

work for detainees at Guantanamo, raising an issue as to whether that representation is proper and raising the suggestions that their corporate employers might be interested in reconsidering their employment based on their representation of the detainees at Guantanamo.

It is a little hard to understand how anyone in 2007 would raise a question about pro bono work being done by lawyers who may be undertaking or who are undertaking unpopular causes. That has been the long tradition of the legal profession.

The first noteworthy example was Andrew Hamilton, a famous Philadelphia lawyer who represented Peter Zenger at the time when there were hostilities between the United States and Great Britain. Andrew Hamilton took on an unpopular cause and set the standard for lawyers to do just that.

I recollect the trials under the Smith Act of the Communists where lawyers of the highest repute undertook the representation of the defendants in those cases, a highly unpopular matter. And in the Philadelphia prosecution of the Smith Act, some of the most distinguished lawyers of the city, again, undertook that representation.

A lawyer's duty is to undertake the representation of a client, and it is up to the court to make a decision on whether the attorney is right or the attorney is wrong.

This challenge by a Department of Defense official is in line with the recent position of the Department of Justice in seeking to limit the right to counsel for corporate officials who are being investigated, with the Department of Justice under the so-called Thompson memorandum taking the position that charges might be increased if the firm and the individual did not waive the attorney-client privilege. Then the Department of Justice objected to the firm paying the legal fees.

A Federal judge in the Southern District of New York has already declared it unconstitutional to challenge the payment of the legal fees.

I have introduced legislation which would revise the Department of Justice policy even further than the revision by Deputy Attorney General McNulty in the so-called McNulty memorandum.

But when lawyers undertake the representation of individuals in unpopular causes, they are entitled to praise and not criticism.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Senator from Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY STEWART, SECRET SANTA

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, this afternoon I will have the glorious opportunity to travel to the White House to celebrate the 2006 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals, and the echoes of the cheers of St. Louis I will hear.

But today there are even stronger cheers coming from the angels in Heaven because today the angels in Heaven are cheering for a lifetime of kindness and compassion that belonged to the Missouri legend, Larry Stewart.

Larry was known by many names—dad, son, husband, friend—but his favorite name was Secret Santa. This was a title that was given him by hundreds and thousands of anonymous people he had helped over the 26 years that he had a very special way of celebrating our Christmas holiday.

Larry Stewart knew something of the life of those he had helped, but like any legendary, larger-than-life superhero, he remained mysteriously anonymous until the closing days of his life. He grew up poor in Mississippi, later telling stories about how he resorted to sleeping in his car early on just to get by. He, in fact, was homeless.

He told a story of how in 1971 he was eating in a diner, and when the time came to pay for his meal, he realized he didn't have the money. He saw a \$20 bill had been dropped next to him on the counter, and he got the attention of the man he had seen drop the \$20 bill. The man turned out to be the owner, and the \$20 bill had been dropped on purpose. It was a subtle gift trying to not make Larry Stewart feel uncomfortable about not having the money to pay for his meal. Larry Stewart would never forget that moment.

Years later in 1979, well into his career as a businessman, he faced his second Christmas season unemployed. Worried about how he was going to take care of his young family and receiving the news that he had just lost another job, he saw a carhop working outside in the cold with very little to keep her warm. Faced with the situation that his problems were not as serious as hers, he gave the woman a \$20 tip, and the joy that \$20 tip gave him began a tradition that lasted the next 26 years of his life.

I was lucky enough to be in his very wide circle of friends in Kansas City. I was even more fortunate because there was a time when he turned to me and said: Claire, would you like to go on a sleigh ride?

I said of course, welcoming the opportunity to see Larry Stewart do what really no one else realized he was doing.

The sleigh ride went something like this: We met at Larry's home early in the morning near Christmas. He wore always white overalls—he was a big man—white overalls with a bright red flannel shirt. We would sit in his kitchen drinking coffee. He would be exuberant with excitement as to what was going to happen that day. He would stuff his pockets with mountains of cash. His dear friend, Tom Phillips—then a sheriff's deputy, now the sheriff of Jackson County—would accompany us to make sure that our journey was safe, and off we would go in a large Suburban with another few fortunate friends to watch Santa do his work.

