

often say he has a potential for bipartisan collaboration. I stand here saying I appreciate JOHN WARNER. When I got the news he was not going to seek reelection, I thought to myself this institution will be losing a great man. He is a wonderful person.

I hope all of us, when we finish these next 15 months or so working with JOHN, thank JOHN for what he is and also use JOHN as a kind of point of departure, saying: "I wish to be more like JOHN WARNER. I wish to do what is right; I wish to be courageous; I wish to be civil; and I wish to do what people of our States ask us to do." I salute JOHN WARNER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, yesterday Americans of all ages, from all segments of society, from hundreds of occupations and professions, celebrated something uniquely American: Labor Day.

Our workers, tens of millions of hourly wage earners and hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, farmers and managers, tradesmen and saleswomen, our workers have built a middle class larger, broader, and more prosperous than any in world history.

They all have one thing in common: They are increasingly more productive, creating greater wealth and larger profits than ever for their employers. Yesterday, the Columbus Dispatch reported that according to the International Labor Organization, American workers are the most productive in the world.

The average U.S. worker produces more than \$63,885 of wealth each year. But increasingly, American workers have not shared in the wealth they have created, in wages, in health benefits, in a meaningful pension, that highly productive workers in our country used to enjoy.

Ohio workers are fighting back to build a decent standard of living to provide opportunities for our children and to construct a more prosperous and egalitarian society.

But our Nation and my State have struggled; struggled in part because of the Federal Government's wrongheaded trade policy and tax policies, which all too often encourage investors to move jobs overseas, and in part because of a drifting State Government in Columbus which fell short in educating our young people and did little to erect a manufacturing policy to prepare for our future.

In the spirit of Labor Day, let me share the stories of a handful of hard-working often heroic Ohio workers who are making a difference. Dee Dee Tillman and Carlos Sanchez participated in the negotiations representing 1,200 janitors in Cincinnati, 1,200 men and women who are working hard, raising their children, contributing to their community, and earning not much more than the minimum wage.

Joined by their colleagues, they and their union reached an agreement with Cincinnati office building owners. Over the next 4 years, 1,200 janitors in Cincinnati will get a \$2.95-an-hour raise, health benefits and vacation pay for the first time and a small pension.

At the other end of the State, in Mentor, Roger Sustar speaks out every day for American manufacturing. He recognizes businesses similar to his, small manufacturing companies, are vital to the economic security and the national security for our country. On most Saturdays, he volunteers his time to train students in the basics of manufacturing.

In northwest Ohio, in the flatlands of Henry County, Mark Schwiebert is a highly productive farmer in an increasingly competitive environment. He is proud of his successful and tidy farm, to be sure, but he also takes seriously his role as a citizen. He is an advocate for family farmers and for fair trade, understanding the prosperity of our State depends on a vibrant rural Ohio, where young people want to stay and work in their community.

Sue Klein, another hero who cares so much about our State, works at a large daily newspaper. She too makes her employer a more profitable enterprise. She works hard. She gets rave reviews from her coworkers, is uncommonly devoted to her aging parents, and gives back to her community in a dozen ways.

On Labor Day, we salute American labor and Ohio labor. We celebrate our State's heroes: Dee Dee, Carlos, Mark, Roger, and Sue. We thank them and so many others.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, at the outset, permit me to greet the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator CASEY, my colleague from Pennsylvania. It is a pleasure to come back after the August break and see Senator CASEY looking so well and fit and in the chair.

TRIBUTE TO KENT SHEARER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to eulogize a friend and a former member of the Senate family, Kent Shearer, who died on August 23.

Kent Shearer and I were boyhood friends from our early days in Russell, KS, when we were debaters at the high

school. Kent was a great intellect. At the time when his colleagues were playing marbles, Kent was studying and talking about the Peloponnesian wars. During our high school days, Kent and I were colleagues in our freshman year debating the subject on the negative: resolved that individual income should be limited to \$25,000 annually. Shows you how times have changed.

Kent and I were on two high school debating teams which won the State championship. In 1945, Russell was a small school with fewer than 400 students. We competed with schools our size, then moved the next year to the big-school category, where high schools had several thousand students across Kansas, finished in second place, and lost by a speaker's ballot. Then, in 1947, we were on the team that won the State AA championship with the big schools.

