

in a senseless crime, an act of cowardice dwarfed by Joe's extraordinary courage and sacrifice.

The Lieutenant Joseph L. Szczerba Service Award helps to ensure that his memory lives on for years to come.

This year, there could be no recipients more deserving than Officers Wilkers, Rinehart, Manley, and Redmond. They have my congratulations and my deepest gratitude for their service and sacrifice.●

ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the city of Escanaba celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary this year. This great occasion will be marked by a host of festivities. Escanaba, like many cities and towns across the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, has added greatly to our State's rich history and cultural heritage. It is through active communities like Escanaba that the spark of innovation and ingenuity has been nurtured for generations.

Escanaba is a city with a natural charm that is impossible to miss. The city is named after the Escanaba River, a 52-mile winding river that is central to the formation and growth of the city. Lured by the majestic river of flat rocks, travelers settled in this region to cultivate the area's many natural features and to live alongside the Little Bay de Noc. These waterways are the lifeblood of this community. The city is full of wonder and opportunity for the families who make this community home. It is also a fertile ground for wildlife and an inviting host for fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

The first permanent settlement dates back to the 1830s to Louis Roberts, a fur trader. A steady stream of families would follow Mr. Roberts to the area, and soon after, sawmills would eventually spring up along the river. The area that would become Escanaba was surveyed by Eli P. Royce and formally established in 1863. It is from these humble beginnings that this city by the river was formed. The sawmills fueled investment and industry, and the city's population grew as a result. Today, the area is home to manufacturing, lumbering, hardwood flooring, commercial fishing, paper making, and more. As with many cities and towns in the Upper Peninsula, Escanaba's history is both fascinating and full of character. It is steeped in family, faith, and perseverance.

There are many reasons to visit this part of Michigan and to enjoy what makes this area special. In addition to the striking natural wonder that abounds, Escanaba also offers a number of historically significant landmarks, including the House of Ludington, Ludington Park, William Bonifas Fine Arts Center, and Sandy Point Lighthouse. The Sandy Point Lighthouse was built in 1867 to welcome travelers to the city by boat. This vital structure predates the railroad and would

serve an integral role in the city's development for seven decades.

The 150th anniversary of Escanaba is a celebration of the important place this proud community holds in the ever-evolving story of our great State of Michigan. It is, indeed, a tribute to the strength and perseverance of its citizens and emblematic of America's working families who form the foundation of sprawling and vibrant communities across our Nation. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in saluting the residents of Escanaba as they celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of this fine city. I wish them centuries more opportunity, advancements, and individual achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARRY L. BOOTH

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Barry L. Booth of Spanish Fort, AL. I have had the great fortune to work with Dr. Booth on a variety of projects in South Alabama, including the Honor Flight South Alabama program, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, and the creation of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spanish Fort, AL. They have been remarkable successes, in great part through the leadership of Dr. Booth.

Barry Booth was born and raised in humble conditions in West Virginia. He worked hard, took care of his grades, and was admitted to Auburn University. He hitchhiked to Auburn where he says he arrived with "empty pockets." He enrolled in the Naval ROTC and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve upon his graduation from the University of Alabama, School of Dentistry in 1966 and that same year he volunteered for active duty, signed with the Marine Corps in San Diego, and in 1967 volunteered to go to Vietnam as a medical civil action patrol dental officer with the 3rd Marine Division and the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces.

Dr. Booth earned a Gold Parachutist Device, the U.S. Navy Unit Commendation, and the Vietnam Service Medal, among others. He was honorably discharged in July 1969. It is clear that his patriotism has continued to grow since joining the Marine Corps. In fact, in the wake of the terrible events of September 11, 2001, Dr. Booth attempted to rejoin the Marine Corps, at age 60, and had to be officially denied.

Dr. Booth has been a busy and invaluable servant to the veterans in South Alabama. He was vital to the establishment of the Honor Flight South Alabama program. Honor Flight South Alabama has brought over a thousand veterans and their companions to the memorials they earned, including the World War II Memorial, here in Washington, D.C. I have taken great pleasure in having the chance to share in the fellowship of these veterans. They are truly a remarkable breed of patriots. They endured and survived the big-

gest war in the history of the world, and truly deserve such a great memorial in their honor. I appreciate the considerable good work Dr. Booth, and the rest of his team, have done to bring these wonderful veterans to our Nation's Capital.

