

service Lieutenant Wallace rendered to our country as a Navy officer, and later as a civilian. On behalf of the people of Florida and our Nation, I thank Lieutenant Wallace—and all those who have served and continue to serve—for their sacrifice and service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished military service of MG General Gregory L. Wayt who recently retired from military service after nearly four decades of preserving our Nation's safety and security.

A strong leader with an unyielding call to service and duty to State and Nation, Major General Wayt embodies the character, discipline, and humility that rank him among Ohio's great adjutant generals.

For more than 6 years as the Adjutant General of Ohio, he commanded five brigade-size Army units with more than 11,000 troops and four flying wings and seven nonflying units from Ohio's Air Guard with more than 5,000 additional troops.

During some of the Guard's most challenging times, Major General Wayt's leadership ensured the preparedness of the more than 18,000 Ohio National Guardmembers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan during his tenure, as well as those preparing for overseas contingency operations.

His command also meant Ohio Guardmembers were first on the ground for State emergencies and disasters including flood and winter storm relief from Toledo to Belmont, and in the relief efforts on the gulf coast following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Gustav and Ike in 2008. The Ohio National Guard also had the first C-130 cargo plane on the ground providing critical relief after the Haitian earthquake in 2010.

Under his day-to-day management of the Ohio National Guard—from ensuring the readiness of Guardmembers and weapon systems to the securing fiscal and property resources—Major General Wayt ensured Ohio remained at the top of readiness ranks for our country's National Guards.

Maintaining one of the Nation's premier National Guards also required Major General Wayt's professionalism to maintain the relationship between our military command and civilian leaders. Throughout his service as the Adjutant General of Ohio, he was a trusted national security advisor for two Governors from both parties. He was a valuable resource for all members of the Ohio congressional delegation—always just a phone call away to provide his counsel and recommendations.

As a result of his tireless leadership, Major General Wayt helped save two Air National Guard bases in Ohio and the communities that rely upon them. The Springfield and Mansfield Air Na-

tional Guard Bases remain critical to our national security and to their local economies because of Major General Wayt's fierce loyalty to those he represents and leads under his command.

He also prioritized the retention of talented officers to ensure the organization developed qualified servicemembers for senior leadership positions. One of the ways Major General Wayt accomplished this was by improving the retirement benefits available to Guardmembers.

Because of his input and that of other Guard leaders, the National Guard and Reserve Retirement Parity Act was signed into law by President Obama to restore parity in retirement benefits. This bill is law because Major General Wayt understood that talented Guardmembers should have the resources and benefits deserving of their sacrifice.

He also understood the importance of international collaboration and coordination. He continued the success of the State Partnership Program with Hungary and Serbia, which was created to link National Guard States and territories with partner countries to foster long-term relationships across all levels of society and to establish the importance of the rule of law in nations seeking the highest democratic values and ideals.

As a leader of Ohio's citizen-soldiers and citizen-Airmen—war fighters, peacekeepers, and guardians of America's ideals of democracy and freedom—Major General Wayt received the admiration of his peers as President of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Yet regardless of medals earned and awards received, this great son of Ohio remained grounded in a classic Midwestern work ethic. From his early education in Columbus public schools and Columbus Northland High School to formative years at the Ohio State University as an ROTC student to the University of Dayton, Army Command and General Staff College, and Army War College as a graduate student and senior commander—Greg Wayt symbolizes a dedication to service and sacrifice, and to State and country that deserves a heartfelt thanks from all Ohioans.

But he would be the first to tell you that any professional accomplishment was made possible only by the personal sacrifice of his wife Deborah and daughter Lindsey. The sacrifices of military families deserve our Nation's highest praise—my deepest thank you to Deborah and Lindsey and the Wayt family for sharing their husband, father, and patriarch with a grateful State and Nation.

For all the achievements throughout his career, Major General Wayt will always be first and foremost a field commander and remembered by his troops as one of their own. Congratulations, MG Gregory L. Wayt for 35 years of service to your Nation.

