

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD B. MYERS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his lifetime of service and unfaltering dedication to the United States Armed Forces and our country.

As both a soldier and a leader, spanning 40 years of military service, General Myers contributions to our peace and security, and that of our children and grandchildren, are a remarkable hallmark in military history. During trying times, under sometimes harsh scrutiny, and with high national security stakes at hand, General Myers has repeatedly shown his Kansas common sense, leading our military through two wars and a host of other challenges with a steady hand.

Dick Myers was well prepared for leadership. Born in Kansas City, MO, in 1942, General Myers graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School and attended Kansas State University, where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC and was commissioned second lieutenant in 1965. After his commissioning, General Myers entered pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As a command pilot, he logged over 4,000 flying hours, including 600 combat hours over Vietnam and Laos. Serving in a wide variety of assignments over the next several decades, General Myers assumed the duties of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in March 2000.

On October 1, 2001, just weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks, General Myers was named the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As the first Vice Chairman to ascend to the office, General Myers served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council, and played a critical role in the planning and execution of the Global War on Terrorism, including the important Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

During General Myers tenure as the chairman, he was constantly faced with unique challenges and responsibilities with both frustrating and emotional circumstances, from the worst terrorist attacks on the United States in our proud history to fighting overseas wars against terrorists and the enemies of freedom and democracy. Yet, despite all of the challenges, General Myers maintained a positive, forward looking determination and attitude, and never faltered in his responsibility to our men and women serving in the armed forces today.

General Myers' tenure and accomplishments were not limited to the Global War on Terrorism, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under General Myers' leadership, the Joint Staff produced a far-reaching National Military Strategy, complemented by a National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism, to

guide the Armed Forces for the challenges of the 21st Century. This strategy serves as a template for the Global War on Terrorism, and was and will be truly instrumental in bringing freedom to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Myers also oversaw the establishment of the United States Northern Command, or NORTHCOM, the first combatant command responsible for the homeland defense of the continental United States. As part of this effort, the chairman advocated joint war fighting among the services and called on the entire U.S. Government to expand the culture of jointness in the interagency and international communities. General Myers has truly shown great leadership in his efforts to transform and modernize the military.

General Myers should also be recognized for his humanitarian role—a mission many times missing from the headlines. In late 2004, in response to the horrific events surrounding the Indian Ocean Tsunami, General Myers oversaw "Operation Unified Assistance", the largest coordinated and executed military humanitarian relief effort since the Berlin Air Lift. Designed to enable more than 15,000 Department of Defense personnel, 130 aircraft, and 20 United States Navy warships to distribute more than 400,000 gallons of water, 2,000 tons of food, and almost 3,000 tons of other supplies to those in need, the mission was a success.

General Myers' impeccable service and brave leadership are also reflected in the awards and decorations he has received throughout his career. General Myers is the recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguish Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with eighteen oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device with three oak leaf clusters.

Mr. President, today I have mentioned but a few of General Richard Myers' numerous accomplishments. I not only consider General Myers a strong military leader, in times of both war and peace, and a critically important person in the defense of our great Nation, I am privileged to call him a friend and a colleague. I have often said that if I were in a gunfight on Front Street in Dodge City, KS, during our States' pioneer days, there is no person I would rather have by my side than Richard Myers. I know that a grateful Nation shares my appreciation for the general—a courageous and honorable man and a strong and steadfast military leader during a truly trying time, and I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to him and his wife Mary Jo for the years they have dedicated to our country and to the betterment of the United States Armed Forces. General Myers, we wish you well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CPT WILLIAM "BILL" MARCLEY

● Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate CPT William F. "Bill" Marcley for his 38 years of service and commitment to saving lives and advancing emergency medical services.

Bill began this selfless work in 1967 after he and his wife were involved in a serious car accident, by turning the experience into an opportunity to serve as a volunteer on the Inter-City First Aid Squad in Lake Park, FL. After helping establish paramedic systems in four counties in Florida, Bill and his family moved to South Carolina in 1977, where he would serve three counties over the next 28 years in many capacities, including director of Fairfield County EMS and EMS Operations Manager in my home county of Greenville.

In addition to his full-time positions, Bill has found time to serve his community as United Way Coordinator for the Department of Public Safety, chairman of "Operation Heartbeat" for the American Heart Association, EMT instructor at Greenville Technological College, and he annually conducts over 100 special programs promoting public safety and emergency medical service education.

On behalf of myself and the State of South Carolina. I thank and commend Captain Marcley for the many contributions he has made in the lives of countless South Carolinians. Although he officially began his retirement on September 9, 2005, I know that his service to South Carolina is far from over, and I wish him and his wife, Arlene, many more happy and productive years together.●

TRIBUTE TO PAT BOONE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to acting and music legend Pat Boone.