He had a method. I asked him one time: Larry, how do you decide where you go to spread this money?

He said: I try to go places where people are doing their best to get by.

So we would travel to autopart stores where people at the Christmas season were trying to buy that battery to make that car work. We would travel to bus stops where he would love to find people dressed in fast-food uniforms trying to catch a bus to work.

The Suburban would slow down, and Larry would hop out. We would all get out. Quickly he would approach the people and stuff \$100 bills in their hands and say: Merry Christmas.

Astonished, these people would look up suspiciously, thinking that maybe something was wrong. Then they realized: It was just a wonderful, kind man spreading Christmas cheer.

We would go into laundromats. We would go into 7-Elevens. We would go anywhere that Larry thought he would find people who were doing their best and having a difficult time making ends meet during the holiday season. I watched Larry Stewart hand out thousands and thousands of dollars to people who were astonished at his generosity, strangers he had never seen before and would never see again. Every Christmas, year after year, this was his tradition.

Those sleigh rides I took with Larry Stewart are some of the most memorable days of my life. I will never forget the feelings that washed over me as I watched the true spirit of Christmas in operation.

On every sleigh ride he would always find some special recipients. This was research he did ahead of time, trying to find families who were really in need. The stories that I have to tell of those special moments I can literally cry thinking of what I witnessed.

I remember one instance where we drove to the suburbs of Kansas City and pulled up in front of a very modest home. I asked Larry what he was doing. He explained to me that there was a woman who lived in this house who had to get dialysis three times a week. She lived with her daughter. Her daughter was a single mom with three kids. They had a broken down van, and her daughter would have to arrange her three jobs she worked to try to take her mother into Kansas City for dialysis, and invariably the van would break down.

Larry heard about this situation, and this was going to be one of his special Christmas gifts. He had a van outfitted with a handicap ramp for her wheelchair, a brandnew van, and he had it fixed up with a giant red bow. He had someone driving it who had a remote-controlled walkie-talkie.

Up we go to the front door of this house. Larry pounds on the door in his white overalls and red flannel shirt, and peeking through the door is the very suspicious daughter. I am standing over to the side watching all this.

Larry says to this woman: Merry Christmas. I hear that you are having a

hard time getting your mom to dialysis.

You can hear her mother in the background saying: Who is it? Who is it? Who is it? Her mother, with difficulty, comes to the door and is standing just behind her daughter.

This daughter says: Yes.

You can see the broken down van in the driveway.

Larry says: I want to try to help to see if we can't get your mom to dialysis with a little more reliability, and with that he talks into the walkie-talkie and says:

Bring it around. And around the corner comes the new van with a big red ribbon on it. It pulls into the driveway, and with that, Larry hands the daughter an envelope with \$10,000 in cash in it and says: Merry Christmas.

He walks away and says: The title is in the van.

Of course, you can imagine the reaction of these women—shocked, surprised, joy. And, of course, I am balling like a baby standing there, as all of us were. There were about four of us who watched this event.

That is just one story I can tell, but imagine having the privilege of seeing that kind of scene played over and over several years in a row when I was fortunate enough to be on the sleigh ride. This was an extraordinary man.

During the time he was playing Secret Santa in Kansas City and across our country, he gave out \$1.3 million in cash. Kansas City was lucky enough to receive most of his gifts, but he also landed his sleigh frequently in his home State of Mississippi, Florida after the hurricanes, New Orleans after Katrina, New York after 9/11, and this past Christmas, his last, knowing that it was probably his last, he traveled to Chicago to spread cheer around his dear friend Buck O'Neil's neighborhood where Buck O'Neil grew up poor. Buck O'Neil was one of his best friends and, of course, another Kansas City legend we lost last year.

He told the public about his role as Secret Santa last Christmas, so the world knew who Secret Santa finally was. Thousands of people who received his generous spirit contacted him in the closing days of his life. He called me on Christmas Eve to say this was the most special Christmas of all because of the outpouring of love he had felt from all of the people he had helped over the years. What Mr. Stewart, who had built a fortune from nothing, may have seen as a small holiday gift was actually a gesture of compassion so few experience or ever understand due to the frenetic pace of our lives.

