

while working as part of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force, he was shot in the line of duty and survived only because of his bulletproof vest. He was subsequently awarded the Medal of Valor for his actions that day.

I also recognize that strong partnerships between first responders, like police officers, and the cities and States they serve are vital to public safety. I firmly believe that all of our Nation's first responders deserve the right to be treated with respect. But far too many first responders across the country do not have basic workplace protections.

As we debate the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, I pledge to work to ensure all first responders receive the respect they deserve with the same protections enjoyed by so many other workers across the country. I have cosponsored this important bill. In honor of the 187 law enforcement officers who gave their lives last year and the more than 18,000 who have done likewise, I urge the Senate to pass this important legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEO KELLY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is always sad when a World War II veteran leaves us. These men and women served our country with immense courage, skill, and dedication, and came home from war to make immense contributions to our society. They have rightly been called "the greatest generation," and we mourn the loss of each and every one of them.

On February 18, another member of the "greatest generation" died. Navy veteran Leo Kelly was 87 and lived in Burlington Township in New Jersey with his wife of 58 years, Claire. Leo was the father of six daughters and a son, and I came to know him because his daughter Beth is married to my nephew Joe Kennedy, a son of Robert Kennedy and a former Congressman from Massachusetts in the House of Representatives.

It is Leo Kelly's extraordinary career in the Navy that I want to call to the attention of my colleagues in Congress. Leo Kelly answered the Nation's call soon after World War II began. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 at the age of 21 and retired in 1964 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

He became a Navy fighter pilot and earned numerous awards and medals for valor and bravery under fire during the war. He served on the USS *Langley*, which was named for the great American scientist and aviation pioneer Samuel Pierpont Langley. The ship was on the front lines during the critical final years of the war in the Pacific, and the crew as a whole was cited in glowing terms by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal for their outstanding heroism in action that contributed so much to our Nation's victory.

Leo Kelly himself was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his special heroism on

January 12, 1945 in an attack on Japanese shipping in Camranh Bay in French Indo-China, which is now Vietnam. As the citation by President Roosevelt stated.

Kelly fearlessly dove his plane through a heavy curtain of powerful anti-aircraft fire to score two direct hits with his rockets and contribute to the damaging of an enemy merchant vessel. Then, joining in an attack against a group of hostile seaplanes on the water, he executed a series of strafing runs and, striking furiously at his target, personally destroyed one of the enemy aircraft.

Courage like that is what made Leo Kelly a true American hero, and the Nation owes him a debt we can never fully repay.

After the war, Leo Kelly continued his career in the Navy for nearly two decades. From 1953 to 1955 he was assigned to a Naval ROTC unit in Philadelphia and earned his bachelor's degree in political science and attended the Navy's postgraduate school. He retired from the Navy in 1964 and went to work for Tenneco Plastics Company in Burlington, where he and Claire raised their wonderful family.

He had many interests. He was an excellent golfer, and had played for various Navy teams early in his career. He loved classical music, especially playing the violin. He had a profound faith in God, was a member of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Burlington, and had been a member of the Bridge Prison Ministry.

He was also a wonderful family man, as so many members of his family said so movingly at the service held for him in February. His daughter Beth said it beautifully in her eulogy at the service:

Our father was a strong, quiet force in our lives, guiding us, always encouraging, smiling or nodding his approval. . . . He always adjusted to whatever came his way. The very qualities that made him excel at being a pilot prepared him for a life with six daughters and one son.

America is grateful to Leo Kelly for all he did for our country during his extraordinary life, and I know that future generations of his family will always treasure his memory.

I ask unanimous consent to have his daughter Beth's eulogy printed in the RECORD, along with the full texts of the World War II citations he received.

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

EULOGY BY BETH KENNEDY FOR HER FATHER,  
WORLD WAR II NAVAL HERO LEO KELLY  
[Military Chapel, Wrightstown, New Jersey,  
Feb. 25, 2008]

Good afternoon. I'm Beth Kennedy, one of Leo and Claire's many daughters who no one can keep straight. It's as though our names are interchangeable!

On behalf of my mother and my brother and sisters, I'd like to thank all of you for coming to celebrate our father's life and mourn his passing.

I just wanted to share a few words before we all leave today. My mother always told me, for as long as I can remember, God will never give you more than you can bear. He will give you the strength to accept His will.

And for my family, those words were never more true than during the past week as we began a life without our father. We each have our special memories of Dad. Some we remember with lots of laughter, and some we reflect on privately. But all of them are filled with love, and all of them are joined with our mother, who was always by his side, beautiful and smiling. You know, in all the hundreds of photos we sorted through for this occasion, in every single picture our mother was smiling radiantly, as though every moment with her husband—and later, with her children—was a gift. And it was a gift for us, too.

