

more African Americans, Hispanics, and women to State office than the previous two Governors combined.

She used her skill and wit to help pass vital legislation in Congress too. I will never forget her hard work on the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

There will never be another Ann Richards, and we will never forget her.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President yesterday, we lost a great political great woman with an incredibly energy who helped to change the attitude of Texas politics.

Ann Richards was born in Lakeview, TX, in 1933. She died yesterday, September 13, in Austin, TX, at the age of 73.

She battled cancer in the last months of her life, being diagnosed with esophageal cancer in March and undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to her four children—Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen—who were with her when she passed away.

Ann Richards was a homemaker and teacher before beginning her political career as a county commissioner in Travis county, TX, in 1976. Six years later, in 1982, she ran for State treasurer and won. She was reelected in 1986. Winning the office of Texas State treasurer made her the first woman elected statewide in nearly 50 years.

Like so many female politicians of our time, running for office in a male-dominated political environment took courage and determination. But Ann didn't take on these challenges only to prove that she was a worthy candidate. She wanted to show Texas, and the Nation, that all women could succeed in the same way that men had for many years. She blazed a trail for women, in politics and in life.

Two years later, in 1990, Ann Richards narrowly won the election to Governor, winning by a margin of 49 to 47 percent. Again, she fought a tough campaign battle against a male opponent. But with her fierce determination, she came out on top.

During her 4 years in the Governor's office, Ann Richards made a strong effect, championing what she referred to as the "New Texas."

As Governor, Ann Richards promoted women and minorities who historically were ignored in Texas politics; reformed the Texas prison system; backed proposals to reduce the sale of semiautomatic firearms and "cop-killer" bullets in the State; instituted the Texas State lottery to provide funding for education; revitalized the State's economy; and worked to protect the environment, particularly with a veto of legislation that would have allowed for the destruction of the Edwards Aquifer in south central Texas.

She was defeated in her 1994 reelection campaign by George W. Bush.

Near the end of her term as Governor, Ann Richards said: "I think I'd

like them to remember me by saying, 'She opened government to everyone.'"

She was a popular figure in Texas politics, known for her white head of hair and her great sense of humor.

And she was daring, on the political stage and off. At the age of 60, she learned to ride a motorcycle.

Ann Richards will be missed. For her charisma, for her integrity, and for her honesty.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart, to pay tribute to a remarkable woman and patriot, Ann Richards.

There are so many words that I could use to describe Ann. She was vibrant, fiery, quick-witted, fearless, but for me the word that I think captures her best is genuine.

With Ann, what you saw was what you got. She had an authenticity that is rare in life, and even rarer in politics.

Even with all of her charisma and charm bubbling over, Ann would be the first to tell you that her life was not perfect and that she had made many mistakes over the years. But it was her embrace of those imperfections, and the wisdom to see that she could learn from her mistakes, that made her such a successful leader. People could relate to her.

When she won the Governor's office in 1990, Ann decided she really wanted to shake things up in Texas. So she made it her mission to appoint more minorities to State boards and commissions than any Governor before her.

According to the Houston Chronicle, about 44 percent of her appointees were female; 20 percent Hispanic; and 14 percent Black. That is in comparison to her two predecessors, who had given more than 77 percent of their appointments to White men.

So not only did Ann blaze a trail by being the first woman elected Governor of Texas in her own right, but she opened the doors of the State house to those who otherwise would have been in the back of the line.

Why? Because she understood that you can't just talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk. She knew that change was a good thing, even if it made people squirm in their boots.

There are a lot of people talking today about what a tremendous loss this is for Texas. I heard our President, George W. Bush say that, "Ann loved Texas. And Texans loved her." But I have to take that one step further and say, Ann loved America, and Americans loved Ann. She barreled her way into our hearts, and for that we have been made all the richer.

I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Ann's children: Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen, her eight grandchildren, and all those who knew and loved her. She will be sorely missed, but I am sure, always remembered.

DARFUR

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to spend a couple minutes talking about

Darfur as well. I know my colleague from Kansas addressed this issue. I know my colleague, Senator DURBIN, as well, has been working on this issue for a long time. Many of us have been watching this situation. Senator BARACK OBAMA, I know, cares about this issue. And many members of the Foreign Relations Committee have talked about it. We heard Senator BOXER, a moment ago, talk about her deep concern.

There is a tremendous amount of interest about what is happening and great concern. It is the moral responsibility of nations around the globe to help end the genocide in Darfur.

Even as we speak here this afternoon, in the closing days of this week's work, we are moving backwards in Sudan. Earlier this week, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan sounded the warning that Darfur is about to enter a new phase of needless bloodshed and suffering on a catastrophic scale. I do not think we ought to let this happen. It is not just our responsibility but certainly the United States should and can take a leadership role here in marshaling the forces to stop the events as they unfold to these poor, poor people who are caught in this dreadful situation.

The blame lies squarely, of course, first and foremost, with the Sudanese Government's intransigence and murderous Darfur policy. Since February of 2003, when rebel groups attacked government outposts, the Sudanese Government has used the janjaweed militia to systematically decimate tribal groups of African descent in Darfur.

The warfare has exacted a tragic toll. Men, women, and children have been slaughtered in front of their families. Women and girls are regularly raped. Entire villages are routinely destroyed and property looted by marauding militias.

Estimates suggest that the conflict in Darfur has killed as many as 300,000 people and driven 2.5 million people out of their homes. The United States has rightly labeled the Sudanese Government's actions "genocide."

I remember, with great clarity, former Secretary of State Colin Powell appearing before a Senate committee on which I served calling the actions in Darfur genocide, loudly and clearly. And I commend him for it. He was one of the earliest voices to do so. We know what the word "genocide" means and its full ramifications.

Yet there was a glimmer of hope for the violence to end in May of this year with the conclusion of a peace agreement brokered in large part by the United States. The agreement called for a cessation of hostilities between the Sudanese Government and one of three major rebel groups in Darfur.

But it is time to face the facts in Darfur. The peace is over. In fact, it never really had a chance. Hostilities between the government and the other two rebel groups never ended and are

heating up again fast in that part of the world. Thousands of Sudanese troops are massing for a fresh offensive against rebel groups. The International Rescue Committee has noted an upswing in sexual violence around refugee camps.

Meanwhile, from the very beginning, the Sudanese Government has thrown up obstacle after obstacle after obstacle in the path of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

A New York Times report earlier this week describes these obstacles and the mission's lack of funding and authority in Darfur. A telling example is that every evening, the African Union soldiers have to turn over control of the main military airstrip in Darfur to government troops. These troops steal jet fuel from the mission and use the strip to launch attack helicopters while the African Union troops stand by helplessly. Sudanese officials have also managed to reduce the mission's already limited patrols and humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

The mission's courageous yet failing efforts to maintain the peace led the United Nations to issue Security Council Resolution 1706 on August 31 of this year. This resolution calls for the deployment of a more robust, 20,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force.

Yet precisely because such a U.N. force would have teeth, Sudan's President has rejected it on the grounds of sovereignty. This is a flimsy excuse. There are nearly 10,000 U.N. troops stationed in southern Sudan to maintain a separate peace agreement. And now the Sudanese Government has asked African Union troops to leave by September 30—a few short days from today—when the mission's mandate expires, unless they are able to raise additional funds.

It is all too clear that the Sudanese Government is not interested in peace in Darfur. And why should it be? Sudan has friends like Russia and China who place a far greater premium in their commercial interests in the Sudan rather than on their responsibility to stop this genocide. In 2005, China purchased more than half of Sudan's oil exports, and is one of its largest suppliers of arms. Both countries, Russia and China, abstained in the most recent vote on deploying U.N. troops. They continued to give political cover to the Sudanese Government.

Yet it is also clear that the United States and the international community have a responsibility to protect and prevent genocide in Darfur. The world's heads of state affirmed this precise commitment last September as part of the Outcome Document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The document calls on the international community to protect people from "genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity" on a case-by-case basis should their own governments fail to do so.

What could be more clear? What could be more precise? What could be more important for us to respond to?

The case for Darfur is painfully clear. And yet a year after making this commitment, we and the rest of the international community are already on the verge of renegeing on it. Our ability to act remains hostage to a government that continues to perpetrate terrible crimes on its own people.

Yet instead of tightening the screws on this government, our administration, the administration here in the United States, unfortunately, is not doing what it ought to be doing. We are dangling the incentives of talks with President Bush before the Sudanese President in exchange for his accepting a U.N. force. It is almost unbelievable.

The administration refuses to talk directly to Iran and North Korea about their nuclear programs. And yet here it is bandying Presidential talks with the head of a regime that our own Government has declared guilty of genocide.

This is typical, unfortunately, of the administration's bumbling approach to diplomacy. It simply does not know when to talk and when to brandish the stick. Clearly, the stick is necessary here. Days and hours stand between us and an incredible mass of genocide.

The fact is, we need to take a harder approach on Sudan. So what can we do from here on? How do we ratchet up the pressure on the Sudanese Government and get it to stop?

