

## TRIBUTE TO ERSKINE RUSSELL

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, in 1 last minute on this day, I want to pause to pay tribute to a great Georgian and a great American, an individual we all lost last Friday morning in Statesboro, GA.

On Friday morning of last week, 80-year-old Erskine Russell, former assistant head coach at the University of Georgia and later head coach at Georgia Southern University, died of a stroke leaving the 7-11 near his home on the way to his beloved Snooky's Restaurant in Statesboro, GA. Erskine Russell was a football coach, but he was far more than a football coach. He changed the lives of countless young men in Georgia and changed the attitude of the people of our State about higher education.

Erskine Russell was a man who led the University of Georgia and its defense in 1980 to the national championship. Then, a few years later, he got the opportunity at a fledgling Georgia college—Georgia Southern—to establish a football team. He went there and went to the local sporting goods store and bought a football. He took a drainage ditch that ran by the field and named it the "wonderful, beautiful Eagle Creek," and slowly but surely he recruited young men to come to Georgia Southern to play football.

Within a few years, Georgia Southern went from just having a program to being a national champion. And he repeated that national championship again. But more importantly, all through his life, Erskine Russell did what only he could do: he led by example, not by lecture, what was right about America, what was right about living by the rules, what was right about playing by the rules, and what was right about moral character.

Two thousand people appeared at Paulson Stadium last Sunday to pay their last respects to Erskine Russell—a man who will be missed not just for a short period of time but for the lifetime of all those whose lives he touched.

In conclusion, talking about the lives he touched, when my son Kevin was in the 11th grade at Walton High School in Marietta, GA, he was tragically injured in an automobile accident. He was a junior football player there. Erk Russell took the time to write him a personal note when it was questionable as to whether he might ever play football again or even walk normally again. It was Erk Russell's inspiration and his caring, his challenging someone to overcome adversity, that led to Kevin's complete recovery and a year later his competition on the football field once again.

That is just one vignette. It is just one cameo in a lifetime of service to young people.

I pay tribute tonight to Erk Russell, to his family, and to all those who knew him, all those who loved him, and to all of us who will always treasure the fact that he was our friend.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. MORTON J. HOLBROOK, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished Kentuckian, Mr. Morton J. Holbrook, Jr., for his dedicated service to the Commonwealth and his commitment to the practice of law and higher education.

Last month, Mr. Holbrook, a resident of Owensboro, passed away. He was a pre-eminent attorney in Kentucky and will be remembered for the permanent impression he left on Kentucky's legal system. He helped modernize the courts' rules of procedure and was instrumental in pushing for sweeping changes to the State's judicial system.

On August 30, 2006, the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer published an editorial highlighting Mr. Holbrook's legal brilliance, his contributions to the judicial system, and his duty to public service. I ask unanimous consent that the full editorial be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in paying respect to this beloved Kentuckian.

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

[From the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Aug. 30, 2006]

## STATE BETTER PLACE BECAUSE OF HOLBROOK

Because Morton Holbrook Jr.'s accomplishments were so many, his love for his community so strong, his quest for knowledge so persistent and his zest for life so complete, penning a tribute to his life invites inadequacy.

Holbrook, who died Friday at the age of 91, was a Daviess County icon who mixed a legal career as a Harvard-trained lawyer with a lifetime of public service, gaining fame in both arenas. Twice his leadership helped completely change the face of Kentucky's legal system. Closer to home, there might not be an Owensboro Community & Technical College without his point work in the 1980s.

Whenever and wherever Holbrook decided to take a stand, he usually became an irresistible force for progress and change. Slight of build and not tall, Holbrook was nevertheless formidable, thanks to his agile mind, gifted and eloquent speaking ability and compelling personality.

For 56 years Holbrook practiced law and would have been admired for his legal abilities alone. One colleague called him the greatest attorney he ever knew. But Holbrook strayed far beyond private practice, to Kentucky's lasting benefit. In 1948 he was appointed to a state judicial committee that totally revised the state courts' rules of procedure. Two and a half decades later he helped push through an in-toto reform of Kentucky's judicial system, which required changing the state Constitution.

Holbrook's other passion was higher education. He was a member of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education for 10 years. OCTC can trace its origins to his involvement in the early 1980s.

Holbrook received many awards and recognitions through the years. Perhaps the most fitting came on his 90th birthday in September 2004 when Daviess Fiscal Court named the county's judicial center in his honor—the Morton J. Holbrook Jr. Judicial Center.

Morton Holbrook—a delight and truly one of a kind—will be deeply missed.

## REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to remember the horrifying terrorist attacks that took away so many innocent lives 5 years ago.

As a rule, tragedies of the magnitude we saw on 9/11 do not have silver linings. On that day, we were left only with an aching sense of loss, a sadness that seemed endless, and a bitter rage toward those who had brought chaos to our doorstep.

And yet it is undeniable that amidst one of the worst moments in our history, an ordinary goodness emerged in America. You could see it in the rescue workers and firefighters who rushed toward the rubble, in the scores of young people who signed up to serve their country, and in the quiet candlelight vigils held by millions of people for those they had never met and never would.

In our politics, too, there was a brief moment where it seemed as though the crass partisanship of the nineties would give way to a unity of purpose among Republicans and Democrats that would refocus our efforts on attacking the terrorists, not each other. We saw this in the immediate support given to President Bush, in the near unanimous vote to go after the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan, and in the formation of an independent, bipartisan commission that would tell us how and where to strengthen our homeland security.

Five years after 9/11, the days of that unity are long gone. In the last two elections, the Republican Party has used national security as a political weapon to attack and beat opponents, while the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission float further and further from the front pages. Now, as we approach another election season, the party in power has announced again that it intends to "run on" the issue of national security, with some going so far as to say that the terrorists are just waiting for Democrats to take over so that they can attack.

I realize that in this day and age, it is naive to think that politics would stop at the water's edge. But I refuse to believe that we cannot find the will or the resources to implement a series of recommendations that an independent panel of Democrats and Republicans agree would keep our country safer from terrorist attack.

In a report card delivered last year by the 9/11 Commission, the country's security efforts received mediocre to failing grades—17 Ds and Fs in 41 areas of homeland security.

To this day, our first responders still do not have the communications equipment they need to coordinate a rescue in the event of an attack. We still inspect only 5 percent of the 9,000,000 containers that enter this country every year. We are still spending only 2 percent of what we need to secure our railroads and subways, and not nearly enough on baggage and cargo screening at our airports. We still have only