

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM
R. CORSON

• Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I would like to make a brief statement about a man who in every way embodied the spirit and reality of an American patriot. Seldom does one have an opportunity to bump into someone during life's journey who has affected events of our time. Such a man was retired Marine Corps Colonel Bill Corson who passed away in July.

His passing reminds us all of our own mortality and destiny and how important it is to live our lives with honor and dignity. That is how Bill Corson lived his. It was a privilege to know him. I will miss his wise counsel and friendship.

I first met Bill in 1981 when I was serving as the Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration. He was a man who was deeply and unselfishly devoted to his country. Bill left college and enlisted in the Marine Corps during World War II. He served in Korea and Vietnam. His decorations included the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V." He spent most of his career on special assignment with the CIA, the White House, the Marine Corps, and the State Department. Bill went on to teach at the U.S. Naval Academy and write several books on national security issues.

Bill was relentless in the pursuit of meeting the challenges faced by the country he loved so much. He was a man of immense integrity, a man of knowledge, a man of ability, a man of compassion, a man of faith, who always gave his country his best. And America is stronger today because of this remarkable man.

He was a friend of mine, and I extend heartfelt condolences to his wife Judy and his family.

Madam President, I ask that the attached obituary from The Washington Post on Bill Corson be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, July 19, 2000]

WILLIAM R. CORSON, 74, AUTHOR AND RETIRED
MARINE OFFICER, DIES

(By J.Y. Smith)

William R. Corson, 74, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps and expert on counterinsurgency warfare who was almost court-martialed for publishing a book that was high critical of U.S. policy in Vietnam, died July 17 at Surburban Hospital. He had lung cancer.

For much of his career, Col. Corson was an intelligence officer on special assignment with the CIA and the Marine Corps. He spoke Chinese and specialized in Asian affairs.

In 1962, after four years as a liaison officer in Hong Kong, he was assigned to the office of the secretary of defense. This put him in touch with decision-making at the highest level as U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia deepened.

He began studying Vietnam in the early 1950s, when France was still trying to hold on to its colonial possession. In 1966, he was ordered there as commanding officer of a Marine tank battalion.

Early in 1967, he was named director of the Combined Action Program, in which small detachments of Marines served with South Vietnamese militia in villages throughout the country. The purpose of the program was to provide security from the communists and win the loyalty of the people to the Saigon government.

According to an official Marine Corps history, the program was highly successful. Col. Corson was praised by his superiors for his ability to relate to Vietnamese villagers and win their confidence.

In 1967, when he returned to the United States, he received another sensitive assignment in Washington, becoming deputy director of the Southeast Asia Intelligence Force in the office of the assistant secretary of defense.

But by that time he was convinced that U.S. policies in Vietnam were doomed and he decided to write a book.

The book, "The Betrayal," argued that the Saigon government supported by Washington was corrupt and incompetent and that it was perceived by ordinary Vietnamese as being as much of a threat to their well-being as the communists. Unless the United States devised policies to take this into account, the book said, the war would be lost and American servicemen would have died in vain.

Publication was set for July 1, 1968, by W.W. Norton and Co. Inc., a month after Col. Corson was scheduled to retire from the service.

This brought into play Marine Corps regulation that required officers on active duty to submit statements on public policy to review before making them public. Col. Corson claimed that this did not apply to him because the book would not go on sale until after he had become a civilian.

Marine Corps officials responded by having his retirement held up and by taking steps to convene a general court-martial. These plans were dropped on the grounds that they would only serve to draw attention to the book. Col. Corson's retirement went through a month later than originally scheduled.

Co. Corson later taught history at Howard University for a year and then wrote several books on national security issues, including "Promise or Peril," "Consequences of Failure," "The Armies of Ignorance" and "The New KGB" with Robert T. Crowley.

He also wrote a column on veterans affairs for Penthouse magazine for several years and was the publication's Washington editor.

William Raymond Corson was born in Chicago on Sept. 25, 1925. He attended the University of Chicago, but left in 1943 to enlist in the Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he graduated from the University of Miami, where he also received a master's degree in business and economics. He later received a doctorate in economics at American University.

In 1949, Col. Corson was commissioned in the Marine Corps. He served in the Korean War in 1952. From 1953 to 1955, he was a student in the Chinese language course at the Naval Intelligence School in Washington. From 1964 to 1966, he taught a course on communism and revolutionary war at the U.S. Naval Academy.

His military decorations included the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V".

Col. Corson, a resident of Potomac, was an elder and clerk of session at Harmon Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

His marriage to Charlotte Corson ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife, Judith C. Corson, and their three children, Adam,

Zachary and Andrew, all of Potomac; two children from his first marriage, Christopher Corson of Silver Spring and David Corson of Greenville, S.C.; and five grandchildren. •

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 3057. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

S. 3058. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 18, 2000, he presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2869. An act to protect religious liberty, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-10750. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10751. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of additions to the procurement list received on September 12, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10752. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of the D.C. Act 13-398, entitled "Sacred Heart Way, N.W., Designation Act of 2000" adopted by the Council on July 11, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10753. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of the D.C. Act 13-434, entitled "Uniform Commercial Code Secured Transactions Revision Act of 2000" adopted by the Council on July 11, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10754. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of the D.C. Act 13-435, entitled "Approval of the Application for Transfer of Control of District Cablevision Limited Partnership from Tele-Communications, Inc., to AT&T Corp. Act of 2000" adopted by the Council on July 11, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10755. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of