

Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING REID S. JONES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Commonwealth's finest, the late Mr. Reid S. Jones. A native of Pulaski County, KY, Reid was a prime example of a man who was a true American hero and who valued his faith, his family, and his community.

A rich tradition of business success and pride in hard work and achievement always seemed prevalent throughout the history of Reid's family, so it came as no surprise when Reid began to exhibit early signs of entrepreneurial instincts. As a young boy, members of his hometown witnessed Reid leading a small goat down a road from the country store operated by his parents to a local family farm as he tried to make a sale. It was this ambition and drive that made Reid S. Jones a leader, a war hero, and a guiding force for all who knew him.

Reid, who passed away on April 15, 2005, joined the U.S. Army in 1944 at a crucial point during World War II. Eighteen years old, Reid felt a strong desire to serve and protect his country as well as to defend the rights and freedoms of others. He courageously fought in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the deadliest battles for American forces of the war. Reid's leadership got him promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, and he remained in Germany for a short time after the war to help begin the reconstruction process.

After returning home from the war to his new bride Elva Sears, Reid received a bachelor's degree from Union College in Barbourville, KY. He decided to further his dedication for educational excellence and became a history teacher, principal, and basketball coach for the Pulaski County and Somerset City school systems. His firm yet compassionate character made Reid well-respected by his peers and fondly remembered by his former students. Later in the 1960s he became a district sales manager for the Fram Corporation, an automotive product brand best known for their oil filters. His eye for detail and strong ambition to get things done earned him frequent recognition for exceeding sales quotas and helped him play an instrumental role in placing Fram products in Wal-Marts across the southeastern United States.

Reid's "jack of all trades" ability eventually led him to open his own automotive businesses, as well as become a 32nd-degree Mason, a member of the Oleika Shriners Temple, and the board of directors of the First United Methodist Church.

In addition to serving his community through business and educational work, Reid deeply cherished the rela-

tionships he had with his friends and family. He has often been remembered through the strong friendships he formed with members of the Somerset community, as he met daily with friends at his automotive businesses for coffee and southern storytelling. His dedication to public service and education, led his wife, along with his daughter, Dr. Sonya Jones, to establish The Jones Educational Foundation, to provide scholarships and assistance for people of south-central Kentucky and beyond who seek greater education and who show effort and ability.

There is no doubt that because of Reid's character, his dedication to family and friends, and his contributions to higher education and the business community, that his town, the Commonwealth, and the country have been forever changed for the better.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an article about Mr. Reid S. Jones and a contribution that his daughter made to the Jones Educational Foundation on behalf of his dear friend, the late James Eastham. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Jan. 30, 2011]

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES REID S. JONES MEMORIAL FUND WITH CONTRIBUTION HONORING JAMES 'ONION' EASTHAM

The Jones Educational Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation based in Somerset, has launched the Reid S. Jones Memorial Fund with a \$1,000 contribution made by Dr. Sonya Jones honoring the late James Arthur "Onion" Eastham.

According to Dr. Jones, president and CEO of The Jones Foundation, the donation is intended to pay tribute to the friendship between James "Onion" Eastham, a man who was regarded highly in the Somerset community, and her father.

Further, the fund is meant to honor veterans from all the wars in which the United States has fought. The initial donation honors veterans who served in the European and Pacific theaters of World War II.

"I had been thinking about the Foundation setting up a fund for veterans in Dad's name ever since I made a donation in his memory to help restore the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial building at Union College," Dr. Jones said.

Reid Jones graduated from Union in 1989. He went on to do graduate work in education at Eastern Kentucky University.

"When Mr. Eastham passed away in late December, I knew it was time," Dr. Jones added. "Dad thought so much of his friend that I felt he would want me to do something special to honor Onion's memory."

Reid Sievers Jones (April 24, 1926 to April 15, 2005) entered the U.S. Army at a crucial point in the history of World War II. He was stationed in Germany, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a survivor in what has been called "one of the bloodiest battles" of World War II.

Conducted in the dense mountainous region of Belgium, the Battle of the Bulge was Adolf Hitler's last major offensive against the Allies. The battle ran from Dec. 16, 1944, until Jan. 25, 1945.

When he enlisted in the Army as a private, Reid Jones was 18 years of age. He married

Elva Sears on Dec. 30, 1944, shortly before shipping out to the European front. He was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant and remained in Germany for a short time after the war to help begin the process of reconstruction.

James "Onion" Eastham (Sept. 22, 1923, to Dec. 28, 2010) served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater where he was awarded two bronze stars for duty at and during the Luzon and Southern Philippine campaigns. He also received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with a bronze star for duty involving combat with the enemy.

