

teaching after more than three decades of service.

But an easy retirement spent in a rocking chair was not for E.R. He was one of the charter members of the Bush Volunteer Fire Department, organized in 1975. While still serving as a school principal, he had worked occasionally as a sworn-in deputy for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, transporting inmates. Now in retirement, he renewed his commitment to law enforcement. Recently promoted to administrative sergeant, he has worked for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office for the last 2½ years under two sheriffs.

"No matter how small the complaint, it is a legitimate concern for them," E.R. says of the people he works to serve and protect. And luckily for E.R., he has not gotten into any, as he likes to call them, "bugtussles" of the dangerous variety.

E.R. has also worked as a school bus driver, an assistant manager at a restaurant and as a chemist for the London Utility Commission. He is a member of Providence Baptist Church and a deacon there since 1985. When his wife Judy is asked what E.R. does in his spare time, she answers, "He has no spare time."

Kentucky is lucky to have men like Ernest Ray Rudder, who works hard to protect and provide for his family and his community. I am sure his wife Judy, his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandson are very proud.

Mr. President, the Sentinel Echo recently published an article illuminating Mr. Ernest Ray Rudder's life and his career. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Sentinel Echo Laurel County, Feb. 21, 2011]

RUDDER HAS LIVED EVERY LIL' BOY'S DREAM (By Sue Minton)

Have you passed someone on the street or in the mall, looked at them in church or school, or just seen them out your car window and wonder where have they been or where are they going, and what is their story?

It's easy to forget that everyone has a story to tell and when we take the time to ask questions and listen, we find that every person has a fascinating story to tell and a unique perspective from which to tell it.

Ernest Ray Rudder's—E.R. to those who know him best—story began May 14, 1947 when he was born, at home, to Birchell and Maxine Rudder, the oldest of three children.

"I was born in a little white house on East 80, grew-up on Tom Cat Trail, and moved back to East 80," he said.

Rudder attended Bush School graduating in 1965 and attended Berea College for 1½ years.

He, along with his new bride transferred to Cumberland College graduating in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry.

Rudder and his childhood sweetheart, Judy Hacker, will be married 44 years in May.

"She was only girl I ever dated," he said. "We met in Sunday School class."

Judy said they met when she was in the eighth grade. E.R. said they met before that.

"But I didn't notice you before then," Judy said laughing.

"I noticed you," he said. "With your pig-tails and big brown eyes."

"Her mom, Granny Hacker, was my Sunday School teacher, and Judy was in the class."

After receiving his degree, Rudder began his career as an educator in Clay County, teaching all subjects to seventh and eighth graders at Paces Creek. "This was an experience," he recalled. "I had some famous people in the class, like Gary Gregory, the current Clay County Commonwealth Attorney, for one. And another was the late Cecil Darrell Hooker."

Rudder remembers there being seven seventh graders and 17 eighth graders in the class. "I was 21-years-old and one of the eighth-grade students was 18."

Rudder taught at Paces Creek for half-a-year and the following two years were spent teaching in Jackson County. After which he returned to Laurel County, teaching chemistry and biology for 13 years at Laurel County High School.

"I absolutely loved teaching. I loved the part where you could teach and actually see the students experience the learning part," he said. "And when you could really have fun teaching."

"When you saw them light-up, you knew they 'got-it,'" he added. "And the students learned because they wanted to, not because they had to know it on some test."

Rudder said some of his former students are now doctors, attorneys, teachers and Pentagon officers, and unfortunately some who wear orange jumpsuits.

After 15½ years, Rudder left the classroom for a principal's position at the former Felts Elementary. For 16 years he held principalships at Felts Elementary (four years), assistant principal at Laurel County High School (three years), and Sublimity Elementary (nine years).

Rudder retired in 2000 after 31½ years of teaching and caring for the students of Laurel County.

Rudder recalls the "editorial" he included in the last newsletter he prepared for his staff and students at Sublimity Elementary. "I told them 'Every little boy wants to be a policeman, fireman or teacher and I have been all three. I have been a volunteer fireman for over 30 years and a part-time policeman. So I have succeeded at what all little boys dream of a I threw 30 some years of teaching in there for fun.'"

Rudder was one of the charter members of Bush Volunteer Fire Department that was organized in 1975. Except for a couple of years he has been secretary/treasurer.

And during his principalship at Sublimity Elementary he worked occasionally with the Laurel County Sheriff's Office transporting inmates.

