

My wife Gayle and I will keep Bill's entire family in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING GARY BATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exemplary citizenship of Gary Bates. This is recognition for a life that has been lived and is continuing to be lived well—the kind of honorable life that too often goes unrecognized.

Gary's life has been defined by fighting. He began life in Henderson, NV fighting to avoid the challenges of a difficult home. He took this fighting spirit into the Marine Corps, where he served honorably until 1966 when he began an impressive career as a professional heavyweight boxer. As a regular name on the Las Vegas strip, he faced off with big names like Ken Norton, Ron Lyle and Gerry Cooney. There is nothing to idealize about many of the choices he made and paths he took in this phase of his life, but what is admirable is how he fought to turn his life around. He learned from the mistakes he made, and turned potential stumbling blocks into effective stepping stones to a productive life.

Recognizing a better way of living, Gary settled down by marrying his wife Carmen and raising two daughters. But Gary did not stop fighting. Finding inspiration in his Catholic faith, he picked up the fight for the less fortunate and endangered. Some of Gary's feats border on the incredible. He once saved the life of a complete stranger, Charles H. Case. While visiting Las Vegas, Charles crashed into an off-ramp rail and his car exploded into flames. Luckily for Charles, Gary witnessed the crash, broke the front left window and freed his pinned body from the enflamed car. Another time, while working in a downtown casino, Gary chased a fleeing thief through an alley into another casino and, as the police reported, decked him with a single punch to the right cheekbone. Gary was never motivated by or sought praise for these actions, a fact that is evidenced by many other low-profile acts of service. He has donated more than 25 gallons of his blood. Additionally, Gary has uniquely compatible blood marrow that he has amazingly matched with five non-relatives. He will tell you that of all his feats he is most proud of his marrow donation that saved the life of a 1-year-old boy.

I am pleased to recognize my friend Gary Bates and to give him some of the praise he has never asked, but certainly deserves. He has said he would take a bullet for me, but I think he would take one for anyone in need. Even at 67 he exercises daily so that he can be physically, not just mentally, ready to meet the call of anyone in distress. He continues to be an example to Nevadans and Americans that anyone can turn in their boxing gloves or brass knuckles for the work gloves of a citizen making our society a better place.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LARRY D. SHINN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great educator who has impacted the lives of thousands of Kentuckians over the course of his career. My good friend, Dr. Larry D. Shinn, will retire in a little more than a month's time after serving 18 years as president of Berea College in Berea, KY, and I know I speak for many when I say I am very sorry to see him go.

Dr. Shinn has served as president since 1994 and is the eighth president of Berea College, a proud liberal-arts college which is dedicated to serving students of great promise and limited economic means. Its primary focus is on serving students from the Appalachian region. Berea College generously offers a full-tuition scholarship to each of its 1,500 students and requires all of them to work in positions on campus. Berea College is proud of its heritage as the first interracial and coeducational college in the South and proud of its focus on a Christian ethic of service and its historic mission to promote the cause of Christ.

Dr. Shinn is a magna cum laude graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and a summa cum laude graduate of Drew University Theological School. He received his Ph.D. in history of religions from Princeton University. Before coming aboard as Berea's president, he taught at Oberlin College for 14 years and served as dean and vice president at Bucknell University for 10 years. He has authored several books and numerous articles and book reviews.

Then there is the remarkable progress Berea College has made under Dr. Shinn's leadership. During his presidency, Dr. Shinn has led the school's strategic-planning process and the creation of its strategic plan for Berea College to thrive in the 21st century. He has instituted a decisionmaking process that has enhanced virtually every area of academic life, from student retention and graduation rates to residential life, academic planning, development, and facilities renovation. He has led Berea's sustainability initiative, which is responsible for the creation of the Sustainability and Environmental Studies Program; the ecological renovations of several campus buildings, including the first LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, building in Kentucky; and the establishment of a residential "eco-village" for student families.

Dr. Shinn also led the "Extending Berea's Legacy" campaign that raised \$162 million for endowments to fund student scholarships, undergraduate research, a new technology program for students, a study abroad program, an entrepreneurship program, and other key initiatives.

