

floor today will still be honored 20 years hence. We need to ensure that, not just with an annual parade and flag waving, but with the care, the support, the assistance to the VA and the Department of Defense as well as in their communities, not just these individuals but their families.

I hope years from now, and I will pray, that others will stand up and say they paid the price and we have kept our promise to them.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and I note 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Colorado, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Colorado, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:49 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 4:22 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BINGAMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW B. WILLISON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Andrew B. "Drew" Willison who has served with great distinction since 2007 as U.S. Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Willison, who is leaving his position to pursue new adventures in the private sector, has led a distinguished career in the U.S. Senate that elevated him to the highest levels of decisionmaking. His work greatly enhanced the safety and security of the U.S. Senate, staff, and visitors.

Mr. Willison was born in Mount Vernon, OH, and was raised in Ohio, Missouri, Alabama, Connecticut, and Virginia. He earned a B.A. with Honors in government from the College of William and Mary in 1988. He also holds a masters' degree in public administration from the Ohio State University, 1990, and a law degree from the George Washington University, 2001.

Mr. Willison started his government career as a presidential management intern at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, and later worked for the Environmental Protection Agency's acid rain division.

In 1997 he joined my staff to work on the Environment and Public Works Committee, including the \$200 billion 1998 highway bill. In 1999, I selected Mr. Willison to become his Appropriations

Committee staff director for the Energy and Water Subcommittee. In this capacity, Drew represented the minority leader and the other Senate Democratic member interests on the \$35 billion per year bill that funds the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other smaller agencies.

In 2007, Mr. Willison was appointed Deputy Senate Sergeant at Arms where he served as the chief operating officer of the Senate's largest organization, with over 850 employees and an annual budget exceeding \$200 million. Mr. Willison directly supervised senior managers responsible for all operations, including the chief information officer, the chief financial officer, security and emergency preparedness, police operations, general counsel, human resources, the media and public galleries, the Employee Assistance Program, the Protocol Office, the Doorkeepers, the Page Program, printing, the photo studio, the Senate Post Office, parking, and education and training.

Around the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Willison was best known not just for his accomplished and distinguished work in the Senate but for his love of animals, music, the latest technology and his extensive Amazon on-line gift list.

Congratulations! We wish Mr. Willison all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MEREDITH EVANS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the work of my friend, Dr. Meredith Evans. A native of Little Clear Creek in Bell County, Ky., Meredith knew what career path he wanted to follow at a very young age. Influenced by his family members who were in the medical field, he decided by age six that he wanted to be a doctor.

Through diligence and perseverance he graduated high school early and went on to earn degrees from the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville Medical School. After 6 years in surgical residency, he became a certified general surgeon, and throughout his career he has heavily valued the doctor-patient relationship.

Not only was my good friend a great doctor, but he also gave back to his community and our Commonwealth through his involvement in the Chamber of Commerce and in ROHO, a charitable organization aimed to further the success of young people, which he founded. His compassion worked toward building new schools, immunizing citizens against polio, and raising money to give Christmas presents to underprivileged children. His community and our Commonwealth have benefited greatly because of his work. The Middlesboro Daily News recently pub-

lished a story about Dr. Evans and his involvement in the community. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

LOCAL FOLKS: DR. MEREDITH EVANS

MIDDLESBORO.—"I decided I was going to be a doctor when I was six years old," recalled longtime Middlesboro doctor Meredith Evans.

One of his brothers, 18 years his senior, went to medical school, inspiring Meredith to do the same. His first cousin also owned Evans Hospital in Middlesboro and his uncle was a physician in Pineville and Straight Creek.

Evans was born and raised in the Bell County community of Little Clear Creek with his parents, Rose-Ota Fuson Evans and father Marion F. Evans, a hillside farmer, and his three sisters and two brothers.

The family lived off of the land, growing and hunting all their own food. Evans remembers hunting and eating game like squirrels and rabbits.

All six children went to college; the three girls became school teachers and the boys went into the medical field.

Walking was the primary means of transportation in Little Clear Creek at the time, and was supplemented by horses and mules.

"My dad never owned a car," he said.

Meredith walked to elementary school, where he was taught mostly by his school-teaching sister, and later, by his brother who was putting himself through dental school.

