

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, in his inaugural sermon, boldly offered hope to oppressed peoples around the world while causing authoritarian rulers to brace by proclaiming "open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization, and development. Do not be afraid.";

Whereas, in June 1979, Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland for 9 days, unleashing patriotic and religious forces that would ultimately lead to the peaceful toppling of the Communist regime in Poland and the dramatic demise of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union;

Whereas Pope John Paul II, before visiting his native Poland in 1987, met with President Ronald Reagan, who recognized the fruits of His Holiness' labors by stating "be assured that the hearts of the American people are with you. Our prayers will go with you in profound hope that the terrible burden of brave people everywhere who yearn for freedom, even as all men and women yearn for the freedom that God gave us all. . . . We see the power of the spiritual force in that troubled land, uniting a people in hope, just as we see the powerful stirrings in the East of a belief that will not die despite generations of oppression. . . . For despite all the attempts to extinguish it, the people's faith burns with a passionate heat: once allowed to breathe free, that faith will burn so brightly it will light the world.";

Whereas Pope John Paul II was recognized by Lady Margaret Thatcher to have "provided the main impetus for the revival of Solidarity and the pressure for reform [in his native Poland]";

Whereas Pope John Paul II was acknowledged by Mikhail Gorbachev to have played an essential role in the liberation of those who lived under European communism when he stated "everything that happened in Eastern Europe . . . would have been impossible without this Pope";

Whereas Pope John Paul II carried on an active correspondence with world leaders during the 1980s, involving the Church in efforts to promote peace by reducing tensions, and exerting his moral authority to persuade the superpowers to engage in a "dialogue" that succeeded in reducing conventional and nuclear weapons and helped to avert a nuclear war;

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

Whereas, on May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II, was shot by a would-be assassin, and nevertheless provided a remarkable example of the power of grace, later visiting his attacker in prison, and stating afterwards "I spoke to him as I would speak to a brother whom I have forgiven and who enjoys my confidence";

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 sought to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths, the Jewish faith, and Islam, expressing sadness and regret for the individual acts of present and former Catholics who persecuted members of other faiths and promoting reconciliation and dialogue through the first-ever Papal visits to synagogues and mosques, as well as visits to areas of historic conflict, including Ireland and the Holy Land;

Whereas, in 1995, Pope John Paul II wrote of "the incomparable worth of the human person," noting that: "Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize . . . the sacred value of human life . . . and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree";

Whereas, in 1998, Pope John Paul II visited Cuba to speak directly to the Cuban people and their Communist rulers, calling for political and religious freedom, the release of political prisoners, a recognition of the right to express one's faith "in the context of public life", and the importance of fundamental human dignities, including that "each person enjoying freedom of expression, being free to undertake initiatives and make proposals within civil society, and enjoying appropriate freedom of association" is a necessity;

Whereas Pope John Paul II traveled farther than any other Pope in history, traversing approximately ¾ of a million miles, visiting 130 countries, including African nations never before visited by a Pope, being seen by more people than anyone in human history, and evangelizing to more than 6,000,000 people in the closing mass of World Youth Day '95 in the Philippines;

Whereas Pope John Paul II changed the course of history, leading the Catholic Church through a dramatic and remarkable period, and into Christianity's third millennium;

Whereas Pope John Paul II devoted his life to the amelioration of the human cost of terror and oppression through his dedication to truth, forgiveness, and the development of a vibrant public moral culture;

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 brought hope and inspiration to hundreds of millions of people around the world oppressed by tyranny, hunger, disease, and despair;

Whereas Pope John Paul II worked tirelessly to bring peace to regions of the world that have been driven by strife, intolerance, hatred, and violence for far too long;

Whereas Pope John Paul II changed the lives of billions of people across the globe;

Whereas Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, after heroically proclaiming the value and dignity of human life through his long physical illness and suffering;

Whereas the passing of Pope John Paul II is mourned by billions of people around the world; and

Whereas Pope John Paul II is already being referred to as Pope John Paul the Great: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II;

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathy to all people who have been touched by the passing of John Paul II;

(3) commends Pope John Paul II for his ability to transcend the bounds of religion, race, and political thought, becoming a formidable champion, uniter, and defender in humanity's struggle for peace and basic human rights; and

(4) calls on all the people of the United States to reflect on the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II during this international period of remembrance.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 265. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 265. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . PROHIBITION ON REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE NAVY.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act, or by any other Act, for fiscal year 2005 may be obligated or expended to reduce the number of operational aircraft carriers of the Navy from 12 operational aircraft carriers to 11 operational aircraft carriers.

(b) OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT CARRIER.—In this section, the term "operational aircraft carrier" includes an aircraft carrier that is unavailable due to maintenance or repair.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled a hearing to review management and planning issues for the National Mall, including the history of development, security projects and other planned construction, and future development plans.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday April 12th, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.