I know that Larry and his wife Nancy are looking forward to having a little more time to themselves and to spend with their family, but their gain will certainly be Berea College's and Kentucky's loss. In his 18 years at the

helm, Dr. Shinn has proven himself to be one of the finest college presidents in Kentucky and the Nation. I salute him for his incredible legacy of service towards improving the lives of the thousands of Kentuckians and other students who have passed through Berea College's doors. He is a great Kentuckian whom I have been honored to represent and to work with over his nearly two decades as Berea College's president. He will be missed.

Mr. President, the Berea Spotlight, a publication of Berea College, published an article highlighting the many accomplishments of Dr. Larry Shinn around the time he announced his retirement. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Berea Spotlight, Apr. 4, 2011]

LARRY SHINN, BEREA COLLEGE PRESIDENT,
PLANS RETIREMENT

(By Tim Jordan)

Berea College President Dr. Larry D. Shinn announced today that he will be retiring from the College, effective June 30, 2012. Berea's 8th president, Dr. Shinn has served in this capacity since 1994. In a letter to trustees, faculty, staff and students, Shinn stated that, with the College emerging strongly from the challenges of the Great Recession, it is a good time for Berea to begin the process of a leadership transition.

The combined efforts of Berea's faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and other stakeholders have, over the span of the past 17 years, resulted in dramatic progress at the College. Enrollment of African-American students has increased from 6 percent to 18 percent, while service to the Appalachian region has been expanded. Retention and graduation rates have improved more than 30 percent while new program initiatives have enhanced educational quality. The College has successfully completed over \$140 million in sustainable building renovations, and in 2005 a \$150-million sesquicentennial campaign exceeded its goal. In response to the financial crisis of 2008-09, the College has embraced a bold and creative vision for carrying out its historic mission in a rapidly changing world. Dr. Shinn noted that Berea is a stronger and more resilient institution today that has greater capacity to address future opportunities and challenges.

President Shinn indicated that while he and his wife, Nancy, are looking forward to extended time with their children and grandchildren during their pending retirement, he cited a number of challenging initiatives that Berea must engage over the next 15 months, including the transition from academic departments to divisions, development of the College's new Center for Transformative Learning, and "deep green" science and residence hall projects.

Dr. David E. Shelton, chair of the Berea College Board of Trustees, commented: "President Shinn's unique blend of academic and leadership skills passionately applied to Berea's mission, in partnership with the entire College community, has produced outstanding results. Berea is well-positioned for the future, and we look forward to the unfolding of a number of new developments and opportunities during Larry's remaining tenure as president. Dr. Shinn's extraordinary abilities, personal commitment, and strong work ethic have set the example for the next generation of presidential leadership at

Berea. The Board of Trustees is grateful to Larry and Nancy for their extraordinary service to the College."

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this Monday, May 28, is Memorial Day. It is a day for all Americans to honor the brave men and women in uniform who have served and defended our Nation—especially those who sacrificed their very lives for this sacred duty.

It is only right that we set aside this day to remember those who have given us so much. Freedom as we know it in America could not exist without their heroism.

On Memorial Day, we honor servicemembers who laid down their lives fighting under the command of GEN George Washington, to those who have perished in Afghanistan and Iraq. What a proud legacy of fighting for freedom our country has. I am honored to live in a nation that boasts the bravest warriors in the world.

I am also honored to serve my fellow Kentuckians, who understand the importance of this day more, I think, than most. Kentucky has a proud tradition of military service that is upheld today by the many Armed Forces members at our State's military bases, the members of the Kentucky National Guard, our reservists, and Kentuckians fighting around the world. Since September 11, 2001, 107 Kentucky servicemembers have fallen while fighting for their country.

I have been honored to meet many of the family members of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who did not return home. I have let them know that their loved ones will not be forgotten. Memorial Day is a chance to make sure that message is heard loud and clear across America.

I want to share with my colleagues a special story about one soldier in particular from Kentucky. SGT Felipe Pereira of the 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, KY, recently was awarded the Nation's second highest military honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, for his acts of bravery in battle.

Sergeant Pereira is the first soldier from the 101st Airborne to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross since the Vietnam war. At a ceremony this April at Fort Campbell, Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Ray Odierno presented Sergeant Pereira with the venerated military decoration.

According to the award citation, on November 1, 2010, in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, a squad of soldiers that included Sergeant Pereira was on dismounted patrol when an improvised explosive device went off, killing two of Sergeant Pereira's comrades and wounding Sergeant Pereira with shrapnel that caused his lung to begin to collapse. As an enemy ambush began to unfold, "with little regard for his own safety or care" Sergeant Pereira drove an all-terrain vehicle into enemy fire to help evacuate wounded soldiers.

