

I rise today to pay tribute and honor a very dear friend who might just qualify as one of those angels that serves to minister to his fellow man.

This past week, a former Presiding Commissioner of Cape Girardeau County, Gene Huckstep, completed his successful service on Earth just before reaching his 70th birthday.

Gene Huckstep was widely loved and universally respected, but he was at first appearance not one you would figure to be an angel. Gene was a powerfully-built man who could be as rough as he needed to be. He laughingly told stories about his educational career, which at times bordered on juvenile delinquency. He was sent in the military to shape up.

Then, in a career fueled with brushes with death, by his calculation he used up about 39 lives. In the Army as a tank driver he once was badly burned when the tank caught fire when it was being refueled, and another time when his tank went into water 25 feet deep he barely escaped drowning.

After his service career he returned to his native Cape Girardeau and saw death and destruction first-hand when the May 21, 1949 tornado struck. After taking a baby from the hands of a dying man impaled on a two-by-four, he searched for other survivors and fell into a cellar fracturing three vertebrae and leaving him in a body cast from hip to neck.

His outstanding service to his fellow man began in 1965 when his family-owned body shop bought a gas-powered saw which led law enforcement agencies to begin to call on Gene to rescue victims in serious car accidents.

He faced many life and death situations cutting people out of burning automobiles to save their lives; in some cases losing the battle to flames before he could extricate them.

One time he was trying to retrieve a drowning victim when friends on the bank saw swarms of cottonmouth water moccasins coming toward him. They pulled him out with a grappling hook that saved him from potentially fatal snake bites.

Over his career in 22 years he personally extricated victims from 1,976 serious car accidents. For these victims and their families, Gene Huckstep truly was an angel.

His service to mankind continued well beyond his extrication business. In 1978 he was elected Presiding Commissioner of Cape Girardeau County with strong bipartisan support and led the way on many improvements in the county including a new jail, a veterans home, and many other worthwhile benefits.

In the private sector he led the drive for a new emergency room at St. Francis Hospital, and he served as Chairman of the Board of Cameron Mutual Insurance Company.

His specific charitable contributions are far too many to recount, but it is safe to say he left his community a far better place because he touched so

many things for the good of the community and his fellow man.

As one who was blessed by his friendship as well as his political support, I shall always remember his generosity, his good humor, and his genuine concern for others. Our thoughts and prayers are with his lovely wife Betty, his family, and his many close friends. I shall always treasure his memory and the fact that he was spared from dangerous situations so many times to carry on his work among the people of southeast Missouri.●

TULARE, SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND TRAVELS TO CANADA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the Tulare, South Dakota High School concert band for their upcoming trip to Canada. The Tulare band will travel to Winkler, Manitoba, Canada on June 2, 1998 to perform concerts with the Canadian Garden Valley Collegiate School.

I want to express my appreciation to Paul Moen, band director and Karl Redekop, principal from Garden Valley Collegiate School. These two individuals have worked very hard to plan and organize this exciting trip. I also want to thank Tulare's band director, Sam Glantzow, for his countless hours of dedicated work to see that this great learning experience for the band members from Tulare High School is a success.

Mr. President, the band members from both schools will gain valuable knowledge about new cultures and will form international friendships. I am sure this will be an experience everyone will remember for a lifetime.●

RECOGNIZING THE 351st MP COMPANY FOR ITS ROLE IN BOSNIA-HERZOGOVENIA

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to welcome home the 351st MP Company who recently returned from Bosnia on April 3, 1998. The President sent our service men and women to Bosnia in an effort to bring peace to the region. I think it is appropriate to recognize the important and extensive contributions of our Reserve Forces without whom this extended mission probably would not have been possible.

The 351st, consisting of 182 personnel, primarily from the City of Ocala, FL, was mobilized on August 19, 1997 and ordered to Bosnia under the command of Captain Keith Holmes. Prior to their departure, the unit underwent extensive training at both Ft. Benning, GA and Ft. Polk, LA, before being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Bosnia, the unit was split between two base camps, Eagle Base and Bedrock, located in Tuzia valley.

While in Bosnia, the 351st participated in operation Joint Guard. The operation's major focus was to provide

a stable environment for implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP). The 351st conducted numerous peacekeeping missions, which included: area presence patrols, weapons storage site inspections, quick Reaction Force duties on Eagle Base, and protective services for numerous senior U.S. Army officers, culminating with the President of the United States during his visit to Bosnia.