"I was sworn-in as a deputy in 1994," he said.

"And, I once ran for sheriff," he added.

Retirement for Rudder was short lived, lasting less than two weeks.

"I knew when I retired from the school system that I wanted to work with the sheriff's department," he said. "But, I planned on taking some time off. I left school on June 21 and started at the S.O. July 5."

Ruder has worked for the past two sheriffs and the last 2½ years he has worked the roads. He was recently promoted to administrative sergeant, and some of his duties include walk-in reports, accident reports, sending reports to Frankfort and logging, cataloging and transporting evidence.

"I enjoy answering calls, reacting with and helping the people when you can," he said. "I try to help the S.O. have a good image and know that it is serving the people."

When Rudder was asked about taking the administrative position he said he was not dumb enough to think that a 63-year-old man should be out there chasing young punks. "You are inviting trouble," he added. "And I have been lucky, I have not got into any bugtussles, but I have talked several down."

Rudder said there is something new every-day. "A lot of times you will hear the same story but from different people. You never know what or who is going to walk in. No matter how small the complaint, it is a legitimate concern for them."

"People think that everything they see on NCIS or CSI we can do," he added. "I tell them 'if Gil Grissom was here, it is untelling what we could do, but in the real world, we're not able to do all that.'"

"Like teaching, I absolutely love working for the S.O.," he added.

Educating and protecting the citizens of Laurel County was only two of Rudder's jobs.

During his teaching career he also drove a school bus, was assistant manager at Burger Queen and was a chemist for the London Utility Commission.

Rudder drove a school for 13 years, mostly the Marydell route.

"But, my first route was in the Sinking Creek area," he added. "Judy took over my route when I quit and drove for seven years and today Kay Bowling (Rudder's sister) drives the route."

Rudder remembers his Uncle George driving basically the same bus route 50 years ago.

With the jobs Rudder has had and his work schedule today when asked what he does in his spare time, Judy was quick to answer, he has no more spare time."

But Rudder said he doesn't feel like he is pushed. "I would go crazy if I didn't have something to do."

"I like to read history and historical books," he said. "Over Christmas I read George W. Bush's new book 'Decision Points.' Loved it. I'm now reading '15 Stars.' I watch the History Channel and classic westerns, 'Pawn Stars' and 'The Pickers' with a cop show or two thrown in."

"He is also clerk, treasurer and Sunday school director at church," Judy added.

Rudder has been a member of Providence Baptist Church since 1964 and a deacon since 1985.

When asked how he keeps finances from the church, fire department and home straight, he replied laughing "Judy takes care of all personal finances, and I take care of the rest."

Rudder said his biggest regret was not being around much when his daughter, Dawn, was growing up. And his biggest rewards are his grandchildren and Easton, his great-grandson.

"Dawn and Marc have grown up so fast," he said. "And what can you say about your grandchildren and great-grandchild. And the hardest thing I've ever faced was when we lost Susan, our 18-year-old granddaughter."

Rudder describes himself as a "Jack of all trades and a master of none."

INTENT TO OBJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator Grassley, intend to object to the consideration of S. 520, S. 530, S. 871, and S. 1057. These bills would eliminate or modify current incentives for the production and use of domestic, renewable biofuels. I object to their consideration because they would lead to greater dependence on foreign oil, increased prices at the gas pump for

consumers, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and the loss of U.S. jobs. They also represent poor tax policy.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH J. HAMSKI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, with sadness, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Air Force SSG Joseph J. Hamski who died in the Shorabak district of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on May 26, 2011, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, SSG Maria Christina Hamski, his mother Mary Ellen, and all his other family and friends who are grieving his loss.

Staff Sergeant Hamski had served two tours in Iraq and was serving his second tour in Afghanistan. He was an explosives disposal specialist and was reportedly very good at his job. According to his mother, "He loved life, but when he was working, he was intense." She also observed that, "He was modest: He'd say, 'I just do my job so everyone can do their job.'" He also told a friend that if he didn't come back, he didn't want people to make it a big deal.

While I don't mean to go contrary to his wishes, I cannot fail to pay tribute to his selfless service and tremendous sacrifice. Where would our country be without humble, hardworking, self-sacrificing patriots like Joseph Hamski? We owe him and his comrades in arms nothing short of our freedom and our way of life, a debt we can never repay but must never forget.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LAURA RICHARDSON

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the dedication and selfless service of Colonel Laura J. Richardson, who has served as the chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division since October, 2009. As a member of the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, Colonel Richardson was responsible for advising Army senior leadership on legislative and congressional issues and for educating Senators and staff on Army matters. Colonel Richardson's outstanding leadership and hard work was made clear by the tremendous support that she and her office provided to the U.S. Senate for both sessions of the 111th Congress and the first session of the 112th Congress.

