

for an elder statesman. Nor was he afraid to turn his wit against his adversaries when discussing their policies with which he disagreed.

While he took more than his share of criticism, he stuck to his principles and gave as good as he got. The Senate is better because Eugene McCarthy served here, and the country is as well. He will be missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING HAWAII'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate our national championship football team from Hawaii, the Lihue Patriots Pee Wee team, which won the Pop Warner Division II National Championship in Orlando, FL, on December 9, 2005. The Patriots are the first from Hawaii to win a Pop Warner national title.

The Patriots won the right to compete for the national championship by beating the undefeated East Tampa Bandits, 14 to 6, in a thrilling come from behind victory. In the championship game, the Patriots shut out the Hollister Vikings from San Jose, CA, 14 to 0, earning the Tomlin Championship trophy for the Pop Warner Division II Pee Wee bracket for 9- to 11-year-olds.

The Lihue Patriots Pee Wee team members are: Darren Acoba, Taran Tani, Bron Dela Cruz, Kekoa Agustin, Kevin Reyes, Kalen Kimura, Henry Rodrigues, Jonathan Butac, Travis Koga, Austin Furumoto, Isaac Ramboyon, John Das, Rolland Fukushima-Peahu, Austin Oshiro, Erin Doi, Dustin Ferreira-Kashima, Shane Iwata, Shawn Taguas, Trey Smith, Wailea Kerr, Micah Hanano, and Isaiah Prunty. The team is coached by Mario Longboy, Bradley Hiranaka, Eugenio Nacnac, Craig Koga, Ralph Suniga, and Layton Tani. The Patriots are also supported by managers Tyler Manibog, Christie Kashima, and Johnny Pongasi and team moms Lori Koga and Jolly Iwata.

I congratulate the Lihue Patriots on their history making victory, and I wish all of them the best in their future endeavors, in life and on the playing field. And I extend the same congratulations to all players and coaches who participated in this year's Pop Warner National Football Championships on a job well done.●

IN MEMORY OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to pay my respects to someone I knew very well, Preston Robert Tisch, who passed away last month of brain cancer. He was a distinguished American who, along with his brother, Laurence, built a giant financial enterprise. Bob was eminently successful at everything he did, particularly in his role as a husband, father and grandfather.

I, like all who had contact with Bob Tisch, treasure my times with him. I send my deepest condolences to his wife and family.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a statement released by the New York Giants organization that so perfectly describes the life and accomplishments of Bob Tisch.

He will be long remembered by all who knew him.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(November 15, 2005)

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH (1926-2005)

Preston Robert "Bob" Tisch, the Giants' Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer, one of the nation's most respected and successful businessmen, a former United States Postmaster General, and an extremely generous philanthropist, died Tuesday night.

Tisch passed away from inoperable brain cancer, which was first diagnosed in the summer of 2004. He was 79. His death comes just three weeks after the passing of his fellow owner, Wellington Mara, who died of cancer on Oct. 25 at the age of 89.

Tisch realized a longtime dream in 1991 when he completed negotiations with Wellington Mara's nephew, Tim Mara, and his family and paid \$75 million for a 50 percent interest in the Giants.

"I was very fortunate," Tisch said in a 2002 interview. "I got a call from (former Cleveland and Baltimore owner) Art Modell telling me that Tim Mara wanted to sell his half of the team and asking me if I would be interested in purchasing it. I met with Wellington Mara and John Mara and said I'd be very interested. There were no problems with them, and then I bought my share of the team from Tim Mara. It's been a great relationship and a great boon to me. I'm very happy to be the 50 percent owner of the New York Giants."

Tisch played an active role in the organization. As a member of the National Football League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, he attained a prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

Owning the Giants was one of many careers Tisch pursued simultaneously. Forbes magazine ranks him 56th on its list of the country's 400 wealthiest people and estimates his net worth to be about \$3.9 billion.

He was the Chairman and Director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies. The company, with a 2004 net income of \$1.2 billion and assets exceeding \$74 billion, owns and operates 91 percent of CNA Financial Corporation; 100 percent of Lorillard; 100 percent of Boardwalk Pipelines, which consists of Texas Gas Transmission and Gulf South Pipelines; 52 percent of Diamond Offshore Drilling; 100 percent of Loews Hotels and 100 percent of Bulova.

Tisch served as Postmaster General of the United States from Aug. 1986 until returning to New York in March 1988. Prior to his appointment as Postmaster, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Loews Corporation and its corporate predecessor, Loews Theaters, Inc., a position held from 1960 until his appointment as Co-Chairman and CoCEO.

Tisch also served as Chairman of the New York Convention & Visitors Bureau for 19 years and currently serves as the Bureau's (now called NYC & Co.) Chairman Emeritus. He was also founding Chairman of the New York City Convention and Exhibition Center Corporation and Chairman of the Citizens

Committee for the Democratic National Conventions held in New York City in 1976 and 1980.

