

has been a great public servant for the people of New Jersey and has served over twenty three years at the Ocean County Board of Elections. Mr. Santoro is retiring after many years of outstanding service from his position as Secretary-Commissioner with the Ocean County Board of Elections at the end of July.

Born and raised in Newark, Al Santoro became involved in civic duty at a young age under the wings of his father, Raymond Santoro, who served as a Councilman in Newark. After completing his education, Mr. Santoro served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 in Germany.

During his tenure at the Ocean County Board of Elections, Al Santoro has been an important part in making our democracy work. His efforts helped ensure that the electoral mechanisms in place succeeded and that our elections are fair and just to all. The lifeblood of our democracy is the assurance that our political process works and that its integrity is not in question. Al Santoro has helped to make that a reality for the citizens of Ocean County. Surely, there can be no higher calling in our Republic.

So, I join the people of Ocean County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Al Santoro for his outstanding service to the community.●

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE W. ALLEN

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to recognize a man whose lifelong dedication to civic, military, and religious service has enriched not just my State of Nevada but the Nation as a whole.

Jesse W. Allen grew up in the poverty-stricken era of the Great Depression in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After losing his father at the age of fourteen, Mr. Allen dropped out of grade school in order to support his family. His labor taught him responsibility, integrity, and the value of hard work. Mr. Allen embraced these values and imparted them on others throughout his life.

At age 17, Jesse Allen enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In his forty-one months of service, Jesse proudly served his country; first by dodging German submarines across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the U.S.S. *Texas*, and then by fighting off Japanese fire and suicide bombers as a gun captain in the South Pacific. By the time Mr. Allen was honorably discharged in 1945, he had received 13 Battle Stars, a Silver Star, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

After leaving the service, Jesse returned to Tennessee where he made up for his lack of a formal education by acquiring his GED and enrolling in Tennessee Temple Bible College. For three years, he worked full time at night in a woolen mill so that he could support his family while attending college on the GI Bill. This hard work paid off in 1948 when Mr. Allen was ordained as a minister.

Jesse began spreading Christian principles throughout the United States on street corners, in jails, nursing homes, home meetings, and even in the tuberculosis sanatorium. Eventually, he established many churches and drew such a following that his preaching was carried on radio stations throughout the Southeast.

Jesse lived by the same Christian values that he preached. He went into the bootleggers' back woods, where he dared to go, to bring out the sick and elderly who needed to see a doctor. He worked with families suffering from marriage problems and with troubled teens throughout the Nation. My home State, Nevada benefitted from his passion as Mr. Allen worked with abused, neglected, and abandoned children at the Southern Nevada Children's Home in Boulder City, and later, as he opened his own home to afflicted youths from Clark County. His group home achieved record success rates for Clark County Juvenile Services for five consecutive years, earning him a commission as an Honorary Deputy Constable.

Today, Mr. Allen is the father of four and the grandfather of fourteen. He has lived an exemplary life of patriotism, citizenship, and dedicated service. He overcame the obstacles of his impoverished upbringing to help others, using values that inspire those he touches to do the same. For this reason, I am proud to recognize Mr. Jesse W. Allen. Men like him are rare, but are one of our country's greatest assets.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS A. PANKOK, FORMER NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYMAN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Thomas A. Pankok. Mr. Pankok has been a great public servant and an outstanding member of the community over the years.

Mr. Pankok currently resides in Pennsville, New Jersey. He married Alma Land in 1958 with whom he has three children, Thomas Pankok Jr., Kathy and Timothy and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Pankok is a graduate of Salem High School and a veteran of the United States Navy. He served four years during the Korean conflict. In 1956, after his tour of duty, Thomas Pankok began a lengthy career with Bell Telephone Company, serving 30 years with the company.

In 1981, Thomas Pankok was elected to the State Assembly. As a member of the Assembly, Mr. Pankok served two terms and authored many important pieces of legislation. After his first term in the Assembly, he was awarded with the "Freshman Legislator of the Year" award, presented by the State Association of Counties.

In addition, to his work in the State Assembly, Thomas Pankok also served over 15 years as a Salem County Freeholder. The role of state and local government is vital to our democracy.

For our federal system of government to succeed, we must have effective and committed leaders at the state and local level. The United States Congress needs and relies on partners like Thomas Pankok in local government and I salute him and thank him for his efforts.

So, I join with Salem County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Thomas A. Pankok, an outstanding public servant, citizen, veteran and father. His efforts upon the behalf of the people of Salem County have been vital to the community and are much appreciated.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 7, 2000 in Los Angeles, CA. A woman ran over a 65-year-old Hispanic man, Jesus Plascencia, twice in a parking lot. Authorities say that the perpetrator made comments about her hatred of Hispanics after the death and referred to the victim as "dead road kill." The assailant was charged with murder and hate crimes in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE FIREFIGHTERS SELFLESSLY FIGHTING NATIONAL BLAZES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the status of the National Fire Plan, the 2002 Wildfire season and the Delawareans who risked their lives to save others. Since January 1, over 47,000 wildfires have burned more than 3,200,000 acres around the country. The vast majority of these fires have been small, just a few acres at most; however, several have been massive fires consuming hundreds or thousands of acres. To those living nearest these fires, they have suffered a tremendous loss. But thanks to the outstanding effort and tireless dedication of firefighters from around the country, many of these large wildfires have been suppressed, and the smaller fires have been prevented from growing larger.

While wildfires tend to be a greater problem in the West, concern for the residents, for their health, for their

safety, and for their homes extends nationwide. In Delaware, we have not experienced the devastating effects of fires seen in other states, yet men and women from my state have been willing to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in helping fight these devastating fires.