In leaving their families and their jobs, the men and women of the 351st have endured personal sacrifice and demonstrated their deep sense of duty to their country. It is only through the recognition and use of reservists as an integral part of our total force structure that the United States has been able to demonstrate its commitment to peace and security in Bosnia. And, through this commitment, the United States has made possible the promise of safety and hope of reconciliation to the people of this troubled region.

In its role, the 351st has served as a shining example of the indispensable role of Reservists in our Armed Forces. Reservists who answered the call of duty when their country asked them to serve have my deepest respect and gratitude. Accordingly, it gives me great pleasure to welcome home the 351st MP Company and thank them for a job well done.●

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS C. HOLBROOK

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Douglas C. Holbrook, who will be retiring from his position as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Postal Workers Union in November, 1998. Mr. Holbrook is being recognized for his service to the men and women of the American Postal Workers Union at their 14th Biennial National Convention, which will take place in my home town of Detroit, Michigan, from July 20-24, 1998.

Douglas Holbrook was born and attended high school in Virginia, and moved to Michigan to study labor relations and administration at Wayne State University in Detroit. While in Detroit, Mr. Holbrook began his career with the U.S. Postal Service as a part-time clerk. His abilities were quickly recognized by his fellow employees, and he began his distinguished career in labor relations with the Detroit District Area Local. After serving as Trustee, Editor of the Detroit Postal Worker and Vice President, he was elected President of the District Local in 1966. Mr. Holbrook served in this position until being chosen to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Postal Workers Union.

The American Postal Workers Union is the largest union of postal workers in the world. Under the steady and determined leadership of Mr. Holbrook, APWU has truly been a powerful force for workers rights, fair pay and a safe

workplace. I know that he will be missed by his colleagues and by postal workers from every corner of the country.

Mr. President, I know my colleagues join me in expressing appreciation to Douglas Holbrook for his distinguished service to our nation's postal workers, and in wishing him well in his upcoming retirement. ●

CATHERINE KALINOWSKI, COLORADO STATE CHAMPION, THE CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE ESSAY CONTEST

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Catherine Kalinowski who has been named the Colorado State champion in The Citizens Flag Alliance Essay Contest. This young lady was charged with the task of writing an essay on the theme, "The American Flag Protection Amendment: A Right of the People . . . the Right Thing to Do," and did a fine job of making the case for protecting the greatest of our national symbols.

As many in this Chamber know, I am a strong supporter of a constitutional amendment to prohibit the desecration of our flag. The American flag is a great symbol of our Nation, and it should be regarded with the highest of honors. It is a part of our national identity, representing the hopes, dreams, and honor of our country.

As I read this essay, one passage struck me as particularly insightful. I believe that Catherine sums up our beliefs best when she writes,

The visage of the nation's flag has altered as it has aged, with modifications in the dimensions, design, and number of stars; yet changing appearance has not impeded the flag from becoming the principal image of American ideals.

I would like to submit the full text of Ms. Kalinowski's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

Mr. President, Catherine Kalinowski represents the best and brightest that America has to offer. Young people like her are our future, a future that is brighter because of her commitment and resolve. On behalf of all Coloradans, I would like to congratulate Catherine and wish her the best of luck in the upcoming national competition.

The essay follows:

THE AMERICAN FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT: A RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE . . . THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(By Catherine M. Kalinowski)

"Stars and Stripes Forever," a song by John Philip Sousa proclaims the American flag as "the flag of the free" and "the Banner of the Right." Sousa declares "May it wave as our standard forever," but may it? The flag of the United States of America is so loosely protected by state and federal laws that the molestation of the flag has become acceptable. America's flag has gone from being a symbol of freedom and righteousness to one of commercialism and insurrection.

As the Colonists fought for the rule of the land they considered their own, creation of a

separate identity from England became important. Before a fleet of the Continental Congress set out to intercept British supply boats coming into Boston, Col. Joseph Reed wrote to his commander, General George Washington. "Please to fix upon Some particular Colour for a Flag—and a Signal, by which our vessels may know one another." Col. Reed's letter of request was lamentably late, forcing the ships to sail under their old flags. The flag issue was settled when on June 14, 1777, Congress, "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." And by November 1, 1777, Stars and Stripes were seen flying from a US ship under the command of Continental Navy Captain John Paul Jones. The flag on Jones' vessel was the first to represent the United States in a foreign port and to receive recognition as representing America as a nation, being given a nine-gun salute by the French at Quiberon Bay. Though originally needed for the practical objective of identification at sea, the creation of Old Glory became significant to the establishment of the nation.

