

Mr. Komorowski is a descendent of Polish nobility, a historian by training, and a lifelong freedom fighter. He took part in his first anti-Communist protests as a high school student in 1968. As a young man, he defied communist authorities by lighting candles and posting banners at the Katyn section of the historic Powazki Cemetery in Warsaw, the resting place of many Polish heroes. He served as Poland's defense minister in 2000 and 2001 and became Speaker of the Sejm, Poland's House of Representatives, in 2007. The day after he was elected President, President Obama invited him to visit the United States. The two Presidents are meeting in the White House today.

As a boy growing up in East St. Louis, IL, I knew without a doubt that the greatest man on Earth was the son of a Polish Immigrant to America. He was born Stanisław Franciszek Musiał, but America came to know and love him as Stan "The Man" Musial. He was the heart and soul of the St. Louis Cardinals of my youth and one of the best outfielders in baseball history.

In school, I learned that American history is, in fact, filled with Polish and Polish-American heroes—men and women who helped lift this country into what it is today.

Polish craftsmen were already hard at work helping to build the colony of Jamestown when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. In 1619 when the Virginia House of Burgesses refused to extend to the Polish workers the "rights of the Englishmen," including the right to vote, the Polish people began and won the first recorded strike in the New World.

More than a century and a half later, two valiant sons of Poland stepped forward and joined America in our effort to gain independence. Thaddeus Kosciuszko landed shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and, upon learning of the document, decided that he must meet the author. He and Thomas Jefferson became friends. He built the United States Military Academy at West Point and helped lead American troops in their improbable and crucial early victories at the Battles of Saratoga and Ticonderoga. Years later, Thomas Jefferson called him "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known," and statues of him stand today at West Point and in Lafayette Square across from the White House.

Casimir Pulaski was drawn to the same idea of freedom and became a brigadier general in the Continental Army. He was the "father of the US Cavalry," saved George Washington's Army at the Battle of Brandywine and gave his life for American independence at the Battle of Savannah. He has a statue in his honor here in Washington, DC, and is held in such high regard by my home State of Illinois that there is a statewide holiday so that all residents may pay their respects.

And when the time came for Poland to seek its freedom in 1989, the United

States was at its side. It is astonishing to consider the changes that took place over these two decades. Poland today is a major force in Europe and a brave and indispensable leader in the effort to finish the work of making Europe whole, free and at peace with itself. Poland stood with its Baltic neighbors—including Lithuania, the land of my mother's birth—as they, too, have reached for democracy and freedom.

Poland's historic entry into NATO in 1999 has led to invaluable Polish contributions to peace and stability—not only in Europe, but around our world. Polish soldiers fought side-by-side with Americans in Iraq, standing with us even during the darkest days of that war. Today, more than 2,500 Polish soldiers are serving in Afghanistan, and Poland is leading a Provisional Reconstruction Team in one of the most dangerous and challenging areas in that nation. Poland has also agreed to allow a US missile defense base on its territory in order to help defend Europe from new security threats from those who may not share our values.

In 2004, Poland joined the European Union, symbolically ending the long and unjust Cold War division of Europe. As a member of the EU, Poland has also shown great leadership in its transition to a free market economy. Indeed, it is the only nation in Europe to have avoided a recession during the financial crisis, and its economy is growing faster than almost any other nation in Europe. Thirty years after the birth of Solidarity in the shipyards of Gdansk, Poland today is at the forefront of efforts to build a new cooperative relationship with Russia, while also helping other Central and Eastern European nations build up their own democratic institutions and market economies and find their rightful place in the new Europe.

The United States and Poland are connected by strong bonds of shared history and shared values. We are more than allies; we are family. More than 9 million Americans trace their roots to Poland. I am proud to represent Chicago, the most Polish city outside of Poland. Even today, there are neighborhoods in Chicago where you can scarcely walk a block without hearing someone speaking Polish. I am proud to welcome the President Komorowski, and I hope for the continued strong relationship between Poland and the United States for many years to come.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL CHAD S. WADE

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor Corporal Chad S. Wade, 22, of Bentonville, AR, who died December 1 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

My heart goes out to the family of CPL Wade who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. Along with all Arkansans, I am grateful for his service and for the service and sacrifice of all of our military service-members and their families.

More than 11,000 Arkansans on active duty and more than 10,000 Arkansas Reservists have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001. These men and women have shown tremendous courage and perseverance through the most difficult of times. As neighbors, as Arkansans, and as Americans, it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to honor their service and to provide for them and their families, not only when they are in harm's way but also when they return home. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.

Corporal Wade was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT—H.R. 2142

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, H.R. 2142, as amended, will modernize and refine key aspects of the Government Performance and Results Act, or GPRA, while keeping the statutory foundation established by the act in place. I was pleased to join Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. VOINOVICH in cosponsoring the substitute amendment Mr. CARPER offered at the September 29, 2010, business meeting held by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and I strongly support the bill. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to clarify the intent of the legislation on a matter of great importance. Concerns have been raised that this legislation will prohibit Federal agencies from being assisted by non-Federal parties when preparing GPRA reports. It is my understanding that, in reporting favorably H.R. 2142, as amended, the committee chose not to change the language in GPRA that made the preparation of agency strategic plans, annual performance plans, or annual program performance reports an inherently governmental function. May I ask the Senator from Delaware, as the primary sponsor of the substitute amendment to H.R. 2142, to clarify the intent of the provisions contained in H.R. 2142, as amended, which address the issue of inherently governmental functions?

Mr. CARPER. My friend is correct. This bill will not change the language in GPRA statutes addressing inherently governmental functions. It merely extends existing GPRA standards to apply to the new requirements established by H.R. 2142, as amended, that did not exist in 1993, such as the Federal Government and agency priority goals, along with agency performance updates. As you know, in addressing the issue of inherently governmental functions, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 Report of the Committee on Governmental Affairs states:

The preparation of an agency's or the Postal Service's strategic plan, annual performance plan, and annual program performance report under this Act are declared to be inherently governmental functions. In defining