

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague, Senator SESSIONS, for really putting into perspective a lot of the things that have been said on the floor, allegations from the past but also with respect for this man who is a true hero, an American hero.

I rise to support his elevation to the second highest rank in the U.S. Army as Commander of U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston.

On October 3, 1971, this young man, Robert E. Clark, first platoon leader of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division, became an American hero.

It was approximately 10:30 a.m. in Bin Tuy Province of the Republic of Vietnam. Company A was completing a reconnaissance mission. As they were being extracted, the men came under heavy fire. The first two enemy mortar rounds struck hard and inflicted heavy casualties, including wounding First Lieutenant Clark. At that time, at great risk to his own personal safety, and ignoring or at least putting aside his own wounds, First Lieutenant Clark ran forward into enemy fire to carry his fellow wounded soldiers back to cover.

Throughout the battle he pressed on, moving from position to position to direct his men to lay down a constant stream of smoke in order to mark their position for the helicopters flying overhead. The record clearly shows First Lieutenant Clark's heroic action ensured the success of Company A's mission. For his bravery in combat and service in Vietnam, First Lieutenant Clark received a Purple Heart. He received two Bronze Stars, one for valor and one for service.

In a letter of recommendation on behalf of Robert Clark, the company commander wrote:

[First Lt Clark's] display of personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the letter of recommendation which lays out these events.

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

On 3 October 1971, first Lieutenant Robert T. Clark, First Platoon Leader Of Company (A), 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, distinguished himself by heroic action while on ground combat operations against a hostile enemy force in Binh Tuy Province, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1030 hours Company (A) were being extracted after completing a ground reconnaissance mission, when they were engaged by an undetermined size enemy force, receiving enemy mortar fire. The first two mortar rounds that impacted took a heavy toll of friendly casualties including 1LT Clark. Although wounded 1LT Clark with total disregard for his own personal safety and his wounds exposed himself to enemy mortar fire as he moved forward and assist in carrying the other wounded members under cover. 1LT Clark continued to expose himself as he moved from position to posi-

tion directing his men to lay down a constant screen of smoke marking their position to Gunships giving them fire support. 1LT Clark's heroic action and aggressiveness, enabled the mission to be a complete success. Resulting in one (1) enemy soldier killed. His display of personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Mr. FRIST. In a career spanning over 30 years, Robert T. Clark has consistently displayed that uncommon courage and leadership he showed on the battlefield in Vietnam. He has earned the admiration of all who know him, both in and outside of military life.

GEN John Wickham, former Chief of Staff of the Army, says General Clark is unequivocally "one of the most ethical, moral, people-oriented and charismatic leaders I have ever known."

GEN John Keane, whom the senior Senator from Massachusetts so lavishly praised earlier, calls General Clark "a man of great character. He's a great moral force and a very compassionate person. Simply stated, he's one of the Army's very best leaders." Those are the words of GEN John Keane.

It is my honor to rise today and support this nomination of this outstanding soldier. General Clark has earned numerous awards for his extraordinary service, including four awards of the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart medal, four meritorious service medals, the Air Medal, the Air Commendation Medal, and numerous campaign service medals for service in Vietnam as well as Saudi Arabia.

He has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Air Assault Badge.

During the gulf war, then Colonel Clark commanded the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne. Under his leadership, the 3rd Brigade conducted one of the longest and largest airborne assaults in military history. More than 2,000 men, 50 transport vehicles, artillery, and tons of fuel and ammunition were air lifted at that time 50 miles into Iraq. Land vehicles took another 2,000 troops deep into the Iraqi territory. All of this was accomplished in 72 hours without a single American casualty. Only two Iraqi soldiers were killed and 22 wounded.

With characteristic modesty, General Clark explained the brigade's truly remarkable success by saying, "We're the first guys who ask them to lay down their weapons, and they did. It just took a little convincing."

General Clark earned a Bronze Star for his command of the historic mission.

In 1998, General Clark was elevated to command the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, which, as most know, is situated on the border of Tennessee and Kentucky. Indeed, Fort Campbell can be described as a small to midsize city comprised of about 50,000

soldiers and civilians. There are homes, schools, a fire department. It is a complex and diverse place. During his 2-year tenure there—and I had the opportunity to meet with General Clark there on several occasions—General Clark's reputation for fairness and compassion extended way beyond the base, well into the surrounding community.