In May 1990, Mayor David Dinkins appointed Tisch as New York City's Ambassador to Washington, D.C. Through 1993, he served as a liaison between the City of New York and his friends and colleagues in both the national government in Washington, D.C. and the business community in New York City.

From 1990-1993, Tisch served as Chairman of the New York City Partnership, Inc. and the New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was instrumental in developing a campaign to enhance New York's position as an international business center. After completing his stint as chairman, Tisch remained on the Board of Directors of both organizations, now merged.

Tisch was also a Trustee of New York University.

The Giants, however, were truly a labor of love for Tisch, a lifelong sports fan. He attended every Giants game, home and away, and spent as much time working in his stadium office as possible. His two sons are now important members of the organization: Steven as executive vice president and Jon as treasurer.

The process of going from fan to owner took at least three decades for Tisch.

"I came to New York in 1960, and a couple of propitious things happened," he said. "Our company owned a radio station at that time, WHN. During the 1950s they broadcast Giants games. The president of the radio station had ten 50-yard-line tickets at Yankee Stadium. When we sold the radio station he decided he wanted to stay with us, so he came over to Loews Theaters to become the controller. So for about seven or eight years, I had the use of these tickets.

"Also, when we came to New York we moved to Scarsdale, and I got to know Allie Sherman, who was then coach of the Giants. Actually, Allie's son Randy and my son Jon were born one day apart. So we got to know the Sherman family. Then in 1975 or '76, Pete Rozelle moved to Harrison. We lived in the city, but we have a house in Harrison, which was a mile away from where Pete Rozelle and his family resided. We became very friendly with Pete Rozelle. So I have a history in the last 40-some odd years of being involved. I went to most of the owners meetings and all the Super Bowls with Pete Rozelle. I was chairman of a group of his friends called Rozelle's Raiders—I was responsible for getting him to the right place at the right time. He finally gave me a whistle and a sign that said 'Rozelle's Raiders.' I've been very lucky. In my own mind, I've been involved in football since 1960."

It was about that time that Tisch first began to consider buying a professional team.

"I had tried several times before (purchasing his interest in the Giants)," he said. "Steve Ross, who ended up as CEO of Time-Warner, Inc. and I tried to buy the Jets in about 1967 or '68 and it didn't work out. I looked at other things. In 1988, when I came out of the Postal Service, I decided I would try to buy a sports team. I looked at many of them, both in football and basketball. I looked at the Dallas Cowboys and a couple of other teams. But I made up my mind I was never going to buy a team that was more than one hour from New York. I was interested in becoming owner of the new franchise that was in Baltimore. We were putting together a group when the opportunity came about to become the 50 percent owner of the New York Giants, which I jumped at and dropped everything else."

He completed the negotiations with Tim Mara just a few months after the Giants won Super Bowl XXV.

Tisch's business success was but a small part of his life's achievements. His generosity and commitment to civic and charitable causes was legendary. Tisch was a tireless and influential participant in civic affairs throughout his adult life.

In Feb. 2000, he helped found Take the Field, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to renovating and rebuilding the athletic fields at New York City's public high schools. Tisch, a product of those schools who graduated from Erasmus Hall High in Brooklyn, was Chairman of Take the Field, Inc. He launched the organization with a \$1 million donation, and as of earlier this year had raised more than \$147 million in public and private dollars.

Tisch and two partners in Take the Field, Tony Kiser and Richard Kahan, believed the private sector had to play a leading role in repairing sports fields at schools throughout the city that had been slowly destroyed by more than two decades of neglect. Tisch approached then-mayor Rudy Giuliani with his idea. The city agreed to match every dollar raised by Take the Field with three of its own, and the mission was to re-do every athletic field in the city that was classified as "needy."

"Take the Field is one of the most innovative and wonderful ideas of my life in the city," said New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, one of Tisch's best friends. "And it doesn't happen without Bob. At a time in his life when he could have just sat back and enjoyed everything he had accomplished, he went to work."

That's what Tisch did throughout his life. He was a founding Co-Chairman of Citymeals-on-Wheels, President of the Board of Directors from 1993 to 2002, and later served on the Board as Honorary Chairman. He also served as chairman of Public Private Initiative, a public private partnership that raises funds for important community programs, from 1997 to 1998.

Tisch's philanthropy continued even after he became gravely ill. His family picked a physician at the Duke University Medical Center to supervise his treatment for the brain cancer. Tisch and his family recently donated \$10 million to the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center and the school's Brain Tumor Center.

The gift accounted for the majority of a \$16.3 million package of subsidies that Duke will use to support research into the treatment of brain tumors.

