

by working closely with the Congress, where Members and their staffs knew him, respected him, and trusted him, Don Hittle had effectively minimized the repercussions from Ribbon Creek. One senior member from the House of Representatives was heard to say: "Don Hittle is the best damned Legislative Assistant the Marine Corps has ever had."

One could go on for hours, perhaps days, about Don's myriad contributions to his Country and his Corps. As an example, I could tell you how he more than any other saved the Army Navy Club from extinction. Senator John Warner, who is here with us today, could tell you that when he was Secretary of the Navy he never had a more imaginative and dedicated Assistant Secretary. Joe Bartlett, the former House Reading Clerk and a retired Marine Corps General, could tell you how Don Hittle was responsible for the creation of the dynamic Congressional Marine Club. Incidentally, Jim Lawrence, who is also with us today, once said of this organization: "Congress created the Marine Corps—Congress has sustained the Marine Corps—Congress has mandated the mission of the Marine Corps—through this organization we are now bonded to each other forever."

In the end, however, all of his many other contributions to his Country and to his beloved Corps pale by comparison to what he accomplished as a member of the renowned "Chowder Society", that elite group of brilliant Marine officers who, in the aftermath of World War II when the very life of our Corps was threatened, insured that our existence, our roles, and our missions were written into law. Don's critical role in the survival of his Corps was best described by General Merrill Twining when he inscribed his book, *No Bended Knee*, "To: Don Hittle, Who saved our Corps." There can be no doubt that our Corps we have today, with three active divisions and wings written into law, owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Brigadier General James D. Hittle, USMC (Retired).

Isn't it ironic to remember that fifty-five years ago certain groups, whose objectives were inimical to the survival of our Corps, were attempting to relegate us into insignificance. Today, with a lion's share of the credit for making it possible going to Don Hittle, we have just heard that Jim Jones, our 32d Commandant, is soon to be the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. Our congratulations go to Jim—his Corps is very proud—Don Hittle is very proud!

Several years after my retirement, Don asked me to join him for lunch at his Army Navy Club. His purpose was to ask if I would give his eulogy. I was honored beyond belief, but did not look forward to the day when it would become a reality.

Before closing, let me share with you a story that Joe Bartlett told me last week.

Jinny and Joe are members of a Bible class at their church. As a gesture of their love and caring for those who are terminally ill, the class prepares an audio tape for their listening. On one side they include the patient's favorite hymns, and, on the other, a medley of their favorite tunes. During Don's last days with us—a time when he was under heavy sedation—Joe swears that Don's body stiffened to attention every time the Marines Hymn was played.

In closing, let me remind you that Don lived by two simple words—words which have given inspiration to our Corps for over 200 years—*Semper Fidelis*—always faithful.

Don Hittle was always:  
Semper Fidelis to his God.  
Semper Fidelis to his Country.  
Semper Fidelis to his Family.  
Semper Fidelis to his Corps.  
And, Semper Fidelis to his fellow man.  
In Don's memory, then, let us share these meaningful words with each other as we

leave this holy place—and let us pray that one day we can live in a world where all of its citizens are *Semper Fidelis* to each other. Don Hittle would like that.●

#### RECLAMATION OF LA SIERRA PARK

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to share with the Senate a very special and important story about a few hometown heroes who changed the face of an entire neighborhood.

La Sierra Park is in the heart of the La Sierra neighborhood in Riverside, CA. Two years ago, gangs came to frequent the park, transforming this small treasure into a place of crime and fear. Playful interaction among children was replaced with drug dealing. Residents were robbed and could not use the park unless they paid gang members an entrance fee. However, when a woman was raped in the park in late 2000, local residents decided to fight back.

Marisol Ruiz and Araceli Moore, co-founders of Friends of Myra Linn, led a growing number of neighbors in the effort to take back the park. They passed out flyers, held Neighborhood Watch meetings and attended City Hall meetings. They did everything they could to gather support.

This project turned into "Operation Safe Park." City workers got volunteers to help transform the park back into the treasure it once was. Volunteers augmented police patrols at the park, increased lighting and trimmed the foliage so criminals had nowhere to hide. Soon, residents were enjoying a soccer game and school dance performance held at the park. It is clear that the park was back in the hands of the community.

The story of "Operation Safe Park" shows what a neighborhood can do when it comes together for community improvement. I applaud Marisol Ruiz, Araceli Moore and all those who worked so hard to make a difference in this neighborhood. In taking back this park, these people made their neighborhood a safer and better place for now and for future generations. Their exemplary dedication and commitment serve as an inspiration to us all.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HONAN

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on Tuesday, Boston lost one of its greatest public servants, City Councilor Brian Honan. Brian was raised in a family that held public service in the highest regard. He learned early in life the value of community and the strength of working together on a common goal. In his brief life, Brian touched so many people in countless ways. The true measure of Brian's contribution to Boston and Massachusetts may never be known, but the life he lived and the love he gave will live on in the hearts of his friends, his family and the city of Boston for years to come.

In his years of service to his community, in the District Attorney's Office or as a City Councilor from Allston and Brighton, Brian never forgot his principles and ideals, never forgot those he served and the city he loved so well, and never forgot the need to fight for those who are unable to fight for themselves. There is no greater example of willingness to serve his fellow man than the life and legacy of Brian Honan.

A bright light in the Boston community was lost to us all on Tuesday but the strength and power of that light lives on in Brian's legacy, and is a powerful reminder to us all about what public service is all about. He will be dearly missed.●

#### APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR MALEEHA LODHI

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my colleagues I would like to place in the record a bipartisan statement of appreciation for the outgoing Ambassador of Pakistan, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi.

Ambassador Lodhi has served her country with exceptional distinction. Her prior experience as both an academic and a journalist has proved to be a great advantage: she has always articulated her government's positions with the precision of a scholar and the persuasive reach of a news analyst.

Perhaps most significantly, Ambassador Lodhi has served as a cultural bridge. She has played an invaluable role in harmonizing the various goals shared by Pakistan and the United States, goals ranging from advancing the international war on terror to de-escalating tensions in South Asia. Moreover, Ambassador Lodhi has—by both her words and her personal example—helped bridge the chasm of misunderstanding between the United States and the Islamic world.

Ambassador Lodhi's mission has been to serve the people and nation of Pakistan, and she has fulfilled that mission superbly. But at this critical juncture, Ambassador Lodhi has also been a great asset in furthering the common interests not only of Pakistan and United States, but of many voices of moderation, tolerance and progressive thinking all across the Muslim world. Her presence here in Washington will be sorely missed, and we wish her all the best on her return home.●

#### KING BISCUIT TIME

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, ever since it hit the airwaves one lunchtime fifty-six years ago this November, "King Biscuit Time" has profoundly influenced the development and popularity of the blues. As the oldest and longest-running blues program on the radio, it helped promote the careers of bluesmen who pioneered this musical style and later brought it from street corners and juke joints in the South to an international audience. And today,