pope. He frequently met with Casey to discuss support for Solidarity and covert operations, according to CIA sources and Derwinski. "Krol hit it off very well with President Reagan and was a source of constant advice and contact," says Derwinski. "Often he was the one Casey or Clark went to, the one who really understood the situation."

By 1985 it was apparent that the Polish government's campaign to suppress Solidarity had failed. According to a report by Adrian Karatnycky, who helped organize the AFL-CIO's assistance to Solidarity, there were more than 400 underground periodicals appearing in Poland, some with a circulation that exceeded 30,000. Books and pamphlets challenging the authority of the communist government were printed by the thousands. Comic books for children recast Polish fables and legends, with Jaruzelski pictured as the villain, communism as the red dragon and Walesa as the heroic knight. In church basements and homes, millions of viewers watched documentary videos produced and screened on the equipment smuggled into the country.

With clandestine broadcasting equipment supplied by the CIA and the AFL-CIO, Solidarity regularly broke into the government's radio programming, often with the message "Solidarity lives!" or "Resist!" Armed with a transmitter supplied by the CIA through church channels, Solidarity interrupted television programming with both audio and visual messages, including calls for strikes and demonstrations. "There was a great moment at the half-time of the national soccer championship," says a Vatican official. "Just as the whistle sounded for the half, a Solidarity Lives! banner went up on the screen and a tape came on calling for resistance. What was particularly ingenious was waiting for the half-time break; had the interruption come during actual soccer play, it could have alienated people." As Brzezinski sums it up, "This was the first time that communist police suppression didn't succeed."

"Nobody believed the collapse of communism would happen this fast or on this timetable," says a cardinal who is one of the Pope's closest aides. "But in their first meeting, the holy Father and the President committed themselves and the institutions of

the church and America to such a goal. And from that day, the focus was to bring it about in Poland."

Step by reluctant step, the Soviets and the communist government of Poland bowed to the moral, economic and political pressure imposed by the Pope and the President. Jails were emptied, Walesa's trial on charges of slandering state officials was abandoned, the Polish communist party turned fratricidal, and the country's economy collapsed in a haze of strikes and demonstrations and sanctions.

On Feb. 19, 1987, after Warsaw had pledged to open a dialogue with the church, Reagan lifted U.S. sanctions. Four months later, Pope John Paul II was cheered by millions of his countrymen as he traveled across Poland demanding human rights and praising Solidarity. In July 1988, Gorbachev visited Warsaw and signaled Moscow's recognition that the government could not rule without Solidarity's cooperation. On April 5, 1989, the two sides signed agreements legalizing Solidarity and calling for open parliamentary elections in June. In December 1990, nine years after he was arrested and his labor union banned, Lech Walesa became President of Poland.

[Correction (Apr. 27, 1992): A short article accompanying our report on the cooperative effort of President Reagan and Pope John Paul II to assist Poland's Solidarity movement [Cover, Feb. 24] incorrectly stated the U.S. position on financial aid for family planning in foreign countries. The U.S. announced in 1984 that it would withhold funds for abortion or coerced birth control—but not for all family planning.]

[From the Policy Review, 1992 Winter]

THE COLD WAR'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN; POPE JOHN PAUL II; AWAKENER OF THE EAST

(By Fr. Robert A. Sirico)

The victory of the Free World in the Cold War ranks with the victory of the Allies in World War II, the landing on the moon, and the spectacular advances in health and prosperity around most of the world as the most important achievement of mankind in this century. There were countless heroes in the defeat of Communism—among them the people of the former Soviet empire whose indomitable spirit ultimately triumphed over their enslavers, and the taxpayers of the Western alliance who spent trillions of dollars over more than 40 years to protect their countries and civilization from the Soviet threat. The West was also blessed by extraordinary leaders and moral voices who defined the nature of the conflict, galvanized the popular will to resist Communism, and created the institutions that led to eventual victory. Policy Review pays tribute here to seven of those leaders whose words and deeds were essential for the wonderful events of the last few years.

It was a nervous clique of geriatric Stalinists who watched from Moscow in 1979 as millions of Poles poured into the streets of Krakow to greet their native son Karol Wojtyla when he returned to them as Pope John Paul II. A political awareness dawned among these teeming masses when they saw in one another's boldness the impotence of the dictatorship that claimed dominance over their lives.

