

"This is my father here, and my mother," he says, stopping by a row of five stones where he has moved the bodies of his parents, an uncle and an aunt. In an opposite line are the stones for the two daughters, Anne Marie and Ellen, he lost to cancer.

"Go over there," he says, "Look at that one." In a little nook off the main lawn, sits a stone for Jay Lefebvre, the family's housekeeper of 40 years.

"I told her before she died, you are part of the family, you are going to be here with us," he says.

He walks slowly toward the line of columns that serves as a dramatic backdrop. He climbs up three steps. Here, at the head of the family, a bit above them all, a pair of massive, polished slabs are set in the ground. Pomerleau's name is carved on one, his wife's on the other.

The man who constantly jokes that St. Peter has forgotten him has nevertheless prepared.

But Tony, one of his visitors asks, what about "everybody has a time limit—except me"?

"This is just in case," he says.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ALISON KAMATARIS

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I want to honor my Air Force legislative fellow, active duty MAJ Alison "Babs" Kamataris. For the past year, Babs has been an invaluable member of my legislative team.

Babs has served with honor and distinction in the United States Air Force for nearly 15 years. She is an accomplished Air Force intelligence officer—representing the best our military has to offer. Her career has included a tour in Turkey and two tours in South Korea, as well as six deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. In Congress, she has been a critical asset to my legislative team, where she has used her tremendous knowledge and experience to help me in my efforts to serve those who serve us, and ensure that our brave servicemembers have the resources they need to carry out their missions and protect our country.

Babs was a natural fit for our office. She grew up in Belmont, NH and attended Norwich University in Vermont. She possesses that rugged, hard-working, do-it-yourself attitude for which Granite Staters are known. We also share a personal connection as Air Force families. Not only has Babs served our country in the Air Force with distinction, but her husband has too. Like my husband Joe, Babs' husband Andy is an A-10 pilot. In fact, Andy deployed to Afghanistan for 4 months this year while Babs worked in my office and served as a conscientious mother to her beautiful 3-year-old daughter, Taylor. Babs and her family deserve our deep admiration and gratitude for their service to our country.

As Babs' tenure in our office comes to a conclusion, we are sad to see her go. We will always consider Babs and her entire Air Force family as part of our team. Babs will continue to serve

our Nation well in positions of increasing responsibility. I look forward to watching her career closely. Babs and Andy are truly the best our country has to offer. I and my staff wish her the very best in her next assignment and beyond.●

TRIBUTE TO DUANE BEESON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the renowned attorney Duane Beeson, who is being honored this year with the Peggy Browning Fund Award in recognition of his tireless efforts and outstanding achievements on behalf of working men and women in the San Francisco Bay area.

As senior partner in the law firm of Beeson, Tayer & Bodine, Duane Beeson is one of the Nation's leading practitioners of public and private sector labor law, including representation of employee benefit plans. He is a member of the California State Bar, the Supreme Court of the United States Bar, and several United States District Courts and Courts of Appeal Bars.

Duane Beeson was born in Berkeley, CA in 1922 and graduated from Berkeley High School, where he met his future wife, Coni. After serving in the U.S. Army in the European theater in World War II, Duane graduated summa cum laude from Lafayette College and earned his LL.B. at Harvard Law School in 1948.

Following law school, Mr. Beeson served as clerk for Judge William E. Orr at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and was an instructor at the University of San Francisco Law School. As a leading expert on labor law, he has also taught at Hastings College of the Law, George Washington Law School, the University of California Extension, and the University of San Francisco Labor Management School.

In 1950, Mr. Beeson moved to Washington, DC, where he worked for 11 years as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, handling appellate and Supreme Court litigation. In 1961, the Beesons had the opportunity to return to their beloved California when Duane was hired by Joseph Grodin, the great labor lawyer and later California Supreme Court Justice, to represent teachers unions in the Bay area. Mr. Beeson became a partner in the firm, which was then known as Brundage Neyhart Grodin & Beeson and is now Beeson, Tayer & Bodine.

In the 1970s and 80s, Joe Grodin and Duane Beeson led their firm into the areas of employment benefits covered by ERISA and related fields in which labor organizations are involved. More recently, the firm has become active in employment law of all kinds—including mediation and negotiation-facilitation services along with representation of individual employees in wage and hour, discrimination, harassment, and other types of cases—and has also de-

veloped a specialty in education law as an outgrowth of representing teacher unions.

I have known and respected Duane Beeson for many years, since my husband Stewart went to work at Duane's firm as a young attorney. As Duane turns 90 and is honored with the Peggy Browning Fund Award, it is my pleasure to salute and celebrate his long and distinguished career representing the working people of California. He is truly one of a kind.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KNOX MELLON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary service of Dr. Knox Mellon who is retiring from the California Missions Foundation after 8 years as its executive director. Though he will be missed, his contributions to the field of historic preservation will benefit generations to come.

Dr. Mellon has had a long and distinguished career in the field of historic preservation. In 1977, he was appointed as California's first professional State Historic Preservation Officer by Governor Jerry Brown. He served in that position until 1983 and then branched out on his own, starting Knox Mellon and Associates, a consulting firm specializing in historic preservation, oral history, historic research, and strategic planning. Dr. Mellon's firm worked on a number of historic buildings in Southern California, including the Downtown Central Library in Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Hall, the Beverly Hills Hotel, and the L.A. Coliseum. During the same time, Dr. Mellon also found time in his busy schedule to serve as an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of California, Riverside, as well as the Director of the Mission Inn Foundation. In 2000, Dr. Mellon was appointed to a second term as California's State Historic Preservation Officer, this time by Governor Gray Davis. In 2004, he retired from State service and became the executive director of the nonprofit California Missions Foundation.

Founded in 1998, the California Missions Foundation is the only organization dedicated solely to the long-term preservation and restoration of California's 21 missions. Early in Dr. Mellon's tenure as executive director, we worked together with Congressman SAM FARR and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN to pass the California Missions Preservation Act. At a 2005 event to celebrate this new law, Dr. Mellon eloquently discussed the historic value of California's missions, which are the most visited historic attractions in the State:

The missions are California's Pyramids. They are a part of our past. They help symbolize the nation's western beginnings. Of all the institutions that define California's heritage, none has the historic significance and emotional impact of the chain of Spanish missions that stretch from San Diego to Sonoma. The missions are an important part of the state's cultural fabric and must be preserved as priceless historic monuments.