

from his expeditions to spread hope and inspiration. He makes regular visits to cancer wards and provides strength and courage for those who continue to suffer from and battle cancer. Sean has also begun a motivation speaking tour by visiting wounded troops and veterans all over the country and is currently making arrangements to speak in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Sean's story is truly inspirational, not only to those struggling to beat cancer, but to anyone who seeks to accomplish something that others say is impossible. I would like to commend Sean for his success and thank him for serving as such a positive role model to anyone who has faced long odds. Sean has proven the power of determination.●

#### RECOGNIZING DR. W. RON DEHAVEN

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS. As Administrator for the last 3 years, he has ably carried out the agency's mission of protecting American agriculture.

As a strong leader of APHIS' domestic safeguarding efforts, Dr. DeHaven has been the public face of USDA's effective, science-based response to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, in the United States. He has brought strong leadership skills to increasing U.S. preparedness to deal with avian influenza viruses in our poultry industry and ensuring that APHIS maintains robust emergency response and antismuggling programs designed to prevent the establishment of exotic pests and diseases of agriculture in our country.

Dr. DeHaven serves as one of USDA's principal liaisons to the Department of Homeland Security. He has worked closely with his colleagues there on a number of fronts, including agricultural commodity inspections at our Nation's ports of entry and the joint work of USDA and DHS officials at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center off Long Island, NY. The work of the researchers and diagnosticians at the Center ensures our nation is prepared in the event of a detection of a highly contagious foreign animal disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease or classical swine fever.

The agency's role has been shaped on the international front under Dr. DeHaven's direction. He has spearheaded efforts to stop the spread in poultry of the Asian strain of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza. He has also advocated for improving international animal disease response infrastructure, traveling extensively to create a coalition of like-minded developed countries to work with the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, and the World Organization for Animal Health. Dr. DeHaven helped push for implementation of a

Crisis Management Center at the FAO's headquarters in Rome, with the goal of coordinating global H5N1 response efforts. I believe that the U.S. poultry industry is better protected as a result of his efforts.

Dr. DeHaven's integrity, dedication, and professionalism have represented the United States proudly in all of these endeavors. He has consistently championed U.S. agriculture in all of his international relationships and activities.

We congratulate him on his retirement from the Federal Government, and thank him for his 28 years of service with APHIS.●

#### HONORING DANIEL BALDINGER

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a valued friend, Daniel Baldinger, who passed away on July 4, 2007. Throughout his life he displayed a special kindness and a deep commitment to his friends and family. His spontaneous humor and wit made for a personality to which people were quickly attracted. He was multilingual, able to communicate in French, Italian, and Spanish among other languages as well. I enjoyed his company and looked forward to our times together. Dan, though creative and artistic, was also a skilled executive and presided over a family business started in 1955, which he quickly expanded into a booming business. The company, Louis Baldinger & Sons, became one of the leading companies in the lighting industry. Under Dan's leadership, Louis Baldinger & Sons' products were obtained by some of the country's most prestigious architects and designers.

While Dan achieved substantial success in his business ventures; he would be most proud of the breadth of friendships and loving relationships he shared with his family. He was a devoted and loving husband to his wife Marjorie of 48 years and together they enjoyed a wonderful family life. Dan was a proud father of his son Howard and daughter Toby, about whom he constantly bragged.

Dan was a caring man with deep intellectual curiosity and myriad interests. He was a person of various talents and abilities including cooking, which he did with flourish and gusto. At any given moment, one could find him discussing—in one of the many languages he spoke—baseball, his plans for the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, of which he was the national chairman, or his completion of the New York Marathon in 4 hours and 28 minutes.

While Dan is no longer with us, his memory will carry on. He lived life to the fullest and was a compassionate man who acted with integrity and decency. Dan touched so many lives and all of those that had the pleasure of knowing him will miss him greatly, including my wife Bonnie and me.●

#### HONORING DAVID A. WAKS

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this week New Jersey lost one of its great citizens when Judge David A. Waks passed away far too early in life at 66 years of age.

I have known the Waks family over a number of years and his son, Joe Waks, carries on a proud family tradition of public service as chief of staff of my Senate operations in New Jersey.

David Waks was respected and admired for his candid, forthright action on decency and integrity in Government service. Known as someone who had a sympathetic ear and a generous heart, so much so that when a person in serious need sought his help he would reach into his own limited resources to assist. He was a model of a compassionate public servant who all in public service should emulate. Anyone who had the good fortune to know him was inspired by his genuine affection and concern. His life was exemplary and I wanted to ensure that a permanent record of David Waks' life existed as an outstanding example of how public service can be ennobled by the right kind of leadership.