Nor were the only witnesses to these events Politburo members and Poles. Lithuanians and Ukrainians, Hungarians and Czechoslovakians also witnessed with astonishment the unfurling of Solidarity banners in a Communist nation.

Perhaps it was not so astonishing to the new pope. As a young boy Wojtyla used to

pause for a few moments following Mass to offer a series of prayers “for the conversion of Russia.”

From the outset, Wojtyla was a robust, intense, strong, and disciplined young man. His charismatic personality was augmented by his facility with languages and further honed by theatrical training. His combination of fervent piety and firm anti-Communism would serve him well in his future as priest, bishop, and cardinal in Poland. In a country that is itself 93 percent Roman Catholic, such a profession would necessitate dealing with Russia’s surrogates, sometimes making strategic accommodations, without yielding the moral ground to Communism.

John Paul comprehended the dynamics of Marxism both intellectually and personally. He knew Communism well, so well that some left-wing theologians initially mistook his familiarity with Marxism for sympathy. They hoped he would lead a new and enriched dialogue between Christianity and Marxism. Instead, by virtue of his philosophical and theological training, he was equipped both to refute Marxism’s logical errors, and also to offer a more compelling alternative in its place.

As leader of the largest Christian religion, John Paul is also the leader of a vast enterprise, joined by thousands of subsidiary organizations. These are linked by a common set of beliefs and symbols, enabling the transcendence of the usual barriers of language, culture, and geographic border. This expansive umbrella enabled him, through gesture, encyclical, and homily, to inspire millions of people living under regimes that violated their ability to work for authentic liberty.

MORAL CONFLICT

During his pontificate, two other figures stepped onto the world stage and occupied with him critical roles in the momentous events that would unfold. A year after John Paul assumed his place at the Vatican in 1978, Margaret Thatcher came to occupy 10 Downing Street. About a year and a half later, Ronald Reagan took up residency in the White House.

The common thread between John Paul, Thatcher, and Reagan is that while they appreciated the art of politics, they understood the global situation in fundamentally moral categories. They understood, as few world leaders have understood, that the argument in favor of freedom is a moral argument as well as a political and economic one. Without the moral dimension, the battles that these cold warriors waged would have been meaningless and uninspiring.

The compelling dignity and moral depth of John Paul is especially highlighted when he contrasted with the leaders of another international religious body, and their posture toward the dictatorships of Eastern Europe. I speak here, of course, of the World Council of Churches. Almost from its inception, and throughout the past 40 years, the socialist penchants of the WCC prevented it from offering any kind of principled opposition to the immorality of Communism.

“Liberation” was the central theme of the WCC’s Nairobi Assembly in 1975. South Africa was denounced alongside “white Atlantic nations”; the rights of aborigines in Australia were defended even as the plight of migrant workers in Europe was decried.

Yet a motion to include in this litany of injustice a mention of religious repression in Russia was turned back. Instead, the assembly would only acknowledge that it “devoted a substantial period of discussion to the alleged denials of religious liberty in the USSR” [emphasis added].

While the officers of the WCC were funding Marxist guerrillas in Africa in the name of “liberation,” John Paul was teaching the polish under ground in the effective use of nonviolent resistance to totalitarianism. He did this in his writings, as well as in the numerous meetings and audiences he held with leaders of the underground.

No doubt historians who write on this period in years to come will not only see the moral dimension, but also the superb tactical insight of the use of nonviolence. Too aggressive a stance on the part of the Polish underground and the Soviet Union might have cracked down at a much earlier and more vulnerable stage. Drawing on a tradition accustomed to martyrs, whose blood, it is said, is the seed of the Roman Catholic Church, prayer and determination in the face of persecution resulted in one of the most radical yet bloodless revolutions in world history.

SPIRIT OF LIBERTY

If there is one word to characterize the legacy John Paul will leave to history, perhaps that word is liberty.

Historians will undoubtedly note the amazing move in the Catholic world toward democratic political processes and free economies in the period of this pope’s reign. This is clearly evident in Latin America where the Pope has confronted unjust regimes of every stripe.