The Delaware Wildfire Fire Crew, a 20-member advanced firefighting group made up of eight Department of Agriculture Forest Services employees and twelve volunteers has been on the road for two weeks, battling fires in Wyoming, South Dakota, and Virginia. Most recently, the crew helped put out a lightning sparked fire that burned approximately 850 acres of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia.

Their heroism and their selflessness were apparent. I want you to know that my heart was filled with pride when I learned this convoy of Delaware firefighting personnel was en route to offer assistance. These men and women were willing to stop what they were doing at a moment's notice. They were willing to put their own lives on hold, leave their own families, and help those who needed help.

At some point, all of us need to look back and take stock of where we have been and where we are going. Have we lived our lives in the service to others, or merely for ourselves? Have we made clear our commitments and worked with purpose to fulfill them, or simply meandered in search of a cause? At the end of the day, can we say with confidence that we did our best and worked to our fullest potential?

For these firefighters, and the thousands of others fighting this season's wildfires, the answers are clear. They live a life of service. They embody a commitment to excellence that serves as an example and an inspiration to us all. Whether working to protect those of us here in Delaware, or risking their lives to fight the raging wildfires of the West, they proved to us that if a family is in trouble, if a fire threatens a home—Delaware's volunteer firefighters will be there for us—and for America—leading the way.●

TRIBUTE TO ROGER C. CLOUTRE

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to pay a posthumous tribute to one of the most dedicated leaders of my State, the late Roger C. Cloutre. As a corporate executive of Vulcan Chemical Company, as well as a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, he demonstrated dedication, pride in his work, and a commitment to the well being of those he represented and served.

Much has changed in our Nation since September Eleventh. There is a growing, yet genuine enthusiasm for the things that are truly important, our family, our friends and the welfare

of our country. Long before these tragic events, however, the man I memorialize here today practiced these ideals. He leaves behind a proud family; a thankful community and a Nation better off, because he was an American citizen for 53 years.

His friends say he "completed 80 years of work in 53 years of life." It is a record of accomplishment that we can all learn from. Yet, even though he battled cancer for the last 12 years of his life, it did not diminish his devotion to his children, his compassion for his friends and his dedication to the work of the Ascension Parish School Board. His planning and execution were always based in reality, but he himself represented an idealist's view of a man serving God, family and friends. He made us all laugh and kept a positive attitude that always seemed to affect our daily outlook on life.

His son Spencer, a graduate of West Point, said eloquently at his father's funeral that although Roger has the potential for national service, he instead invested every moment of his energy on the community he dearly cared about, and the family he loved so much.

Roger and his wife Katherine were the proud parents of four children, Spencer, Stephanie, Styles and Stuart, each a blessing in their own right.

Though many awards and accolades found him in life, his service and dedication to his community were largely responsible for the public support of a \$30 million bond issue that is creating new schools and expanding educational facilities throughout the parish.

Again, his son Spencer put it best when he said:

"We were all very lucky to have him at the local level, for his capabilities surely could have affected state and national events. He was a leader—a Chief Executive Officer, a General—someone that we all wanted to follow, a role model we all emulated in some way or another."

His deflection of self at the height of the me-generation and the uncompromising support of others that he demonstrated throughout his life, even at times of unspeakable pain, should provide all of us with the inspiration to go forward in our work.

Unfortunately, all of my colleagues will not know Roger Cloutre. Looking back, I see how fortunate I happened to be to have had the occasion to seek the wonderful advice of this great American. Though he was seemingly lost in the deep fabric of this mighty Nation, he was in fact, a quiet hero. May Roger's star always reflect a wonderful luminescence upon our Nation and provide all of us with a reminder of the thousand ways in which we may all work to make this a greater Nation still.●

JACK F. OWENS, IN MEMORIAM

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on

the life of Mr. Jack. F. Owens upon his passing. Jack was a good friend and a man who made remarkable contributions toward educational opportunities for thousands of Delawareans. He was a man with a kind heart, diverse interests, great abilities and boundless energy.

Jack was born in Easley, SC. After graduating from Easley High School where he excelled in various sports, Jack went to Furman University where he continued his academic and athletic exploits, lettering in three sports, and graduating in 1952.

After serving his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jack returned to South Carolina and began a career in academia, first in the Pickens County School system and then at Greenville Technical College.

Responding to the call of then Delaware Governor Charles Terry, Jack came to Delaware to help open Delaware's Technical and Community College in Sussex County in March of 1967. He was the school's first administrator and headed the Sussex County campus for twenty-eight years, retiring in 1995. In 1993, Jack received Delaware's highest honor when he was awarded "The Order of the First State."

As Governor, I had the honor of signing into law legislation that named the Sussex Campus in Jack's honor. Today, it is called "The Jack Owens Campus." The energy and commitment found in the students and faculty at DelTech are, in large part, due to Jack's vision.

Even after his retirement, Jack remained committed to public service. He served on numerous boards and commissions including The Arthritis Foundation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ducks Unlimited, and served as a board member of the Beebe Medical Center and as Chairman of the Delmarva Chicken Festival. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Wilmington College and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, where he helped establish a community college system.

Jack leaves behind his wife Donna, 6 children and 6 grandchildren. He also leaves behind many friends, colleagues and several generations of students who are living more productive, satisfying lives today because Jack made the decision thirty-five years ago to come north to Delaware.

Jack's lifelong dream was that students in Sussex County would have the opportunity to receive undergraduate and advanced degrees in their home county. He lived to see that dream fulfilled.

Jack's legacy will live on in the lives of those he helped shape, in the halls of education facilities he helped build, and in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend. I rise today to commemorate Jack's life, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family support. Jack embodied the best of Delaware. He will be sorely missed.●