

shrink from tough odds, as he ran as a Democrat in La Crosse, a city that had not elected a Democrat for quite some time. Paul proved a natural campaigner. He had a great slogan: "Vote once. Vote Offner."

Winning that election, Paul served in the Wisconsin State legislature, and then in the Wisconsin Senate. He established himself as an expert on the challenging area of health care and health insurance.

In the early 1980s, Paul ran for Lieutenant Governor and for Congress, but those elections did not work out for him. Fortunately for us, he stuck to his career in public service nonetheless.

In 1990, Paul returned to work for the U.S. Senate, serving as senior legislative assistant for health and human services for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. Staff for Senator Moynihan recall that from their very first meeting, Senator Moynihan regarded the staffer with the Princeton doctorate as a colleague.

Paul became one of the leading national voices in welfare and health policy. After President Clinton won the 1992 Presidential election, Paul coordinated the Clinton transition team's welfare reform policies.

When Senator Moynihan became chairman of the Finance Committee, Paul became the committee's chief health and welfare counselor. Having served as chairman and ranking minority member of the Finance Committee, I know that Paul's position was a demanding one. Paul handled it well during the important year when Congress enacted President Clinton's first budget, in 1993. That budget set the pattern that led to 8 years of economic growth and the creation of more than 20 million new jobs.

Paul served with the Clinton White House Health Care Task Force, which tried to extend health benefits to millions of uninsured Americans. The task force did not succeed then, but they fought an important fight. We will need to revisit that important task again, before long.

During the debate on welfare reform in the mid-1990s, Paul contributed a series of prominent articles. He influenced the national debate.

When the Republicans took control of the Senate with the 1994 election, Mayor Marion Barry asked him to become the commissioner of health care finance for Washington, DC. One need not be a critic of Washington to know that when Paul took on the job of running Medicaid for the District of Columbia, he took on as thankless and difficult a task as there is. And he did it well.

He went on to work at Georgetown University and the Urban Institute. In recent years, he focused on the situation of young Black men in America, arguing that society needs to make a greater effort to improve their chances of making it.

It tells you something about Paul that while he was working hard at

high-powered Capitol Hill jobs, he also served as a dedicated tutor to school kids in the District. He was a volunteer tutor for the Friends of Tyler School, a public elementary school not far from the Capitol building in Southeast Washington, DC.

People will tell you that Paul had a tremendous intellect, a caring heart, and a quick wit. He was the kind of person who went through the policy wars enough to be a skeptic, but was still in there pitching, trying to make things better.

"He believed in public service," said Molly Collins Offner, his wife of 8 years. "Accomplishing good and making the world better was key for him," she said.

The noblest human endeavor is to serve our fellow man. It can be service to church, to community, to family, to spouse, to children. Paul Offner served.

Members of the House and the Senate who serve also get the benefit and gratification of seeing their names in newspapers and their faces on TV. But dedicated professionals such as Paul work very hard behind the scenes, often with little or no recognition. I recognize the central role that Paul Offner played.

Paul passed away last week, and was remembered this past weekend at a Mass of Christian Burial not far from here on Capitol Hill. He will be remembered by his wife Molly Collins Offner, daughter Mary Shu Yu Offner, and sister Antoinette Gerry. But he will also be remembered by a thankful U.S. Senate community. And for years to come, he will be thanked by millions of Americans whose lives will have been made better for his having lived, but who never knew his name.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE FIELD TRIALS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this coming Monday is the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine field trials.

On April 26, in conjunction with National Immunization Week, the March of Dimes will commemorate the development of the Salk polio vaccine.

This day holds great significance for our Nation. Fifty years ago, the first dose of the Salk vaccine was distributed to children at Franklin Sherman Elementary school in McLean, VA as part of the National Field Trial program. In the following months, more than 1 million school children participated in these trials, making this the largest peacetime volunteer mobilization in United States history.

National Immunization week, which was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is an opportune time to emphasize the importance of immunizations. In April of every year since 1993, dedicated people across the country have joined forces with State and local health departments, health care providers, and other partners to deliver this immunization message.

Immunization against vaccine-preventable disease is one of the most effective health care and public health tools developed in the 20th century. Advances in technology and widespread immunization efforts have led to an all-time record low in the infection rate for diseases that once devastated entire communities. Smallpox has been eradicated; polio has been eliminated from the Western Hemisphere; and the number of cases of other infectious diseases has been reduced to record lows.

We have learned a vast amount about the importance of immunizing children and adults in this country since the creation of the Salk vaccine. However, there is still work to be done. Though overall immunization levels in the United States have been improving, levels in many parts of the country remain dangerously low. According to a 2001 National Immunization Survey Conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 77 percent of our Nation's children are fully immunized by age 2. Tragically, levels in some areas of the country are as low as 55 percent.

The Salk vaccine could not have ended the scourge of polio in American without a concerted Federal effort to provide it to all of our citizens. I hope that my colleagues will join me in continuing and expanding Federal support for immunization efforts.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the University of Alabama School of Law for their outstanding ranking among the country's law schools. U.S. News and World Report recently released its annual list of the Top 100 Law Schools, and ranked the University of Alabama School of Law fortieth in the Nation. This ranking places the Law School in the top tier of law schools nationwide, which is phenomenal considering the institution was ranked in the third tier just 8 years ago in 1996. As a graduate of the law school myself, I am proud to see their elevation to one of the premier law schools in the Nation.

I believe that much of the school's success must be attributed to the dean of the Law School, Kenneth Randall. Dean Randall holds four law degrees, including a doctorate from the Columbia University School of Law, 1988; a master's from Columbia, 1985; a master's from Yale University, 1982; and a juris doctor degree from Hofstra University, 1981. Additionally, Dean Randall received a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Adelphi University on Long Island. Indeed, his educational background is outstanding, and he has demonstrated a true enthusiasm for the law.

Since taking the reins as dean in 1993, Dean Randall has provided a clear