

The commissioning address was made by Rear Admiral Reichmuth who turned the situation over to Commander William T. Rassieur, U.S.N., of 1429 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Naval Air Station, Patuxent, will be one of the finest and largest Navy aviation establishments in the East when construction work is completed. It will combine and concentrate flying and operating aspects of experimental work previously conducted at Naval Air Station, Anacostia, and Norfolk, and at the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia. It will serve also as the East Coast terminal for Naval Air Transport Service, now located at Norfolk.

The new station is 60 airline miles southeast of Washington, D.C. Six thousand people have been employed constructing the station, beginning work on March 1, 1942.

Facilities for both land and seaplanes have been installed, while docks also have been constructed for vessels which will handle freight in connection with activities of the air transport unit.

In addition to seaplane ramps, the field has three runways for land plane. The largest is 10,000 feet in length and 500 feet wide, while the remaining two are 6,000 feet long and 300 feet wide. Four hangars for all types of planes are among the 45 buildings of the station.

When fully staffed the station will have several thousand officers and men."

Mr. President, as noted earlier in the Navy's press release, my Grandfather then Rear Admiral McCain, was a speaker at the commissioning in 1943. In his speech he said, "I have every reason to expect that under your expert guidance this work will be done more rapidly and more efficiently, and that it will rapidly increase in scope and its effectiveness, as it must do for naval aviation to meet its present problems and to hold its proper place as an outstanding major air service of the world."

Mr. President, today NAS Patuxent River, commonly referred to as Pax River, hosts over 17,000 people, including active-duty servicemembers, civil-service employees, defense contractor employees, and military dependents. NAS Patuxent River is home to the Naval Air Systems Command, NAVAIR, Headquarters, Air Test Wing Atlantic, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Scientific Development Squadron 1, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 20, Rotary Wing Test Squadron 21, and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23.

For nearly 70 years, the dedicated men and women of NAS Pax River have made the impossible possible, turning theory into experiment and experiment into operational capability. The dedicated and skilled workforce of NAS Patuxent River has made innumerable contributions to the aerospace industry, the Naval Aviation Enterprise, and the economic and national security of the United States. Their attention to

detail is directly reflected in the record of excellence of United States Naval Aviation. During both war and peace their meticulous and exacting work to support the defense of our Nation has continued, ensuring, as my grandfather expected, that naval aviation meets its present problems and holds its proper place as an outstanding major air service of the world.

While the historic sites, natural resources, and technology contained within its gates make it a unique destination; it is undoubtedly the people of Naval Air Station Patuxent River and their distinguished service that make it an irreplaceable National asset. On April 1, 2013, they will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the base commissioning. In recognition of this major milestone I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

#### REMEMBERING CASSANDRA WOODS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, I, my staff, and the entire State of Michigan lost someone very special. Cassandra Woods, my longtime State staff director, passed away after fighting cancer for two decades.

Cassandra Woods was one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known.

She became the heart and soul of my Michigan offices. After beginning as an intern more than 30 years ago, she served as my State director for the last 12. She led a staff of 25 in 7 offices around the State into becoming a cohesive team serving the public.

In countless efforts to bring growth and hope to our people, she pressed forward and never wavered—from riverfront projects, to M-1 Rail on Woodward Avenue, to Focus:HOPE, to our effort to bring a baseball academy for kids adjacent to the old Tiger Stadium field, and oh so much more in so many places around our state.

She was an invaluable source of advice and counsel to me and to my Washington staff. She represented me at public events and in meetings with State and local officials. All the while, she kept adding her energy and her way of looking at life to her own personal missions.

Cassandra brought to her family and to our community her unique combination of great inner strength and an outward gentleness, an iron will with a smiling demeanor, a way of being direct and blunt in an engaging and positive way, imparting tough love and discipline with compassion and almost always with that wonderful laugh of hers.

Cassandra's legendary courage in her two-decade battle with cancer and the way she inspired others to take on that adversity with fierce calm left an indelible impact on the countless people whom she lifted up.

