

want to leave you with one last story that sort of sums up what I think of my career.

I always felt that there was a division of duties between myself and the dogs. The dogs were definitely better in the wilderness, such as being able to sense thin ice or where there were wild animals around us, and helping me through the storms. But I was better when we were in Anchorage starting out and there were cars and traffic lights and all sorts of things in any of the villages, and I was also better at strategy and understanding competition. In 1989 I was racing towards the half-way point in the Iditarod. They give you a prize of \$5,000 for being the first into that checkpoint, and nothing for being second, so it's quite coveted. Joe Runyon and myself were the best two teams in the race that year, and we had been vying for first place for miles. We had just left the checkpoint of Ophir, and it was about a 90-mile run over to the abandoned gold mine town of Iditarod. Throughout the day, Joe and I had passed each other. You have got to imagine that these are just two mushers out in the middle of nowhere, so when you pass each other—even though you're very competitive with each other—you definitely talk. And when you see each other and pass, you will have a little conversation. So just as it was getting dusk, I had put on my headlight so that I could see through the darkness—a battery-powered headlight, as had Joe—he put his new young lead dog, Rambo, up in lead. He came flying by me. He stopped—I had out my map and compass. He said, "Where do you think we are?" I said, "I think we have just passed the Deshka River. Here it is on the map, so we must be about five miles from the town of Iditarod." He said, "That's what I'm thinking too," and he passed me. I was using my lead dog, Tolstoy, at the time. I starting pumping with one leg and encouraging my dogs, saying "Come on, let's get going." They just were flat. They were not going to pick up and go as fast as Joe's team. So I took Granite, who was in the team, and I put him up in lead. I encouraged him, and I encouraged the rest of the team. Still, they didn't respond. Five miles should have taken us about thirty minutes. We went hour after hour after hour. Three hours later, we were still on the trail. I could see Joe's headlight—it's very hilly country there—going up and down the hills, just a little ways ahead of me. All of a sudden, Granite turned around and he looked at me and he went, "Now!" And he kicked it into gear, all the dogs immediately responded to him, and he passed Joe 100 yards from the finish line at Iditarod and we won the half-way prize. So I learned that not only do I not know as much about the wilderness as my dogs, but I don't know anything about competition. And it is my job to love the dogs, care for them, feed them and nurture them, and hold on for dear life.

So in parting, I want to say to each and everyone of Holton Arms' 1999 graduating class, I hope very dearly that each one of you is able to find your dream. And when you do—love it, nurture it, and hold on for dear life.

REMEMBERING JOHN MARK LACOVARA

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I call to the attention of my colleagues the recent passing of one of our most loyal and hard-working former Senate staff members, John Mark Lacovara.

Mark, as he was called by his family and friends, was part of a Capitol Hill family, joining both his father and sister in holding staff positions in the U.S. Senate. Mark began his Senate career in 1969. He worked his way up the ranks in a number of jobs, starting first as an elevator operator, then as an enrolling clerk, and finally capping his career as the Senate journal clerk.

Those of us who knew him admired his tireless and cheerful dedication to this body. Often he would be the last one to leave his office at night and the first to arrive in the morning, no matter how late the previous session had ended. He truly loved his job, but due to health reasons, he resigned in 1997.

Mark was born in Washington. He grew up in Rockville and graduated from Richard Montgomery High School. Attending night school while maintaining his full-time Senate duties, he received a bachelor's, degree in political science with a minor in American history from the University of Maryland. He served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve for many years.

Mark Lacovara passed away on October 3, 2006. Mark was the son of the late John Lacovara, administrative assistant to the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and Mrs. Patricia Lacovara Ingold of Springfield. My colleagues join me in extending our deepest sympathy to her and Mark's sisters, Dale Monno, a retired lieutenant with the Capitol Police, and Joyce. He will be missed by all of his friends in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MCGOWAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bob McGowan, the Washoe County assessor. After more than 24 years in office, Bob will retire this year as the longest serving elected department head in the county. His personable demeanor and dedication to service will be missed.

Bob has been a resident of Nevada for more than 38 years. After working in the Nevada Attorney General's office, Bob made the first of many successful runs for elected office. In 1982, the citizens of Washoe County elected him as their county assessor. For more than two decades, Bob has presided over the growth of Washoe County. From the rising real estate values at Lake Tahoe to the rapid development in the city of Reno, Bob has sought to provide fairness for Washoe County residents.