First, I think the United States needs to expedite the appointment of a special envoy to Darfur.

Let me add, by the way, Senator BROWNBACK mentioned Bob Zoellick. He did a fantastic job, by the way, but he is out of government now. He is in the private sector. Unfortunately, we do not have a Bob Zoellick within the administration right now who understands it and cared about this issue to the extent he did. But I believe there are people who could be asked to perform this appointment of a special envoy from the United States. That might be enough in the short term, to begin to put the brakes on.

I recently joined colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush calling for his immediate attention. With the departure of Deputy Secretary of State Bob Zoellick, who played a very important role in negotiating the May peace agreement, a vacuum has emerged that needs to be immediately filled to ensure a coordinated, focused, and effective policy.

Our Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs was made to wait 3 days—3 days—before meeting with Sudan's President, only to hear him reject the U.N. force. This special envoy must be someone of greater stature and seniority who can command an audience and forcefully convey a message. Moreover, the envoy and President Bush himself must, in concert with our allies, publicly reject Sudan's demand that African Union troops leave and insist on the deployment of U.N. forces.

Secondly, the United States needs to convince states like China and Russia and the Arab League to apply pressure on the Sudanese Government to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force. Unless Sudan feels the heat from its business partners and friends, my fear is they will not budge.

Thirdly, the United States needs to ensure that the United Nations moves forward with deploying a peacekeeping force. Should Sudan continue to put up a wall, then I think we must implement a tight sanctions regime against the Sudanese Government, rebel forces, and others responsible for the atrocities that are being committed there.

We must also consider deploying troops regardless of Sudanese consent. For many this may raise a red flag, but, again, it is an international commitment and a moral obligation agreed to under U.N. auspices.

Should the U.N. fail to rapidly muster the requisite troops, I believe we ought to deploy an interim NATO force with U.S. participation to Darfur. At a minimum, NATO forces, which already provide logistical support to the African Union mission, should enforce a no-fly zone in Darfur pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1591 to prevent military flights over Darfur.

U.S. participation, even in a limited capacity, is critical to showing the world that the U.S. is not just about fighting terrorism when it serves our interests but also about fighting injustice, terrorism and mass murder when it affects others far away from us; that the U.S. will fight for the principles of respect for human dignity and life, and not just lecture others about them.

Fourth, despite this administration's absurd rejection of International Criminal Court, the ICC can and must play a critical role in bringing to justice those responsible for committing genocide in Sudan. Last March, Darfur became the first-ever case to be referred by the U.N. Security Council to the International Criminal Court for investigation.

The U.S. unconscionably abstained on this vote. My country abstained. When it comes to conducting an investigation of the Sudanese Government for what our own Secretary of State has called genocide, we abstained.

And we wonder why public opinion of the United States around the world is dipping. One reason is because the administration talks the talk but does not walk the walk when it comes to upholding our Nation's principles. From military tribunals that don't allow due process of law to warrantless surveillance, the administration simply thinks it is above domestic and international law. Its doublespeak continues to squander our country's political and moral authority. The U.S. needs to lend its full support to the ICC's efforts to bring to justice those found guilty of genocide in Sudan.

Mr. President, 12 years after Rwanda—and I am glad my colleague from California raised Rwanda, and Senator

BROWNBACK has as well, along with others in this body—we remain haunted by the massacre which occurred. Former President Bill Clinton publicly expressed his deepest regret at the U.S. and the international community's collective inaction to stop the killings in Rwanda. Twelve years from now, none of us in this body or the administration want to be forcing the same regrets about Darfur.

Yet, if we fail that—and it is not a matter of weeks or months, it is a matter of hours—then the very kinds of genocidal mass murder that occurred in Rwanda will continue to occur in Darfur and grow worse.

Sudan has been wracked by four decades of violence and instability. The scars of that war cut deep throughout their country. Currently, it is experiencing what the U.N. has described as the world's greatest humanitarian crisis. We stood by during Rwanda. We cannot stand by this time. We must not let history repeat itself. We must act. The international community has a responsibility to protect and the U.S. must lead by example. Let us not fail this time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Connecticut for that extremely eloquent, passionate, and urgent message to the administration about what needs to be done in Darfur. I could not agree more. I have come to the floor on other occasions to speak on the same issue. We know that thousands—in fact, 2 million people—find themselves in camps with no place to call home, in a situation that is absolutely outrageous.

So I thank my colleague for coming to the floor and speaking on this important subject. I am very hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken to this will find that their words are heeded by the administration and they will act urgently to save lives and stop the genocide.

