

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wanted to amplify the remarks I made a few weeks ago when we approved a bill to create a museum of African American History as part of the Smithsonian Institution, on or near the National Mall.

As I said at the time, the passage of this measure is an enormous tribute to the work of Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS came to Congress as a representative from Atlanta in 1987. The next year he began his fight to create a museum that would tell the story of the African people in the United States of America.

It is a complex story, and a compelling one.

Of course there is the horror of slavery—one of the greatest stains on our Nation's soul. That story must be told—we cannot flinch from the truth, no matter how painful it might be.

But we must not allow it to blind us to the rest of the story . . . to the enormous contributions that people of African descent have made in the United States.

This very Capitol in which we now stand, a magnificent building that is a symbol of freedom around the world, was built with the labor of slaves.

African Americans fought to keep our Nation free . . . even when their own freedom was not fully realized.

And the ideas and talent of African Americans have enriched all of our lives.

From the Nobel laureate Toni Morrison to our great composer Duke Ellington, from the inventor and city planner Benjamin Banneker to the brilliant jurist Thurgood Marshall, from Jesse Owens to Jackie Robinson, our Nation has been inspired and enlightened by our African American citizens.

I regret that black people in this country have had to struggle so hard to win equality and be treated the same as everybody else. I wish that struggle had not been necessary.

Yet, that struggle has had an enormous impact on our Nation. The words and actions of men like Martin Luther King Jr. and JOHN LEWIS have uplifted us all.

Forty years ago, I lived in Washington and attended school here. I will never forget the great March on Washington of August 28, 1963.

Coming from Nevada, I was stunned by the sight of thousands of buses streaming into the city and the hundreds of thousands of people who marched peacefully for their cause. That event touched me in a profound way.

We all remember Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech from that day. It is rightly regarded as one of the greatest speeches of the 20th Century.

But JOHN LEWIS also spoke at the March on Washington—the only speaker from that great event who is still alive today.

And I will never forget what he said—that African Americans must free

themselves not only from political slavery, but also from economic slavery.

In the years since then, we have made tremendous progress. The legal rights of African Americans have been secured. But until economic equality and justice are achieved, the fight will not be won.

JOHN LEWIS has never stopped fighting for freedom and justice. That's why he recognizes the importance of a museum that will tell the story of the African American experience.

This museum was first proposed in 1915 by African Americans who had fought in the Civil War.

When Mr. LEWIS arrived in Congress, he adopted the cause as his own.

Each year since 1988, he has fought to create this museum. This year is the first time his bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

The bill has now gone to President Bush, and I hope he will sign it as soon as possible so we can begin the next phase of the journey—raising private contributions to match the Federal funds for the Museum of African American History.

I salute JOHN LEWIS for his good work. Not just the creation of this important museum, but the work of his entire life—the struggle for freedom, equality and justice.●

RECOGNIZING THE BRIDGEWATER JUNIOR LEAGUE ALL-STARS

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize the Bridgewater Junior League All-Stars for their third place finish in the Junior League World Series this summer.

Throughout their incredible run, the Bridgewater Junior Leaguers were a source of great pride for their local community. The team of talented 13- and 14-year-olds cruised through the early rounds of the tournament, eventually making it all the way to the finals of the Junior League World Series. This team of winners should be applauded for their exciting play throughout the tournament. The 12 outstanding players on this young team have truly promising futures in front of them.

Congratulations to the Bridgewater All-Stars: Alex Arey, Andrew Armstrong, Daniel Bowman, Alex Crank, Brandon Craun, Kyle Craun, Sam Groseclose, Luke Long, Carl McIntyre, Tyler Milstead, Joshua Tutwiler and Josh Wright, their manager, Don Tutwiler, and coaches Sherrill Wright and Bill Groseclose. They have made Bridgewater and the Commonwealth of Virginia proud of their accomplishments.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO SGM PHILIP R. ALBERT

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to SGM Philip R.

Albert, U.S. Army, of Plymouth, CT. A 23-year Army veteran, he had served in Operation Desert Storm and already had a tour in Afghanistan. Sergeant Major Albert was considered an adventurer with a good sense of humor, dedicated to the Army, and devoted to his friends and family.

Joining the Army as a teenager, Sergeant Major Albert was an example of the powerful American spirit which permeates this Nation's history. A member of the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Sergeant Major Albert was killed in a helicopter crash during a combat operation on November 23 in Afghanistan. Five others died with him and eight others were injured.

Sergeant Major Albert who loved the military, served as a messenger of high justice and idealism in the best tradition of American principles and patriotism. I am both proud and grateful that we have the kind of fighting force exemplified by Sergeant Major Albert serving in the Persian Gulf.

Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his mother, brothers, and sisters. We extend our appreciation for sharing this outstanding soldier with us, and we offer our prayers and support. You may be justifiably proud of his contributions which extend above and beyond the normal call of duty.●

OREGON VETERAN HERO

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oregon veteran who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to her country and to her State. Blanche Osborn Bross was born on July 21, 1916, and has lived in Oregon since the age of 8.

In 1943, Blanche heeded the call to duty by joining the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, WASP, an experimental program developed to compensate for the lack of men available for pilot training; when American men were critically needed for combat duty during World War II, important piloting jobs across the country were left vacant. WASPs like Blanche spent countless hours training to assume piloting jobs, deliver planes from factories to their domestic bases, tow targets for gunnery practice, and train cadet pilots.

More than 25,000 women applied for the prestigious WASP program, and while 1,830 were chosen for training, a select 1,074 women graduated from the rigorous program. After graduating, Blanche became one of 17 women sent to Columbus, OH, to learn to fly four-engine aircraft. In Ohio, Blanche became a pilot of the legendary B-17 "Flying Fortress," ferrying the enormous aircraft between bases. Fortunately, at 5 feet, 8 inches tall, Blanche was just tall enough to reach the rudder pedals.

After her first assignment in Ohio, Blanche was sent to Fort Myers, FL, to assist in gunnery training. As a pilot, she took gunners up in the air where

they fired at targets towed by a B-25. Many of the gunners had been in male-dominated combat and were shocked to greet women pilots in the cockpit. One soldier even exclaimed, "I have to write home about this!"

After spending close to a year at Fort Myers, Blanche and three other WASPs were transferred to the Las Vegas gunnery school where they were used in the engineering squadron to test repaired aircraft. The program generated significant publicity during the war, and Blanche was featured in a famous picture of female pilots walking off of the "Pistol Packin' Mama," a B-17 bomber. The photograph has since been used in advertisements for clothing lines, fashion magazines, and historical chronicles.

Blanche lived to fly, and is quick to point out she always felt accepted by the men in the military. On December 20, 1944, however, a bill sent before Congress that would have allowed women to enter the Air Force did not pass, and the WASP program was dismantled. After being deactivated from the WASPs, Blanche joined the American Red Cross and was sent to Kunming, China where, although she did not fly planes, she was heavily involved in operating clubs for service members stationed overseas.

Following her tour in China, Blanche returned to the U.S. to begin a family. In 1957, she married William H. Bross with whom she had a son, Charles. Together, they moved to Portland, OR, where she developed a seaplane flying base. Later in life, Blanche received a commercial pilot license and flew construction crews to work sites.

For many years, one distinct honor alluded Blanche and the other female pilots. The WASPs had retained their civilian status while flying aircraft in World War II, and therefore, were not considered "veterans" after the war. At long last in 1977, Blanche and other female pilots were finally recognized for their invaluable service to their country when the WASPs were finally designated as veterans.

Today, Blanche resides with her husband in Bend, OR, where she plays golf on a regular basis, and continues to enjoy the outdoors. When asked what one thing she would want others to know about her, she replied simply, "I want people to know I'm proud to be an Oregonian and proud to have served this country."

For her selfless service to others, and to the United States in times of war, I salute Blanche Osborn Bross as an Oregon Veteran Hero.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN PATRICK HUNTER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I pay tribute to John Patrick Hunter, a respected journalist and a dear friend.

After growing up in Depression-era West Virginia, witnessing the aftermath of Hiroshima, and the paranoia of the McCarthy era, John Patrick used his opposition to war and fierce defense of civil liberties to fuel his passion for journalism. For nearly half a century, John Patrick served as a reporter and editor for the Capital Times in Madison, WI. He challenged politicians and policies, but at the same time made many friends and established lasting bonds along the way.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, John Patrick attended the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill and earned his degree. He joined the Capital Times in 1951 and that is where he stayed until his retirement in 1995.

John Patrick will forever be remembered for his work during the turbulent McCarthy era. Many were silenced by McCarthyism but John Patrick took action. For his July 4 assignment in 1951, John Patrick asked people to sign a petition he had put together using only the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. One hundred twelve refused out of fear of what might happen to them, 20 called John Patrick a communist, and only one signed. After the story broke nationally, President Harry Truman heralded John Patrick's efforts.

And as far as my own personal good fortune in knowing John Patrick, he asked me tough question for over 20 years. When I would give him a feisty answer, he would grin and I always felt buoyed by the unofficial but potent encouragement of Wisconsin's glorious progressive legacy.

My condolences go out to John Patrick's wife Merry and his entire family. His unparalleled contributions to Wisconsin journalism will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DENNIS TAKESHITA

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita, a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. After 37 years of exemplary commitment and dedicated service in defense of our great Nation and 30 years in the Air National Guard, Master Sergeant Takeshita retired on October 3, 2003.

Master Sergeant Takeshita's career experiences have been extensive. He received a commission into the Air Force Reserves in 1966 and served on active duty until 1972. Soon after his honorable discharge from the United States Air Force, Master Sergeant Takeshita joined the Hawaii Air National Guard. He is a decorated soldier who has received numerous citations and awards for his outstanding service and professionalism.

A graduate of St. Louis High School in Honolulu and the University of Hawaii, Master Sergeant Takeshita's career has been one of dedication, service and sacrifice. He served a combat tour

of duty during the Vietnam conflict from 1968 to 1969, as well as Operations Allied Force, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom.

Master Sergeant Takeshita is to be commended for his long tenure, unwavering patriotism, courageous service, unselfish leadership, and individual contributions to the defense of the United States. I applaud the distinguished career of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita and express my best wishes for a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO BG EDWARD M. HARRINGTON, USA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to BG Edward M. Harrington, upon his retirement from the United States Army after more than three decades of distinguished service to our Nation.

Ed Harrington's military career can truly be described as an American success story. A son of Massachusetts, he grew up in the coastal town of Marshfield, where his family's roots extend back three generations. After graduating from Marshfield High School, he attended Northeastern University in Boston, earning a degree in Business Administration. Before the ink was dry on his diploma, Ed received his draft notice and soon donned the battle dress of an infantryman. It wasn't long until his superior recognized his leadership potential, and he was selected for Officer Candidate School. This marked the beginning of what turned out to be an exemplary career as an officer who rose to the pinnacle of the complex world of acquisition management.

As a lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps, he received orders for Vietnam where he was assigned to the First Cavalry Division. After service in Vietnam, he returned stateside and assumed command of the 259th Field Service Company at Fort Bragg. Then, with family in tow, he headed for Germany, serving in various Signal Command positions.

After being promoted to captain, Ed returned to Massachusetts to become a professor of military science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Fitchburg State College.

In the mid-1980s, Ed's expertise in defense acquisition management prompted his selection for the challenging position of production manager for the M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Michigan. There, he met the technical challenge of upgrading the tank's armor plating improving survivability and personnel protection. Years later, he would return to that organization as the Deputy for System Acquisition, a position in which he exercised milestone decision authority for more than 200 Army programs, including the