How fitting, then, that John Paul, this priest from Poland who lived under what is arguably history’s most immoral and destructive political system, should have been the one to write the epitaph for collectivism in its Communist, socialist, and welfare statist incarnations. This he has done in the form of his most recent social encyclical, *Centesimus Annus* (“The Hundredth Year”). Celebrating the centenary of Pope Leo XIII’s pastoral letter *Rerum Navarum*, *Centesimus Annus* looks at the events of this age and envisions a world where government is strictly limited and based on the rule of law; where free people trade in free markets to produce a more prosperous economy for all the world’s needy; and where the social system is rooted in moral and religious tradition.

It will be interesting to see whether this moral vision will have greater impact on the West or on the former republics of the Soviet empire that John Paul did so much to free.

Nothing written here is to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of The Heritage Foundation or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill before Congress.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adopting H. Res. 190 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H. Res. 148.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]
YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Davis (FL)	Hulshof
Ackerman	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Aderholt	Davis (KY)	Hyde
Akin	Davis (TN)	Inglis (SC)
Alexander	Davis, Jo Ann	Inslee
Allen	Davis, Tom	Israel
Andrews	Deal (GA)	Issa
Baca	DeFazio	Jackson (IL)
Bachus	DeGette	Jackson-Lee
Baker	Delahunt	(TX)
Baldwin	DeLauro	Jefferson
Barrett (SC)	DeLay	Jenkins
Barrow	Dent	Jindal
Bartlett (MD)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (CT)
Barton (TX)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (IL)
Bass	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Bean	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Beauprez	Doggett	Jones (NC)
Becerra	Doolittle	Jones (OH)
Berkley	Doyle	Kanjorski
Berman	Drake	Kaptur
Berry	Dreier	Keller
Biggert	Duncan	Kelly
Bilirakis	Edwards	Kennedy (MN)
Bishop (GA)	Ehlers	Kennedy (RI)
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Kildee
Bishop (UT)	Emerson	Kilpatrick (MI)
Blackburn	Engel	Kind
Blumenauer	English (PA)	King (IA)
Blunt	Eshoo	King (NY)
Boehlert	Etheridge	Kirk
Boehner	Evans	Kline
Bonilla	Everett	Knollenberg
Bonner	Farr	Kolbe
Bono	Fattah	Kucinich
Boozman	Feeney	Kuhl (NY)
Boren	Ferguson	LaHood
Boswell	Filner	Langevin
Boucher	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lantos
Boustany	Flake	Larsen (WA)
Boyd	Foley	Larson (CT)
Bradley (NH)	Ford	Latham
Brady (PA)	Fortenberry	LaTourette
Brady (TX)	Fossella	Leach
Brown (SC)	Fox	Lee
Brown, Corrine	Frank (MA)	Levin
Brown-Waite,	Franks (AZ)	Lewis (CA)
Ginny	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (GA)
Burgess	Gallely	Lewis (KY)
Burton (IN)	Garrett (NJ)	Linder
Butterfield	Gerlach	Lipinski
Buyer	Gibbons	LoBiondo
Calvert	Gilchrest	Lofgren, Zoe
Camp	Gillmor	Lowey
Cannon	Gingrey	Lucas
Cantor	Gohmert	Luhrten, Daniel
Capito	Gonzalez	E.
Capps	Goode	Mack
Capuano	Goodlatte	Maloney
Cardin	Gordon	Manzullo
Cardoza	Granger	Marchant
Carnahan	Graves	Markey
Carson	Green (WI)	Marshall
Carter	Green, Al	Matheson
Case	Green, Gene	Matsui
Castle	Grijalva	McCarthy
Chabot	Gutknecht	McCaul (TX)
Chandler	Hall	McCollum (MN)
Chocola	Harman	McCotter
Clay	Harris	McCrery
Cleaver	Hart	McDermott
Coble	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Cole (OK)	Hastings (WA)	McHenry
Conaway	Hayes	McHugh
Conyers	Hayworth	McIntyre
Cooper	Hefley	McKeon
Costa	Hensarling	McKinney
Costello	Herger	McMorris
Cox	Hersteth	McNulty
Cramer	Higgins	Meehan
Crenshaw	Hinches	Meek (FL)
Crowley	Hinojosa	Meeks (NY)
Cuellar	Holden	Melancon
Culberson	Holt	Mendez
Cummings	Honda	Mica
Cunningham	Hooley	Michaud
Davis (AL)	Hostettler	Miller (FL)
Davis (CA)	Hoyer	Miller (MI)

