

SENATOR PAUL E. TSONGAS

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 20, 1983

For Frank

Mr. President, my home state of Massachusetts and the capital city of Boston suffered a grievous loss this past week due to the death of Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston.

Humberto Medeiros came from humble beginnings in the Azores, where he was born. An immigrant, he came with his family to settle in Fall River, Massachusetts. Father Medeiros served for many years as a priest in Fall River, becoming Chancellor of the Diocese and Pastor of St. Michael's Parish.

Larger responsibilities in the Church were in store for him, however, and he was named Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, in 1966. In 1970, he became Archbishop of Boston and was named a Cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1973.

His years in Boston were marked by many achievements. His was a voice for reason and justice. His administration of one of the largest Archdioceses in the United States brought it long-term financial stability in an era of great financial difficulty for many institutions.

Most of all, his leadership embodied gentleness and compassion. His leadership reflected an abiding faith in God, to whom he committed his life.

His interests and the breadth of his intellect ranged far beyond religious matters. I visited him at his home some months ago, and he talked knowledgeably about art and a number of other nontheological matters.

Humberto Cardinal Medeiros' passing is a great loss not only to the Catholic Church but to the entire community.

His loss will be felt especially deeply in Boston and in his home town of Fall River, where he will be buried Friday. The Portuguese-American community of Massachusetts and the rest of the country will feel the loss intensely.

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His time as Cardinal Archbishop of Boston was all too short. The message of his life: gentle, unwavering faith in God will endure through the ages.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have yesterday's most moving editorial from The Boston Globe about Cardinal Medeiros reprinted in the Record.

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