

It was at Auschwitz that Joseph Mengele performed his horrific experiments, injecting the hearts of live children with chloroform and performing all sorts of bizarre and vile surgeries on twins and pregnant women.

It was at Auschwitz that the Nazi killing machine first discovered and perfected the use of Zyklon-B to gas their innocent captives by the hundreds every day.

It was at Auschwitz that doomed prisoners, trapped inside the gas chambers with only a few choking minutes left to live, found the strength to scratch into the walls the words: Never forget.

This week, on January 27, the world will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the 1.5 million victims, most of them Jewish, who perished in the death machine's fires.

Vice President DICK CHENEY is leading an American delegation to stand alongside the 2,000 survivors, as well as surviving Red Army soldiers. He will be joined by Lynne, his wife, numerous world leaders, and by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel.

It will be a time for reflection, a time for remembrance but also for determination—determination that mankind will never again stand by as innocents perish in the monstrous designs of tyrants and despots.

It will be a time to recommit ourselves to the battle against intolerance, against fanaticism and hatred, all of which can so easily poison the hearts of the most seemingly civilized men and women.

As Kofi Annan declared yesterday during the United Nations General Assembly first ever recognition of the Holocaust:

The evil that destroyed 6 million Jews and others in those camps is one that still threatens all of us today.

Indeed, if you think of areas around the world, you think of the Darfur region today in western Sudan. To the innocents who perished, to those who survived and to the victims of genocide who now cry out, America's leaders hear your plea. We will never forget, and we will not stand by.

Auschwitz taught us that the war against tyranny is more than a war of territory, more than a war of geographic boundaries. It is a war against evil itself. As Justice Robert Jackson solemnly inveighed to the world at the start of the Nuremberg trials:

The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.

NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the course of today, we will be considering the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. I want to be the first on this floor and on this day to

honor Condoleezza Rice with our expression of strong support. She is an outstanding choice, and the American people are fortunate to have a public servant of her talent and her intellect.

During her tenure as National Security Adviser, Dr. Rice has been a steady and trusted adviser, a confidante of the President of the United States. In a role of crafting policy and helping guide decisionmaking, she has demonstrated extraordinary skill. But this should come as no surprise. Dr. Rice is a woman of remarkable accomplishments. Throughout her life, she has applied her razor-sharp mind and her steely determination to reach the highest peaks of achievement. And it started early.

Dr. Rice was born in Birmingham in 1954. By the age of 3, she was already a piano prodigy, playing hymnals for her family. By age 5, she was playing right alongside her mother on the church organ bench. At 19, Condoleezza Rice earned her bachelor degree in political science cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Denver, and just a year later her master's from Notre Dame. At the young age of 26, having earned her Ph.D., Dr. Rice became an assistant professor at Stanford University. A decade later, Dr. Rice was elevated to the post of provost, which at Stanford and most universities is the equivalent of the chief operating officer of the university.

From 1989 to 1991, Dr. Rice served the first Bush administration as Director and then as Senior Director of Soviet and East European Affairs at the National Security Council. During this time, Dr. Rice brought her considerable expertise in Eastern European affairs to the administration's handling of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Germany's reunification, and the transition of the Soviet Union to the Russian Federation. This, combined with her years of foreign policy experience, particularly in the post-9/11 context, makes her distinctly qualified to lead the Department of State.

We are a nation at war. As Secretary of State, Dr. Rice will be a key player in winning this war. She will have the responsibility of advancing democracy and freedom across the globe, not only to protect us from attack but to fulfill America's unique moral purpose. Outlaw regimes must be confronted. Dangerous weapons of proliferation must be stopped. Terrorist organizations must be destroyed. Dr. Rice has both the ability and the experience, from fighting the Cold War through fighting this war on terror, to meet these daunting challenges.

Dr. Rice possesses a rare combination of management and administrative experience, of public policy expertise, of high academic achievement and, not least importantly, a graciousness that will serve America's interests well in these difficult and challenging times. America needs a leader of her caliber.

Dr. Rice has said that while growing up, her dad John and her mother

Angelena taught her that in a country where racial segregation and Jim Crow were an ugly fact of life, she had to be twice as good to get ahead. I think it is fair to say she has surpassed this high charge.

Dr. Rice is an author, a classically trained pianist, an ice skater, and tennis player. She speaks Russian fluently and is an avid fan of football. In fact, we are grateful she has set aside at least for the moment her ambition to become commissioner of the National Football League.

A woman of deep faith in God, liberty, and freedom, Condoleezza Rice will protect and serve our national interests. I should also note Dr. Rice would be the first African-American woman to serve as Secretary of State. I urge the Senate to give Dr. Rice their strong support. I hope and expect to see her confirmed swiftly so she can begin addressing the urgent threats and challenges that face our Nation.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his very strong support of President Bush's nominee, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. I like to think of her as a Coloradan. In Colorado, we are extremely proud of her record.

I rise today in strong support of President Bush's nominee for Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. I ask my colleagues to join me in approving this nominee so that she can assist President Bush in making his version of a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community a reality.

As many already know, Dr. Rice was born and raised in Alabama. In 1969, her father moved their family to Colorado to take an academic position at the University of Denver. Dr. Rice soon enrolled in Denver's St. Mary's Academy, an independent Catholic school and the first integrated school she attended. After high school, she earned her bachelor's degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Denver in 1974 and returned a few years later to get her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981.

Dr. Rice may have only spent a few years in Colorado but we in Colorado are certainly proud of what she has accomplished and like to consider her a daughter of the Centennial State.