Kent was the outstanding debater in Russell High. He won the Kiwanis award, went on to the University of Kansas, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, was the winner of the Perdue National Invitational Debate Tournament, competed in the West Point National Tournament, served then in the Judge Advocate General's office, and settled in Salt Lake City, UT in 1958, until 1997, when Alice, his wife, passed away, and he then moved to Portland, OR.

A few years back, Kent came to join me, working on the Senate staff. He worked for 3 months. It was an honor and a pleasure to have my long-standing friend Kent Shearer work with me in the Senate. He brought a level of legal insights and erudition which was rare for a Senate staffer. But then Kent himself might have been a Senator had his career path taken one different shift. That was in 1994, in January, when the staff was being organized on the President's Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy, commonly known as the Warren Commission. We had one spot left among the young lawyers on the staff. The Commission was recruiting lawyers from all over the country in order to avoid having the Washington establishment conduct the investigation out of concern that there might be some thought of a coverup if the same crowd in Washington did the investigation. There was concern about the integrity of Washington then as now. The staff was recruited from all over the country. We had lawyers from Des Moines and Denver and Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles. I called up Kent and urged him to apply for the position. Unfortunately, he couldn't do so because of his own career plans at that time. I think had Kent accepted a position as assistant counsel to the Warren Commission and come to Washington, his career might have been parallel to mine.

Kent was active in Utah politics, was chairman of the State committee, was instrumental in the campaigns of Senator Garn and Senator HATCH and

worked for Senator BENNETT's father, also a Senator. He worked with Senator Robert Bennett, very close to the political establishment of the State of Utah, a friend to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, and would have been well suited for the U.S. Senate. Had Kent come to the Senate, we would have had three Senators from Russell, KS, since Senator Dole's hometown is Russell, while I was born in Wichita and moved to Russell at the age of 12. Kent would have fit in this establishment very well. He would have been a credit to the Senate.

On August 30, Steve Mills, who was also Kent's colleague for the debate tournaments, and I went to Salt Lake City to participate in Kent's funeral services. He was a great American. He had a knack for writing, contributed extensively to the newspaper in Washington on columns. He was a brilliant man, an outstanding lawyer, and a really great American.

I have taken a few moments today to eulogize him because his record is worth noting for the permanent record in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, especially since he was a member of the Senate family, even though for only a 3-month period.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following obituary printed in the RECORD.

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

KENT SHEARER

Kent Shearer, 1929–2007. Kent Shearer, age 77, died peacefully August 23, 2007, in Portland, Oregon. Kent was born October 5, 1929 in Ellsworth, Kansas to William Shearer and Agnes (Phillips) Shearer and was married to Alice Neff in Russell, Kansas; January 25, 1952. Preceded in death by wife, Alice and daughter Lorraine (Lori). Survived by son Edward (Bo) and his wife Renee Montmorency, grandsons Samuel and Beau of Portland, Oregon and sister Jane Shearer of Kansas City, Kansas. Kent graduated from Russell High School in Russell, Kansas with honors. He participated in the debate, drama, and forensics program and won two State Championships in debate. He attended Kansas University and earned a degree from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He continued with debate on the KU varsity team, winning many individual tournaments across the country, including the National Invitational Tournament and twice being invited to participate in the West Point Nationals. In 1954, Kent received his law degree from Kansas University and entered the Army Judge Advocates Corps where he served until 1957. Kent and Alice made their home in Utah from 1958 until Alice's death in 1997. Although a lawyer by trade, Kent's passion throughout his life was Utah politics and the Republican Party. He was an active organizer of the Salt Lake County and Utah Young Republicans during the 1960s and 1970s and served as the Utah State GOP Chairman from 1971 to 1973. Kent was a key behind-the-scenes member of many political organizations and campaigns (including Alice's political career as a Salt Lake City Council member). He penned a much discussed and anticipated column in The Enterprise Newspaper on a wide range of topics for over 30 years.

