

the admiration of fans. He was the television broadcaster for one of the most famous moments in baseball history, Bobby Thompson's "Shot Heard Round the World" in 1951. The national networks began to tap his talent for other events, such as pro and college football games and the Masters golf tournament.

And then, in 1960, he came to Detroit.

It is hard to describe to those who aren't from Michigan or fans of the Tigers just what Ernie Harwell meant to us over the next five decades. His voice on the radio guided us through good seasons and bad, through our city's times of prosperity and of tragedy. Through that ebb and flow he was a constant, his voice never too excited, never too downcast. We rejoiced when he told us an opposing batter took strike three "like the house by the side of the road," chuckled as he reported a foul ball had become a souvenir for a fan from Detroit or Howell or Warren or Lansing, or another town Michigan fans recognized. In the first days of every March, at the opening of his very first broadcast of spring training, Ernie announced the official end of Michigan winter with a reading from the Song of Solomon:

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

But over the decades, Ernie became more to us than just a welcome voice on the radio. He became a friend. For as good as he was behind the microphone, he is an even better man, and the quality of his character shone brightly, on his broadcasts and on the countless times he greeted fans with a hearty hello, or treated a clubhouse attendant with the same respect and affection as the million-dollar ballplayer. We came to respect and honor his voice, but to cherish his great heart.

This beloved friend is hurting now. His illness, he tells us without a trace of bitterness, will soon take him from us. But as he faces what he calls the end of his journey, the greatness of his heart has once again shined forth.

Last night, the Tigers took a break from the heat of another pennant race to pay tribute to this legend and friend. Amid the cheers and tears, Ernie once again put the fans first. Here is what he said:

"In my almost 92 years on this earth, the good Lord has blessed me with a great journey, and the blessed part of that journey is it's going to end here in the great state of Michigan.

"I deeply appreciate the great people of Michigan. I love their grit. I love the way they face life. I love the family values they have. And you Tiger fans are the greatest fans of all. No question about that."

There is an example of true courage and grace for all of us to try to follow.

Soon, this great voice will be silenced, a great heart stilled. But Ernie Harwell's love of the game, his human-

ity, his courage, will remain with us always. I treasure the moments I have spent with him. I thank him for the hours of joy he has given me, my wife and children, and the people of Michigan. I wish him and his beloved wife Lulu all the joy they deserve.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JARED C. MONTI

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I hope the Senate will take time today not just to remember but to honor the sacrifice and courage of SFC Jared C. Monti of Raynham, MA. It is a solemn privilege to do so for a man who has been awarded our Nation's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Monti joins an elite group of Americans who have received the Medal of Honor. Just 3,447 before him—all soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen of uncommon courage, valor, and gallantry—have been so honored. He is the sixth to be awarded the Medal of Honor for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Millions of Americans have defended our Nation's liberty for more than two centuries. But these 3,447 and now Sergeant Monti—risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty. And 617, like Sergeant Monti, gave their lives for the cause of America's freedom.

Our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen perform acts of bravery every day. But some of those acts, like Sergeant Monti's on June 26, 2006, exceed even our country's highest expectations.

During his more than 12 years in the Army, Sergeant Monti was recognized by his superiors as a man with a career of unlimited potential ahead of him. But Sergeant Monti's final act of bravery, on that fateful day in June 2006, also showed him to be a selfless leader with uncommon courage.

Sergeant Monti was leading a patrol of 16 troops on a mountain range in Afghanistan when attacked by a Taliban force of more than 50 fighters. Sergeant Monti not only prevented the Taliban force from overrunning his unit but also positioned his forces to disrupt a flanking attempt.

The sergeant managed to call in air support which eventually forced the enemy to retreat and prevented the patrol from being overrun against overwhelming odds.

When he realized one of his fellow soldiers was missing, he went searching for him. He found him lying wounded and exposed in the open ground. Sergeant Monti exposed himself to heavy enemy fire three times trying to rescue the wounded soldier. On the third attempt, the sergeant was mortally wounded.

Sergeant Monti's ability to act quickly and decisively in the midst of enemy fire is testimony to his leadership, without which his patrol's casualty rate that day would have been substantially higher.

Courage is one of the virtues we as Americans admire most. That is why the highest military decoration—and one of the oldest—our country bestows on its soldiers is the Medal of Honor. It has been awarded only to the few possessing a special brand of courage, heroism, and patriotism, Americans like Sergeant Monti.

Sergeant Monti was an extraordinary American and an extraordinary soldier, one of extraordinary gallantry. By his actions, he has taken his rightful place in the revered company of our country's most selfless heroes.

By tradition, Medal of Honor winners are shown the highest respect with salutes by all ranks, from the Commander in Chief on down. It is a fitting tradition for we stand in awe of these brave warriors. So I am proud to join all those saluting Sergeant Monti this day, including the Commander in Chief. And on behalf of a grateful nation and his home State of Massachusetts, we also salute his parents, Paul and Janet, and express our gratitude to them for their sacrifice which cannot be expressed in words.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING LEONID NEVZLIN

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Leonid Nevzlin on his recent appointment to serve as international chair of the United Jewish Communities UJC/ Jewish Federations of North America 2009 General Assembly in Washington, DC, beginning on November 8 of this year. Leonid's leadership in the Jewish community and his commitment to so many philanthropic causes around the world make him a natural for this important role. I am pleased to commend him today on this honor.

The UJC/Jewish Federations of North America plays an extraordinary role in inspiring a spirit of philanthropy and service. It has brought notable energy to the Save Darfur movement and continues to promote effective lobbying on a broad range of social justice issues. The UJC's General Assembly, which is held annually, is an event that brings people from across North America and the world together to discuss and to plan the organization's important work.

Leonid Nevzlin has shown a steadfast commitment to human rights, social justice, and democracy in his life and philanthropic work. Born and educated in Russia, Leonid began his philanthropic efforts by establishing the Moscow Jewish Cultural Center and worked to develop a number of Jewish educational programs that serve communities throughout Russia. As president of the Russian Jewish Congress, Leonid showed his leadership on a range of noteworthy causes, including preserving Jewish culture.

Leonid continued this service when he moved to Israel and established a