"I was very, very impressed by the program at Duke, and very taken by more than just its medical approach," said Steve Tisch. "For me, there was the intangible that became so important, of the spiritual and emotional commitment that these programs and their doctors have."

Duke officials have pledged to use \$5 million from the Tisch family to underwrite the hiring of additional researchers. The medical center is matching that with \$5 million of its own money. Another \$2.5 million from the Tisch family will finance the screening of drugs that might be useful in treating brain tumors. Duke officials are now are calling the treatment center the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center.

Given his many accomplishments and interesting ventures, Tisch was asked in that 2002 interview what was most rewarding to him.

"My brother (Laurence, who died of cancer at age 80 two years ago today on Nov. 15, 2003) and I took the Loews Corporation from a corporation that did about \$20 million worth of business and built it up to a \$13 billion company, which is now run by the next generation," Tisch said. "Building the company and seeing it grow has been extremely gratifying. I also enjoyed my time

at the Postal Service when I was appointed Postmaster General. People said, 'How can you stand a job like that?' I loved it. I made one mistake—I stayed two years when I should have stayed three years.

"Then, of course, my involvement with the New York Giants has been very rewarding. I've been very, very lucky in my life and what I've been able to achieve."

Everyone who knew him, worked with him or were touched by his generosity were just as fortunate.

Preston Robert Tisch was born on April 29, 1926 in New York City. He attended Bucknell University before entering the Army in 1944. After military service in World War II, he earned a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1948. Tisch is survived by his wife, the former Joan Hyman, and their three children, Steven, Laurie and Jonathan, and nine grandchildren.●

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues, Senators NELSON, MIKULSKI, LANDRIEU, MURKOWSKI, BOXER, SNOWE, REED, ROBERTS, LAUTENBERG, DEWINE, SMITH, JEFFORDS, CORZINE, STEVENS, SARBANES, KERRY, LINCOLN, MURRAY, DURBIN, COLEMAN, FEINSTEIN, JOHNSON, COLLINS, SCHUMER, BAUCUS, COCHRAN, BROWNBAC, CANTWELL, CLINTON, DODD, LIEBERMAN, and STABENOW in cosponsoring S. 1272, Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005.

The contribution Merchant Mariners made during WWII have gone unheralded for far too long. The Merchant Marine is the forgotten service of World War II.

Although their numbers were small, they suffered the highest casualties of any service in World War II. Merchant mariners were responsible for transporting troops, tanks, food, fuel, airplanes and other supplies and, as a result, their likelihood of combat was extremely high. In fact, enemy forces sank over 800 of their ships between 1941 and 1944.

For more than 40 years, Merchant Mariners were denied any G.I. bill of rights benefits. In 1988, they were granted a "watered down" version of the G.I. bill of rights, but some portions of those benefits were never made available to them. In addition, they still have not received proper recognition as veterans for Social Security purposes.

This legislation would rectify that inequity by recognizing these American heroes with the status of "veteran," and it would grant a small monthly stipend to these veterans or their widows in order to offset their lost benefits.

As a veteran, I will always seek to protect the honored place of our military heroes. I cherish their service, and I will do everything in my power to support their interests. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.●

RECOGNIZING THE NEWARK HUD OFFICE

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Newark field office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on the occasion of its 40th anniversary in my home State of New Jersey.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, administers programs that increase homeownership, provide aid for housing for lower income people, support community development, and increase access to housing free from discrimination.

For 40 years, the staff of the Newark field office has embraced this mission and effectively partnered with faith-based and community organizations to help provide housing assistance to the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS.

Today, under the leadership of Diane Johnson, the Newark field office is leading the way in helping more low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans realize the American dream of becoming homeowners. For example, in the city of Trenton, the HUD-designated "Homeownership Zone" is helping first-time homebuyers and minority families purchase homes.

Since its creation in 1992, the HOPE VI Program has helped transform the HUD's approach to housing assistance for the poor. In New Jersey, HOPE VI has successfully generated over \$1 billion to revitalize distressed public housing. This investment has changed the housing landscape in towns and cities throughout the State by replacing severely distressed public housing projects, occupied exclusively by poor families, with redesigned mixed-income housing.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program has grown into the dominant form of federal housing assistance, helping 65,000 low-income families in New Jersey afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

It is with great respect that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Newark field office on four decades of success and to Diane Johnson who has been a tireless advocate on behalf of HUD's programs and the people who benefit from them.●

SILVER HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING COLTS

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, all over this great country in the last month or so, high school football championships have been won and lost. I am delighted to report that the team in my hometown of Silver City, NM, after decades of effort, has won the championship trophy in Class 4A football in New Mexico.

All who attended Silver High School—and all of us who attended it before it changed its name to that—are thrilled with this achievement. Seven