

Upon returning from Italy in the early 1930's, the 16-year-old orphan arrived in New York City, where he was told his pugilism could earn him money. He paid his dues sleeping in an Eastside gym and in Central Park in order to get his big break. Lying about his age, he fought amateur bouts until an agent spotted him and said, "You've got talent, kid, but the Irish control the game. Nobody is gonna come see an Italian boxer!" Sonny's reddish hair and freckles were the perfect fit to a new identity—Sonny O'Day—and new birthdate—St. Patrick's Day.

Spanning the next 17 years, welterweight Sonny fought 529 fights, lost 32 and had, as Sonny used to say, "some draws and the rest wins," in Madison Square Garden, Sunset Garden, and other major venues throughout the United States. He first met World Heavy Weight Champion Jack Dempsey when he refereed one of Sonny's early fights.

Living by the adage: "Smile and the world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone," Sonny was known to greet strangers with his famous smile, booming voice, crunching handshake, and the introductory greeting, "Shake the hand that shook the world!"

His love of Butte was as strong as his handshake. He rarely called the city by name. To him, it was "The Sacred City," and Butte cherished him in return, calling him "The Mayor of Meaderville," "The Meaderville Phantom," and "Butte's Boxing Star."

Sonny took his professional boxing earnings and opened two famous Butte nightclubs in the late 1930's: The Savoy and Melody Lane. There, he entertained sports and Hollywood greats including Gene Tunney, Cary Grant and Barbara Hutton.

He proudly served the U.S. Army during World War II, and married Carra Burton on September 20, 1944, while stationed in Gadsden, Alabama. The couple returned to Montana after the war where he established his bar and tavern in Laurel.

Sonny O'Day's "Boxing Hall of Champions," complete with a boxing ring, was his passion. He entertained beneath his pictures and memorabilia with stories that rhapsodized his listeners. He loved every minute of it, and bragged that he would never retire. Children came in for free candy, and parents came in for Sonny to give the kids their first lessons in self-defense. Sonny's bar was a local tourist attraction for years, and is listed as one of Montana's favorites in a number of publications.

Sonny's St. Patrick's Day celebrations were legendary for thousands of fans who descended on the community. It was customary for the Governor—Republican or Democrat—to call Sonny on St. Patrick's Day to wish him happy birthday. In 1986, Governor Ted Schwinden decided a phone call wasn't good enough, and came to Laurel to host Sonny's St. Patrick's Day party. The Laurel Chamber of Commerce surprised Sonny on St. Patrick's Day 1995 by honoring him for 50 years of business. The highlight was a celebrated bout between Sonny and special guest Todd Foster, fellow Montana boxing welterweight and 1988 Olympian. Foster allowed Sonny his final knockout punch for the "Downtown Laurel Businessmen's Crown."

In 1952, Golden Gloves Boxing came to Montana, and Sonny helped train these young fighters. At the Shrine Temple in Billings, Golden Gloves championships of an eight-State region took place, and Sonny refereed the very first bout and many more over the years.

When boxing turned professional in Montana, Sonny served on the State Athletic

Commission for 26 years under seven different governors. This led him to bring 77 professional bouts to Montana, including three world championship fights. As chairman of the Commission, he promoted the Gene Fullmer-Joey Giardello Middleweight Championship of the World title match on April 29, 1960, in Bozeman.

Basements and gyms all over Billings and Laurel were the sites for years to come as Sonny trained young fighters. He estimated that he helped develop 2,500-3,000 fighters during those years.

The Student Council of Eastern Montana College, now Montana State University-Billings, originated the annual Sonny O'Day Smoker, a fund raiser that entertained the greater Billings area from 1975-81.

Sonny's civic community service included 30 years as a Kiwanian, including service as a State Lieutenant Governor; a lifetime member of the Elks; and a founding member of the Montana Gambling Commission. Although he was a professional boxer, he did not believe in corporal punishment, and his daughters fondly remember they never received anything but love from "those registered hands!" Whenever the mines in Butte went on strike, he would spearhead caravans of trucks to take food and presents to the miners. He never forgot to feed the alley cats—even on holidays. For a man who had earned his living by the "manly act of self-defense," as Sonny called it, those who knew him saw a gentle soul who lavished kisses and never hesitated to cry tears of sadness or joy.

His love of cooking was legendary, and no one could enter his home without being invited to dinner. His family never knew who Sonny would bring home to dinner. Jack Dempsey, Sugar Ray Seale, numerous governors and senators, including Mike Mansfield, sat at the family table in Laurel.

Sonny never forgot his Italian roots, and continued to visit and support his sister and her family in Lucca until her death. Visits to the family villa in Lucca rejuvenated him. He was especially proud of the family legacy: The Ragghianti Art Museum, renowned in the province of Tuscany.

Sonny is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carra Burton George; his three daughters: Mary-Glynn, Terry, Cromwell of Missoula and grandchildren Charlie, Lauren and David; Nancy, Sam, Talboom of Green River, Wyo. and grandchildren Justin, Carlee, and Jake; and Shelley, Larry, Van Atta of Billings and grandchildren John, Nick, and Marissa; sister-in-law Lois George and her children Michael and Mary Grace, of San Diego, Calif.; and nieces Elisa Mussi and Lalla Volpi, and nephew Carlo Volpi, of Lucca, Italy. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Gus George; sister Mary Volpi; and son-in-law John Pingree.

God surely must be dancing in Heaven, knowing you're joining Him, Sonny; just as you surely will tell Him, "It's all in the footwork."•

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTH GRADERS AT SHOEMAKER SCHOOL IN MACUNGIE, PENNSYLVANIA

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize a select number of outstanding students from Macungie, Pennsylvania. I was honored to hear of a tremendous service that these fine young boys and girls did at Shoemaker School in November of last year.

Seventy-five fifth graders in the Community Service Club of Shoemaker School conducted a walk-a-thon to raise money for paralyzed veterans across the United States through the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The walk-a-thon occurred over several school days, where the children walked during breaks during the school day. Some children even sacrificed their lunches and walked in the rain and cold weather just to raise a few more dollars.

These fine young Americans set a wonderful example to men, women, and children everywhere. With a little initiative and a lot of heart, the fifth graders at Shoemaker School were able to help paralyzed veterans throughout our great Nation. I commend each and everyone of these dedicated, selfless children, and it is an honor for me to recognize them today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE EMERGENCY DECLARED WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S DESTRUCTION OF TWO UNARMED U.S. REGISTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE NORTH OF CUBA ON FEBRUARY 14, 1996 IS TO CONTINUE IN EFFECT BEYOND MARCH 1, 2001—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice