

We are losing many women and men of principle from this body; I hope an equal number replace them. I will fondly remember Senator BOB SMITH for his unwavering adherence to the values of his faith and his family. And I admired Senator SMITH's hard work on the Environmental and Public Works Committee in defense of New Hampshire's environment and this nation's. BOB is a man of honor and I was proud to serve with him.

Many of us strive for eloquence here on the floor. But few of us are as consistently passionate and persuasive as another departing colleague, ROBERT TORRICELLI, who served seven terms in the House of Representatives and then here in the Senate since 1996. As a fellow northeastern and fellow member of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, I will miss his wisdom and great sense of purpose. He is extremely gifted and gave great service for New Jersey and America.

Finally, Mr. President, a special word for our dear departed colleague Senator Paul Wellstone—who I want to describe in the best way I know how, as a mensch—a man, a very good man. He radiated decency and kindness and commitment to make the world a better place. That was so not just in what he said and did on camera, but in what he said and did in quiet moments, small moments, private moments.

Much has been made of the fact that Paul was a teacher. And it is fitting. I think about all the lessons that Paul Wellstone the political scientist taught to his students, and how every one must have come alive when he ran for office—and won—in 1990. That inspiration will last for generations.

Paul Wellstone taught his students, by example, that Americans who want change can do much more than carp or complain. They can and should enter and shape the system. They can and should be a part of the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Senator Wellstone uplifted the Senate and uplifted our democracy, and he did it with the clarity of his conscience and the power of his principles and passions.

It's no wonder Paul titled his book *The Conscience of a Liberal*, after Barry Goldwater's book *The Conscience of a Conservative*. Paul had read Senator Goldwater's book as a boy, and though he found himself at the opposite end of the political spectrum, Paul admired Goldwater's decency, his honesty, and his conviction.

The name "Paul" comes from the Roman family name "Paulus," which meant "small" or "humble" in Latin. And Paul was physically small. He was spiritually humble. But the scope of his ideals and of his service was monumental.

In *The Ethics of the Fathers*, a tome of Jewish law, it is written: "It is not your obligation to complete the task [of perfecting the world], but neither are you free to desist [from doing all you can]."

Paula Wellstone, as a Senator, a father, a husband, and a man, lived these words and lived them well. May he rest alongside his wife and daughter in peace.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I would like to engage the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education in a brief colloquy on an issue that is very important to frail older persons and individuals with disabilities who reside in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

My colleague should be congratulated for the additional funds that his subcommittee has provided in recent years for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, under the Older Americans Act. Our colleagues, Senator KOHL, and Senator SPECTER, should also be recognized for their support of the ombudsman program. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill that you introduced for Fiscal Year 2003 proposes a much needed \$3 million increase to provide more ombudsmen to help address the growing quality problems in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

I would like to discuss with the chairman and my distinguished colleague and ranking minority member of the Finance Committee our strong support for this program and the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center that so effectively serves State and local ombudsmen across the Nation.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the distinguished chairman of the Special Committee on Aging is correct in describing our efforts to steadily increase the capacity of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. This very effective program is available to the 2.8 million residents of over 60,000 facilities including licensed assisted living. It makes a big difference in the quality of life for residents by resolving their complaints 231,889 about resident care and residents' rights, visiting facilities on a regular basis, and by advising residents, their families, and facility staff. We have also supported funding for the very effective Ombudsman Resource Center, which has been housed at the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform since 1993. I would like to see an increase for this important Center.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise in support of my two colleagues' viewpoints on the value of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and its national resource center. The hearings that my colleague from Louisiana and I have conducted over the years have provided significant evidence that the ombudsman program is critical in protecting the rights of older and disabled

individuals living in long-term care facilities.

Training and technical assistance are among the critical variables in determining the quality of services that ombudsmen are able to provide. Additional funds appropriated for the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center would be used to increase the capacity of the Center to develop and coordinate training systems and other skills-building opportunities for State, local and volunteer ombudsmen. The Center has an exemplary track record and this will improve program consistency among states and enhance program effectiveness.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague. The Center's work is critical to millions of residents of long-term care facilities and their families. I am hopeful that when we finally pass a fiscal year 2003 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill that we will provide appropriate support for the Center and report language that ensures the continued quality training and assistance for ombudsmen that has been so ably provided through the Center.

It is my view that the Center must continue to be housed in an independent nonprofit citizens-based organization that has the improvement of care in long-term care facilities as its primary purpose. Such an organization should include long-term care ombudsmen and consumers in its governance and have a minimum of 5 years of experience on a national basis of providing long-term care ombudsmen with technical assistance, training, and information.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I concur with that assessment. We know that there is a growing demand for ombudsman services and too few ombudsmen and volunteers to regularly visit all of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. And we know that training and resources care essential. The Center provides individualized support to State and local ombudsmen on specific, complicated long-term care questions and provides training at state and regional conferences. The need to expand these supportive services is growing rapidly.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I believe that we must put our energies toward ensuring that we protect the rights of nursing home residents and help them to resolve problems with the quality of the care that they receive. I am committed to working with my colleagues on this goal for fiscal year 2003 and beyond. I am also supportive of the notion that we need to ensure that the resource center continues to be housed in an organization as described by my colleague.

I thank my colleagues for their support of the work of our subcommittee. I look forward to working with my distinguished colleagues to ensure that these programs continue to serve older adults and disabled individuals.