Known by his family and friends and colleagues for a soul born of kindness and warmth and a personality as unassuming as his generosity was great, Larry kept his identity under wraps until this year. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and in his last months his identity was revealed. When word spread, he was flooded with

national media attention about which he could care less. Frankly, he didn't even want to handle it. But he was excited because he realized he had an opportunity to spread what he had done to others and hopefully have it catch on. He loved hearing the stories, but he continually said to all of us this was not about him. It was God's work. He was merely a servant of his Lord.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Larry Stewart, Missouri's own Secret Santa. I ask that this distinguished body join me in extending our greatest sympathies to his family: Paulette, Joe, John, Kim, and Mark, and the thousands who, like me, were fortunate enough to call him a dear friend.

Mr. Stewart's gifts of hope touched many recipients. However, the compassion that drove his generosity was contagious to all who knew him and that was even a greater gift. As we honor Larry today, let us rejoice in his life, remember his kindness, his sense of humor, and revel in his generosity. He was Santa. He was real, right down to the twinkle in his eye. He loved others as the good Lord intended. May his legacy of kindness always be a reminder to us all to spread hope and compassion to one another.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ETHICS AND LOBBYING REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there has been good progress made on ethics and lobbying reform. We have had a good debate. It is time to move to passage of this meritorious legislation.

We will have three votes beginning at 5:30 this afternoon. First we will vote on the Durbin amendment to strengthen the definition of "targeted tax benefit" and other aspects of Senator DEMINT's earmark disclosure proposal. I appreciate Senator DEMINT working with Senator DURBIN and others to strengthen his amendment.

Second, we will vote on the underlying DeMint amendment on earmark disclosure.

Finally, we will vote to invoke cloture on an amendment that I offered strengthening the rules on gifts and travel, including travel on private airplanes. Once cloture is invoked on that key amendment, we can move forward to finishing the bill this week. As I announced this morning, we are going to finish the bill this week. If we finish it Thursday at 10 o'clock, we will be finished with votes for the week. If we finish it Saturday at 10 o'clock, we will be finished with votes for the week. But we will finish this legislation.

This ethics reform bill is vitally important to Congress and the American people. Over the past few years, the media has been filled with stories of elected officials who have violated the public trust often in their dealings with lobbyists. Each episode of public corruption contributes to the public's growing cynicism about Congress and other institutions of Government.

First, let me say, lobbyists are not a class who should be denigrated in any way. They render a vital service to their constituents and to Congress. So I want everyone to know we are not trying to berate lobbyists. What we are saying with this legislation is we need to know more about what lobbyists are doing. I think it is going to help them, it will help us, and it will certainly give the American people more confidence in Government.

Think what this country has gone through. For the first time in 131 years, a person working in the White House is indicted. That trial is starting today. In addition to that, a person the President appointed to handle Government contracts involving billions of dollars, Mr. Safavian, was led away from his office in handcuffs and has been convicted.

Two former Members of the House of Representatives are now in prison for selling legislative favors—in prison. A third Member of the House of Representatives, one who has served as the second highest official in the House of Representatives, was forced to resign from Congress because he was indicted. There are other investigations going on as we speak. If there were ever a time when Congress and the executive branch needed to take dramatic action to show the American people we are serious about restoring public trust in Government, this is the time. That is what we have tried to do.

That is what I tried to do with this legislation. In order to send a message about the importance of ethics reform, I designated the bill as S. 1 and brought it to the floor on the first day of legislative activity, meaning that it is an extremely important piece of legislation in the minds of the country, the Congress, the Democrats, and the Republicans. I say the Republicans because I asked the minority leader to cosponsor S. 1 with me, something that hadn't been done for more than 30 years. I did this because I wanted to show this issue transcends partisan politics.

The bill I introduced with Senator MCCONNELL on the first day of the 110th Congress is a very strong piece of legislation. It is based on the text of the bill that passed the Senate last year.

What does it do? It prohibits lobbyists from giving gifts to lawmakers and their staffs. It prohibits lobbyists from paying for trips or taking part in privately funded congressional travel. It requires public disclosure of earmarks. It slows the revolving door by extending to 2 years the ban on lobbying by former Members of Congress.