He walked four and a half miles to a bus stop to go to Bell County High School, from which he graduated at the age of 16.

"I doubled-up on a couple of subjects when I was under my sister," he explained.

Meredith went to the University of Kentucky to get his Bachelor's degree and the University of Louisville Medical School. Going from Little Clear Creek to the city required some adjustment.

"It was quite a change. But I adapted rather quickly," Evans said. "I was spending most of my time going to school, going to classes."

Evans was in college during World War II, and was set to head overseas when the war ended.

"I had already had my physical examination, and was ready to go in the war. And they dropped the atomic bomb and that ended the war," Meredith remembered.

Evans was told by his college roommate, Wendell Demarcus, that the war was nearly over. Demarcus, it turned out, had some inside information. The physics major had been working on the development of the atomic bomb.

"He kept telling me, he said 'Something will happen that's going to end the war,' but he never would tell me what and I didn't push him for it. But when they dropped the bomb, he said 'That's what I've been telling you about.'"

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Evans joined the service, to avoid being drafted. He spent eight months in Fort Campbell learning about reconstructive plastic surgery.

"We did a lot of reconstructive surgeries on soldiers that were returning home. I learned a lot about plastic surgery there," Evans said.

After training at Fort Campbell, Evans and his three friends shipped out. Evans ended up in Europe, thanks to the luck of the draw.

"They put our names in a hat and they said the first one drawn out of the hat would go to Europe and the other two to Korea. So

my two friends went to Korea," Evans explained.

He was stationed in England, but was able to travel around Europe during his service. Italy, where he toured ancient churches and saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa, was his favorite destination.

"I enjoyed their food and enjoyed the people," he remarked.

After medical school, Evans spent six years in surgical residency at three locations—Florida, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He emerged a certified general surgeon with the American Board of Surgery, with whom he later became a diplomat.

The first operation Evans completed was an appendectomy at a hospital in West Virginia, and he recalls the butterflies that filled his stomach that day.

"I was doing an appendectomy. The main reason I was nervous, was that my wife was in the operating room as a nurse," he recalled.

His wife, Helen, continued to work as a nurse, helping support the couple while Meredith completed his residency. After finishing his training, he set up shop in Middlesboro, and felt fortunate to be able to return home.

"I really enjoy being with country people. I think we have the cream of the crop in the mountains," Evans declared.

Helen worked as a nurse in the practice until the couple started a family. They had five children, Marilyn, Deborah, Carobeth, Michelle, and Meredith II. Evans enjoyed fatherhood.

"I had four cheerleaders and a football player," he said. "I loved athletics. Of course, I was always interested in their scholastics. My children always did well in school, which made us happy."

The couple now has ten grandchildren and the family is always together for the holidays.

During his medical career, Meredith Evans witnessed tremendous changes in medicine. Post-graduate education was a consistent part of his career as technology and diagnostics advanced.

Evans says that diagnostic advancements changed the face of medicine, and that the invention of ultrasound machines, and laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery made it possible for doctors to save more lives than ever before.

Acquiring the ability to control circulation during surgery, he says, may be the biggest advantage in medicine.

"You have machines that breathe and act as a heart, pumping blood through the system while you're working on it," said Evans. "That's one of the biggest advances . . ."

For Evans though, who has always had an intense interest in medical ethics, spending time with patients to offer full explanations of procedures and conditions was also a vital part of the occupation.

"The doctor-patient relationship is the most important part of medicine," he asserted.

In addition to working as a doctor, Evans took on many roles in Middlesboro. He is the director of Community Trust Bank, previously Commercial Bank, a post he has held since 1962.

Evans served as the president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and later the Senior Chamber of Commerce.

The Junior Chamber, under Evans, passed a bond issue to provide the funding to build new schools in Middlesboro.

"It was a very difficult thing to do," Evans said. "People opposed the taxes that were necessary to do it."

In the early 1960s, the group confronted other city issues, including immunizing the town against polio and defeating a resolution

to eliminate the citizen-elected City Council in favor of an appointed commission.

Evans is a founding member of ROHO, an organization that worked toward improving the community, and is named after the song "The Cockfight" recorded by Archie Campbell in 1966.

The organization provides Christmas gifts for underprivileged children in Bell, Lee and Claiborne counties. Last year, the group spent around \$30,000 on the program.

