

And so it is because of this great gift, this promise—yes, this promise of everlasting life and the heart-searing proof through sacrifice that Christianity survived the passing of its founder. Nearly 2,000 years later, the words and example of the Rabbi from Galilee motivate and support over 2 billion—over 2 billion—people around the world. Governments have tried to stamp Him out, but still He endures in the hearts of His devout followers. Technology has tried to distract us, but still His word—yes, his word—beckons. I am sure that whatever trials and tribulations lie ahead, His teachings and faith will offer comfort and hope no matter how bleak the future might appear. In all of the moments of our lives, large and small, joyful and desolate, triumphant and abject, He—yes, He is there at our side with support and hope. I do feel for those 1.2 billion people who do not have faith to sustain them and give them strength. It is a deep, deep well of support and nourishment for the weary soul—for the weary soul.

Mr. President, I close my speech with the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from his poem "Christus: A Mystery." In the poem, Prince Henry is speaking to Elsie as they cross the square:

This is the day, when from the dead our Lord arose; and everywhere, out of their darkness and despair, triumphant over fears and foes, the hearts of his disciples rose, when to the women, standing near, the angel in shining vesture said, "The Lord is risen; He is not here!" And, mindful that the day is come, on all the hearths in Christendom the fires are quenched, to be again rekindled from the sun, that high is dancing in the cloudless sky. The churches are all decked with flowers, the salutations among men are but the Angel's words divine, "Christ is arisen!" And the bells catch the glad murmur, as it swells, and chant together in their towers. All hearts are glad; and free from care the faces of the people shine. See what a crowd is in the square, gayly and gallantly arrayed!

Mr. President, let me close—and I hope I have not imposed too long on the Senate and on my friends who may have been waiting—let me close with these words spoken by William Jennings Bryan in his speech on immortality. Now is the time to think about it. That is what Easter is: the promise of immortality.

If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn, and make it burst forth from its prison walls again in the mighty Oak, will He leave neglected in the Earth the soul of man, who was made in the image of his Creator? If He stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the autumn breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will He withhold all the words of hope from the sons of men when the frosts of winter come? If Matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the forces of Nature into a multitude of forms, can never die, will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after a brief visit to this tenement of clay?

No.

Rather, let us believe that He who, in his apparent prodigality, wastes not the raindrop, the blade of grass, or the evening's sighing zephyr, but makes them all to carry

out His eternal plans, has given immortality to the mortal.

Amen.

IN THANKS TO JAY AND SHARON ROCKEFELLER

Mr. President, at this time of Easter, at this time of rejoicing in the promise of eternal life, I also rejoice in the friendship that I share with my colleague from West Virginia, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, and his lovely wife, Sharon. JAY and Sharon Rockefeller are jewels. They have always opened their doors and their hearts to me and to my darling wife, Erma.

For more than 20 years, JAY ROCKEFELLER and I have worked in partnership for the people of West Virginia. There have been good times and bad; moments of great joy and moments of great hardship. But at each turn, we have stood together for our State, the Mountain State, West Virginia, where Mountaineers are always free.

In the past few years, when my wife battled against illness, JAY ROCKEFELLER always took the time to ask about her. He and Sharon always wanted to know how Erma was. Stand her side-by-side with JAY, and Erma probably didn't reach his chest. But she had a place in his and Sharon's heart, just as he and Sharon did in hers.

Today, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER is recovering from back surgery. He has missed some time in the Senate, and we have missed him here. I know that JAY will be back on his feet soon. And, when he walks through the Senate door, I shall welcome him with open arms.

I wish Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER and his charming wife, Sharon, a most blessed Easter, and I thank them for their long and warm friendship toward Erma and me.

I thank all Senators, and I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today with a little bit of sadness in my voice, but also with a lot of happiness about an occasion that is going to be taking place in about 30 minutes at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, where I had hoped to be today, but, unfortunately, the business of the Senate required us to stay here. Today at 2 o'clock there will be a dedication of the Paul Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia in Athens. This building is going to be named for a man who was not only a close friend of mine, but he was a close political ally.