While most of us remember him as one of the greatest singers of the 1950's, he is also known for his abiding Christian faith and strong moral standards which have sustained him throughout his life even during the height of his career in the entertainment industry.

Today, Mr. Boone is the spokesman for the 60 Plus Association, a non-partisan senior citizens advocacy group.

He recently was interviewed by John Gizzi with Human Events. I ask to have printed in the RECORD an article titled "Pat Boone on Politics, Porn, and the Death Tax".

The article follows.

[From Human Events Online, Aug. 19, 2005]

PAT BOONE ON POLITICS, PORN AND THE DEATH TAX

(By John Gizzi)

Pat Boone, 71, is one of America's most beloved entertainers. In the 1950s, he was the nation's second most popular singer after

Elvis Presley. His hits, "April Love" and "Love Letters in the Sand," were No. 1 for six and seven weeks respectively. He starred in 15 movies, including Journey to the Center of the Earth and State Fair. Long an active conservative Republican, Boone is currently spokesman for the 60 Plus Association. Last week, Boone spoke with Human Events Political Editor John Gizzi.

You have always been known in Hollywood as a conservative and a Christian. In 1961, in fact, you, Ronald Reagan, Roy Rogers and John Wayne addressed Dr. Fred Schwartz's all-Southern California anti-Communist rally. Has it become more difficult for someone [in Hollywood] to be a conservative and a Christian today?

PAT BOONE: I was not involved politically at that time. Then, I felt so strongly about anti-communism and I did read Fred Schwartz's book and then came his crusade at the sports arena. What Schwartz said in his book [You Can Trust the Communists—To Be Communists] made perfect sense to me. The phrase, "Better Red Than Dead," was sweeping college campuses at the time.

When my time came to say a few words, I quoted that sentiment. I said I've got four little girls and if it ever came to that, although I pray it never will, I would rather see my four daughters blown to heaven in an atomic blast than caught in the hell of a Communist United States.

It impressed Reagan and he quoted that a number of times, beginning by saying, "I once heard a young father say." That's what occurred that night.

My activism and my being very outspoken never abated after that and it has cost me as an entertainer. There is a visceral antipathy that producers, hirers and firers have. I feel myself in the other direction. I have feelings I have to control of anger and total disregard for certain actors and outspoken people in our business that I think are ruining American culture.

Do you care to name any names?

BOONE: When Norman Lear started People For the American Way, he asked to meet with me. He wanted me to be the voice of People For the American Way—its spokesman. He knew I had considerable influence and a high-profile among Christians and Middle America.

I said to him: "Look, I understand why you have these feelings. You want to promote your point of view. But your main concern is with the Christian right, isn't it?" He said, "That's right." I said, "I know you've been openly critical of [Rev.] Jerry Falwell. I know Jerry, although I'm not a member of the Moral Majority. He feels that what you're doing and saying and promoting is at least as harmful for America as you feel his point of view is. So why don't we get you two guys together? I have a feeling that so many of your concerns are similar. Since I know him, I think he'd be willing to meet with you."

Lear said, "No, I wouldn't meet with him." When I asked him why, he said, "He'll just quote Scripture and I don't know anything about that. I'm not going to meet with him." When he left, he knew I wasn't going to be his spokesman.

I'm on the unpopular side in the entertainment community. A number of entertainers, Jonathan Winters for one, say to me, "Boone, I believe everything I ever hear you say. But I don't dare say it." Now, here's a comedian who'll say anything if it's funny, but when it comes to politics or spiritual things, he knows that he's written off if he were to express himself as emphatically as he would really like to.

Why have you signed on with the 60 Plus Association, and why do you believe its premier cause, abolishing the estate tax, is so critical?

BOONE: [60 Plus President] Jim Martin, a former Marine and longtime friend of the President, contacted me and asked me if I wanted to join him and his organization. I had been asked to be a spokesman for a number of seniors' groups, but I put it off because I wasn't ready or willing to be considered a senior. Several years ago, in a 10K race here in Los Angeles, I chose a very public moment in front of the network affiliate cameras to come out of the closet and admit I am a senior. Since then, I haven't been reluctant to let people know that, yes, I am a senior and I do feel very concerned about Social Security and the economy and medical costs.

I have considered for many years that this estate tax is absolute robbery. You already pay taxes, you save money, you've been a good citizen and a responsible person, you save up something, maybe it compounds, but you've already paid tax on it. Now, when you have the poor judgment to die, the government steps in and says, "Thank you for doing that all these years. We'll take half of that." And maybe your folks have to sell the business and the house.