In February of 2000, the Clarksville City Council unanimously passed a resolution praising General Clark for his "high standards of leadership, professionalism, and integrity."

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners passed a similar resolution declaring:

General Clark's reputation in the local communities is highly acknowledged as one of the brightest, caring, and respected division commanders that the Army has sent to our local community.

Indeed, General Clark is one of the finest men in uniform today. He currently serves as the acting commander of the 5th U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston. I should mention, as an aside, that General Clark requested the assignment so that he could take care of his wife who suffers from a chronic illness.

General Clark's peers call him "a soldier's soldier." He descends from two generations of Clark men who have served the Army with dedication and honor.

And thus, as I began a few minutes ago, I close by saying, and I do call him a true hero. I strongly support his elevation to the second highest rank in the U.S. Army.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having expired, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark to be Lieutenant General.

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Executive Calendar items 436 through 450, and all remaining nominations on the Secretary's desk, are confirmed; the motions to reconsider are tabled, the President is notified, and the Senate returns to legislative session.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Victor E. Renuart, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Richard V. Reynolds, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the

grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles L. Johnson, II, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Garry R. Trexler

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David W. Barno, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Tony L. Corwin, 0000

Brig. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti, 0000

Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Moore, Jr., 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. John R. Allen, 0000

Col. Thomas L. Conant, 0000

Col. Joseph V. Medina, 0000

Col. Robert E. Schmidle, Jr., 0000

Col. Thomas D. Waldhauser, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. James L. Williams, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael K. Loose, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Robert L. Phillips, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Naval Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Robert Ryland Percy, III, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Naval Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Henry B. Tomlin, III, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Gary A. Engle, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Mark A. Hugel, 0000

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN360 Air Force nominations (51) beginning Martin Alexis, and ending Jerome E. Wizda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2003.

PN973 Air Force nomination of Michael A. Mansueto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 25, 2003.

PN974 Air Force nomination of Ronald C. Danielson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 25, 2003.

PN1047 Air Force nomination of Jefferson L. Severs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1048 Air Force nomination of Lesa M. Wagner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1049 Air Force nomination of Francis D. Pombar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1050 Air Force nomination of Alan T. Parmater, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

IN THE ARMY

PN1036 Army nomination of Michael P. Vinlove, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 14, 2003.

PN1037 Army nominations (8) beginning Donald A. Black, and ending Debra S. Long, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 14, 2003.

PN1053 Army nominations (29) beginning Douglas B. Ashby, and ending Terry C. Washam, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1054 Army nominations (62) beginning Curtis J. Alitz, and ending Marshall F. Willis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1055 Army nominations (42) beginning Debra E. Burr, and ending Janice B. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1057 Army nominations (23) beginning Lionel Baker, and ending Warren S. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1019-1 Foreign Service nominations (141) beginning Kenneth C. Brill, and ending Steven C. Taylor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 3, 2003.

PN1018 Foreign Service nominations (32) beginning Elena L. Brineman, and ending Stephen J. Hadley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 3, 2003.

IN THE NAVY

PN1058 Navy nominations (416) beginning John A. Adcock, Jr., and ending Joseph Zuliani, which nominations were received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1062 Navy nominations (29) beginning Michael C. Bequette, and ending Robert S. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1063 Navy nominations (458) beginning James C. Taylor, and ending Jeffery S. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

PN1064 Navy nomination of Jeffrey D. Dickson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2003.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. FRIST. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. FRIST. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, what is the order of business at the moment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is nothing currently pending before the Senate.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair. I ask unanimous consent that I may speak on a matter out of order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A. JAMES MANCHIN—WEST VIRGINIAN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on November 3, the State of West Virginia lost one of its most enduring and most colorful political figures, A. James Manchin.

A. James Manchin was born in Farmington, WV, on April 7, 1927. He had a deep love for West Virginia and its people, and that deep love showed everywhere he went, in every office he held, in everything he did, and with every person he met.

With his booming voice, his flamboyant oratory, and his wonderful sense of humor, A. James was an undeniable presence. I find it difficult to imagine traveling around the State of West Virginia and speaking before a crowd without seeing my friend Jimmy Manchin standing there somewhere in the crowd, lifting his hat into the air—the way, he wore big hats—and shouting out a greeting to me.

With his political skills and his tenacious determination to make West Virginia a better place in which to live