TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. JOHN D. WOODWARD USAF–RET


John was born in Pembroke, NH, and served with pride and distinction in the United States military. He began his military career with the United States Army in Panama and later served with the Coast Artillery, Infantry and Field Artillery. In 1942, John transferred to the Army Air Corps where he was commissioned a second lieutenant and served with the Army Air Force units throughout the South Pacific.

John was one of the founding members of Detachment B, 201st Air Service Group, a forward base recoginition at Grenier Field in Manchester, NH, as the original New Hampshire Air National Guard. He also served in the Korean Conflict with United States Air Force units in Greenland and Newfoundland.

Promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. in 1957, John became Deputy Commander for Materiel for the 157th Military Airlift Group, MAC, in 1966, and served in that capacity when the unit became the 157th Tactical Airlift Group. He was later appointed commander of the 157th Combat Support Squadron in 1975 when the Group became a unit of the Strategic Air Command.

John earned medals and awards for his dedicated military service including: the Bronze Star, the American Defense Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with two battle stars, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the New Hampshire Air National Guard Medal. As a Vietnam veteran and senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I commend John for his contributions to the people of New Hampshire and the country.

John was an active supporter of his local community who contributed as a member of the local community. He made it an obligation for Dukes management and players to personally reach out to the community that had so lovingly embraced it. Each Christmas, McKernan dressed as Santa Claus and personally handed out presents to needy children. McKernan showed his humanitarianism and genuine love of his fellow New Mexicans by donating excess food to local homeless shelters following every Dukes home game.

An editorial in The Albuquerque Tribune made a reference to Patrick McKernan and the city of Albuquerque by saying that they seemed almost intertwined in an ineffably charming enchantment. This statement is all too true. Not only did the world of baseball lose a brilliant and capable administrator, but the state of New Mexico also lost one its finest citizens and humanitarians. The citizens of Albuquerque and our state mourn the loss of Patrick McKernan.

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY TO MR. AND MRS. S. RICHARD JENNINGS JR.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to salute two very special Tennesseans, who I am proud to call my friends, Virginia and Richard Jennings of Johnson City, TN. On Wednesday, August 29, 2001, Virginia and Richard will be surrounded by family and friends as they celebrate the wonderful milestone of their 60 years of marriage.

In a time where so much in our society seems temporary and fleeting, Virginia and Richard have demonstrated...