I am fortunate enough in my job to meet some incredibly brave people. I have traveled many times to Afghani-

stan and other places where American troops are in harm's way. I have met young men and women who have done incredible things, shown unfathomable courage, faced dangers so great that, had they simply turned and fled in terror, none of us could really blame them. And I have heard and remembered the stories of those who chose not to flee, knowing that by standing their ground, they would risk or even give up their lives.

Cassandra Woods' life was worthy of a different kind of awe. John F. Kennedy once wrote, "Without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men have lived." Cassandra had an unflinching courage to live and to pass that courage on to others. She became a tireless and effective advocate for cancer patients. After defeating cancer for the first time almost 20 years ago, she felt a responsibility, with God's help, to assist others, in her words, to "come through the fire and come out whole."

Her life-affirming commitment was present when she was on the frontlines a few years ago in the electoral battle to permit stem cell research in Michigan and, of course, in her joyous activities in her church.

When Barb and I visited with Cassandra a few days before she passed away, she reminisced about many things. More than anything else, she spoke to us about her love of her family, her mother and her children. With special passion, she spoke of her two grandchildren: Justin, with whom she spent so much time and whom she took so much joy in watching grow; and Bianca, who slept in Cassandra's bed after the two of them would sing songs together to help Bianca fall asleep.

Cassandra applied a sense of family to our community. One Christmas, the staff, who loved her so much and whom she loved so much, was discussing how long to close our offices over the holidays. Some wanted our offices closed for the whole week between Christmas and New Year's. Cassandra wouldn't hear of such a thing. Christmas is a time of year when some of Senator LEVIN's constituents need our help the most, she said. We shouldn't close the office more than a day or two. And that was the end of the discussion. It was so typical of Cassandra; she was always thinking of others who might need help.

The poet Dylan Thomas urged us not to go "gentle into that good night" but rather to "rage against the dying of the light." Cassandra Woods chose another way to leave us—by going gently, guided by her brave heart and her abiding faith and with the same grace and confidence that marked her life, a life so full of a light that will not die but will shine always in the hearts of all of us who loved her.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Monday marked the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*. That decision recognized that every person accused of a crime, whether wealthy or poor, is guaranteed the right to counsel. At its core, *Gideon* is the promise of justice for all, including the most vulnerable citizens of our society.

We need to celebrate that landmark ruling and to recognize Clarence Gideon. In many instances throughout our history, it has been ordinary citizens who have led to the most profound changes in our country, and that is certainly the case here.

Clarence Gideon was a poor drifter with a history of drinking and gambling. He was charged in Florida with breaking and entering into a pool hall and stealing money from vending machines. When he requested a lawyer be appointed to represent him, because he could not afford to hire an attorney, he was told that a lawyer was only provided to defendants facing the death penalty.

From his prison cell at the Florida State Prison, Gideon wrote a handwritten note to the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to overturn his conviction because he had not been appointed a lawyer. That note read, simply: "The question is I did not get a fair trial. The question is very simple. I requested the court to appoint me attorney and the court refused."

That handwritten note led, 50 years ago Monday, to the Court unanimously declaring the "obvious truth" that "lawyers in criminal court are necessities, not luxuries." As the Court made clear:

In our adversary system of criminal justice, any person hauled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured a fair trial unless counsel is provided for him.

From the very beginning, our state and national constitutions and laws have laid great emphasis on procedural and substantive safeguards designed to assure fair trials before impartial tribunals in which every defendant stands equal before the law. This noble idea cannot be realized if the poor man charged with crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer to assist him.

Mr. President, since *Gideon*, there has been progress. Since 1963, governments have expended greater resources in defending accused persons, and many more criminal defendants receive fairer trials with due process of law. And, we must acknowledge the thousands of lawyers, many of whom have the education and skills to command much higher salaries in the private sector, who have chosen to dedicate their careers to ensuring the rights of our most vulnerable citizens, those accused of a crime. As just one example, I am proud that I recently recommended Jane Kelly, a career Federal defender in Iowa, to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and I look forward to her speedy confirmation.