After moving the first set of casualties, the sergeant went back into the line of fire once more to help others. Sergeant Pereira is credited with "saving the lives of two of his fellow soldiers while risking his own [on] multiple occasions. Only after all the wounded soldiers had been evacuated and were receiving medical care did he accept treatment himself."

Mr. President, Sergeant Pereira's selfless actions demand our admiration and respect. What is more, so does his selfless attitude about his bravery on that fateful day.

"Every time I have the opportunity, I always say remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice," said Sergeant Pereira in an article published by the Fort Campbell Courier. "I still get to come back and enjoy barbecues with my family and their love and everything. Those guys, they really gave it all. Those are truly the heroes. Just remember those guys. I think even on a happy occasion like this, I think we need to celebrate their life and their sacrifice."

I can't improve on those words. Sergeant Pereira has captured the meaning of Memorial Day right there, in those words of wisdom.

So I hope this Memorial Day, people will heed the advice of SGT Felipe Pereira. The men and women who "really gave it all" are truly the heroes, and this Monday is their day to receive our admiration and our respect. I know my friends in Kentucky and people across America will not forget that.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Memorial Day is a time to pay tribute to those who have given "the last full measure of devotion" in the service of our great country. I believe this Memorial Day is especially significant as we pause to reflect on some of the events of the past year and acknowledge the passing of the last surviving veteran of World War I, the end the Iraq War, and a renewed commitment to wind down our engagement in Afghanistan by 2014.

Since the first colonial troops took up arms in the fight for our independence in 1775, more than 1.1 million American soldiers, sailors, and airmen have died in the wars and conflicts fought to defend our Nation, our freedom, and our ideals. In the past 10 years, we have lost over 6,400 brave Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan. The death of each one of these servicemen and women represents not only a tragic loss to their loved ones, but to their community, and to our Nation.

The American tradition of Memorial Day—originally known as Decoration Day—has its roots in local springtime tributes that were held in the North and the South during and immediately after the Civil War and following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865. On May 1, 1865, nearly 10,000 freedmen, teachers, preachers, missionaries, and Union troops properly landscaped and covered with flowers the unmarked graves of some 250 or more Union prisoners of

war who had died in captivity at the Charleston Race Course, a site now known as Hampton Park. On April 26, 1866, grieving mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters in Columbus, MS placed flowers on the graves of Confederate soldiers who had died in the Battle of Shiloh. While they grieved for their own lost loved ones, they saw that nearby graves of the Union soldiers were neglected, so they placed flowers on these graves as well. On May 5, 1866, an official commemoration was held in Waterloo, NY to honor local veterans of the Civil War. Businesses were closed and flags were flown at half-mast to honor the dead. On May 5, 1868, MG John A. Logan, who headed the Grand Army of the Republic, GAR, which was an organization of Union veterans, declared that May 30 of each year should be Decoration Day, a time for the Nation to festoon the graves of Union and Confederate war dead with flowers. Logan said, "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. . . . Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." The first large observance was held that same year at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared that Waterloo is the official birthplace of Memorial Day but it is apparent that many communities and people across America can claim some of the credit.

Shortly after World War I, Decoration Day ceremonies were no longer limited to honoring those who had died in the Civil War. Rather, the commemoration was altered to embrace the men and women who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Congress passed legislation to make Memorial Day a national holiday and to fix its date as the last Monday in May. In December 2000, Congress passed "The National Moment of Remembrance Act" (Public Law 106-579, which encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3:00 PM local time on Memorial Day for 1 minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to our Nation.

While the Memorial Day we will celebrate this Monday is approaching the sesquicentennial of its birth, the tradition of honoring those who have fallen in war is probably as old—or nearly as old—as human history itself. Over 2,400 years ago—in 431 B.C.E.—Pericles paid tribute to the Athenian soldiers who had fallen in battle at the beginning of the Peloponnesian War, saying

For this offering of their lives made in common by them all they each of them individually received that renown which never grows old, and for a sepulchre, not so much that in which their bones have been deposited, but that noblest of shrines wherein their glory is laid up to be eternally remembered upon every occasion on which deed or story shall call for its commemoration. For heroes have the whole earth for their tomb;