Mom, you were Dad's co-pilot. The love of his life. You taught us what love and devotion truly are.

Kathy, you spent so much time helping take care of Dad, always with humor and grace. You were a leader for all of us.

Michelle, you spoke so beautifully last night about Dad. You took care of so many details of his health care, always with patience and love.

Nancy, you embraced our parents' spirituality the most, and shared a strong religious bond with Dad.

Leo, you inherited Dad's quiet strength, and to this day you share your time and energy helping your family and your friends in need, most times without even being asked.

Teresa, you would always brighten Dad's days with your sparkling optimism and good cheer, along with a little something for his sweet tooth and a visit from Michael.

Jackie, you could always make Dad smile, and you could always get away with anything. Dad was so happy and proud to finally become a grandfather.

Our parents gave us so many wonderful memories: trips to the seashore; our family outing to the Poconos; grilling steaks in the backyard at Salem Road; Friday night fish fry dinners at Howard Johnson's. And later in our lives, as our father gave each of us girls away on our wedding days, dancing with the happy bride. And always, always, praying with us for God's blessing. Our parents gave us the highest standard for a strong marriage filled with love and faith.

Our father was a strong, quiet force in our lives, guiding us, always encouraging—smiling or nodding his approval. I remember the day I moved to Boston after graduating high school. After my teary goodbye to mom, my father drove me to the train station in Trenton. He got me settled in on the train, bags secured, and I took so long saying goodbye to him with tears and prayers—the train took off with both of us on it!! He had to get off at the next stop and wait for a train to take him back to Trenton. I was delighted to have his company for such a nice send-off, but I do recall an inordinate amount of throat-clearing by Dad.

He always adjusted to whatever came his way. The very qualities that made him excel at being a pilot prepared him for a life with six daughters and one son. I read through Dad's pilot rating book a few nights ago, and I was struck by the consistent comments and descriptions of him: "smooth, dependable, eager to learn, retains instruction, good coordination in unfavorable weather conditions, good pilot material."

Well, Dad, we're all here to say a prayer for you as you join Grandpere and Mamie, Aunt Teen, and all your friends up in Heaven. And as you always said to me at the end of every conversation or phone call—"God bless you good." Goodbye, Dad; I love you; God bless you good.

#### CITATION FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AWARDED TO LEO KELLY

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieutenant Junior Grade Leo

Kelly, United States Naval Reserve, for service as set forth in the following citation: For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as Pilot of a Fighter Plane in Fighting Squadron Forty-Four, attached to the USS Langley, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of French Indo-China, on January 12, 1945. Participating in a daring strike against enemy shipping and installations, Lieutenant Junior Grade (then Ensign) Kelly fearlessly dove his plane through a heavy curtain of powerful anti-aircraft fire to score two direct hits with his rockets and contribute to the damaging of an enemy merchant vessel. Then, joining in an attack against a group of hostile seaplanes on the water, he executed a series of strafing runs and, striking furiously at his target, personally destroyed one of the enemy aircraft. By his expert airmanship, courage, and devotion to duty in the face of grave danger, Lieutenant Junior Grade Kelly upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. For the President, [signed] James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy.

CITATION FOR THE AIR MEDAL AWARDED TO  
LEO KELLY

For distinguishing himself by meritorious acts while participating in an aerial flight in an attack on enemy shipping, Camranh Bay, French Indo China on 12 January, 1945. As pilot of a carrier-based fighter plane he dived against enemy anti-aircraft fire to hit an enemy merchant vessel with two rockets. This vessel was left beached. A few minutes later he again dived through anti-aircraft fire to destroy an enemy seaplane on the water. His courage and skill were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

CITATION FOR THE NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION  
AWARD TO THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS  
"LANGLEY"

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending the United States Ship Langley for service as set forth in the following citation: For outstanding heroism in action against the enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from January 29, 1944 to May 11, 1945. Operating continuously in the most forward areas, the USS Langley and her air groups struck crushing blows toward annihilating Japanese fighting power; they provided air cover for our amphibious forces; they fiercely countered the enemy's aerial attacks and destroyed his planes; and they inflicted terrific losses on the Japanese in Fleet and merchant marine units sunk or damaged. Daring and dependable in combat, the Langley with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire.

[This citation specifically mentions the following operations of the USS Langley: Marshall Islands, Jan. 29-Feb. 23, 1944; Palau, Hollandia and Truk Islands, March 29-April 30, 1944; Marianas and Bonins Islands, June 11-Aug. 8, 1944; Philippines, Palau, and Yap Islands, Sept. 6-24, 1944; Ryukyus, Formosa, and Philippines Islands, Oct. 10-Nov. 25, 1944; Luzon, Dec. 14-16, 1944; Philippines, Formosa and Ryukyus Islands, and China Sea, Jan. 3-22, 1945; Japan and Bonins Islands, Feb. 16-25, 1945; Japan and Ryukyus Islands, March 18-May 11, 1945.]