Most importantly, Bob has never forgotten that the goal of elected office is service. After his election in 2002, he told the Reno-Gazette Journal: "From the first day I went in office, we've always been a public service organization, not just a property appraisal." Under Bob's guidance, the assessor's office has become more responsive to Washoe County Residents. For example, Bob moved the assessor's office

into the digital age, and residents of Washoe County can now access many forms online. Bob has also worked to save the taxpayers money, trimming his own budget to return more than \$2 million to the Washoe County general fund.

As the county assessor, Bob has always been in tune with the issues of Washoe County. He has navigated controversies over rising property values with ease, taking the time to talk with people he serves. To this day, residents are amazed that Bob is so approachable and accessible. He can quickly put a visitor at ease with his humble demeanor and his frequent jokes. In fact, I cannot recall a time that I have met with Bob when he hasn't told me a funny anecdote or story.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bob is a dedicated part of his community. He has served as president for Habitat for Humanity and as an executive board member of the alumni organization for the University of Nevada, Reno. Additionally, as the president of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful organization, he led an effort to protect the pristine areas surrounding Lake Tahoe. While working to improve Washoe County, Bob also raised three wonderful children in Reno. A few years ago, I had the privilege to host his daughter Megan in my Washington office as an intern.

Mr. President, Bob McGowan has been an important part of northern Nevada for more than two decades. His retirement will leave large shoes to fill, but I am confident that Bob will continue to improve Washoe County for many years to come. It is my great pleasure to offer my congratulations to Bob and the McGowan family.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH E. WALZ

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I recognize the outstanding service of a remarkable Kentuckian, Mr. Ralph E. Walz. Mr. Walz is the executive liaison officer for the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He will retire from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on January 3, 2007, with over 34 years of dedicated service to our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army (1969–1972) and as a civil servant.

A native of Louisville, KY, Mr. Walz is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. As a young man in the 1960s, Ralph Walz served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam as an enlisted infantryman. Performing his duty on the front lines as a non-commissioned officer, facing the daily dangers of active combat, he bravely and honorably served his country.

Mr. Walz began his distinguished civil service tenure with the Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 1977. He began his career in the

Comptroller's Office, later named Resource Management, where he participated in numerous efficiency reviews, organizational studies, and business-process analysis. During this time, Mr. Walz was instrumental in the transfer of Smithland Lock and Dam to the Louisville District.

In 1981, Mr. Walz helped develop the proposal that resulted in the military construction mission being reinstated at the Louisville district, making it a full-service district whose impact is felt worldwide.

In 1990, Mr. Walz was chosen as the executive liaison officer and assigned to the Executive Office. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in coordinating many significant events that showcased our great Commonwealth, including National Society of American Military Engineers Conferences which included military personnel and civilians from all over the United States and overseas.

Mr. Walz has also been a champion of quality-of-life initiatives. He helped implement the Uncle Sam's Child Care Center and initially served as board chairman. He served as board chairman and as a member of the board of directors for his local credit union. And he was chairman of the Kentucky Federal Agency Tourism Council, among many other volunteer activities.

Finally, Mr. President, Mr. Walz is a good neighbor and valued steward of our natural resources and defense assets. He will be long remembered for his patriotism, leadership, mentorship of others, and service to his Nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On the occasion of his retirement, I wish to extend my best wishes to Mr. Ralph Walz, his wife, Mary Lou, and their children, Matthew (Matt) and Jake, and I ask my colleagues to salute this esteemed Kentuckian.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MORGAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great Kentuckian, Mr. David Morgan, for his service to the Commonwealth and his commitment to the preservation of Kentucky's historic landmarks.

For the past 29 years Mr. Morgan has worked on preserving Kentucky's heritage, helping cities and towns utilize and revitalize their downtowns and historic sites.

On Sunday, December 3, 2006, the Louisville Courier-Journal published an article highlighting Mr. Morgan's many years of service to Kentucky. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in thanking this beloved Kentuckian.

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

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Dec. 3, 2006]

PRESERVATIONIST BIDS FAREWELL

(By Chris Poynter)

Most Kentuckians likely do not know David Morgan.

But they have certainly seen his work.

If you drive along Paris Pike—the road between Paris and Lexington lined with famous thoroughbred farms—you've seen the historic stone fences and picture-perfect rolling landscapes that he helped protect when the road was widened.

If you've strolled the Main Streets of Kentucky's downtowns—and marveled at the historic buildings—you can thank Morgan for helping revive them.

And if you've seen the old trolley barn in western Louisville that is slowly being transformed into the Kentucky Center for African-American Heritage, Morgan deserves part of the credit.

