

He loves his family with a fierce and constant passion that makes us feel strong and safe in a chaotic world. For 51 years he has always made time to check our homework, cheer our victories, examine our failures, support our dreams, and exhort us to make hard choices and disciplined commitment necessary to excel. He is a wonderful, wonderful father. And for 54 enchanted years he celebrated his greatest love and matchless muse, my mother, Ruth Caplin. He is a devoted husband.

Mortimer Caplin is a very special man. He has excelled in everything. His life story is simply remarkable. He was a skillful actor in college and president of the Virginia Players. He was an NCAA boxing champ, graduated first in his college class, first in his law school class, and was Editor in Chief of the Law Review.

Did you know he commanded a navy battalion during the D-day landing at Omaha Beach? Or, that he might have worked at the FBI if his applications had not been mysteriously lost again and again and again. I thank you, J. Edgar Hoover.

Did you know that when he came to teach at U.Va., Mortimer Caplin was not a tax expert or especially versed in trusts & estates. He was a corporate law buff, but threw himself into these new areas with typical abandon, mastering them, and then teaching with aplomb.

Like his father, he was dedicated to his students, and gave them his very best. And, like his father, he is proudest of his work as a teacher. He trained and disciplined a legion of young lawyers to become assets to their profession and community. Two of those students extolled his vast talents and wisdom to their big brother, who then called Mr. Caplin back into public service, where he served with integrity and distinction.

Caplin & Kennedy's IRS never investigated enemies. They computerized, closed loopholes, and spread the tax burden equally. His superior performance earned him the Treasury Department's highest honor, the Alexander Hamilton Award.

The law firm he founded is excellent, staffed with good, civilized people who, like himself, care about the law and a duty of superior service. And the capital campaign committee under his exuberant leadership, has nearly reached its stunning \$100 million goal, including the creation of this magnificent pavilion.

This is an exemplary life. And, on top of all that, you should know that he's been going to the gym at least 3 times a week for 60 straight years, he is at all times within 3 pounds of his college fighting weight, and he is currently #2 nationwide in the number of lengths swum in the 80 years and older category, and it's reported that #1 is probably taking steroids.

I'm very happy to stand here today on behalf of my family to say that we love our father dearly, that we are very proud to be Caplins, and that we thank you all very much for giving him this wonderful honor that he most certainly deserves.

Our society and our school really are better because of the effort and achievement of Mortimer Caplin. And we all really are enriched by his example of life lived passionately on every single level. We all are summoned by his example of integrity, civility, fearless enthusiasm, and uncompromising discipline and resolve. Hit first, hit hardest, and keep on hitting, his U.Va. Boxing coach once said. And so he does. Focus, give of yourself honestly and unselfishly, be optimistic, be kind. Then, everything is possible.

Congratulations, Mr. Caplin, and thank you for doing everything for everybody.●

RECOGNITION OF SUE MATTHEW AND JAN WEGENKE'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Sue Matthews and Jan Wegenke in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

Sue Matthews and Jan Wegenke are nurses at the Fort Meade Veterans Administration facility in South Dakota. Both Sue and Jan volunteered to travel to Grand Forks and helped victims with mental health issues. In addition to the counseling, Sue and Jan lent a hand wherever needed, including helping many individuals clean out their damaged homes.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of people like Sue Matthews and Jan Wegenke illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Sue Matthews and Jan Wegenke illustrate how two individuals can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF THE McCOOK COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE NATURAL DISASTERS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of the McCook County Search and Rescue Unit in ongoing disaster recovery efforts in South Dakota.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

At the height of the snowstorms in South Dakota, the individuals of the McCook County Search and Rescue Unit donated over 480 manhours in a 3-day period driving at 3 miles per hour to 4 miles per hour in zero visibility. Wind gusts of 40 miles per hour dropped the temperature to nearly 70 degrees below zero as the individuals followed snow plows for 263 miles to rescue families without heat and stranded motorists from all over the county.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's snowstorms and floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from vicious winter weather and rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the McCook County Search and Rescue Unit illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair our impacted communities. The individuals at the McCook County Search and Rescue Unit illustrate how the actions of a community can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF RENEE PARKER AND THE RAPID CITY UNITED WAY'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Renee