It is a personal honor and a privilege to recognize Colonel Richardson today on the floor of the U.S. Senate. She is a native of the great State of Colorado and was a tremendous athlete at Northglenn High School. She attended Metropolitan State College in Denver, and upon graduation; she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. She then attended flight school and earned her wings as an Army aviator.

Colonel Richardson's career highlights include a variety of command and staff positions including three years of service in the 17th Aviation Brigade in Korea. She went on to serve on the III Corps Staff, with the 6th Cavalry Brigade, and with the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault. She was also selected to serve as the military aide to Vice President Gore from 1999 to 2001, and following her tour at the White House, she returned to the 101st to take command of the 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. Colonel Richardson's skill and leadership were clearly displayed when she led 5th Battalion into Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. Following her highly successful battalion command, she served in a variety of positions on the Army staff in the Pentagon and as the installation commander at Fort Myer, VA.

Throughout her service to our Nation Laura has been a shining example for the people of Colorado and the United States. Her selfless service, professionalism, and outstanding performance in each of her assignments led to her recent selection for the rank of brigadier general. This well-deserved promotion will take her to Fort Hood, TX, where she will serve the next commanding general of the Operational Test Command. That move will also reunite Laura with her husband, BG Jim Richardson, who is currently serving at Fort Hood. I want to say a special thank you to their daughter Lauren. She is a wonderful young woman, and she is a great role model for other military children.

I am proud to call Colonel Richardson a friend and a fellow Coloradan. Her tireless work helped to further strengthen the relationship between the Senate and the Department of the Army, and through her leadership, new doors were opened between our proud institutions. We will miss her here in the Senate, but I know that she will continue to excel in her next assignment and any endeavor that follows. On behalf of my colleagues and all Coloradans, thank you for your service, Laura, and all the best to you and your family.

NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I recognize the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park. This park will give visitors the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the courageous women and men of our armed services. The park and its beautiful visitor center, walking paths, and public art honor the lives and service of North Carolina veterans. As a Senator from North Carolina and a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am committed to ensuring our veterans receive the respect they deserve.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a

resolution that was passed unanimously by the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate. The resolution honors the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park in Fayetteville, NC.

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

Whereas, the citizens of North Carolina have a long and proud history, dating to this country's birth, of paying special honor and respect to its sons and daughters who protect our country's freedoms; and

Whereas, the lands of North Carolina and our country are enjoyed by all its citizens due to the unending efforts and sacrifices made by all of our veterans; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to be the home to Cherry Point Air Station, 8 Charlotte Air National Guard, Camp Lejeune, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Station, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to call itself the most military friendly state in America and, as a state, North Carolina has one of the highest percentages of veterans in America; and

Whereas, July 4, 2011, will mark the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park; and

Whereas, the purpose of the North Carolina Veterans Park is to honor all North Carolina veterans and be a composition of objects, spaces, and images that symbolize gratitude, reflection, celebration, and education, and commemorate achievement, service, dedication, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, and is adjacent to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, which is a part of the United States Army Museum System, providing an exciting educational experience and preserving the legend of airborne and special operation forces; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park will consist of seven water features and public art representing participation of individuals from across the State; and

Whereas, the hands of 100 veterans were cast to honor and represent every county in North Carolina and are displayed in this park's Wall of Oath; and

Whereas, soil from each of the State's 100 counties will be included in the construction of the columns in the park; and

Whereas, public art sculptures in the public plaza at the North Carolina Veterans Park signify our veterans' commitment, courage, dedication, heroism, sacrifice, service, and strength, as well as the incredible talents of our State's artist; and

Whereas, the city of Fayetteville has directed the design and construction of the North Carolina Veterans Park to meet or exceed all guidelines and guidance provided by a large segment of the veteran population, including Content Committee members from all five branches of the military service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

SECTION 1. The Senate joins the citizens of this State in expressing its pride and gratitude to the veterans of this State for their service, dedication, and sacrifice in protecting the freedoms of this country and designates July 4, 2011, as North Carolina Veterans Park Day."

SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.