I ask that an article from the Herald News be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows

[From Herald News, July 19, 2007]

DAVID A. WAKS, 66, LED LIFE OF SERVICE

(By Suzanne Travers)

WAYNE.—David A. Waks, who championed integrity in public service for almost 40 years, first as a councilman, then as mayor in Wayne, and later as a state Superior Court judge in Paterson, died at his home here Wednesday.

The cause of death was lung cancer, diagnosed in mid-November, his wife, Joan, said.

Waks, 66, who once described himself to a reporter as an "ornery cuss" but told voters they could count on him to be fair-minded, even-handed and flexible, was known for his honesty, compassion, intelligence and hard work.

"He was one of Passaic County's real jewels," said Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-Paterson), a close friend for whom Waks' son, Joseph, previously worked as spokesman.

Born and raised in Paterson, Waks moved to Wayne and got his start in politics in 1971 as an advocate for local tenants after his landlord hiked his apartment's rent by 20 percent.

He was elected to the council with heavy support from 5th Ward renters, and continued to support enforcement of tenants' rights. Often the only Democrat on a Republican governing body, Waks was elected mayor in 1994 and again in 1997, resigning to become judge in 2000.

In December 1971, Wayne's township council voted to give one of its last liquor licenses to the friend of a councilman. Soon after he was sworn in, in January 1972, Waks drafted a resolution to rescind the issuance of the license. To avoid public allegations of cronyism, the councilman's friend returned the license before the resolution could go before the council, and the license was later issued to a Vietnam veteran who opened a now-defunct liquor store on Route 23.

"It was a nice way to get started," said Waks. "Everybody knew the first time it was political patronage. It was the first thing I ever did, and still one of the proudest."

Waks' tenure coincided with an era in which former Wayne officials, including its

former mayor, business administrator, and township attorney, pleaded guilty to taking part in various bribery schemes involving developers. Later, Waks and his wife, an attorney who served on the Wayne council after her husband's departure, sued the wrongdoers for damages in an innovative racketeering lawsuit that brought the township more than \$300,000.

Running for mayor, Waks refused to take campaign contributions from those doing business with the township.

"He drove me nuts in this office," Beverly Tierney, administrative assistant in the Wayne mayor's office, said of her friend and former boss. "He never let anyone do anything. He would not accept a gift. A restaurant sent over a tray of cookies, and he had me send them back."

He was sworn in as a Civil Division judge in state Superior Court in Paterson seven years ago today, according to Assignment Judge Robert Passero.

Waks wasn't above getting personally involved in his job, according to Passero. He recalled a case before Waks in which a single mother with children faced eviction for failure to pay rent. "He gave her the money to pay the rent," Passero said. "While liking inwardly what he did, I actually had to admonish him for that as not being appropriate."

For as hard as he worked and as compassionate as he was, Passero said Waks never let the grandiosity of being a judge go to his head. "He was the type of guy who never wore socks. I think he still wore the same ties as he had in high school," he said, with a laugh. "He was very unassuming. Very casual."

Passero added, "He studied hard, he worked hard. In my opinion, he was an ideal judge."

Waks graduated School 20 and Eastside High School in Paterson, and received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. In 1966, he earned a law degree from Georgetown University, where he met his wife. He joined his father, Isadore Waks, in his Paterson law practice the following year. On occasion Waks filled in for his father as attorney for Paterson's Board of Adjustment, and gave the money he earned for that work to his mother, Joan Waks said. Later, Waks continued as a solo practitioner.

State Sen. John Grgenti, D-Hawthorne, who appointed Waks to state Superior Court, said Waks was "a perfect candidate for the bench, because he got along well with everyone."

Waks received a lifetime appointment to the bench before the state Senate Judiciary Committee in May, Joan Waks said. Family members brought a wheelchair because he was weak at that point, but Waks stood for a brief speech about how "important it was to serve the people," said his wife.

"He really was so proud to be recognized for the work he did," she said. "He loved being a judge."

Waks quit smoking about 15 years ago, his wife said. She said he expressed his fear about dying and said he was "not ready to go." "I don't think he believed it 'til the end," she said. "He died like he lived, stubbornly."

