

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Camp David

July 17, 2000

Hillary and I join with all those gathered at St. Matthew's Cathedral in paying tribute to the life and memory of Jan Karski.

Jan Karski was a messenger. During the Second World War, he risked his life infiltrating the Warsaw Ghetto and crossing occupied Europe to carry news of the Holocaust to the free world; news of such suffering and atrocity that many refused to believe it.

He was also a messenger throughout his 50 years as an American, bringing to us messages about freedom based on his experience in wartime Poland; messages that he delivered to generations of students seeking to understand the world of international affairs.

Jan Karski was brave; he was resolute; and he demanded of us what he demanded of himself: that we face with clarity the existence of injustice and evil in the world and act with courage to defeat them. Above all, his message was that freedom must be defended. His personal courage and commitment gave weight to his convictions, and his understanding of the world gave depth to the personal history he embodied.

Those who knew Jan Karski will never forget him; and his message will continue to light the path of freedom-loving peoples throughout the years to come. No one could ask for a finer legacy.

*Bill Clinton*