

together in the 1950's, when he was chairman of the Alaska Statehood Committee and I was assistant to the Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton as Alaskans sought Statehood.

Bob Atwood was a leader in that fight. He crystallized the support of our Nation's press to put the 49th star on our flag. It was his understanding and knowledge of the news media, and his friendships among editors and publishers across our Nation that brought the press on board, to champion the cause for bringing Alaska into the union. Not too many years later, he was responsible for newspapers across our Nation understanding the importance of building our great Alaska pipeline.

Bob Atwood was more than a great publisher, more than the successful chairman of the Statehood Committee. He was a cultural renaissance man, who did much behind the scenes to promote the arts and education in Alaska.

Bob loved new technology, and brought his newspaper into the computer age long before most of the Nation's largest dailies were on line. He was the first one on the staff of the Anchorage Times to learn how to use the new computers, while his staff struggled with the transition from typewriters to the electronic age.

His knowledge of history, and of the many serious- and humorous-stories about Alaska and Alaskans who shaped my State's history, was extraordinary. Bob was generous in sharing those stories with organizations and groups who asked him to speak or to attend their meetings.

Above all, Bob Atwood understood the importance of a strong military presence in Alaska, the crossroads of the world, and he helped to make the Nation aware of our strategic global position.

He was a tireless supporter of our service men and women, and remained friends with many of them long after their tours of duty in Alaska were over. For 40 years Bob served on the military's civilian advisory boards in Alaska, and was president since 1976 of the Alaskan Command Civilian Advisory Board. He assured that in Alaska there was—and still is—a partnership between our military stationed in our State and Alaskans.

Immediately after the 1964 earthquake, he told me he wanted to buy land and build a house close to the area most damaged by the earthquake, to show his confidence in the future of Alaska. He built that house and opened it up time and again to men and women from our State and hundreds of others he had met during his travels in our country and all over the world.

My friend Bob was quietly generous to a number of causes which were never publicized. In addition, he was proud of those which bear his name, to which he donated millions of dollars, including the Atwood chair in journalism at the University of Alaska, the Atwood Center at Alaska Pacific University, and

the Evangeline Atwood Theater at Anchorage's performing arts center. His generosity touched the lives of thousands of Alaskans, though they may never have known it.

Bob Atwood had the manners of an old-fashioned gentleman, the curiosity and sense of fun of a youngster, and writing and editing talents that could only be achieved through graceful maturity and a great understanding and love of words.

In helping to make life better for all Alaskans, Bob Atwood made history. He was indeed a great man, who helped to make our great land even greater. He was also a dear, good and loyal friend. I will miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his daughter Elaine and his grandsons and granddaughter, to whom he was devoted.

As a visitor comes into my office, there is a photo of Bob Atwood and me with our snowmachines in the broad fields near Alyeska, the ski resort in my home town, Girdwood, AK. I cherish those days when I spent time there with Bob, with Evangeline and Elaine Atwood.

Bob was a true Alaskan—a real pioneer.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. CONRAD F. "NICK" NECRASON

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, our Nation lost one of the genuine heroes of World War II, a man who went on to a distinguished second career in Alaska, when Maj. Gen. Conrad F. "Nick" Necrason died this last month.

He was the recipient of the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also received our State of Alaska's highest military award, the Legion of Merit.

He began his career at West Point. After his 1936 graduation, he went on to flying school, earning his wings in the Army Air Corps the next year.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, General Necrason was flying to Pearl Harbor as part of a bomber squadron. He loved to tell the story of how he had to land on a golf course during the battle—the attack of the Japanese on Hawaii.

During World War II, General Necrason flew 360 air combat hours, and was recognized for developing low-level bombing techniques. He flew a whole variety of aircraft, most notably P-38 fighters and B-17 bombers. In 1943, he was wounded in action over Burma.

A few years later, he flew bombers during the Korean conflict.

General Necrason came to Alaska at an exciting time, just as statehood dawned, and was commander of the Alaskan Air Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base from 1958 to 1961.

