

Also, during his career, he served as a chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and St. Alban's Naval Hospital, and he is now a chaplain for the New Jersey State police.

I have a personal message for Rabbi Orenstein, and that is, as he contemplates retirement—I speak as one who knows; I tried retirement, and I did not like it. I am not recommending anything differently for you, but I know with your active mind and your social conscience you are going to be doing lots of things that continue to benefit the community, and I expect you will be spending a lot of time with your six grandchildren. We wish all of you well.

The rabbi's daughter Debra is also a rabbi, and she serves at a synagogue in Los Angeles. She has authored a book on Jewish rituals for women. Rabbi Orenstein is justifiably proud of his family, his daughter, and his other two children, one of whom is a professor at the Law School of Indiana, and his son Raphael, who is soon to be a doctor.

I know the 575 families at Congregation Beth El will miss Rabbi Orenstein. I make the plea here: Do not take this retirement too seriously. Stay active; be available to the community. We wish you well. It has been my honor and pleasure to know you well for so many years. I look forward to our contact continuing.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey, Mr. CORZINE, is recognized.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, it is also my honor to bestow my congratulations on Rabbi Orenstein for his 35 years of service to Congregation Beth El and a lifetime of service to community and mankind.

His words this morning about love and our responsibility to our communities and attention, which is demonstrated both by his family and the Congregation Beth El, are testimony to a human being who has a heart that reflects that love in his everyday life.

Senator LAUTENBERG has gone through his resume, but the real issue of a man's life is what he has done for others, and no one has contributed more to his community or reached out to lift up his fellow man than Rabbi Orenstein.

I am honored that he was able to open this morning's session, but I am also honored to have him as a friend. Thank you very much for being here.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 min-

utes, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will speak on leader time.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLIO VACCINE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the polio vaccine. On April 12, 1955, Americans across the country cheered the news that Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers had developed a vaccine that was "safe, effective, and potent." One of mankind's most ancient enemies going as far back as ancient Egypt would finally be vanquished. It was truly a watershed in American history, launching an era of unprecedented vaccine development.

Today, vaccines protect children from more than 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, reducing disease rates by as much as 99 percent in the United States.

It is hard for today's generation to imagine the fear and the panic that gripped the Nation every summer in the first decades of the 20th century. Everyone was at risk—young and old, rich and poor. At the first signs of illness, swimming pools were closed and drained, movie theaters were padlocked shut, mothers cloistered their children for the duration, as everyone waited for that anxious cloud to pass.

Some polio victims died. Others were debilitated for life. The 1916 polio epidemic alone killed 6,000 Americans and paralyzed another 27,000.

Polio's most famous victim was, of course, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who contracted the virus at the age of 39 while on vacation. As America would later learn, the disease permanently paralyzed the future President.

Even now, half of the 1 million polio survivors today suffer residual bouts of illness. Deborah Cunningham of Nashville, TN, recalls her childhood struggle with the vicious disease. It was 1951. She was only 6 years old. She had just begun the first grade when one morning she woke up with a severe headache. As she tried to walk across her bedroom to get dressed for school, she collapsed on the floor.

Her parents rushed her to the local hospital where doctors examined her. They asked her to try to lift her legs. As she told a newspaper, the Commercial Appeal: "I didn't know why they gave me such funny looks."

She thought she had done as they said but, in fact, neither of her legs moved an inch. Deborah spent the next month in isolation, unable to speak or to eat solid foods. She was then moved to a ward for children with polio for 8 months where she spent the first 3 months encased in an iron lung.

In 1946, there were 25,000 cases of polio across the country. By 1952, the

annual tally had more than doubled to 58,000 new cases. Until Jonas Salk's historic breakthrough, polio was one of the most dread diseases in the world. Indeed, the development of the polio vaccine has been compared to the Moon landing.

Today, polio has been nearly eradicated from the globe. Worldwide, only six countries are still significantly afflicted. In 1988, there were 350,000 cases worldwide. In 2003, that number was down to only 784 new cases. The World Health Organization is confident they will eradicate polio from the face of the globe by the end of the year.

One gentleman who has been instrumental in the drive to eliminate polio is Tennessee's own William Sergeant, chairman of the International PolioPlus Committee. The 86-year-old has dedicated over 40 years fighting the spread of the disease. In 1998, he was the first recipient of the Hannah Neil World of Children Award.

Today, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will celebrate the vaccine's 50th anniversary. Dr. Salk's youngest son and FDR's granddaughter will be in attendance.

Together they will help launch the Smithsonian's monthlong exhibition on the rise and fall of polio and the heroic efforts of Dr. Salk, and people such as Mr. Sergeant who worked tirelessly to defeat the disease.

As we celebrate polio's final retreat from human history, we must be ever vigilant and aware of the new threats that are taking place today. HIV/AIDS, SARS, West Nile virus, avian flu, and most recently the Marburg virus are among the emerging dangers in the 21st century. Currently, Angola is suffering the most severe Marburg outbreak in recorded history. As of yesterday, the virus has killed 193 victims in 1 month.

Marburg, which is a variant, a cousin, of the Ebola virus, is spread by bodily fluids, by things as small as little beads of sweat. Nine out of 10 people who contract the disease die typically within a week. The virus has an incubation of 5 to 10 days. The victim then suffers a sudden onset of fever, chills, and muscle aches. These symptoms quickly escalate to nausea, vomiting, chest tightness, and abdominal pain, ultimately leading to organ failure and death. There is no cure and there is no effective vaccine.

Scientists do not know the source of the virus or how it is initially transmitted into the human population. It is one plane ride away from the United States of America. There is no cure and there is no vaccine. At this very moment, international health workers in Angola are working feverishly to contain its spread. The epidemic is expected to last up to 3 months.

Meanwhile, there is avian flu. We continue to receive disturbing reports on the avian flu outbreaks in Asia. Already 50 people have died. Experts warn that the virus may mutate into a more lethal and more transmissible form,