AWARDS TO LEO KELLY FOR HIS SERVICE IN  
THE NAVY

Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal; Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon; Combat Action Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Stars; World War II Vic-

tory Medal; Philippine Liberation Medal with 2 Bronze Stars; Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

SERVICE OF LEO KELLY IN THE NAVY

Enlisted in Navy, July 9, 1942 as Seaman Second Class and became Aviation Cadet on Aug. 7, 1942; July 9-Dec. 14, 1942—Inactive Naval Reserve; Dec. 15, 1942-Jan. 15, 1944—Active Naval Reserve; January 16, 1944—Promoted to Ensign; June 1, 1945—Promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade; July 1, 1955—Promoted to Lieutenant Commander; July 1, 1964—Retired.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA ESTY

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Ms. Sandra "Sandi" J. Esty, one of our most distinguished civil servants who will retire from Federal service on June 7, 2008, after contributing over 35 years of dedicated service to our country. She serves as the Chief, Air Operations Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, DC. She is responsible for managing, planning, developing and executing all facets of congressional travel matters for the Department of the Air Force. Ms. Esty also serves as the senior adviser and special assistant to the Director, Legislative Liaison and Air Force leadership with oversight of the Air Force Congressional Travel Program.

Ms. Esty left Syracuse, NY, in 1972 to begin her illustrious civil service career as a clerk-stenographer in the Office of the Air Force Reserve, the Pentagon. After demonstrating remarkable competence in working congressional constituent inquiries, she was selected to work Air Force constituent issues in the Secretary of the Air Force Legislative Liaison Inquiry Division, in 1975. She was promoted and served a short tour as the Administrative Assistant for the Secretary of the Air Force Space Systems, Budget Office before being asked to return to the Air Force Legislative Liaison Branch in 1981, this time as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Air Operations Division in Legislative Liaison. She was promoted in 1983 and served as Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Electronic Warfare. In 1985, she returned to Legislative Liaison as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Legislative Liaison and then was assigned as an action officer in the White House Liaison Branch, Legislative Liaison, where she established herself as one of the top leaders of Legislative Liaison. In 1988, she was promoted and selected as the Deputy Chief, Air Operations Division, Legislative Liaison, and then, in 1997, she was promoted as a GS-15 and continued to serve in her current position as Chief, Air Operations Division.

During her tenure in the Air Operations Division, Ms. Esty was responsible for all the travel requirements of

Members and staff of Congress arranged by the Air Force. Ms. Esty's calm, logical, thorough method of dealing with unique situations involved some of this country's most important citizens, its legislators. Her true dedication to "doing it right," the absolute insistence on honesty and integrity, and the patience under extreme daily pressure are the standards that Ms. Esty leaves for all those who follow. She coordinated and executed over 10,000 congressional trips worldwide, to include the movement of approximately 70,000 Members and staff of Congress to 193 countries and 7 continents. I personally travelled on many of the trips with the Senate Armed Services delegations that Ms. Esty arranged, coordinated, and flight followed. Each was a complete success.

I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Ms. Esty who has provided many years of dedicated and professional service to the Congress and the U.S. Air Force and wish her well in all her future endeavors. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL V. PATTON

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish today to honor in the RECORD of the Senate a great educator in the State of Georgia. On June 30, 2008, Dr. Carl V. Patton will retire as president of Georgia State University after 16 years of outstanding service.

Dr. Patton has led Georgia State University in its transition from a commuter school into a vibrant research university that is home to more than 28,000 students representing every county in the State, every State in the Nation, and 160 countries.

Georgia State has grown into one of this Nation's leading urban research universities, reflecting Dr. Patton's vision for a partnership between Atlanta and the university. Instead of designing walls to keep the city and its urban ways separate from the campus, he has insisted that the university fully integrate its research, teaching and service mission into the fabric of the urban environment of its downtown Atlanta home.

As the university has grown physically, it has grown in stature as well. The College of Law, which was in its infancy when Dr. Patton became president in 1992, is now ranked within the top 100 law schools. The Andrew Young School of Public Policy, founded in 1996, has grown from an idea to an internationally recognized program that works in over 30 countries around the globe as well as at home in the areas of health care, environment, air quality, taxation, aging, education, child care, and diversity.

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business continues to rank among the best in both graduate and undergraduate offerings, with two programs ranked in the top 10 by US News and World Report. The College of Health and Human Sciences leads the country