

awards. Although Phil is retired, he remains active in the community, serving on boards such as the National World War II Museum and the National Center for Responsible Gaming, NCRG.

Jennifer Satre was the cofounder of the Satre Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. She has served the State on multiple boards, including the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, where she was a board trustee from 2001 to 2006, board chair in 2006, and became a trustee emerita in 2007. Jennifer, a tireless advocate for education, taught at Peavine Elementary School in Reno for seven years, nourishing, developing, and enhancing young minds to continue her legacy of great service to the community.

Due to their tremendous personal and professional success, together, Mr. and Mrs. Satre have generously supported the University of Nevada, Reno, and Stanford University, their alma mater. They continue their philanthropic legacy to the State of Nevada through the Satre Family Fund, the Phil and Jennifer Satre Harrah's Employee Scholarship Award, and other initiatives focused on community empowerment and the quality of education.

I am pleased to stand here today to recognize their remarkable contributions to the Nevada family. I am grateful to Phil and Jennifer for their exceptional service, community engagement, and love for the Silver State. You will forever be recognized as great champions for the State of Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO BILL CLINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I stand before you to recognize and honor Mr. Bill Cline for his dedication to the development and expansion of businesses in Nevada, across the United States, and throughout the world.

Bill's leadership was essential to the establishment and growth of two U.S. Commercial Service offices: the first, in Las Vegas in 2001, and the second in Reno in 2004. The offices have assisted and continue to assist small- and medium-sized business in northern and southern Nevada expand their international exports of products and services. Bill has led international initiatives to develop strong, sustainable growth and improve international trade advocacy with the United States. These initiatives have endorsed green building, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water conservation and recycling, all of which hold great potential for U.S. exporters.

Bill's dedication to his community is demonstrated by his 36-year commitment to public service, business development, and training. Though Bill retires on October 1, 2012, as director of the U.S. Commercial Service in Reno, I look forward to his continued contributions to the Silver State.

REMEMBERING OFFICER MARK A. TAULBEE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to report to my colleagues some sad news. A brave Kentucky law-enforcement officer has fallen in the line of duty. Officer Mark A. Taulbee of the Hodgenville, KY, police department was killed on Sunday, September 16, when his police vehicle crashed during the pursuit of a suspect.

Officer Taulbee had been with the Hodgenville Police Department for 13 months. Prior to that, he had been a deputy with the Butler County Sheriff's Department for 3 years. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and two children, Audra and Austin.

Officer Taulbee upheld a great tradition of service and sacrifice that is observed by the many men and women in local, State, and national law enforcement across America. Our country owes them a debt of gratitude for putting their lives on the line to protect us and our communities.

Tragically, Officer Taulbee is the first and only Hodgenville police officer ever lost in the performance of his duty. Across America, 84 law enforcement officers have fallen in the line of duty in 2012. That includes two from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, out of a total of approximately 7,800 sworn law enforcement officers statewide.

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in sending my deepest sympathies to Officer Taulbee's family and his colleagues at the Hodgenville Police Department. We have the deepest admiration and respect for police officers in every community across America.

We recognize theirs is both an honorable job and a dangerous one. They bravely risk their lives for ours, and America appreciates everything they do. We cannot be grateful enough for them and their families.

Mr. President, a recent article appeared on the Web site of television news station WAVE-3 of Louisville paying tribute to Officer Taulbee and noting the loss felt by his fellow officers. 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 WAVE3.com, Sept. 18, 2012]

HODGENVILLE POLICE CHIEF REMEMBERS FALLEN OFFICER

HODGENVILLE, KY (WAVE).—Services have been set for a Hodgenville police officer who died in the line of duty.

Officer Mark Taulbee, 44, had been a long-time law-enforcement officer in eastern Kentucky before moving to Hodgenville a little more than a year ago.

Despite being at the department a short time, the chief said Officer Taulbee had a lasting impact on the police force.

"Just like family. It's really hard," said Hodgenville Police Chief Steve Johnson. "We're very tight, and it's been a shock to all of us."

The police department of five now prepares to say goodbye to one of its own.

"I am thinking this is the only officer we've ever lost in the line of duty," Johnson said.

A makeshift memorial of crosses can be found where the crash happened.

Taulbee was chasing a suspect around 3:00 Saturday morning.

In the midst of the case, another call came into 911. "A lady said a police car had wrecked in front of her house and the officer was laying outside the vehicle," Johnson said.