Reid Jones and Onion Eastham were "two of a kind," said Jimmy Eastham, son of the former Somerset City Council member who served as staff sergeant and crew chief aboard a B-25 bomber in the United States Marine Corp.

Jones and Eastham both were salesmen after the war. Jones worked for many years for Fram Corp. and Eastham for the Morton Salt Co. The two men liked to get together and engage in the high art of Southern storytelling. Both formed strong friendships with other men in the Somerset community.

"Dad and Onion Eastham were part of a group of men who convened initially at Dad's car lot out on East Mt. Vernon Street, then at Dad's automotive parts store on Ogden Street in the building now owned by Dr. Byron Owens," Dr. Jones said.

"After Dad retired from Fram, he devoted most of his time to the automotive business and our family's business and our family's rental properties," Dr. Jones continued.

"When Dad closed one automotive parts store housed in the same building with Mother's antiques and collectibles, he and his buddies met for coffee at the Sugar Shack over on the strip," she said.

Meeting for coffee was part of their "daily routine," said Jimmy Eastham.

From time to time, the group also included Bobby Claunch, Howard Eastham, Ledger Howard, Penny Starnes, Don Stone, Jim Williams and Bob Williams in addition to Reid Jones and Onion Eastham.

Like his father, Jimmy Eastham served as a member of Somerset City Council. He and the Eastham family have given their enthusiastic endorsement to the Reid S. Memorial Fund with Dr. Jones' cornerstone contribution in memory of James "Onion" Eastham.

"It is a good idea to establish the fund even if it weren't done in the name of my father," Eastham said.

Both Reid Jones and James Eastham were "very patriotic," according to Virginia Eastham, mother of Jimmy, Lisa (Bandy) and Wayne Eastham.

When Reid Jones returned from the war, he worked first as a teacher and principal in the Pulaski County and Somerset City school systems. He is remembered, particularly by former students at Shopville High School as a firm teacher who was not afraid to exercise discipline when he thought it was needed.

Later, in the 1960s, he joined Fram Corp., based in Providence, R.I., as a district sales manager. Frequently, he was recognized for exceeding sales quotas. He was instrumental in placing Fram products in Wal-Marts across the southeastern United States.

Reid Jones was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of Oleika Shriners Temple in Lexington. He served on the board of directors of First United Methodist Church.

In addition to being an influential member of Somerset City Council, James "Onion" Eastham was a member of the Somerset Masonic Lodge #111 and a long-standing member of the Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of First Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school and served as chair of a building committee for the church's new sanctuary.

As a member of Somerset City Council from 1964 to 1982, Eastham played an active role in helping to establish Somerset Community College and finding a location for what is now Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. He considered running for mayor, but his job as a regional salesman for Morton Salt Co. created time constraints that caused him not to seek office.

According to Clarence Love, city clerk during the years Eastham served on council, "he was very conscientious." In Love's opinion, Eastham was an "excellent councilman."

Jimmy Eastham said he thought his father most likely would be remembered most for "standing for what he believed in."

The Reid S. Jones Memorial Fund was established, first and foremost, to help veterans with educational issues.

"A veteran might return from Afghanistan ready to go to law school and need some assistance," Dr. Jones said. "Or, a veteran might return and want to become a law enforcement officer or a mechanic."

As interest on the fund grows, money will be awarded to veterans who demonstrate great potential for success in professional and vocational arenas.

Primarily, the Reid S. Jones Memorial Fund intends to honor "the warrior spirit," Dr. Jones said, "the spirit of courage and bravery" that has helped keep the United States free.

The Reid S. Jones Memorial Fund is now open for tax-deductible contributions. Interested parties may e-mail Dr. Jones at: drjones@jonesfoundation.net or phone her at 606-875-2967.

BELLARMINA UNIVERSITY KNIGHTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the impressive accomplishments of a remarkable men's basketball team in the Commonwealth, the Bellarmine University Knights.

On March 26, the Knights made school history by winning the 2011 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II basketball championship. By defeating the Brigham Young University-Hawaii Seaside 71 to 68, Bellarmine brought home its first national championship title in any sport. Senior guard Justin Benedetti described the atmosphere in the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA, where the championship game was held to be like a home game for the Knights, as many fans traveled to fill the crowd of nearly 3,000.

The morning following their championship win, hundreds of fans, alumni, and students cheered as the team returned to campus and filed off the bus holding high their national trophy. I applaud not only the team's athletic achievement, but also the teamwork and sportsmanship on display as they represented my hometown, Louisville, and our Commonwealth in front of the country's basketball fans.