After Alice's death in 1997, Kent moved to Portland, Oregon to be close to his son's family. He pursued an intellectual retirement, spending his time reading, writing and providing all the answers to his grandsons' many questions. Kent's accomplishments were many. However, all pale in the light of his sharp mind and quick wit, his basic sense of decency and the many people he touched throughout his life. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral services will be held at St. Marks Cathedral, 231 East 100 South, Salt Lake City on Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 1 p.m. Following the service, a reception in Kent's honor will be held at the Alta Club, 100 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City. Published in the Salt Lake Tribune from 8/26/2007–8/28/2007.

TRIBUTE TO ADA MAE GROETZINGER HAURY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek to pay tribute to an outstanding educator. As the Senate takes up the appropriations bills—it soon will take up the bill on funding for education—it is appropriate to focus on the importance of education in our society.

My brother, my two sisters, and I have been able to share in the American dream because of our educational opportunities. My father had no formal education. My mother only went to the eighth grade, when she had to leave work to help support her family where her father had died in his mid-40s of a heart attack. But because of their love for education and recognition of its importance, their children have benefited from great educational opportunities.

Our health is our No. 1 capital asset. Without good health, none of us can do anything. And our No. 2 capital asset is education. Without education, there are severe limitations. I say this in the context of paying tribute to Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, the Russell High School debate coach.

She came to Russell in the fall of 1945, in her early 20s, having recently graduated from college herself. She brought a level of intensity to high school debating, which level of intensity was unparalleled in my educational experience. We had a class in debate at 9 o'clock in the morning. Then she would sit at 4 o'clock and have another round of debate, again at 5, again at 7, and again at 8 o'clock. And she would judge the debates. In retrospect, it seems surprising that somebody would have done that. Each member of the debating team debated twice in 1 day, once in the class at 9 and once in the other lines.

The analytical process in working through the debate topics—one of which was national health insurance, another of which was lowering the voting age to 18—was great for high school students. Our high school coach, Ms. Groetzinger, emphasized a smooth delivery. If anybody faltered during the course of a 10-minute speech or a 5-minute rebuttal, that individual was likely to be rated fourth. She rated everybody on every day of the debates.

It was not only the first team which excelled, but it was the second team

which also excelled. We went to one tournament at Salina High School, a town about 70 miles east of Russell, and the second team did better in the preliminary rounds than the first team. The second team advanced to the semifinals, and the first team, which I was on, sat and watched the proceedings because they had done better than the first team.

One year everybody on the debating team went through one tournament undefeated. So it was a very remarkable background in analysis, in organization, in extemporaneous speaking, and very good training for the practice of being a trial lawyer, very good training for being a Senator, very good training for the questioning which we do in the various committees where we serve.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KELLY

Mr. SPECTER. When Ada Mae Groetzinger left Russell High in the spring of 1946, Tom Kelly became the debate coach. Tom Kelly had not had experience as a debate coach. He was the drama coach. He directed the school plays "Lost Horizon" and "Nothing But The Truth," and was very adept at that. But having inherited an extraordinary group of high school debaters, Tom Kelly was our coach when we won the State AA championship in the spring of 1947.

With the experience he gained at Russell High School, he then went on to Hutchinson Junior College, where he won national championships and was an outstanding teacher in his own right.

He gave two lectures to us which have carried forth with me to this day. Every Friday, when we would prepare to go to a debate tournament, Mr. Kelly would organize the students and start to tell us about the forthcoming trip. His slogan was "Don't choke up in the clutch." That means: Don't get too nervous to do your job. "Don't choke up in the clutch." We would go to the tournament, characteristically come back having won the tournament, and on Monday he would again address the high school debaters and say: "Don't rest on your laurels." Those were Tom Kelly's words, which have carried through to this day.

I made these comments and was reminded of the outstanding educational experience from those two high school debate coaches as I reflected on the events going to Salt Lake City for Kent Shearer's funeral. This past May, over the Memorial Day recess, Kent Shearer, Steve Mills, Gene Balloun, and I—the four debaters on the high school team—paid a visit to Ada Mae Groetzinger, who is since married and is now Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, in her retirement home in Newton, KS.

It was a good event to have the four of us get together. At that time, Kent was not feeling well. He suffered from emphysema. It was a good occasion for the group to get together with our high