Additionally, Evans served for 12 years on the Middlesboro School Board, was a city councilman for 20 years and served as vice mayor.

Although Evans has retired from medicine, he continues to keep up with advancements in the field. He stays healthy and sharp with regular exercise and fresh produce from his garden.

He still hunts and fishes as he did as a child, but no longer brings home squirrel. He is enjoying retirement.

RECOGNIZING CENTRE COLLEGE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in 1819, a group of citizens petitioned the Kentucky General Assembly for a charter to create a new liberal arts college. The result was Centre College—a remarkable institution named for its proximate location in the geographic center of the Commonwealth. So committed was the legislature to the success of this school that it placed some of the State's most important citizens in charge of its board of trustees. Kentucky's first Governor, Isaac Shelby, served as its chair, and Dr. Ephraim McDowell—a pioneer in abdominal surgical techniques whose statue is on permanent display here in the Capitol—also served on the board.

From this august beginning, Centre College matured into a nationally recognized educational institution that focuses its mission on the success of its students. As their motto indicates, every student can expect a personal education and extraordinary success. It is not surprising, then, that Centre alumni include two Vice Presidents, one Chief Justice and one Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 13 U.S. Senators, 43 U.S. Representatives, 11 Governors—as well as 3 alumni currently serving on my staff. Indeed, Centre College has been a proving ground for generations of men and women whom have gone on to become leaders in a variety of fields.

More recently, under the steady hand of its president, Dr. John Roush, Centre College broke onto the national stage in 2000 when it hosted the Vice-Presidential debate between Dick Cheney and our colleague JOE LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

When you consider the fact that it also holds a national record in annual alumni contributions, it is little wonder that Forbes magazine recently named Centre College as the top college in the South for a second year in a row. As the article begins, "If you're accepted to be a student at the best college in the South, you are guaranteed an internship, the opportunity to study abroad and graduation within

four years—or the school will pay for an additional year of tuition-free study."

So it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Centre College in Danville, KY.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the relevant portion of the Forbes article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Forbes Magazine, Nov. 12, 2010]

THE BEST COLLEGES IN THE SOUTH

(By Jacquelyn Smith)

If you're accepted to be a student at the best college in the South, you are guaranteed an internship, the opportunity to study abroad and graduation within four years—or the school will pay for an additional year of tuition-free study.

The benefits of attending the best college in the South don't even stop when you receive your diploma. Within 10 months of graduation, 98% of the college's students, on average, are employed or engaged in advanced study. Upon graduating you become part of the nation's most loyal and generous group of alumni.

Located in the heart of Kentucky, Centre College has 1,197 undergraduate students and more than 100 faculty members, 98% of whom hold the highest degrees in their fields.

"My time at Centre has been highlighted by the professors and mentors who have guided me and the unique experiences I've taken part in," says Paul Adams, a 21-year-old senior from Chicago.

In the last decade alone, Centre produced 17 Fulbright scholars, five Goldwater scholars, two Rhodes scholars and a Truman scholar. Its alumni include two U.S. vice presidents, a chief justice of the United States, 13 U.S. senators and 43 U.S. representatives.

"The education is intense and challenging, but also supportive," says the college's communications director, Mike Norris. "We have students saying, 'I've found myself doing things at Centre that I would have never even aspired to do.' Our students achieve beyond what they ever thought possible."

More than 85 percent of Centre's students study abroad, and to emphasize its commitment to global citizenship, the college recently implemented a program that provides a free passport to all first-year students who don't already have one.

"Even though we're just a small college in Kentucky, Centre students are doing great things—studying abroad in Mexico, China, England, France, Spain, Vietnam, Israel, Africa, the Bahamas and many more places worldwide, taking on the challenges of society in our classrooms and across campus, and generally making a difference," says Elizabeth Trollinger, a 21-year-old senior from Kentucky. "Centre is a place where we are given countless chances to become active members of our society and community, and we know we'll be able to effectively use the knowledge and skills we acquire in our four years here, no matter what comes after Centre."

Over the last 25 years, Centre alumni have led the nation in loyalty, in terms of the percentage of graduates who make financial donations each year. "The entire Centre community seems to be knit together by two strands," Adams says, "a firm commitment to a meaningful education and an unwavering passion for Centre herself. And for the