

deepest sympathy to the Bessette family who lost two daughters in this terrible accident. As a father, this is a loss I cannot begin to imagine.

It seems that no family should have to endure the level of tragedy that has befallen the Kennedys. I will say to the Senator from Massachusetts: America mourns with you and the Senate mourns with you, your family, and the Bessette family as well.

Elaine and I want to express publicly what we have said privately, which is that you and your family and the Bessette family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the introduction of S. 1406 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, once again, I thank my dear friend from Illinois for allowing me to proceed, and at this point I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, under the order that was previously stated, I yield 3 minutes in morning business to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from Maryland is recognized.

RECOGNITION OF ROBERT TOBIAS

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Robert Tobias for his distinguished service at the National Treasury Employees Union, including four terms as its president.

Admired by his friends and adversaries alike, Bob Tobias has garnered respect as an effective advocate and constructive mediator during his tenure at the NTEU.

Bob and his wife Susan reside in Bethesda, MD, and we are very proud to have them as residents of our State. However, Bob is a native of Michigan and received a bachelor's degree, as well as a master's degree, in business administration from the University of Michigan. Bob completed his education at George Washington University, where he received a law degree. He built upon his formal education with substantial legal experience as a labor relations specialist for General Motors Corporation in Detroit and with the Internal Revenue Service.

When Bob first joined the NTEU in 1968, he became its second staff employee. During his 31-year tenure at NTEU, Bob served the organization in numerous capacities and saw the staff grow to more than 100 members with seven field offices across the country. Now representing more than 150,000 Federal employees at the Internal Revenue Service, Customs Service, and other agencies, NTEU is a strong voice for public servants on Capitol Hill and with the other branches of Government.

Starting at NTEU as a staff attorney, Bob later served as general counsel and

executive vice president, supervising a staff of 45 attorneys and field representatives nationwide, as well as the litigation and negotiations staff in the NTEU training program. His dedicated and skillful performance in these positions led to his election as President of NTEU in 1983 and his subsequent reelection on three occasions.

Under Bob's guidance, NTEU has been an influential voice for Federal employees and has waged many successful battles on their behalf. From challenging the line-item veto, to securing the right to picket for Federal employees, to obtaining the payment of over a half billion dollars in back pay from the Nixon administration, Bob Tobias has achieved wide-ranging victories for our public servants.

In addition to his talent for successful litigation, Bob Tobias has worked with the Government and its agencies to improve the status of Federal employees and to enhance their ability to serve the public. For example, he is credited with wide-ranging IRS reforms, rendering the tax-collecting organization a more efficient and responsive public agency. He is credited with instituting the first negotiated alternate work schedule for employees and the first cooperative labor management program for onsite child care.

Because of his extensive interaction with the agencies that employ Federal workers, Bob is highly regarded as an expert on how to improve Government. Many different organizations have sought out his expertise on these matters and, among others, Bob is now a member of the President's National Partnership Council, the Federal Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, the Executive Committee of the Internal Revenue Service, and the American Arbitration Association.

Because of his dedicated leadership on behalf of our Federal workers, his consensus-building approach to Government reform, and the highly professional manner in which he carried out his work, Bob Tobias leaves a powerful and enduring legacy as President of the NTEU. I am pleased that he will continue in the public realm since he is planning a career in public policy teaching and writing.

Again, I congratulate Bob Tobias on his outstanding service at NTEU and his terrific record as a public servant on behalf of the American people, and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY IN THE KENNEDY FAMILY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to say a word about the tragedy which has befallen the Kennedy family and the Bessette family, as we learn about the terrible circumstances involving

the plane crash last Friday. When my wife came in in Springfield, IL, Saturday morning and said that she had just heard on the radio that John Kennedy's plane was missing, our reaction was the same: Could this be another tragedy for this family?

The Kennedy family means so much to America, so much to the Democratic Party, and so much to many of us personally. As a young student just starting at Georgetown University in 1963, I arrived weeks before the assassination of President John Kennedy. I stood on Pennsylvania Avenue and watched the funeral cortege leave the White House for this Capitol Building, where President John Kennedy's body was held in reverence for visitation by the American people.

Then I can recall, as a college student, sitting in this gallery and looking down on this floor to watch as Senator TED KENNEDY and Senator Robert Kennedy talked about the war in Vietnam, and in the gallery across the way was Ethel Kennedy and other members of the Kennedy family. Little did I dream that the day would come when I would serve with Senator TED KENNEDY and come to know him personally. Each of us who serves with him understands what an extraordinary person he is. He, in my mind, is the best legislator on the floor of the Senate. He is so well versed, so well prepared, and so hard-working, that he is an inspiration to all of us.

We are reminded from time to time, as we were this weekend, that his obligations go beyond the Senate and certainly to a large family who looks to him for guidance and leadership in times of trial. This week, TED KENNEDY is bringing together the Kennedy family in mourning over the death of John Kennedy, his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren. Our hearts go out to him and the entire family and to the Bessette family as well.

Those of us who remember that 1963 assassination graphically can recall exactly where we were at the moment that we heard President John Kennedy was shot. As we watched all the scenes unfold afterwards, one of the most poignant was that of little John Kennedy saluting his father as the casket passed in front of the church. I guess we had always hoped that because Caroline and John Kennedy had endured this tragedy so early in life that God would find a special place for them and they would lead normal, happy, and secure lives. They certainly set out to do it and did it well, both of them. Then again, a tragedy such as this will occur and remind us again of our vulnerability and fragility as human beings.

Our hearts and prayers go out to both families, and certainly to Senator KENNEDY in his leadership role in the Kennedy family. We will be remembering them as this week passes and as we address our concern and sympathy on the floor of the Senate.