After retirement in 1965, he became Alaska's Adjutant General and commander of the National Guard, serving from 1967 through 1972, and again from 1974 to 1982.

During those years, he effected a successful restructuring of the Alaska

Army National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard.

He brought the great workhorses of the air, C-130's, into service in Alaska, expanded our Eskimo scout contingent by establishing training programs for women, and led the guard in helping Alaska and Alaskans through floods and other natural disasters.

While many describe him as a soldier's soldier, Nick Necrason was equally as well-liked and at home in the civilian community.

He was known for his skill at bridge and at poker, and with his wife, Myrle, who survives him, as a gracious host, welcoming people from all parts of our State and our world to their home.

General Necrason's heroism during combat, his distinguished peacetime career, and his contributions to Alaska will not be forgotten. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Myrle, daughters Ginger and Sandy, and his grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SAMUEL E. EBBESEN, UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today I salute an outstanding military officer, Lt. Gen. Samuel E. Ebbesen, U.S. Army. General Ebbesen is retiring this month with more than 35 years of dedicated service to our country, culminating in assignments as Commanding General, Second United States Army, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy.

In his most recent position, he was responsible for the establishment of all policies concerning military personnel matters including accessions and retention programs; compensation and benefits; and the classification, assignment and career development for the 1.4 million service members of the Department of Defense. His accomplishments were many, resulting in improved quality of life for our service members and the enhanced readiness of our Armed Forces.

General Ebbesen, a native of St. Croix, VI, was commissioned in 1961 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps [ROTC]. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from City College of New York and a Masters degree in public administration from Auburn University. His military schooling includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Air War College.

During his distinguished career, General Ebbesen served in numerous leadership and key staff positions throughout the Army. He served as the commanding general, 6th Infantry Division, Light, Fort Wainwright, AK, as the deputy commander, Alaska Command [ALCOM] and as the assistant division commander, 6th Infantry Division, Light. After the division relocated—north of the range—in Alaska, General Ebbesen was instrumental in

successfully integrating the 6th Infantry Division—Light—into the Fairbanks community. He fostered strong community relationships which endure today. Under General Ebbesen's tenure, the 6th Infantry Division achieved safety records which were unsurpassed in the United States Army at that time. This record was achieved in spite of adverse and difficult climatic conditions. He ensured that the 6th Infantry Division were pivotal players in the U.S. Pacific Command's Expanded Relations Program throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Further, General Ebbesen significantly improved quality of life for those soldiers and their families stationed throughout Alaska.

Additionally, General Ebbesen served as the Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, United States Army, Washington, DC; Chief of Staff, I Corps, Fort Lewis, WA; commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY; Deputy Chief, Plans and Operations Division, and later Executive Officer, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC; and Commander, 2d Battalion, 32 Infantry, 7th Infantry Division; Executive Officer, 2d Brigade, 7th Infantry Division; and G3, 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, CA.

General Ebbesen's military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit—with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal—with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. His combat assignment and training resulted in the award of the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He is authorized to wear the Army General Staff Identification Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

Mr. President, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting General Ebbesen for his distinguished service to this great Nation and to the great State of Alaska, as well as his superb leadership of the men and women of our Armed Forces. It is with great pride that I congratulate him upon his retirement and wish him the very best.

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to draw my colleague's attention to the outstanding efforts and hard work of the men and women of the U.S. Maritime Administration. I want to offer my own heartfelt thanks to those individuals for their hard work and dedication in swiftly implementing the Maritime Security Act.

The Maritime Security Act, which was approved by the Senate on September 24, and signed into law by the President on October 8 last year. It will

ensure the continued viability of the U.S.-flag merchant marine. It will guarantee that there will be an adequate number of private-sector, U.S.-flag vessels on hand for the Department of Defense in times of war or national emergency. Our Nation will continue to support a base of maritime employment to provide trained, loyal U.S.-citizen merchant mariners to crew the Department of Defense's Ready Reserve fleet of sealift vessels.