The visage of the nation's flag has altered as it has aged, with modifications in the dimensions, design, and number of stars; yet changing appearance has not impeded the flag from becoming the principal image of American ideals. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is embodied in every stitch of the US flag. As United States Senator Paul Fannin wrote, "Those who tear down the flag reveal their hatred for everything good and great in our country, because the flag is a symbol of what we want America to be—a land of justice, opportunity, equality and compassion." New York Mayor John V. Lindsay viewed the flag as having individual stars and stripes to represent the individuality of the country's citizens; however, because the same flag flies over all Americans, the flag "binds us together in the common enterprise we call America." A representation of so much positive in American society, a representation of the United States itself, it is unfortunate that the flag is becoming insignificant.

During the beginning of this century, most states enacted laws to discourage flag desecration, outlawing placing any marks or pictures of the flag, forbade any flag usage for commercial purposes, and banned any physical destruction of flags or any "act or words" that publicly cast "contempt" on the flag. These standards have been obscured to the point of oblivion. The flag is pictured on everything from apparel and political paraphernalia to automobiles and boxes of cereal. Depicted on every corner, the flag no longer receives the veneration due to it. Penalization for defiling the flag through acts such as flag burning was practiced until what has been called the 1989-1990 Flag Burning Controversy. Gregory Lee Johnson was arrested in 1984 for burning a flag in Dallas, Texas. Under Texas' Venerated Objects law, Johnson had committed a crime and was sentenced to the maximum penalty of one year in prison and a fine of \$2,000. An appeals court reversed Johnson's conviction by a 5-4 vote on April 20, 1988. Dallas County, in response to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, requested the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision of the Supreme Court upheld through another 5-4 vote the conclusion of the Texas court, agreeing that flag burning is protected by the First Amendment. In response to the Johnson decision, there have been votes for an amendment protecting the flag, but none with enough majority to adopt the amendment.

Constitutionality of flag burning has been supported by the guarantee of free speech,

including symbolic speech, in the First Amendment. However, the Supreme Court has ruled that freedom of speech has limits; restricted areas of speech include obscenity, defamation, speech that leads to illegal action, fighting words, and speech in public schools. Because obscenity is generally defined as anything that violates society's standards of decency, desecration of Old Glory could be considered indecent, thus unprotected by the Constitution. The consideration of actions protected as speech also allows for destruction of the flag to be viewed as fighting words, exceeding another limit of the First Amendment. In *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire* (1942), the Supreme Court defined "fighting words" as words that "have a direct tendency to cause acts of violence." Flag burning seems a fighting word as it often leads to acts of violence. When considering obscenity and fighting words, the flag does not appear to be protected by free speech. Therefore, it seems in order to go ahead and proceed with the next step, creating an American Flag Protection Amendment.

To propose such a protection amendment, two-thirds of the members of both houses of Congress or the same percentage of members of a national convention must vote for the proposal of the amendment. Once proposed, three-fourths of the states must ratify the amendment by a vote in each state's legislature or state convention. If enough citizens gave their support of an American Flag Protection Amendment, the representatives of the people would surely follow their will and obtain protection for the banner of the nation.

American's flag needs and deserves to be treated with dignity, and it is the right of the public to rally for Constitutional protection of the magnificent symbol of the United States. So much time as already elapsed—now is the time to act justly on the behalf of Old Glory. With swift action, Stars and Stripes will be able to, "wave as our standard forever." ●

MORDECHAI STRIGLER

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today is a bittersweet day at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City where the annual commencement ceremony will include an unprecedented presentation of a posthumous honorary doctorate to Mordechai Strigler, the talented editor of the Yiddish Forward who died last week at the age of 76.

I rose almost a year ago today to share with the Senate the news of the Forward's centenary. This remarkable newspaper, which once helped hundreds of thousands of new immigrants learn about their new homeland, now prints Yiddish, Russian and English weekly editions. The Yiddish edition has gone from a daily press run of 250,000 copies to a weekly run of 10,000, but has retained much of the literary excellence and social conscience that has so characterized the Forward during its storied history.

Mordechai Strigler was born in 1921 in Zamosc, Poland, and was sent to study in a yeshiva at age 11. In 1937 he began work as a rabbi and teacher in Warsaw.

When the Germans occupied Poland in 1939, he tried to escape to Russia, but was caught at the border. He spent