When Bing Crosby's [first] wife Dixie died [in 1952], going back that far, he had to sell assets to pay the estate tax. On top of losing his wife, he was losing assets on which he already paid taxes. I read this was the case and asked him, and he said, "Oh yes. You can't get away from the long arm of the IRS."

Some say that hip-hop, acid rock and similar modern music is destructive. Do you agree that a lot of it is harmful?

BOONE: Oh, yes, I've been very vocal about that, too. The culture is being dragged into the gutter, and the ones doing it are not just the performers, but the record company executives. It's calculated on their part because they realize there's some fascination, as we used to be fascinated with Jimmy Cagney in the gangster movies. But in the movies, the criminals always got caught and punished.

The executives found some years ago that this "gangsta rap" music was being bought and played by kids out in the suburbs. These are the well-to-do kids, not the black kids in the ghetto areas. They were not the ones subscribing to it and making this music so successful. It was the kids driving BMWs that their dads gave them that were playing it very loud and rattling windows of the houses they were going by. They've made a multi, multi-million dollar business out of it.

What's the answer to this? Are you talking about censorship?

BOONE: I had a real head-to-head with Robert Blake one night on the Merv Griffin Show about censorship. I said that no society can survive without some form of censorship. He said, "You're crazy. We don't have censorship. That's bad." I replied, "Wait a minute. The traffic light at the corner is a form of censorship. It says you stop so that someone else can go. And then you have your turn to go." We have laws on the books that prevent you from standing up in a theater and yelling, "Fire," or from walking down the street and opening your trench coat and exposing yourself. There are laws that tell you that you can't do certain things and that's what a society does to protect itself.

I believe we need censorship. I don't think the arts we call the arts—literature, movies and certainly not the airwaves—should be exempt from the rules society makes to protect itself. It's the sensibilities of kids and the females we used to call ladies we're talking about. Thanks to "Sex and the City" and this other stuff, they can be just as profane and filthy as men.

I've watched segments of "The Sopranos," and I just get so sick of the glamour. Talk about Cagney and Bogart. We're making national heroes out of gang bosses.

I do advocate censorship for a healthy society with three provisos: that it be majority-approved, self-imposed and voluntary. The "voluntary" and "self-imposed" may sound like the same thing. The society agrees that we need to protect ourselves, and there are certain bounds beyond which we don't want the public to be exposed to filth. But we will make the rules in a voluntary, majority-approved way. And they can be changed by majority opinion.

I have felt that a healthy society should draw some lines in the dirt and say, "You cannot cross over this line. You cannot say certain words on public television and cable or anything that's going to reach sensibilities. We are going to do something to defend our kids and our ladies and our families." But it's something you just can't even talk about in the entertainment industry. But I say, how are we going to protect ourselves if we don't demand responsibility?

One final point—friends in California say that you were urged to run for Congress as a Republican in 1968. Why didn't you do it?

BOONE: That was back when I had all of my kids at home. I just knew that it would be totally time-consuming and if I were elected, I'd have to do the job. I thought I could get elected. But I also knew if I was elected, I would do my best to be a good congressman. However, it would be very disruptive of my family life because I would spend a lot of time away from family. And also, I could never go back to being an entertainer. ●

RECOGNIZING SAN BERNARDINO'S TEAM INLAND

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of some incredibly focused and dedicated young athletes from southern California. This year, the members of Team Inland placed third in the Nike National Youth Basketball Tournament, became the Amateur Athletic Union, AAU, West Coast National Champions, and won the AAU Southern Pacific Division 1 Regional Tournament.

Team Inland is a nonprofit organization based in the city of San Bernardino. It is comprised of 11-year-olds, who commit their time to prepare for numerous weekend basketball tournaments throughout the year. In 2005, they won 77 percent of their games, earning impressive placements in many tournaments.

Making Team Inland's achievement even more meaningful is the fact that team members excelled academically while striving to meet their athletic goals, each maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade point average. It is clear that these young people have set high standards for themselves and put forth tremendous effort to meet them.

The members of 2005 Team Inland are: Marquise Drumwright, Ejiro Ederaine, Tyler Ervin, Quinton Lilley, Jordan Mathis, Myles Pearson, Isaiah Pooler, Kameron Presley, Chandler Scott, Justin Snaveley, Dominique Walker, and Arther Ley Williams.

The Team Inland players have demonstrated their immense potential to achieve. I hope you are heartened, as I am, to learn of young people striving for personal excellence. I extend my sincere congratulations to Team Inland