He is a man who served in the Georgia Legislature for almost two decades

and served in the U.S. Senate for 8 years, from 1992 to 2000, when, unfortunately, he died much too early as a result of a very sudden illness that he developed.

Paul Coverdell was a man of great vision, one of the hardest working individuals I have ever known in my life, and a man who truly believed in what was best for his country. He was a man who served, not just in the Senate in Washington, but he also was a director of the Peace Corps under President George Herbert Walker Bush. Today, President Bush and Mrs. Bush are in Athens to be the keynote speakers at the dedication of this building.

Paul Coverdell was a man who really took the Peace Corps to a different level. I was very pleased, along with a number of other Members of this body—particularly his close friend, Phil Gramm, the former Senator from Texas—and a number of other individuals who attended the dedication ceremony at the Old Executive Office Building in 2001, when President George W. Bush announced that we were naming the headquarters of the Peace Corps the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters Building.

Paul had a great vision for biomedical science as well as research, so I think it is only fitting that today the building in Athens at the University of Georgia be named for him. Were it not for the hard work and the vision of another Member of this Senate, Senator Zell Miller, who succeeded Senator Coverdell, that probably would not have happened.

While it is sad to think of the fact that Paul is no longer with us, for him to be remembered as he is being remembered today, once again, on the campus of the University of Georgia, which is my alma mater, gives me a great feeling about carrying on the life, the vision, and the hope that Paul Coverdell had for our country.

His wife Nancy was very active in Paul's political life. She continues to be a very vivacious lady today. She happens to serve as the chairman of my military academy appointment committee, and does she ever do a terrific job. She is a great lady in and of herself, but Paul Coverdell was a special person.

He rose very rapidly in the leadership of the Senate after his election. He became the secretary of the conference and served his conference well. He served not only his Republican colleagues well, but he was an individual who, on virtually every occasion when he worked on an issue, reached across the aisle to Members on the Democratic side to make sure they were included in the process, and that his ideas and his visions for a greater America would always be shared and there would be cooperation with the folks on both sides of the aisle.

Today I stand with a little bit of a heavy heart but with a wonderful remembrance of a great friend, a man with whom I spent so much time, talking about not only politics. During the

8 years I served in the House, Paul was here in the Senate for most of those years. We had occasion to talk by telephone at least once a week. We made it a point to visit about things that were happening both in our State as well as here in Washington.

He is a man with whom I also had the opportunity to talk about life and about how to not only set examples, as Paul did—and I have always subscribed to but have never reached the level that Paul did—but he is a man who also just gave you a great feeling about the direction in which our country was headed.

When I had the opportunity to talk with Nancy Coverdell this morning, I expressed my significant disappointment in not being there today but, thank goodness, she being a wife of a former Member of the Senate, understood that our life up here is not controlled by our wishes and desires but oftentimes by people on both sides of the aisle. I am really pleased that we are once again honoring the name and the memory of Paul Coverdell with the dedication of this building on the campus of the University of Georgia today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, there has been a fairly lively debate. I ask unanimous consent I have such time as needed to make my remarks, should my remarks run more than 10 minutes, under the morning business rules. I need possibly 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Thank you, Mr. President.

IRAQ

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, there has been almost a raging debate around here these last couple of days on evaluations of what is taking place in Iraq, where do we stand in this war—almost a war of attrition, as I see it.

And included in the reports on deaths, killings, this morning we heard about an explosion, with suicide bombers detonating a bomb in a mosque that killed around 40 people. It is almost a daily thing that we hear and see, the horror of families being torn apart by the loss of a loved one. Children, men, women, it does not matter. It is just universal killing and demolition. It is a terrible act to witness.

Now we have some different news that has come about to accompany those stories of horror from Iraq. Everybody now knows that the Vice President's former chief of staff, Scooter Libby, has been indicted as part of the investigation into the leak of classified material from the White House.

I remember when this controversy broke. President Bush acted incredulous that anyone would leak classified national security information. In fact, in September 2003, the President said:

There's just too many leaks, and if there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is.

