

Daniel was assigned to the Air Force's 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He was an airborne sensor operator and a qualified Air Force air surveillance instructor who served with distinction at Tinker Air Force Base.

In his dozen years of service, Daniel deployed on three tours as an E-3 AWACS, or airborne warning and control system, aircraft surveillance technician. He was also an MC-12 sensor operator. While in Afghanistan, Daniel was assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron as a member of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Air Base.

His mother said:

After his death, multiple superior officers have told me how respected he was, how well Daniel performed his duties, and that he was exceptional at mentoring young airmen personally as he was professionally. Daniel was a very devout man. Many have said that he led them to Christ or reconnected them with the Lord.

His wife Sonya agrees:

He was a Christian man of Christian values and morals. He served God in all that he did.

Daniel also liked to laugh and joke with his family and friends. Sonya says:

He went by many nicknames; "Dan the man," "Fan Dannin," and my dad's favorite, "Lieutenant Dan." My dad would always ask, "Lieutenant Dan, have you flown much lately?" Danny would stick his arms out to each side and say he had been flying as much as he could.

After Daniel's death, at a park located near Tinker Area Force Base, where he had been stationed, Daniel's legacy was honored with a replica E-3 AWACS aircraft dedicated in his honor in a ceremony in April of this year. Inscribed on the tail of the E-3 replica honoring Daniel are the words "Service Before Self," one of the Air Force's core values those who knew Daniel knew he lived by.

Sonya Fannin was present for the dedication to her husband, and she spoke to the crowd of about 300. She said:

This memorializes Daniel's very essence, his giving spirit in a way which those in the public can see. Memorializing Danny here in the public park, a place in which our civilian friends and family can visit and heal on their own time, is truly special.

Daniel's family members and friends are foremost in our thoughts as I recount this story for my Senate colleagues today. They include his wife Sonya Fannin, his mother Sharri Jones, his grandparents Henry and Fern Hamm, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would like to close with some words from Daniel's mother Sharri about her son. Here is what she said:

I know that there are many who continue to grieve deeply over Daniel's passing. To them I would say, take the things that Daniel shared with you, learn from them, and pass them forward. Give others what he gave you. In that way, he will live forever.

I couldn't agree more with such a heartfelt sentiment.

I would like the family of SSgt Daniel Fannin to know that Members of the Senate do indeed recognize the things Daniel gave to his country—namely, his service, his life, and his sacred honor. We will be forever grateful.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING MATT HALEY

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today my heart heavy with a challenging task, which is to convey the remarkable, the special, the powerful spirit of a friend who passed 3 weeks ago in a tragic accident in India.

Matt Haley was a remarkable Delawarean. Matt Haley was a gifted and accomplished chef and entrepreneur. Matt Haley was someone who touched so many lives in my home State of Delaware.

In 2012 Matt won the Delaware Restaurant Association's Cornerstone Award, a lifetime achievement award recognizing restaurateurs who dedicate their lives to humanitarian efforts.

Matt owned eight different restaurants all across the beach region so well known to folks here in Washington. Matt owned restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Lewes, Ocean View, Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and was involved in dozens of other business enterprises in other States.

In 2014 Matt had the best year he ever had in terms of the reach and scope of his potential and his vision and his recognition by his profession. He won the National Restaurant Association Cornerstone Humanitarian Award. I was thrilled to be able to join in that celebration here in Washington. He won the International Association of Culinary Professionals Humanitarian Award. He won the James Beard Humanitarian Award in a remarkable celebration in New York. He won all three major recognitions, major awards from the restaurant and culinary industry—the triple crown, as it were.

Having never met him, you might think this man, having been so successful as an entrepreneur and a businessman and so recognized and celebrated in all these different ways, would have been puffed up and filled with himself and with pride and with a sense of ac-

complishment and success. Matt did have a sense of accomplishment and success, but it came from a very different place. His spirit, his personality was profoundly different than that brief resume might suggest because Matt was someone who had a second and a third chance at life, so he embraced it with a passion and an open-heartedness I have never seen anywhere else.

Matt was 53 years old and had been sober for 24 years. Not many years before this remarkable year of success he had this year, Matt had been riding the bus to work as a minimum-wage dishwasher as he was reinventing himself. Matt spent 4 years in prison on a 13-year prison sentence.

As he memorably remarked in a talk he gave days before he left on this trip to India, Matt had life-altering, terrible experiences as a child. Matt had managed to grow up in an environment of circumstances and have experiences that would cripple any human person, any spirit, and had become someone who was violent and addicted, and inevitably, as a consequence of a lot of his actions, he ended up in jail. He was exactly the sort of person so many would be willing to write off. Yet Matt found an opportunity through the culinary arts, through the simple and powerful skill of cooking for others. He found a pathway back and a roadway up. Matt was someone who cooked not just well but was gifted at pulling together completely unrelated items and making something simple, tasty, and powerful.

Matt understood what a remarkable pathway toward success and independence restaurants can be for those who start working at the very lowest end of the scale in our country in terms of pay scale and yet can steadily grow to be successful managers or even restaurant owners.

Matt was someone who also had just gotten a positive diagnosis after struggling with a nearly life-ending bout with cancer. Matt had nearly died to this world once as a young man in prison and then had nearly died to us a second time through cancer.

I was blessed to have gotten to know him just in the last few years and to have been touched by the power of his energy. Matt had a hunger to connect with and touch and help love others in the world who hadn't yet seen the possibilities of this world.

Matt would go anywhere, anytime to help someone in need in Delaware.

The stories are legend of what Matt did spontaneously and powerfully to reach out and touch folks in our home State and around the world who needed his special gift—not just his resources but his energy and his kindness.

Matt's business partner Scott shared with me a story that he was literally driving down the road and came across a van from the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., DAPI, a van for a program that helps young moms complete school and be healthy and successful