Quite simply, without this legislation the United States might have lost its merchant marine. Some of our Nation's most honored former military leaders let us know last year, in no uncertain terms, just how costly that would be. Our Armed Forces are counting on the U.S.-flag merchant marine to bring them the supplies they need to sustain their operations on hostile shores. If history has taught us one lesson, Mr. President, we should hold a deep appreciation for the importance of the U.S.-flag merchant marine to our Nation's security. That is why the outstanding efforts of the Maritime Administration deserves recognition.

In the days following enactment of the Maritime Security Act, the staff of the Maritime Administration worked tirelessly to iron out the contracts between the Government and the individual U.S.-flag vessel operators. This is the backbone of the Maritime Security Program.

At the same time, MARAD staff coordinated their efforts with the Department of Defense. This ensured that only the most modern and most militarily useful U.S.-flag vessels are chosen for the Maritime Security Program. These efforts will enhance our national defense capabilities.

The first contracts were signed last month, just before the holidays. And, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the final contracts were just recently signed. In just 4 months, the complete 47-ship Maritime Security Fleet has become a reality. We have MARAD to thank for taking our vision and translating it into a viable program.

I want to recognize the Administrator of MARAD, Vice Adm. Albert J. Herberger. His firm leadership at the helm of his agency has been exemplary. Vice Admiral Herberger is widely respected in the maritime industry, and his abilities as a manager, a negotiator and an administrator, coupled with his extensive military experience, played a major role in implementing this legislation.

The implementation of the Maritime Security Program also required the efforts of many MARAD employees. I want to take a moment to recognize several workers by name: Debra Aheron, Ray Barberesi, Murray Bloom, Joan Bondareff, Cher Brooks, Thomas Bryan, Jim Caponiti, Veronica Carver, Sharon Cassidy, Rhonda Davis, William Ebersold, John Graykowski, Steven Jackson, William Kurfehs, John Lesnick, Richard McDonnell, Jeffrey

McMahon, Robert Patton, Carol Powell, John Swank, Kenneth Willis, and Joan Yim.

To conclude, Mr. President, I would like to add that the Maritime Administration will continue to administer the Maritime Security Program throughout the 10-year life of the Maritime Security Act. Although the work from the good folks at MARAD is just the beginning, we should honor their efforts. They have done so much to ensure that the American flag will still fly in the world's sea lanes. American merchant mariners will be on the decks of those ships. And, our Armed Forces will have the necessary strategic sealift capability to project America's presence overseas.

Thank you, MARAD.

RETIREMENT OF PROCTOR JONES

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, today marks the last day for one of the Senate's most competent and skilled legislative aides. Proctor Jones, staff director of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development has spent the last 36 years helping to assure the legislative process moves forward. I know I am just one of many who are grateful for his guidance on a wide array of energy issues.

During his tenure in the Senate he has gained a reputation for doing his homework, having a deep understanding for the appropriations process, and perhaps most important, fairness. He was invaluable in securing major projects for my home State of Kentucky, and I feel certain his handprint can be found on important projects all across the country.

Jones leaves the Senate with an incredible body of knowledge, expertise and institutional knowledge. He also leaves after literally being the right hand of such powerful chairmen as Senators Russell, Ellender, McClellan, Magnuson, Stennis, BYRD and Hatfield.

It will be a huge loss to the Senate and to States like mine that have benefitted from his knowledge and expertise. But there's no doubt that Jones will continue to serve the greater community working with former Senator Johnston.

Let me close by wishing him and his family the best of luck and by once again thanking him for his commitment not only to the U.S. Senate, but to the American people. His service will not be forgotten and will continue to impact generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, last week, America lost a public servant and a leader of unusual intelligence and vision. It is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to my former colleague and friend, Paul Tsongas, whose untimely passing has deeply affected both those who knew him well and the millions of Americans who respected and admired his exemplary life.