

life of a great man, Jon Krahulik, who died this week after a courageous struggle with cancer. He was a good friend, devoted family man, and faithful public servant. I will miss him dearly, and I know that sentiment is shared by countless others across Indiana.

I had the honor of appointing Jon to the Indiana Supreme Court more than 15 years ago. While on the court, he served Indiana with distinction, garnering the admiration of all those whom he encountered. During his time on the bench, he authored nearly 120 opinions, shaping the laws of our State and influencing policymakers across the country.

Whether it was teaching law, serving as a trial lawyer, working to reform State government or recommending changes to Indiana's criminal justice system, Jon brought to bear his remarkable talents and his belief in the potential of humanity. He always sought justice while forging collective solutions. His record of service to the legal profession was matched only by his service and dedication to the community.

Jon went to law school in Indianapolis and stayed on to practice law for nearly two decades at Bingham Summers Welsh & Spilman. He resigned from the Indiana Supreme Court to become president at Chemed Corp., in Cincinnati. A true family man who possessed a deep love for the law, Jon later returned to Indianapolis to start a law firm with his two sons.

His personal accomplishments are as impressive as his professional ones. A man of incredible physical strength, Jon ran in several marathons and competed in an Iron Man Triathlon in Hawaii.

Indiana lost a great man when cancer took Jon away from us. It is my sad honor to enter the name of Jon Krahulik in the RECORD of the United States Senate for his service to Indiana and for his profound contributions to the field of law.●

TRIBUTE TO ELLIOTT BALBERT

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, more than 10 years ago I was proud to work shoulder to shoulder with Senator ORRIN HATCH to pass the Dietary Supplement Health Education Act, DSHEA, to give consumers access to dietary supplements and truthful information about these products. That is one of the reasons it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Elliott Balbert, upon his retirement as the president of the Dietary Supplement Education Alliance.

Elliott Balbert recognized the need to get the word out about the growing body of scientific support for dietary supplement use. So, 5 years ago, he created a unique industry alliance of companies to focus on providing meaningful information about the health benefits and responsible use of dietary supplements.

Starting a brandnew nonprofit organization is not easy. There were volun-

teers to recruit, a board to create, paperwork to file, and money to raise. But even though Elliott was still a full-time CEO of a large public company, he managed to build a solid foundation on which the Dietary Supplement Education Alliance can continue to grow.

Elliott Balbert served as president of the board of trustees for the Dietary Supplement Education Alliance for more than 4 years. He planted the seeds, nurtured them, and watched them blossom into a thriving organization.

I admire the fact that Elliott isn't afraid to put his money where his mouth is. He has provided ongoing philanthropic support to a number of health-related charities, including the Vitamin Angels, the Healthy Foundation, and other initiatives that provide health benefits to the underprivileged.

As Elliott moves on to dedicate more time to his business, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the outstanding job he has done for the Dietary Supplement Education Alliance. We wish Elliott and his family all the best, and we salute his leadership in working toward a healthier America.●

JOSEPH P. "SONNY" FOSTER

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I am here today to speak about my cherished friend, long time aide, and trusted confidante, Sonny Foster, who died unexpectedly on August 25.

I first met Sonny in 1973 when he and I served together on the Urban League Board. Sonny was still a student at Creighton and I was counsel to an insurance company. Sonny loved to tell the story of my first Urban League meeting at the old Logan Fontenelle Center. When the meeting ended and I went to drive home, I found, to my dismay, that someone had helped themselves to my battery. Sonny retold the story the week before he died. With his unique high-pitched laugh he said "We never expected to see him again!" But I came back and a friendship began that lasted for more than 30 years!

In 1989, when I was planning to run for Governor, some 16 years later, we teamed up. No one ever expected us to win, and we never expected to lose. And we didn't. It was his first time to manage a statewide campaign and my first time as a candidate for office. Of this victory, the Omaha World-Herald said in its August 27, 2005 editorial "Foster put his stamp on the political map of Nebraska by the start of the 21st Century—not only because of his assistance in planting BEN NELSON firmly in the political firmament, but also in his steadfast efforts to make the Democratic Party a force in his North Omaha base."

Much has been made of Sonny's firsts. He was the first African American elected to be student body president at Creighton University in 1973. He was the first African American elected to the Omaha Board of Edu-

cation by district. He was also the first African American to run a statewide campaign in Nebraska. Sonny had a long and distinguished career in public service including serving as a legislative aide for Congressman John Cavanaugh and as deputy labor commissioner for Governor Bob Kerrey. When I was Governor, he served in multiple positions in my administration.

These are indeed significant accomplishments. And it is indeed appropriate that we celebrate them. But you know what Sonny treasured most was breaking the ground for others to follow—much more than anything he did on his own. In a very real sense, Sonny lived his life so others could enjoy their own success. Sonny lit the torch and passed it on. We must commit to never let that torch go out because of apathy or inaction. He set the standard—it is for others, for us, to now uphold.

I had a lot of time to think about what to say about Sonny in the eulogy I delivered at his memorial service hoping to do justice to a most remarkable life cut short by some divine plan which we must reluctantly accept. I started by listing his many qualities: Sonny was brilliant and perceptive. He was loyal, honest, trustworthy, dependable, responsible, competent, caring, passionate and compassionate.

He was totally trustworthy. Sonny was honest. He would tell you what you needed to know, not what he thought you wanted to hear. This was one of his most endearing qualities.

One time I teased him by saying I preferred to be told that my idea was unlikely to work rather than be asked "who came up with that crazy idea?"

Sonny was focused on getting things done. No task was ever too big or important or too small for him. Stories abound about his tackling impossible immigration cases and solving them. He met my plane when he could have assigned it to someone else. Those 20 minute trips gave us uninterrupted time to talk, to catch up, and to tease one another about one thing or another.

Then there is Sonny's passion. Everyone has a story about how strongly Sonny Foster felt about each and every cause. He didn't suffer foolishness. He possessed the ability to sort things out. Not bashful, he told you what he thought and sometimes in colorful terms. Most of those terms cannot be repeated here. Some thought Sonny lacked patience. I see it the other way around. His dedication, his devotion to his work, his dogged perseverance manifested itself in bold and bombastic ways. When he cared, you knew it!

Underneath the bombast and the passion was a deep well of compassion. Sonny had a soft, caring side. I think today of all those constituents who benefited from his good work in our office. How he cared about their problems! He left an indelible impression.

An e-mail from a young TV reporter who has left Omaha for another market