

Shirley, STS3 Levi Shockley, ETCS Gregory Silvey, STS1 Michael Simonds, ET3 Tim Simson, EM1 Jerome Smallwood, YNSN Michael Smith, ET2 Anthony Spartana, MMC John St. Clair, EMC David Stephens, MM3 Kevin Stewart, MMC Gary Strong, MM3 Jesse Swain, EM2 William Tabata, CDR Michael Tesar, MM3 Joshua Tomlinson, LTJG Christopher Topoll, CCSR Joshua Towles, LT Carl Trask, MMFR Justin Trickett, ET2 Eric Trumbull, FT2 Landon RG, MM1 Christian Watson, ET3 Kevin Watson, MM2 Robert Wehrmann, ETC Michael Willison, MM3 Nicholas Wittmann, STS2 Robert Wood, EM2 James Workman, CMDCM Andrew Worskak, and MM3 Charles Wreed.

Again I congratulate the USS *Cheyenne* and her crew on the 10th anniversary of their service and thank them for their sacrifices in defense of our great Nation.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD SHAPIRO

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, today I honor Richard H. Shapiro, who retired as executive director of the Congressional Management Foundation, CMF, in December after 18 years of service with the foundation and 17 years as its executive director. During those 18 years, Mr. Shapiro has worked tirelessly to help all member and committee offices operate more productively and efficiently.

Mr. Shapiro is a talented business consultant who has adapted many of the best practice methods of the business world to the unique institution that is the congressional office, and taken the time to train thousands of congressional staffers in these methods. In addition, Mr. Shapiro and his staff at CMF have conducted organizational assessments for member, committee and leadership offices. Some years ago, he was kind enough to conduct a structure evaluation for my Senate office, and he made several useful suggestions regarding my office's mail operation, web site and internal communications. My office implemented them all, and both my office and constituents are all better off for it.

He has also helped many new Members of Congress set up both their Washington and district offices, a task that can be very daunting for anyone new to Congress. He has also conducted individual assessments and coaching for senior managers and Members. Under his leadership, the CMF began offering management guidance to congressional officers responsible for managing the House or Senate as a whole. Furthermore, Mr. Shapiro has helped to coordinate bipartisan events for all the Chiefs of Staff, which helps them get to know each other and work together better.

Mr. Shapiro was also a leader in promoting the use of the World Wide Web and other digital forms of communications in Congress. Under his leadership,

the CMF pushed for Members of Congress to establish Web sites that constituents could use to e-mail their representatives and get information on Congress. The CMF continues to encourage congressional offices to improve their Web sites by giving out the annual Golden Mouse award to the office with the best and most innovative Web site.

Considering all that CMF has done under Mr. Shapiro's leadership, one is very surprised to find out that CMF has a very small staff and budget. But those who know Mr. Shapiro would tell you that, given his talent and dedication, it is no big surprise that CMF was able to provide so many quality services under his helm.

Madam President, it my sincerest pleasure to thank Richard Shapiro for sharing his talent and dedication with us for so many years. Congress is a better place for it.

ART BUCHWALD—THE MARK TWAIN OF OUR TIME

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to Art Buchwald. Art finally said good-bye to all of us last night. It was far too soon.

Art is survived by his son Joel and his wife Tamara—who he lived with for so many wonderful years—his daughters Jennifer and Connie, his two sisters and five grandchildren. We are fortunate to have had him for so long, and he will be missed very much.

Art was an incredible friend to my wife Vicki and me and to the entire Kennedy family. We all enjoyed Art's company and columns, and President Kennedy was known to read Art's column regularly while he was in the White House.

We enjoyed so many delightful times together. Whether here in Washington or on Martha's Vineyard, Art brought tons of laughter into our lives. We'll continue to remember him and his wife, Ann McGarry Buchwald, as they will now be laid to rest together on the Vineyard.

Art was the Mark Twain of our time. He will forever live on in our hearts and minds for his brilliant wit and observations. For decades there was no better way to start the day than to open the morning paper to Art's column, laugh out loud and learn all over again to take the issues seriously in the world of politics, but not take yourself too seriously.

As Art said, "Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got." The special art of Art Buchwald was to make even the worst of times better. We are fortunate to have had him for so long, and I will miss him very much.