Taulbee was rushed to a hospital. "His wife was working at Hardin Memorial Hospital when he arrived. She's an X-ray technician," Johnson said.

It's believed that's the last time she saw him. He was then rushed to University of Louisville Hospital.

"My understanding was that he was on his way to surgery or to X-rays and his heart stopped. They did CPR but were unable to bring him back," Johnson said.

Johnson said his phone has been ringing non-stop with calls from across the country, offering support.

"Hopkinsville and Elizabethtown are going to send officers over to work the city so all my units can go to his funeral. I guess that's what's hitting us so hard. It's the suddenness of it. It's just hard," Johnson said.

Services for Officer Taulbee will be held at the Hodgenville Civic Center. Visitation is set for Thursday from 3 to 8 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to noon. The funeral will begin at noon on Friday.

The officer leaves behind a wife, a 20-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son.

REMEMBERING GEORGE WASHINGTON 'G.W.' GRIFFIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the loss of a good man, an honored Kentuckian, and a dear friend. Mr. George Washington Griffin passed away on December 19, 2011, from complications of pneumonia at the age of 85. He is deeply missed by all those who knew and loved him.

George—known to his friends as G.W.—was a fixture of the Laurel County community and a leader in the region and the Commonwealth. A co-owner and former chairman emeritus of the Laurel Grocery Company, G.W. served on the National American Wholesale Grocers Board of Governors for two terms beginning in 1967. He was elected president of the Kentucky Wholesale Grocers Association in 1979, and the Kentucky Grocers Association/Kentucky Association of Convenience Stores honored Mr. Griffin as Kentucky Grocer of the Year in 1986.

When George retired from the grocery industry in 1997, he left the Laurel Grocery Company well positioned for success in the 21st century. Fellow members of the grocers industry across Kentucky honored G.W. as one of the original three inductees into the Kentucky Grocers Hall of Fame in 2005.

G.W. was born in East Bernstadt, KY, in 1926. He attended the Kentucky Military Institute, Wake Forest University, and the University of Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was decorated with the Victory Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

G.W. was also very involved with the Cumberland Valley National Bank, Institutional Distributors, and played a

role in the formation of Appalachian Computer Services in London. He also had a hand in Laurel Insurance Company and worked in the printing industry. In his spare time, G.W. loved UK athletics, rarely missing a home game.

G.W. was a close personal friend to me and a strong support of mine going back to 1984. I will always be thankful for his belief in me and his help over the decades. It was a pleasure to see him every time I made my way to London. I will miss our friendship.

Elaine and my prayers go to G.W.'s family, including his wife Elizabeth; his daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Hal McCoy; his son and daughter-in-law, George William and Becky; his son and daughter-in-law, Winston and Shannon; his sister, Margaret Fouts; his five grandchildren; and many other friends and family members. G.W. was preceded in death by his parents, George W. Sr. and Willie Lee, and his brother William.

Mr. President, I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Mr. George Washington "G.W." Griffin and extending sympathies to the Griffin family. Kentucky is poorer for his loss.

An obituary detailing Mr. Griffin's incredible life appeared in the Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel Echo. 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:

[The Sentinel Echo, December 23, 2011]

GEORGE WASHINGTON "G.W." GRIFFIN—OWNER OF LAUREL GROCERY COMPANY

LAUREL COUNTY, KY.—George Washington "G.W." Griffin, 85, died December 19, 2011, from complications of pneumonia.

Born on February 28, 1926, in East Bernstadt, Griffin attended the Kentucky Military Institute, Wake Forest University and graduated from the University of Kentucky, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Having served in World War II, he was a proud veteran of the United States Navy.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was a founding member and past president of the London Country Club and long-time member of Biltmore Forest Country Club. He served on the board of trustees of the University of Kentucky for 16 years, which is how he met his partner in crime and close friend, the late, great Dr. Otis Singletary. Griffin was past chairman of Laurel Grocery Company, Cumberland Valley National Bank, Institutional Distributors, London Rotary Forms, and the Food Marketing Education Council (the Red Coats). He was a board member of Cumberland College, National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Appalachian Computer Systems, and the Kentucky Grocers Association. He was an initial inductee into the Kentucky Grocers Hall of Fame. An avid golfer and thoroughbred horse owner/racing enthusiast, he traveled all over the world to pursue his passions, but his favorite place was always the great state of Kentucky. A diehard UK fan, Griffin never missed a home football game until he became too ill to attend.