REMEMBERING ANN RICHARDS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a very good friend and a wonderful woman whom Senator LINCOLN spoke about—and I know others today have—very eloquently on the floor, and that is our good, good friend Ann Richards, the former Texas Governor and treasurer, a woman who had extraordinary abilities. Her intelligence, her tenacity, and her hard work, are well known. But we all know of her sense of humor, her wit, her ability to make us smile. Even when we were trying to struggle through a difficult issue or were upset, she was able to put this in a particular frame that would allow people to in fact smile and laugh while they were trying to work through things together.

I was very pleased to have Ann Richards come to Michigan on more than

one occasion to be able to help me in my effort at running for office. It was always a wonderful time. People were so excited when I would say that Governor Ann Richards was coming to Michigan. There would be excitement from women young and old, as well as from men. We always drew a great crowd. She always lived up to every expectation, in terms of the way she spoke about life, about what people are concerned about, and a combination of both outrage at those unfair things and things that ought to be changed, coupled with that sense of humor about what we go through in our daily lives, speaking about things that we could all relate to so well, with that wonderful sense of humor.

She once told me when I was working hard and had too many things to do in a day: Debbie, you should stop right now and just focus on what is next and the rest of it will take care of itself. Do your best and focus on the next hour, the next challenge, and that is how you get through effectively in life.

Those words of encouragement and advice have stuck with me to this day. Whenever I get overwhelmed, I think of Ann Richards' voice in my ear saying: Stop and take a breath and focus on what is right in front of you and do your best, and everything else will work out just fine.

We all know she was a trailblazer in Texas politics and an inspiration to all of us who have run for office and been elected to office around the country. I will never forget when she was elected. I had the opportunity to attend her inaugural ball—I should say series of balls, where everybody was all dressed up and wearing cowboy boots, and how I watched Ann, with such relish, go from ball to ball, event to event, and watched her go down the streets in the parades in Austin that day. There was such excitement, and you could tell she was thrilled. She loved Texas and she relished the opportunity to serve Texas as its Governor. It was such a wonderful weekend of events. I will always remember that.

There are so many different quotes from her that we all remember and quote ourselves. One of my favorites is the often-repeated line about Fred Astaire. She said:

Sure, he was great; but don't forget that Ginger Rogers did everything he did backwards and in high heels.

That was Ann Richards, speaking in a way that made a point, but made everyone smile at the same time.

In many ways, we kind of came up through politics together. We were both in county commissions in the mid-1970s. We both ended up in State-wide elected office, and we both loved and love our States with a great, great passion.

Despite all of the fame—and she was famous, a well-known person, revered around the country—she was somebody who could walk into any city in the country and have people recognize her and have great respect for her. But

what I admired most was how down to earth she was. Even though this is a person who was very well known, she was somebody who was always there with a smile and would say "How are you doing?" She would talk to the wait staff in a restaurant, as well as the people in her party, or would speak to whomever was around her.

She began her career as a teacher. She once said that teaching was the hardest work she had ever done and, according to her, it remained the hardest work she had done to date. She was a great teacher, but not only in the classroom. Ann Richards was a teacher to me—a teacher as it relates to women having courage, stepping out, being willing to take the slings and arrows that come with the rough and tumble world of politics, standing up for what she believed in, always being accessible and available to reach out and help those of us who asked for her help, and always relishing life to the fullest.

Ann Richards will be remembered. We are so grateful for her life, for her service, and for who she was. My thoughts and prayers go out to her children and her grandchildren.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues and many others across America to express our sadness over the loss of one great person: former Texas Governor Ann Richards. There she was, with her Dairy Queen hairdo, her thick Texas twang, and her lightning fast wit. She was beloved and recognized by everybody. When she would show up on Capitol Hill, people couldn't wait to come up and shake hands and see that beautiful smile. Several times she came by my office, and our visit always started with a laugh and ended with a laugh. She was just a great person to be around.

She was born Dorothy Ann Willis in 1933, in Lakeview, a farming community near Waco. She was the only child of Iona and Cecil Willis. They came from the tiny towns of Bugtussle and Hogjaw.

At Waco High School, she dropped her first name and became just Ann. She also became the Texas state debate champion.

During her senior year, she visited Washington as a delegate to Girls Nation and, on a trip to the White House, shook hands with President Truman, one of her all time heroes.

Despite her natural political talents, it never occurred to Ann Richards to run for political office herself until later in life.

In her 20s, she taught social studies in an Austin middle school for less