

first met in 1969 during his State representative campaign. The Ambassador's friendship with Pope John Paul II led him to author two books: "The Accidental Pope," a novel cowritten with Robin Moore, and a memoir titled "Pope John Paul II: A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man."

Today, I am proud to salute Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn's accomplishments as a collegiate student-athlete in addition to his achievements as a public servant, diplomat, and devoted husband and father. I am also proud to call him my friend. When Ambassador Flynn sees his jersey hanging high above the court for the first time on Saturday night, I am sure the crowd will give this accomplished son of Massachusetts a standing ovation.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BAILEY

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, every day in the Senate we owe an enormous amount of gratitude to our staff and to the staff here on the floor which work long hours—often behind the scenes and away from the headlines—to make possible the smooth functioning of this institution.

Today I would like to offer particular gratitude for one of the Senate pages who was among the youngest members of that extraordinary and unheralded team—a page I was privileged to sponsor here, 16-year-old Rachel Bailey from Glendale, MD.

Rachel found herself serving as a page during last year's lameduck session—one of a pair of the only Senate pages, in fact, on hand during that historically busy period.

As we know, typically, the Senate has 30 pages working at any given time. And with 100 Senators, the pace can get pretty hectic.

So imagine how hectic it became for Rachel when the rest of her page class went home for the holidays, leaving her and one fellow page to handle all the page duties in what proved to be an extremely productive and busy session.

Together they handled it all with a smile, carrying the workload of 30 pages and never missing a beat, even though it meant no days off and working up to 14 hours each day. And Rachel did so in a manner that was calm, professional and bipartisan, working with both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms.

Pages play an important role in the daily operation of the Senate. They deliver correspondence and legislative material throughout the Capitol. They take messages for Senators or call them to the phone. They prepare the Chamber for Senate sessions, and they carry bills and amendments to the desk. All of this is in addition to their regular school work.

But as demanding as it is, being a page also gives a student a rare opportunity to learn about—and contribute—to the legislative branch of our government and to witness firsthand the debates in the U.S. Senate,

often described as the "greatest deliberative body in the world." And in the lameduck session, Rachel had an up close look at a flurry of major legislation, including the Senate's bipartisan ratification of the New START Treaty, a long-sought arms reduction agreement with Russia.

Serving as a page has inspired numerous young Americans to pursue careers in public service, even in politics and in the Senate. My friend Chris Dodd, who just retired after more than three decades in Congress, once served as a Senate page. So did one of my current colleagues, MARK PRYOR of Arkansas. So perhaps someday we will see Rachel in the Senate again, in some role other than page.

But in the meantime, let me thank Rachel's parents, Susan and Karl, for sharing her with the Senate during the Christmas holiday, and sustaining her in her first foray in public service—and please also allow me to thank Rachel for her extra special efforts and to express my admiration for the way she conducted herself throughout our lameduck session. She has set the bar high for herself—and for all the Senate pages who will follow.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. PITTEMBER

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I honor the career and contributions of David M. Pittenger, who is retiring after 30 years with the National Aquarium, 15 years as executive director. Dave joined the National Aquarium as director of education in 1979 and implemented award-winning conservation education programs in Baltimore City public schools 2 years before the aquarium officially opened its doors in 1981. Now, each year, 70,000 Maryland schoolchildren, on average, visit the National Aquarium for free as part of their curriculum and Aquarium educators give curriculum training to more than 1,000 teachers.

Through programs that are onsite, in schools and hands-on in the field, the National Aquarium engages children of all ages in raising young terrapins and releasing them into the Bay, taking water and soil samples, growing plants, and going on nature hikes. Children paddle canoes and kayaks, wade in creeks, count birds in wetlands, snorkel in Florida coral reefs, and patrol sea turtle nesting areas in Georgia. For some children, these programs offer their first encounter with an environment outside their neighborhood.

During Dave Pittenger's tenure as director, the National Aquarium has expanded its footprint in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to three buildings, adding an engaging dolphin amphitheater and the award-winning Australia exhibit. The aquarium has also moved beyond its Inner Harbor location, acquiring 12.5 acres of once-contaminated waterfront land in South Baltimore and re-

mediating this "brownfield" to make way for a publicly accessible waterfront park.

Dave has fostered Baltimore's alliance with the National Aquarium in Washington, DC, creating a venue that now showcases 70 exhibits featuring America's Aquatic Treasures, highlighting the animals and habitats of freshwater ecosystems in the United States and other conservation hot spots through the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Under Dave's leadership, however, the National Aquarium has taken on a role greater than its exhibits. He is committed to using the National Aquarium as a stage to educate parents and their children about the importance of aquatic conservation. Dave's priorities of conservation and education are firmly rooted in the conviction that zoos and aquariums have both the capacity and the responsibility to increase public awareness of environmental issues and to implement conservation action programs.

Dave has provided the leadership to make the National Aquarium a true conservation organization with programs around the Chesapeake Bay and the world that restore habitats, rebuild tidal wetlands, strengthen eroding shorelines, reestablish islands, rehabilitate endangered sea turtles, and research lionfish and coral reefs. When the BP oilspill occurred, for instance, scientists from the National Aquarium were available to provide expertise to government and conservation officials trying to ameliorate the damage to the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico, work they continue today.

In 2010, building on the aquarium's strong legacy of service to the environment, the National Aquarium Conservation Center was established to research aquatic species and environments and provide advocacy and programs that tackle pressing conservation issues that affect the aquatic environment.

Under Dave's leadership, the National Aquarium has been an economic engine for the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, welcoming some 1.5 million visitors annually. The National Aquarium is a world-class entertainment attraction and Maryland's No. 1 tourist attraction. The aquarium generates millions in tax dollars and tourism revenue while employing more than 450 staff and engaging local businesses to support its operations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dave Pittenger for his steadfast contributions to our aquatic environment in Maryland and throughout the Nation and the world. The foundation he has laid will produce benefits for all of us as we continue to work to educate and advocate for clean water and a clean environment for all the inhabitants of this Earth.●