

Stephen's wife, Nina, the rest of his family, and everyone else who knew, worked with, and enjoyed Stephen during his life.

Stephen and I were both elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1974, members of a historic class of 75 Democratic freshmen who came to Washington in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Stephen remained a stalwart of the House, serving the people of his Brooklyn-based congressional district with distinction for nearly two decades.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Stephen was always attentive to the needs of his constituents, even going so far as to nickname himself "Representative Pothole" for his work on local issues. But in spite of this, Stephen's tenure was perhaps most clearly defined by his work on foreign policy issues. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee throughout his nine terms, Stephen demonstrated a strong and abiding passion for world affairs. Indeed, during his first month in office, Stephen went on an 18-day congressional delegation trip to the Middle East, meeting with the leaders of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Beginning in 1979, Stephen took on some important leadership positions within the committee, serving first as chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, and subsequently as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. During that time, Stephen was absolutely committed to ensuring that human rights and respect for the rule of law remained key pillars of U.S. policy in those regions.

He was an uncompromising supporter of sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa; one of Congress's most vocal and persistent critics of the authoritarian government led by Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines; and a tireless advocate of peace in Cambodia. Stephen was also a strong proponent of diplomacy and engagement, becoming the first United States Congressman to visit North Korea in nearly three decades in 1980. And perhaps just as significantly, Stephen was a committed defender of the House of Representatives who worked extremely hard to carve out a more prominent place for that body in foreign policy discussions.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee myself, I had the opportunity to work with Stephen on a number of occasions. And I must say that I was consistently impressed by Stephen's tenacity, intelligence, and commitment to justice and democracy. In nearly everything he did as a Member of Congress, Stephen was always well-prepared, knew the issues inside and out, and was not afraid to challenge those with whom he disagreed. That is the Stephen Solarz that my colleagues and I got to know over the years, and that is, in my view, the kind of Congressman Stephen will most be remembered as.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Stephen's family and all those individuals who, like me, had the privilege of knowing him over the years. And I take this opportunity to thank Stephen for his many years of service to this country and his tireless efforts to create a more just and peaceful world.

REMEMBERING RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I pay tribute to the memory of my friend Richard Holbrooke, who passed away earlier this week. Richard was a masterful diplomat who brought his extraordinary skills to bear on some of the thorniest issues in U.S. foreign policy. Every step of the way, from his tremendous accomplishments at the Dayton Accords to his work as U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, he showed his deep commitment to our country, and to serving the greater good the world over.

I came to know Richard when we travelled to Africa together in 1999, when he was serving as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He had never been to Africa before, and yet on the trip he was able to thoroughly grasp the complex issues facing the continent immediately. His brilliance was apparent, and it enabled him to identify emerging issues quickly and push for critical action. On that trip our purpose was to focus on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but we also saw the incredible devastation of the HIV/AIDS crisis firsthand. Richard called then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and told him that the Security Council needed to address AIDS directly. When the Secretary-General responded that the Security Council only addressed security issues, Richard replied that this was, indeed, a security issue. He was right, and the Security Council's subsequent discussion was a turning point as the world community began to understand the depth and severity of the crisis on the African continent.

In the years since, Richard always made time to discuss foreign policy issues with me, and he always truly listened and wanted to understand my point of view, even when we disagreed. This was especially true of his work on Afghanistan and Pakistan. We didn't always see eye to eye about U.S. policy in the region, but he always reached out to me and solicited my views, and I was so appreciative of that. Those efforts on his part said volumes about him and his thoughtful approach to the complex issues he worked on with such commitment and such skill.

We had breakfast the morning after one of his last trips. I could see the toll his work was taking on him, but he was terrific to be with as usual. He was

completely engaging and interested in my perspective, yet still managed to work the whole room, multitasking as always.

Richard Holbrooke was an extraordinary man of many talents who spent his life building a better, more just world for us all. His many accomplishments will live on as a testament to his profound commitment to our nation and to a life of public service. But for me, I will simply miss him as a friend.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you to the wonderful staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Earlier this week I had the privilege of chairing my final hearing in that committee, and I want to take a moment to extend my thanks and gratitude to those who have made this committee run so smoothly and professionally over the years.

Bertie Bowman's tenure here dates back to Senator Fulbright, and his extraordinary career, as the longest serving African American on Capitol Hill, speaks volumes about his character and commitment. It has been a true pleasure seeing Bertie at every hearing and it is largely thanks to his efforts, that our hearings run so smoothly.

Meg Murphy, the committee's protocol and foreign travel coordinator, has done a truly wonderful job ensuring that our travel, business meetings, and committee coffees always went off without a hitch. Her phenomenal attention to detail and thoroughness, in addition to her dedication and good humor has made her an invaluable asset to the committee.

I would also like to recognize Samantha Hamilton, Susan Oursler, as well as Gail Copping for their hard work and dedication.

Last, I would like to thank Frank Lowenstein, staff director of the committee, whom I have gotten to know over the years, including during a trip we took together to the Middle East. I had the privilege of knowing Frank's father, Al Lowenstein, and I can say without a doubt how proud he would be of his son Frank.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MILWAUKEE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council, MBCTC, on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

For the past 100 years the MBCTC has literally built Milwaukee. Many of today's notable Milwaukee landmarks and buildings like the Petit National Ice Center, the Performing Arts Center, the Bradley Center, County Stadium, then Miller Park, Potawatomi