On behalf of a grateful State, I thank you and wish you well upon your retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RAYMOND L. FLYNN

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn in recognition of the retirement of his basketball jersey at his alma mater, Providence College. On Saturday night, the Friars will pay tribute to Ambassador Flynn, a 1963 graduate of the college. Ambassador Flynn is one of the greatest backcourt players in the storied history of the Providence College basketball program. Over his 82-game career, the Ambassador scored 1,025 points. Prior to the Friars' game against the Cincinnati Bearcats at the Dunkin' Donuts Center on Saturday, the college will unveil a banner bearing Ambassador Flynn's No. 14 jersey hanging from the rafters.

A longtime South Boston resident, Ambassador Flynn compiled an impressive list of achievements during his time as a Providence Friar, including two National Invitation Tournament championships in 1961 and 1963. He earned the Most Valuable Player award for his performance in the 1963 tournament. During his junior season, Ambassador Flynn averaged 12.8 points per game and received All-East honors. A skilled outside shooter, the Ambassador increased his average to 18.9 points per game during his senior year, meriting his second All-East distinction, an All-New England award, and Academic All-America honors. Following his graduation, the Ambassador very nearly joined his hometown team, the Boston Celtics.

Following his noteworthy accomplishments as a collegiate student-athlete, Ambassador Flynn embarked upon a distinguished political career. In 1971, the Ambassador won a seat to represent his South Boston community as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and served at the State house until 1979. Ambassador Flynn subsequently served South Boston as a member of the Boston City Council. After 4 years as a city councilor, Ambassador Flynn ran successfully to become mayor of Boston in 1983. He won reelection in 1987 and 1991. In a 2001 interview, Ambassador Flynn lightheartedly remarked, "As a young kid growing up on the streets of South Boston, everybody wanted to be President of the United States or Mayor of Boston."

Part way through the Ambassador's third term as mayor of Boston, President Bill Clinton called on him to serve as Ambassador to the Holy See. Ambassador Flynn embraced the opportunity to represent the United States at the Vatican. By the time he left this post in 1997, Ambassador Flynn had cultivated a close working relationship with Pope John Paul II, whom he had

first met in 1969 during his State representative campaign. The Ambassador's friendship with Pope John Paul II led him to author two books: "The Accidental Pope," a novel cowritten with Robin Moore, and a memoir titled "Pope John Paul II: A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man."

Today, I am proud to salute Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn's accomplishments as a collegiate student-athlete in addition to his achievements as a public servant, diplomat, and devoted husband and father. I am also proud to call him my friend. When Ambassador Flynn sees his jersey hanging high above the court for the first time on Saturday night, I am sure the crowd will give this accomplished son of Massachusetts a standing ovation.

#### TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BAILEY

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, every day in the Senate we owe an enormous amount of gratitude to our staff and to the staff here on the floor which work long hours—often behind the scenes and away from the headlines—to make possible the smooth functioning of this institution.

Today I would like to offer particular gratitude for one of the Senate pages who was among the youngest members of that extraordinary and unheralded team—a page I was privileged to sponsor here, 16-year-old Rachel Bailey from Glendale, MD.

Rachel found herself serving as a page during last year's lameduck session—one of a pair of the only Senate pages, in fact, on hand during that historically busy period.

As we know, typically, the Senate has 30 pages working at any given time. And with 100 Senators, the pace can get pretty hectic.

So imagine how hectic it became for Rachel when the rest of her page class went home for the holidays, leaving her and one fellow page to handle all the page duties in what proved to be an extremely productive and busy session.

Together they handled it all with a smile, carrying the workload of 30 pages and never missing a beat, even though it meant no days off and working up to 14 hours each day. And Rachel did so in a manner that was calm, professional and bipartisan, working with both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms.

Pages play an important role in the daily operation of the Senate. They deliver correspondence and legislative material throughout the Capitol. They take messages for Senators or call them to the phone. They prepare the Chamber for Senate sessions, and they carry bills and amendments to the desk. All of this is in addition to their regular school work.