While we rightly celebrate *Gideon* and the progress over the last 50 years, we must acknowledge that we have much work still to do. As Attorney General Holder recently said,

[a]cross the country, public defender offices and other indigent defense providers are underfunded and understaffed . . . Millions of Americans still struggle to access the legal services that they need and deserve—and to which they are constitutionally entitled.

Even when a defendant is provided an attorney, too many are represented by attorneys who do not have the time, training, or tools to do their jobs properly. Many defendants are "represented" by lawyers who have hundreds of other cases and who lack requisite expertise and sufficient support staff. Too often the representation is perfunctory and so deficient as not to amount to representation at all.

According to a 2011 report by the Justice Policy Institute, only 27 percent of county-based public defender offices and 21 percent of state public defender systems have enough attorneys to meet national guidelines. Only 7 percent of county-based public defender offices have enough investigators to meet national guidelines, and 87 percent of small county-based public defender offices do not have a single full-time investigator.

As a result, too many defenders lack access to sufficient resources to interview key witnesses, collect or test physical evidence, or generally prepare a quality defense. A 2009 investigation by the Constitution Project, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and the National Right to Counsel Committee found documented instances in which public defenders carried as many as 500 active felony cases at a time—the American Bar Association recommends 150—and as many as 2,225 misdemeanor cases. The ABA recommends 400.

According to a Brennan Center report, the average amount of time spent by a public defender at arraignment is often less than 6 minutes per case. And, the National Law Journal article examining *Gideon*'s anniversary highlighted the fact that in Wisconsin, private lawyers who are hired to represent indigent defendants are paid \$40 an hour—unchanged since 1978. In Maryland, a State court of appeals last year ruled defendants are entitled to counsel at bail hearings. Rather than paying to ensure this right, the State legislature repealed the law instead.

Unfortunately, sequestration is exacerbating the problem. In Iowa, the Federal defender has notified the Federal courts that because of the sequester, each Federal defender employee will need to be furloughed for 20 to 24 days between April 8 and September 30. The Federal defender is being forced to close the Southern District Office on Mondays and the Northern District Office on Fridays. These furloughs and closings will put a strain on already overworked public servants and has the

risk of jeopardizing the quality representation every defendant in Iowa deserves.

When criminal defendants lack quality representation, there is a heightened risk of our justice system making egregious mistakes. We have learned all too well, especially with the advent of DNA evidence, that an unknowable number of genuinely innocent persons have been wrongly convicted. For innocent persons to lose their liberty or, in the case of the death penalty, their lives, is a travesty of justice. It is a national shame. And, as Attorney General Janet Reno once said, "in the end, a good lawyer is the best defense against wrongful conviction." There is no more telling example than *Gideon* himself. After the Supreme Court ruled in his favor, he was retried, only this time with a lawyer. The jury took 1 hour to acquit him.

Recognizing that we must improve our system of representation for indigent Americans, I am proud to cosponsor the *Gideon's Promise* Act, introduced Monday by Senator LEAHY.

Not only does the basic right guaranteed for criminal defendants in *Gideon* five decades ago remain not yet fully realized, it is also outrageous that there remains no guaranteed right to counsel in the civil context. As James Sandman, president of the Legal Services Corporation, recently said,

Most Americans don't realize that you can have your home taken away, your children taken away and you can be a victim of domestic violence but you have no constitutional right to a lawyer to protect you.

This issue is personal for me. Before I was elected to Congress, I practiced law with Polk County legal aid in Iowa. I can honestly say the work I did with legal aid is some of the most important and rewarding of my career. I learned firsthand that, without access to an attorney, the poor are often powerless in the face of injustice and wrongdoing, even within a judicial system that purports to ensure equal justice under law.

At the Federal level, since the administration of President Nixon, we as a nation have supported civil legal aid programs through the Legal Services Corporation. And, make no mistake: these programs have made a crucial difference to millions of low-income Americans. Recipients of LSC funding help clients secure basic human needs, such as wrongly denied Society Security benefits and health care. Low-income Americans receive aid with consumer, housing and employment issues. LSC-funded attorneys help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments, and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In addition, LSC has greatly expanded its capacity to meet the legal needs of veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their families, and has been critical in providing legal assistance to Americans impacted by deadly natural disasters.