Art was born in 1925 in Mount Vernon, New York, and made his own way in the world becoming a renowned political humorist and highly regarded columnist. In 1982, he received a Pulitzer Prize. Art never stopped work-

ing—writing and making us laugh right up until the very end.

Just last November, he published his final book, "Too Soon To Say Good-bye." He even had the foresight to write one final column—published today. Among his final words were these:

I don't know how well I've done while I was here, but I'd like to think that some of my printed works will persevere at least for three years.

In fact, Art, they'll persevere forever.

Vicki and I remember fondly celebrating Art's 80th birthday just over a year ago with The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, together with my sister Eunice and her husband Sargent Shriver. Like every gathering with Art, it was an evening full of joy, humor and passion. Art was a great friend to the Brady Center and an inspiring advocate for sensible gun laws. He was a true leader for the cause and we are closer to our goal of rational gun control today because of him.

Art was also an outspoken and powerful advocate on the importance of mental health care, speaking openly about his own experiences and providing hope to some many others.

When we lost President Kennedy, Art honored him with his column, "We Weep." He wrote:

We weep for our president who died for his country. We weep for his wife and his children, brothers and sisters. We weep for the millions of people who are weeping for him. We weep for Americans that this could happen in our country. We weep for the Europeans and the Africans and the Asians and people in every corner of the globe who saw in him a hope for the future and a chance for mankind.

Today, Art, the world weeps for you.

I ask unanimous consent that Art Buchwald's final column, published today, be printed in the RECORD.

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

(From the International Herald Tribune, Jan. 18, 2007)

MEANWHILE: GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS. WHAT A PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN!

(By Art Buchwald)

Art Buchwald, who began his long career as a humor columnist at this newspaper, asked that this column be published following his death, which came on Wednesday at his home in Washington.

Several of my friends have persuaded me to write this final column, which is something they claim I shouldn't leave without doing.

There comes a time when you start adding up all the pluses and minuses of your life. In my case I'd like to add up all the great tennis games I played and all of the great players I overcame with my now famous "lob."

I will always believe that my tennis game was one of the greatest of all time. Even Kay Graham, who couldn't stand being on the other side of the net from me, in the end forgave me.

I can't cover all the subjects I want to in one final column, but I would just like to say what a great pleasure it has been knowing all of you and being a part of your lives.

Each of you has, in your own way, contributed to my life.

Now, to get down to the business at hand, I have had many choices concerning how I

wanted to go. Most of them are very civilized, particularly hospice care. A hospice makes it very easy for you when you decide to go.

What's interesting is that everybody has his or her own opinion as to how you should go out. All my loved ones became very upset because they thought I should brave it out—which meant more dialysis.

But here is the most important thing: This has been my decision. And it's a healthy one:

The person who was the most supportive at the end was my doctor, Mike Newman. Members of my family, while they didn't want me to go, were supportive, too.

But I'm putting it down on paper, so there should be no question the decision was mine.

I chose to spend my final days in a hospice because it sounded like the most painless way to go, and you don't have to take a lot of stuff with you.

For some reason my mind keeps turning to food. I know I have not eaten all the éclairs I always wanted. In recent months, I have found it hard to go past the Cheesecake Factory without at least having a profiterole and a banana split.

I know it's a rather silly thing at this stage of the game to spend so much time on food. But then again, as life went on and there were fewer and fewer things I could eat, I am now punishing myself for having passed up so many good things earlier in the trip.

I think of a song lyric, "What's it all about, Alfie?" I don't know how well I've done while I was here, but I'd like to think some of my printed works will persevere—at least for three years.

I know it's very egocentric to believe that someone is put on earth for a reason. In my case, I like to think I was. And after this column appears in the paper following my passing, I would like to think it will either wind up on a cereal box top or be repeated every Thanksgiving Day.

So, "What's it all about, Alfie?" is my way of saying goodbye.

DEATHS IN IRAQ

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, yesterday morning, January 17, a convoy carrying a staff member of the National Democratic Institute and members of her security team was ambushed in Baghdad.

Andrea Parhamovich, an American citizen, was killed. Three other NDI employees, citizens from Croatia, Hungary, and Iraq, also lost their lives in the attack.