He was preceded in death by his brother, William "Bill" Griffin.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Elizabeth Park "Sis" Griffin, and sister Margaret Fouts of Lacey, Wash.

The couple have three children, Elizabeth (Hal) McCoy of Hopkinsville, Ky.; George William (Becky) Griffin of Lexington; and Winston (Shannon) Griffin of London; and five grandchildren, Winston Park Griffin, Charlotte Grace Griffin, Griffin Bell McCoy, Catherine Rose Griffin, and Bella James Griffin.

The Griffin family extends heartfelt gratitude to Don Dossett for his loving care and assistance with G.W. Griffin these last two years.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church, 804 W. 5th Street, London, with Dr. Terry Lester officiating.

Burial will be in A.R. Dyche Memorial Park.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at House-Rawlings Funeral Home, 510 E. 4th Street, London.

Memorial contributions can be made to George W. Griffin Charitable Scholarship Trust, PNC Institutional Investments, 1900 East 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, Attn: Lauren Middleton.

CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this Monday, September 17, our Nation celebrated one of our greatest founding documents the document that has guided the discourse of our great Nation for 225 years. Every September 17, we celebrate Constitution Day.

Americans of all walks of life are united by the ideals of equal justice, limited government, and the rule of law. It was the vision and determination of the Founders who wrote and signed the Constitution that makes our celebration today possible.

More than two centuries ago, the Founders met in Philadelphia to create a constitution that would preserve liberty and foster freedom. They established three separate branches of government and a system of checks and balances among them. Ours is still the oldest written Constitution in use in the world.

The most important purpose of Constitution Day is to teach these lessons to the younger generations. I am pleased to say that the Kentucky Department of Education has made resources available to secondary schools across the Commonwealth to help them recognize this special day.

The University of Kentucky marked Constitution Day by inviting speakers and holding historical forums. And at the University of Louisville, Constitution Day was celebrated with a constitution quiz bowl and constitution cupcakes.

So on this day, we recognize the students, teachers, and community leaders in Kentucky and across the Nation who promote and protect the ideals of our glorious Constitution.

We also say a special thanks for our men and women in uniform who defend it.

More than two centuries ago, the 39 signers of our Constitution gave us a more perfect union through a document that endures and guides us here today.

They understood, as we all must, that above all, government serves to

secure the blessings of liberty for the people of our great Nation. It is an honor to stand on this floor and recognize how we have reaped the fruit of their efforts these many years later.

REMEMBERING GEORGE JOHN 'G.J.' SMITH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a Kentuckian who was a coach, athletic director, and teacher to many and a confidant and good friend to even more. Kentucky mourns the passing of Mr. George John Smith of London, KY, who passed away on August 17 of this year at the age of 59.

Known as G.J. to his many players, friends, and fellow baseball fans, Mr. SMITH was a Laurel County native born in 1953. He began his coaching career at Laurel County High School in 1977. When he stepped down from that position 26 years later, he was ranked among the winningest high school baseball coaches in Kentucky with over 600 victories.

G.J. was also the athletic director at South Laurel and the Laurel County Board of Education. He was inducted into the Laurel County Sports Hall of Fame and the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Mt. Zion Church of Christ.

In college, G.J. played basketball at the University of Kentucky under coach Adolph Rupp. He is survived by his wife Judy; two sons, Cameron and Trey; a sister and brother-in-law, Charlie Jean and Terry Mack; and many other beloved family members and friends.

I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in extending sympathies to the family of G.J. Smith as well as his many friends and players. As the home of Pee Wee Reese and the Louisville Slugger, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has certainly contributed more than its share to America's greatest pastime. I am pleased the legacy of G.J. Smith will be remembered as a part of the Bluegrass State's baseball history as well.

Mr. President, an article describing G.J. Smith's life of achievement recently appeared in the Whitley County-area publication the Times Tribune. 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 Times Tribune, Aug. 20, 2012]

G.J. SMITH: 1953-2012

FORMER WILDCAT, COACHING LEGEND
DEAD AT 59

(By Chris Parsons)

LONDON.—The Commonwealth of Kentucky lost one of its sports legends Friday when G.J. Smith, former Kentucky Wildcat and long time Laurel County coach and athletics director, died of a heart attack at the age of 59.

Smith was considered an ambassador of sports in Laurel County on many occasions