But now we find out—I think embarrassingly for the President, embarrassingly for the United States—we now find out that the President himself was ordering a leak of classified material. And he leaked that classified information for political reasons. He was trying to undo some of the political damage caused by the disclosure that the intelligence community did not believe Iraq was trying to purchase uranium. There it was: the reason we went to Iraq in the first place, and substantial doubts.

People who supported that view are now challenging the intelligence that led us there, or at least the intelligence reports we got. Now, here we are, still bogged down in Iraq, with no hope in sight to fix the mess we have caused there.

Yesterday, there was debate between two of our colleagues. One was Senator KERRY, who served in Vietnam, decorated for that service, the other was the Senator from Colorado, who was harsh in his criticism of Senator KERRY's speech on Iraq.

Now, Senator KERRY and I are both veterans. I am a veteran of World War II, and I served in Europe during the war. His, again, distinguished service in Vietnam is well known. So we are both veterans, and we are very interested in the military analysis of the Senator from Colorado.

The speech of the Senator from Colorado sounded much like White House talking points: short on facts, long on innuendo and fantasy.

While politicians in Washington sometimes wear rose-colored glasses and fantasize about the situation in Iraq, American troops are dying, American troops are wounded. One need only visit Walter Reed Hospital to see how serious some of those wounds are. People have lost limbs. People lose their sight. People suffer very severely from post-traumatic stress, invisible wounds that penetrate, nevertheless, very deeply.

I have gone to many memorial services and funerals for young people from New Jersey who died in Iraq. Seventy-three soldiers from my home State of New Jersey have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. As I mentioned, I have visited Walter Reed Army Hospital here in Washington several times, and I have been struck by the incredible resilience and dedication to our country of those young Americans, those who want to be able to pick up arms again so they can do their duty. And while these brave men and women put their lives on the line, the administration is simply ignoring reality.

Paul Eaton, a former commanding general of the Coalition Military As-

sistance and Training Team, wrote in the New York Times on March 19, recently, that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is—and here I quote the Times—“not competent to lead our armed forces.”

Eaton further said that Rumsfeld “has shown himself incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically, and is far more than anyone else responsible for what has happened to our important mission in Iraq. Mr. Rumsfeld must step down.”

This past Sunday on “Meet The Press,” retired General Anthony Zinni, who just published a book, repeated the call for Mr. Rumsfeld to resign. General Zinni of the U.S. Marine Corps is a former Commander of the Central Command. He said Secretary Rumsfeld should be held accountable for tactical mistakes in Iraq.

I had the opportunity the other night to go to a testimonial for General Shalikhshvili and saw films of him done with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, President Clinton—all kinds of testimonials. As I looked at General Shalikhshvili, I recalled how splendidly he handled his assignment as the Chief of the joint members of the senior staff and recalled that he said that in Iraq we would need perhaps 300,000 troops or more. He was right. And we never delivered on that commitment. As a consequence, in many military circles it is believed that lack of force is responsible for some of the problems we currently see.

Several days after General Zinni spoke, President Bush dismissed calls for Rumsfeld to step down, saying he was “satisfied” with his performance.

How in the world can the Commander-in-Chief, President Bush, be satisfied with the situation in Iraq? It is chaotic. It is near a civil war. The definition of a “civil war” is that people within the same country are fighting one another. My gosh, it could not be clearer.

So how can he be satisfied with Secretary Rumsfeld's miscalculations, with his profound errors in judgment, with his stubborn unwillingness to admit mistakes?

These mistakes have had tragic consequences—tragic for the nearly 2,400 American men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, tragic for the families they have left behind.

To examine the incompetence a little bit further—I have not been in Iraq in the last couple of years. I was there then, and I met with troops, and they were asking for better body armor. They were asking for better Humvee armor. And it took 2 years to loosen up those products to protect our troops. How incompetent must one be for the President not to be up in arms?

After my visit, I said I was going to the Defense Department, and did, requesting expedited treatment for these articles that our troops needed to protect themselves and to fight the war fully.

We know that most of the claims of the Bush administration in the leadup