After 29 years with the Kentucky Heritage Council—the agency that oversees historic preservation for the state—Morgan is retiring and moving to Washington, D.C.

Morgan, 54, and his wife, Marcia, have bought a historic home just blocks from the Capitol. They have a son, Ned, 18.

Morgan has spent his entire professional career at the heritage council, rising from a staff planner in November 1977 to executive director, a position he's held since 1984, when then-Gov. Martha Layne Collins appointed him.

He survived through Republican and Democratic administrations, which friends and co-workers say is a testament to his effectiveness, and he's been at the forefront of saving historic properties from Paducah to Pikeville.

His interest in preservation began as a child in Oxford, Ohio, the son of a college professor and a stay-at-home mother who sold antiques.

On a fourth-grade class trip to Yellow Springs, Ohio—named for a spring that supposedly had curative powers—a young Morgan lamented the demolition of the old Neff House hotel.

"It is important to know how America was settled," Morgan wrote in a school essay he still keeps. "If you tore down everything that was historical, people would forget how America was settled."

Morgan laughs at his simple six-paragraph essay now—but the lessons he learned on that field trip are woven throughout his life.

Preservation—though it began as a movement of upper-crust white women—has expanded and matured and become more inclusive. Morgan has changed the heritage council's mission with that evolution.

He helped create the African-American Heritage Commission, the Native American Heritage Commission, and the Military Heritage & Civil War Preservation Program. He and his agency worked to raise awareness about Rosenwald Schools—one-room schoolhouses for black children that at one time dotted Kentucky and the South—and he has helped preserve 60 Civil War sites across the state.

In 1979, while still in his 20s, he started the Main Street program to help revive Kentucky's decaying downtowns. The program now includes 110 cities and towns across Kentucky and is credited with helping breathe new life into desolate city centers.

And he pushed to get Kentucky buildings and properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Kentucky now has 41,000 properties and 3,200 historic districts, such as Old Louisville, on the register.

That's the fourth-largest number of any state in the nation, according to the National Park Service, which keeps the register.

Though he's had many successes—including persuading state transportation leaders to make historic preservation a key component of the Paris Pike widening—all has not been positive, Morgan admits.

He hasn't persuaded the state legislature to commit more money for preservation.

"We don't have the ability to give grants out, to start projects on the local level," Morgan said.

He also laments that grassroots preservation groups have been slow in forming. It's those organizations, such as Preservation Kentucky, run by citizens, that have the power to effectively lobby the legislature, Morgan said.

"A lot of people don't consider themselves preservationists," he said. "But people who live in Old Louisville in an old house, for example, are great preservationists."

Helen Dedman, whose family owns and operates the Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg, a restaurant, hotel and tavern housed in an 1845 building, said Morgan had done much for Kentucky out of the public eye.

"He has touched people and places over the whole state," she said.

Dedman met Morgan when they were students at Centre College.

"He was the first person that I knew that really knew about antiques," she said.

The two kept in sporadic touch over the years, but it wasn't until 15 years ago that she and Morgan closely reconnected because of newfound activism in preservation.

Dedman helped organize a tour of historic homes and found herself "falling in love with these old homes," she said. She, along with others, formed the non-profit James Harrod Trust to advocate for preservation in Harrodsburg and Mercer County.

"David has never lost his passion," Dedman said. "It didn't matter who you were, what class you were, what color you were—if you had just a little bit of interest in his preservation, he was your cheerleader, he was on your side."

Historic preservation leaders from across Kentucky gathered for a dinner in downtown Louisville last month to honor Morgan. The location was befitting—inside the old Henry Clay Hotel, a 1924 building that is being renovated into housing and commercial shops.

Morgan has been an advocate of saving the structure, commonly called the old YWCA.

Friends and co-workers roasted Morgan—poking fun at his big nose, bushy eyebrows and black mustache—while viewing pictures of him over the decades, with former governors and first lady Laura Bush. Bush visited Louisville in 2004 and praised Morgan and the heritage council for their work on the "Preserve America" federal program.

Morgan, whose replacement will be named next year, said he one day hopes to return to Kentucky. For now, he plans to enjoy his free time and will likely find a job in preservation in Washington.

"Leaving this job is the hardest thing," he said. "I've put my whole life into it. There's not an inch of Kentucky in the last 29 years I've not seen."

"It's an incredible place," he said, "and its greatest asset are its people."

TRIBUTE TO JEANE KIRKPATRICK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today America mourns the loss of one of its great public servants and patriots, Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick.