

aboard United Flight 93. For without their courageous stand taken on September 11, 2001, our Capitol building and many of those serving within, perhaps some of you, may have been further victims of the terrorism that fundamentally changed our lives and our country on that dark day. With each visit to the Capitol I make time to pass through the Rotunda and view the magnificent plaque dedicated to the actions of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93. While the traumatic repercussions of September 11, 2001 have been deeply felt by each and every family member that lost a loved one that day, and by the community of Somerset County whose lives and way of life have been forever changed, I appreciate the conscious awareness of those serving in this building of the fact, that as tragic as that day was to our country, it could have been significantly worse.

As family members that lost loved ones aboard United Flight 93, we struggle continually with our loss. Our lives over the past eleven years have all taken differing paths with one common factor that will forever bind us together. Our family of Flight 93, forged in tragedy and thrust into the public domain has provided an avenue by which we can advocate for those family members that will forever remain alive in our hearts and minds. This journey has not been easy for any and more difficult for some.

For some families and individuals, withdrawal into their personal lives at home, or fresh new starts beyond the reach of the media and chaos of September 11th have been an avenue of survival. Others have joined in community with family members suffering similar loss and have found comfort with the understanding that comes from shared tragedy. And there are others that have continued to move forward masking their grief as they approach life one day at a time . . . surviving. Within our families there are others that have made a conscious decision to serve as advocates, representing the interests of the Families of Flight 93 through the Flight 93 National Memorial Partnership. No avenue of healing is proper and correct for all, just as no closure will ever be felt for those experiencing such great loss.

Our families are spread out across the globe and represent a unique diversity in culture. Yet, when we gather together each year on the anniversary of September 11th, we are one. Somerset County, Pennsylvania has become an extension of our homes and the community has welcomed us into their hearts unconditionally even as they struggle daily with the impact of events set in motion on September 11, 2001. Their lives have been impacted in ways that they are still coming to understand. Yet there is a strength and wholeness in the people of Somerset County that provides great comfort to our families. They proudly stand as Ambassadors working hand in hand with the National Park Service ready to tell the story of our loved ones to any and all that visit the memorial.

The Flight 93 National Memorial is more than a tribute to 40 heroes. Its existence serves our country in a far greater capacity than just as a place marker for history. Over these past 11 years we have come to realize that the Flight 93 National Memorial has a quality within similar to that of Gettysburg or Pearl Harbor. A strong sense of purpose, of loss, yet triumph permeates the entire site and only becomes more intense as visitors approach and gaze upon our Sacred Ground. The memorial was designed to honor 40 heroes, but also serves in the short term to help heal a generation of Americans deeply affected by the traumatic effects of September 11th and stands to preserve a piece of

our cultural heritage in order to educate and inspire future generations.

"Do what is right, not what is easy." Since September 11th this mantra has guided so many within our Flight 93 National Memorial partnership and our extended Flight 93 National Memorial Family. Whether it is in the halls of Congress, Harrisburg, Somerset, or Shanksville, Pennsylvania, this project has been joined by all that appreciate the personal, political, cultural and historical impact September 11th has had on our country and freedom loving peoples around the world. On one of the bleakest days in our history, the trial of 40 individuals helped us remember that we are strong with an unquenched thirst for freedom and that no person or ideology will ever cause us to waver from a course that was set in motion by our forefathers.

In those defining 22 minutes when our loved ones experienced a horror beyond comprehension, they collectively chose to act. Not as individuals, but as a force ignited by the love of family, love of freedom and a superiority in spirit unwilling to sit back and allow an evil so incarnate to suppress their dreams and desires. They were thrust together by events not caused by individual existences, but by social, political, and religious forces that sought to break our spirit through terror. How can we not stand in awe? How can we not celebrate their spirit? How can we not honor those 40 individuals that have been woven into the fabric of our nation's proud history? The Flight 93 National Memorial will ensure that their efforts, their actions and their spirit will not be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR D. LEIGH HASSON

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize my 2012 defense legislative fellow, MAJ D. Leigh Hasson. Major Hasson served my office with distinction. From her first town hall in Fairbanks, AK, to her final days spent on the floor of the United States Senate as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 was being considered, she demonstrated honor, integrity, leadership and professionalism.

Major Hasson received her commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School in January 2000. As a navigator with over 1,000 combat flight hours, she has deployed in support of Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She has experience establishing and supporting major commands including the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command headquarters and Joint Forces Command. Major Hasson has been selfless in her service and sacrifice throughout her career.

Her family has supported her through these deployments and her tenure in the Air Force. Her husband David, son Samuel and daughter Alexis have been by her side through it all. It is for them she serves our Nation—to protect what they have and to protect their future. I would like to thank David, Samuel and Alexis for their sacrifices in support of Major Hasson.

Hailing from Trapper Creek, AK, Leigh embodies Alaska values. She is independent, inquisitive, a self-starter and actively involved in her work and community. While in my office, Leigh completed the Truman National Security Project Security Scholars program. She was the office's liaison to the Alaska State Society, she taught Bible study at her church and somehow she still found the time to train and run the Army Ten-Miler in support of our troops.

As a defense legislative fellow, she contributed greatly to the State of Alaska and the Nation. She led the charge on Arctic issues because she recognized the increasing importance of the region. Due to her work, I was successful in securing report language to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 on appropriately resourcing the Arctic. She staffed me at numerous hearings and provided vital insight on a number of pressing national security issues.

As a member of my team, Leigh approached each day with a positive attitude. Despite working in an environment where one can easily become discouraged by politics, Leigh never failed to smile and press forward in the best interest of the Nation.

It has been a pleasure to host Major Hasson in my office. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her service.●

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT M. BELL

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, for his outstanding contributions as a jurist, administrator, and justice advocate. His work on the bench has transformed the Maryland judicial system. His success in Maryland has provided leadership for national initiatives. And Chief Judge Bell has secured his place in history as a civil rights leader, both in Maryland and nationally.

Chief Judge Bell has served as the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals and the head of Maryland's Judiciary for the past 15 years. But before Chief Judge Bell took the bench, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the Senate that Chief Judge Bell was already involved with our State's judicial system. As a high school student, he was a civil rights protestor who engaged in civil disobedience in Baltimore, and his case ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Maryland State Archives has used the Bell v. Maryland case as part of its series on "Teaching American History in Maryland". According to the account by the Archives, in 1960, the majority of restaurants in downtown Baltimore were still segregated and blacks were not served at all-white dining establishments. Students from Dunbar High School and Morgan State

College were recruited by the Civic Interest Group to enter all-white restaurants and demand service. On June 17, 1960, a group of students entered Hooper's Restaurant, located at Charles and Fayette Streets, and asked to be served. They were told to leave, but 12 of the students, including 16-year-old Robert Mack Bell from Dunbar High School, refused. They were each charged with trespassing, found guilty, and fined \$10. The case was appealed, and one of the students' lawyers was Thurgood Marshall from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, who went on to become the first African-American Justice on the United States Supreme Court. The students and their attorneys argued that the use of the State's trespassing laws to support segregation of public accommodations violated the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees the "equal protection of the laws" to all persons.

In 1962, the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld the students' convictions and the decision of the lower court, and the case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the summer of 1964, the United States Senate finally overcame a filibuster and passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited segregation and discrimination in public accommodations. The State of Maryland also passed a public accommodations law. Shortly after this action by Congress, the Supreme Court remanded the case back to the Maryland Court of Appeals. On April 9, 1965, the convictions were reversed, the students were cleared of all charges, and the City of Baltimore was ordered to pay court costs to the students.

Robert Mack Bell went on to graduate from Morgan State in Baltimore and then Harvard Law School, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1969. After working in private practice for several years, he was appointed as a Baltimore City District Court judge, which handles misdemeanors. In 1980, he was elevated to the Baltimore City Circuit Court, which handles felony cases and jury trials. In 1984, he was elevated again to the Court of Special Appeals, our intermediate appellate court. In 1991, Judge Bell was appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, our State's top court. Finally, he was appointed as Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals in 1996, becoming the first African-American to serve in that capacity. He is one of the few judges to serve at all four levels of the Maryland judiciary during his career. And Chief Judge Bell also has the rare distinction of serving on and then running a court that had previously ruled against him.

During his 2 decades on the bench, Chief Judge Bell has been a moving force on committees and commissions that have looked at ways to provide greater access to justice, to better incorporate the advantages of technology, and to enhance legal training and compensation.

In 2002, Chief Judge Bell appointed a Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process to evaluate outcomes and recommend ways to reduce or eliminate unequal access to or treatment by the court system. In 2008, he created the Access to Justice Commission to develop, consolidate, coordinate, and implement policy initiatives to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters. He sought ways to find non-traditional methods to help solve the problems of crime by promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution, ADR, programs throughout Maryland. He promoted the growth of drug treatment courts in Maryland and established the Standing Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to coordinate these efforts. He used technology to provide more accurate and uniform data critical to the enforcement of domestic violence and peace orders, and launched an ongoing effort to prepare Maryland judges to adjudicate cases involving science and biotechnology. And when the housing crisis hit Maryland, he called Maryland's legal community together to provide pro bono assistance to homeowners faced with foreclosure. As a result of those efforts, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to better protect homeowners.

Time and time again, when Chief Judge Bell has faced challenges, he has seized the opportunity to find solutions. He has done so with grace and intellect and compassion. He has rallied the legal community and expanded opportunities for those with few options and no voice.

From Robert Bell's days as a high school student, long before he even went to law school, he has strived to promote justice and equality for all Americans. The Preamble to the Constitution provides that "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." Just like Thurgood Marshall, a fellow Baltimorean and legal giant, Chief Judge Bell has played a large part in upholding and defending our Constitution in Maryland, and in helping our State and nation move toward "establishing justice" and creating a "more perfect union." I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Judge Robert Bell for his civil rights leadership, contributions to the legal community, and inspirational life as he retires after an outstanding career of public service.●

TRIBUTE TO LEE SACHS

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of Lee Norman Sachs, one of America's outstanding first-responders and human beings whose contribution of time, talent, and leadership span over 3½ decades. Lee graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and the University Of Maryland School Of Law,

and began practicing law in 1967, concentrating on family law and real estate matters. But his desire to do more for his community led him to take Emergency Medical Technician, EMT, training and join the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department. Over the years, Lee took more and more training, first to qualify as a paramedic and then as a firefighter, fire driver/operator and lastly a fire instructor.

Lee's dedication, training, and leadership skills have resulted in his election to many volunteer fire positions, most notably as president of the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department, the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He has been inducted into the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association Hall of Fame, named Executive Officer of the Year, and received the organization's President's Award. He was recognized by the Maryland State Firemen's Association as EMS Provider of the Year and recipient of the Gladhill-Thompson Trophy.

At the same time Lee was performing all of this public service, he was also working as a well-respected attorney, volunteering time at the Women's Law Center and the Maryland Bar Association, and providing pro bono legal services to clients referred by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

Lee Sachs has led a life dedicated to serving his community. I hope all Senators will join me in thanking him for his commitment to public service and his efforts to ensure the health and safety of his fellow Marylanders.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6429. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote innovation, investment, and research in the United States, to eliminate the diversity immigrant program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8401. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8402. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8403. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S.