Since June 2003, the National Democratic Institute has been working with Iraqi citizens, outside the Green Zone and at great risk, to help build the foundations on which a true democracy depends. I did not know Ms. Parhamovich, whose life was taken so tragically yesterday. But all of us recognize the ideals which inspired her to undertake such a dangerous mission for her country and the people of Iraq.

I offer my deepest respect and appreciation to her last true measure of devotion to democratic ideals. To her family, and the families of those who were also killed, I offer my deepest condolences.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LAMESA MARKS-JOHNS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I pay tribute to LaMesa Marks-

Johns of Louisville, KY, for being recognized as one of America's top educators in the 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards.

The annual Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award was established in 1985, and recipients consist of a network of teachers, principals, and specialists who serve as experts for policymakers seeking to improve the quality of teachers and public education. Award recipients assist in developing comprehensive strategies and policies to ensure that every child receives the highest quality educational experience possible.

Ms. Marks-Johns, a teacher at Shacklette Elementary School, has been recognized by the Milken Family Foundation for her continuing efforts to provide educational experiences in the classroom. She inspires her students to achieve academically and contribute to the community. Ms. Marks-Johns sets an example of leadership for both colleagues and students alike.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Marks-Johns for her dedication and commitment to education. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have teachers like LaMesa Marks-Johns in our schools, in our communities, and in our lives. She is Kentucky at its finest.●

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLARD LASSETER

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, it is with great pride that today I honor my dear friend and fellow Georgian, Willard Lasseter, who recently completed his 50th year with John Deere's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. Willard and I not only share a strong desire for a successful agriculture sector throughout Georgia and the United States, but we also share the same hometown of Moultrie, GA.

Willard began his many years of service to the farmers of Colquitt County in 1945 when he began to work part time for the local John Deere dealership. In 1956, with a little over \$14,000 in borrowed money, Willard purchased a 25 percent share of the John Deere dealership and on December 1, 1956, Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. had its first day of business. By 1959, Willard, along with help from his father, had secured the remaining shares of the John Deere dealership. The success of the business was almost instantaneous as Lasseter Tractor Company became the No. 1 dealer in terms of sales volume for the Atlanta branch of John Deere dealerships by 1960.

Since its first day of business Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has been a model dealership for Deere and Company. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc.'s many accomplishments include being named to the John Deere's Manager Club for 12 consecutive years, being a John Deere Signature Dealer for top performance in the market place for 5 consecutive years, and being a Gold Star dealer for top performance in commercial products in 2005, 2006,

and 2007. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has also garnered the top market share in the Atlanta branch of dealerships for 3 consecutive years.

Through the years, Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has continued to expand and prosper. In the late 1990's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. began construction of a state-of-the-art dealership and service facility that encompasses over 45,000 square feet. The service center itself can accommodate over 20 cotton pickers. This is not only an important feature but it is also a necessary feature because Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., is among the top dealerships for sales and servicing of cotton pickers.

Today's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., spans south Georgia with dealerships in three counties. Not only has the business increased in size but also in the number of generations that are now involved in the business. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., now includes Willard's son Tony and grandson Judd, who oversee the day-to-day operations of the business. One philosophy that Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., has maintained throughout its existence is: "You must give your customers the best product at the fairest price possible." This is a philosophy that has allowed the company to continue to meet and exceed the needs of its customers.

It is hard to imagine what the state of agriculture might be in southwest Georgia if that young high school student, Willard Lasseter, did not step into the John Deere dealership in Moultrie, GA, in 1945 to begin working part time.

I am extremely proud of the milestone that Willard has just met and it is my sincere hope that he continues his success in the agribusiness community for many years to come. I want to thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to recognize my dear friend Willard Lasseter.●

HONORING THOMAS WATSON BROWN

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today I mourn the passing and pay tribute to a wonderful Georgian and a personal friend. Thomas Watson Brown passed away on January 13, 2007, leaving a tremendous void in the hearts of all who knew and loved this extraordinary gentleman.

Although he was a longtime resident of Marietta, GA, Tom was actually born here in our Nation's Capital where he attended Saint Alban's School. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton with a degree in history and served a stint in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1959 and moved to Atlanta where he practiced law until his death.

Although Tom was not originally from Georgia, his family had deep Georgia roots. His great-grandfather was U.S. Senator Tom Watson, who