But as demanding as it is, being a page also gives a student a rare opportunity to learn about—and contribute—to the legislative branch of our government and to witness firsthand the debates in the U.S. Senate,

often described as the "greatest deliberative body in the world." And in the lameduck session, Rachel had an up close look at a flurry of major legislation, including the Senate's bipartisan ratification of the New START Treaty, a long-sought arms reduction agreement with Russia.

Serving as a page has inspired numerous young Americans to pursue careers in public service, even in politics and in the Senate. My friend Chris Dodd, who just retired after more than three decades in Congress, once served as a Senate page. So did one of my current colleagues, MARK PRYOR of Arkansas. So perhaps someday we will see Rachel in the Senate again, in some role other than page.

But in the meantime, let me thank Rachel's parents, Susan and Karl, for sharing her with the Senate during the Christmas holiday, and sustaining her in her first foray in public service—and please also allow me to thank Rachel for her extra special efforts and to express my admiration for the way she conducted herself throughout our lameduck session. She has set the bar high for herself—and for all the Senate pages who will follow. •

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. PITTINGER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I honor the career and contributions of David M. Pittenger, who is retiring after 30 years with the National Aquarium, 15 years as executive director. Dave joined the National Aquarium as director of education in 1979 and implemented award-winning conservation education programs in Baltimore City public schools 2 years before the aquarium officially opened its doors in 1981. Now, each year, 70,000 Maryland schoolchildren, on average, visit the National Aquarium for free as part of their curriculum and Aquarium educators give curriculum training to more than 1,000 teachers.

Through programs that are onsite, in schools and hands-on in the field, the National Aquarium engages children of all ages in raising young terrapins and releasing them into the Bay, taking water and soil samples, growing plants, and going on nature hikes. Children paddle canoes and kayaks, wade in creeks, count birds in wetlands, snorkel in Florida coral reefs, and patrol sea turtle nesting areas in Georgia. For some children, these programs offer their first encounter with an environment outside their neighborhood.

During Dave Pittenger's tenure as director, the National Aquarium has expanded its footprint in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to three buildings, adding an engaging dolphin amphitheater and the award-winning Australia exhibit. The aquarium has also moved beyond its Inner Harbor location, acquiring 12.5 acres of once-contaminated waterfront land in South Baltimore and re-

mediating this "brownfield" to make way for a publicly accessible waterfront park.

Dave has fostered Baltimore's alliance with the National Aquarium in Washington, DC, creating a venue that now showcases 70 exhibits featuring America's Aquatic Treasures, highlighting the animals and habitats of freshwater ecosystems in the United States and other conservation hot spots through the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Under Dave's leadership, however, the National Aquarium has taken on a role greater than its exhibits. He is committed to using the National Aquarium as a stage to educate parents and their children about the importance of aquatic conservation. Dave's priorities of conservation and education are firmly rooted in the conviction that zoos and aquariums have both the capacity and the responsibility to increase public awareness of environmental issues and to implement conservation action programs.

Dave has provided the leadership to make the National Aquarium a true conservation organization with programs around the Chesapeake Bay and the world that restore habitats, rebuild tidal wetlands, strengthen eroding shorelines, reestablish islands, rehabilitate endangered sea turtles, and research lionfish and coral reefs. When the BP oilspill occurred, for instance, scientists from the National Aquarium were available to provide expertise to government and conservation officials trying to ameliorate the damage to the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico, work they continue today.

In 2010, building on the aquarium's strong legacy of service to the environment, the National Aquarium Conservation Center was established to research aquatic species and environments and provide advocacy and programs that tackle pressing conservation issues that affect the aquatic environment.

Under Dave's leadership, the National Aquarium has been an economic engine for the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, welcoming some 1.5 million visitors annually. The National Aquarium is a world-class entertainment attraction and Maryland's No. 1 tourist attraction. The aquarium generates millions in tax dollars and tourism revenue while employing more than 450 staff and engaging local businesses to support its operations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dave Pittenger for his steadfast contributions to our aquatic environment in Maryland and throughout the Nation and the world. The foundation he has laid will produce benefits for all of us as we continue to work to educate and advocate for clean water and a clean environment for all the inhabitants of this Earth. •