A state that honors basketball will honor the 2011 Bellarmine Knights team as among the best for seasons to come. Fans will remember a team of unselfish players whose only goal was to win. And they will remember head coach Scott Davenport, who taught his

players to play basketball the way it was meant to be played.

Coach Davenport built this team around talented local players—the entire roster hails from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. A Louisville native, he led his Knights to a 33–2 overall record this year on their way to the Division II championship. He can now add this collegiate championship to the one he earned coaching the Ballard High School Bruins of Louisville, KY, to the State championship in 1988. It is no wonder he was recently named the 2011 Schelde North America/Division II Bulletin Coach of the Year. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Scott Davenport upon receiving this distinguished honor.

Family members, friends, and the Louisville community are justifiably proud of this team's achievement and the recognition they have earned. This season was a special one for Bellarmine University that we will remember for a long time to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bellarmine University Knights men's basketball team upon earning their first national title. I wish them continued success both on and off the court.

HEALTH CARE RALLY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, on Saturday, March 26 several hundred medical students from across the country came to our State Capital in Montpelier, VT, to rally in support of Vermont going forward with a Medicare for All Single Payer health care system.

These young people were absolutely clear in understanding that for them to be the great physicians and nurses that they want to be, our health care system must change. They believe, as I do, that health care is a right and not a privilege and that a single payer program is the most cost-effective way of achieving that goal. I am very pleased to submit for the RECORD the statement of principle signed by these medical school students.

I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

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

As medical students from around the country converge this weekend on the steps of the State House to support Vermont's movement toward a single-payer health system, we want to contribute additional perspectives on our state's discussion of Health Care Reform.

As the Vermont legislature considers Health Care Reform, we, a group of UVM medical students who are invested in the future of Vermont, believe that current and future health care legislation should work toward the following goals:

1. Ensure that every Vermonter has health care coverage through a sustainable system that maintains a desirable environment in which to practice medicine.
2. Replace the current fee for service system that both limits access to physicians and compromises the quality of care given to patients.

3. Empower Vermont to retain and attract high quality physicians to ensure adequate health care for future Vermonter.

Our proposals to help meet these goals are:

1. Initiate a program that reduces the tuition of out-of-state students to in-state levels in exchange for commitment to practice in Vermont after training is complete.

2. Improve funding for the existing loan repayment program through Vermont AHEC to encourage primary care providers to practice in under-served areas of the state.

3. Address the current inequity in the "provider tax" such that out of state providers treating Vermont patients contribute fairly to the Vermont Medicaid program.

4. Simplify the administrative burden upon the provider by developing a system that has a single payer with best-practice guidelines as opposed to the current fee-for-service system.

By addressing these issues in upcoming legislation, we are of the opinion that the quality of health care in Vermont will improve. A sustainable system that addresses many of the national problems with medicine will encourage a strong physician population throughout the state, as well as secure Vermont's future as the healthiest state in America.

As medical students who will inherit the reform currently being debated in Montpelier, we are committed to help shape a sustainable universal health care system. It is our great hope that these changes will be enacted to enable us to provide the best care possible to our future patients.

Larry Bodden, Calvin Kagan, Bud Vana, Ben Ware, John Malcolm, JJ Galli, Vanessa Patten, Nick Koch, Uz Robison, Pete Cooch, Rich Tan, Bianca Yoo, Prabu Selvam, Dave Reisman, Adam Ackrman, Nazia Kabani, Stas Lazarev, Sara Staples, Therese Ray, Kelly Cunningham, Hannah Foote, Laura Sturgill, Megan Malgeri, Kati Anderson, Serena Chang, Caitlan Baran, Leah Carr, Mariah Stump, Daniel Edberg, Franki Boulos, Chelsea Harris, Vinnie Kan, Mairin Jerome, Jimmy Corbett-Detig, Dan Liebowitz, Laura Caldwell, Damian Ray, Mei Lee Frankish.

The University of Vermont does not endorse this organization or their position in connection with this or any other political campaign, policy position or election.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to discuss an amendment entitled "the Greater Accountability in the Treasury Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2011."

As ranking member of the Senate Small Business Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that small businesses have access to affordable credit. In this regard, I have worked on a bipartisan basis with Senator LANDRIEU, chair of the Small Business Committee, to include provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that enhanced the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Those measures resulted in a 90-percent national increase in SBA lending at a crucial time in our Nation's lending crisis. I also authored provisions, recently enacted into law, to increase the SBA's maximum loan limits for its microloan, 7(a), and 504 loans, to make the SBA more relevant to the needs of today's borrowers. Additionally, I have been supportive of efforts to increase the arbitrarily imposed cap on member business lending at credit unions—at no cost to taxpayers—so that credit unions can play