In addition to his wife, Waks is survived by a brother, Jay Waks, of Larchmont, N.Y.; his children, Joseph Waks and his wife Nancy Slove of Bayonne; daughters Jennifer Kennelly and her husband Thomas, of Pompton Plains; and Melanie Graceffo and her husband Gerald, of Cranford, six grandchildren: Cole, McKenzie, and Aidan Kennelly, and Gordon, Gabriel, and Isabel Graceffo, and what his wife termed "his two granddogs."

Joan Waks said she would hold a "family-only" service Monday. Waks, who was proud

to be Jewish but nonpracticing, will be cremated, she said. A memorial service will likely be held Aug. 4 at DePaul High School in Wayne, where Waks sold coffee at Friday bingo games long past the time their children attended the school. Wayne Mayor Scott Rumana ordered flags to fly at half staff for 30 days to honor Waks.●

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF NELSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

• Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a county in the Commonwealth of Virginia that is celebrating its bicentennial anniversary. Throughout this year, Nelson County residents will gather to celebrate their county's history and founding.

Nelson County is nestled in the rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, midway between Charlottesville and Lynchburg. It was settled by colonists of English and German descent, as well as by the Scotch-Irish, whom I proudly recognize as my ancestors. The county was officially founded in 1807 and named in honor of Thomas Nelson, Jr., third Governor of Virginia. Nelson County is now home to about 14,500 people.

For those who call Nelson County home, it is a comfortable place to work and live. Nelson County is also a community in the truest sense of the word. This was most clearly demonstrated when neighbors came together and offered comfort and helping hands after Hurricane Camille caused widespread destruction in the county in 1969. Today community members can look to each other and remember with pride how they came together under hard circumstances to make Nelson County prosper once again.

Nelson County's economy is based on agriculture and natural resource-based industries such as timber and quarrying. The scenic surroundings have also attracted recreational development in recent years, making the county an outdoor enthusiast's haven. Outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking along the magnificent Appalachian Trail or to the top of Crabtree Falls, the highest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River, as well as canoeing and fishing on the James or Tye Rivers and skiing at Wintergreen Resort.

Many Americans may not be familiar with Nelson County by name, but millions have had a glimpse of what life was like in this rural community due to the writings of Nelson County native, Earl Hamner, Jr. During the Great Depression, Hamner began writing of his experience growing up in Nelson County. These writings eventually provided the substance for "The Waltons" television series.

The Nelson County Museum of History, which is currently being developed, will soon offer visitors opportunities to learn the rich heritage and rural culture of Nelson County through events, exhibits, and educational programs.

The rural community of Nelson County has much to remember and much to be proud of.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Nelson County and its residents on their first 200 years and in wishing them well in the future.●

#### HONORING FAUSTA SAWAL

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I recognize Mrs. Fausta Sawal for her outstanding service in senior citizen communities in our home State of Washington. Mrs. Sawal was selected among 16,000 volunteers to receive the Senior Companion 2007 Spirit of Service Award.

The Spirit of Service awards are given to individuals who have demonstrated both leadership and a commitment to service within their communities. Mrs. Sawal has been a true role model in the community, helping senior citizens and disabled adults for more than 16 years. During her service with the Volunteers of America Senior Companion Program in Seattle/King County, she made a profound difference in the quality of life for dozens of people. Mrs. Sawal was there to call 911 when one of her clients suffered from a heart attack. She also provided assistance when another client fell from a bus and needed to be taken to the hospital. Time and again, Mrs. Sawal demonstrated her caring nature and her ability to effectively assist individuals in a time of need.

Mrs. Sawal has not limited her work to helping individuals. She has been a leader within many community organizations. Currently, she is the president of the Senior Companion Program Advisory Council, a member of the Filipino Community Center, and a volunteer at both the Asian Counseling and Referral Services and the International Drop-In Center. Mrs. Sawal has been active in each of these organizations, taking on many responsibilities including organizing special events, assisting case managers and clients, assisting with in-service trainings, procuring sponsors, and recruiting volunteers.

In addition to her role in the community, this amazing woman has raised eight children. Mrs. Sawal has more than 20 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. In 2004, she was chosen as the Mother of the Year in Seattle's Asian community.

I would like to thank Mrs. Sawal for the positive impact she has had on so many lives in Washington State. Both her past activities and her current pursuits are helping to create healthier and happier communities. I am sure Mrs. Sawal will continue to make significant contributions to her family and in the elderly and disabled communities in Washington. Mrs. Sawal is a remarkable woman, and I am pleased she is being honored for her years of dedication to helping others.●