Dr. Booth also helped develop the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. Because of this memorial, many people in the Mobile region have had the opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices made by our Vietnam veterans. This memorial will serve as an important reminder of what these servicemembers endured.

In addition, Dr. Booth was pivotal in the creation of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In addition to his time and resources, he even donated 3 acres of family land for the now-active cemetery at Saluda Hill near Historic Blakely State Park. For 50 years before this, the State of Alabama had not had the space to bury new veterans in a State veteran's cemetery. The new cemetery provides South Alabama veterans a proper, dignified, and peaceful burial area.

Lastly, Dr. Booth has contributed to a number of veteran and service organizations through his active membership. He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864, the Navy League, the Military Officers Association of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, and is a life member of both American Legion Post 199 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For his commitment, he was named 2009 Veteran of the Year by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission and Fairhope, Alabama's Veteran of the Year for 2011.

For years I have enjoyed the kindness and warmth of Barry's friendship. He has been critical to the success of a number of projects we have worked on together. He is a true patriot, and a good man who expects nothing in return for his efforts. He simply understands what our military personnel are called upon to do for their country, he has seen it first hand, he knows the pain of loss and injury, and his loyalty to them compels him to do all he can to honor their service. I would like to thank him for his service to his fellow veterans, to the State of Alabama, and to his country.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. JOHN VICK

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. John Vick of Andalusia, Alabama, and the recent opening of the John & Faye Vick Collection of Alabama & Civil War Postal History at Auburn University's Ralph Brown Draughon Library. This exhibit was unveiled on April 19th and will be on display through the month of August.

Mr. Vick has had a lifelong interest in Civil War, naval, and U. S. Postal Service history. He developed his interest for these subjects while attending

Auburn University, where he graduated in 1962. The items he has assembled over his lifetime represent a broad range of our country and Alabama's history, and the exhibit represents the finest items in the Vick collection. On display is a vast assortment of historic American and international postal stamps, marks, and correspondence, and includes letters from Confederate Marine Corps Lt. Edward Crenshaw of Butler County and Raphael Semmes, captain of the C.S.S. *Alabama*. These items, numbering in the thousands, will be invaluable to researchers for years to come.

This exhibit is currently being displayed in the Special Collections and Archives Department of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, and is a fantastic showcase of both the generosity of the Vicks and their love for Auburn University. I encourage anyone with an interest in the history of Alabama to visit the exhibition. Again, I thank John and Faye for their kind gift to Auburn University and the people of Alabama.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIE J. WILLIAMS, JR.

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Lt. Gen. Willie Williams for his exceptional service to our Nation of over 39 years in the military and to congratulate him on his retirement tomorrow from the U.S. Marine Corps.

General Williams has had nearly four decades of distinguished and honorable service to our Nation's defense. He joined the Marine Corps with a commission in 1974 from the Platoon Leaders Course after receiving his bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. He started out as a supply officer with 11th Marines, an artillery regiment, but would go on to serve in numerous command and staff positions throughout his exemplary career in the Marine Corps.

In the late 1980s, near the end of the Iran-Iraq war, General Williams was handpicked to lead the logistics element in the Marine air-ground task force that was a part of Operation Earnest Will, the mission to escort and protect oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. Lessons learned from that operation laid the foundation for how the corps would approach resupply into the region during the first Persian Gulf war and later during the occupation of Iraq.

General Williams once said that the assignment during the Iran-Iraq war defined him as an "operational logistician." He then went on to command the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Service Support Group followed by Brigade Service Support Group 1, both during the mid-1990s. Then, after serving a year as the commanding general of Camp Butler in Okinawa, General Williams took command of 3rd Force Service Support Group in 2001.

From there, he was selected for the top job at Marine Corps Logistics Com-

mand in Albany, GA, a hub for the service's worldwide supply chain and equipment maintenance efforts. This hub helped with the logistical operation for as many as 25,000 Marines in Iraq's Anbar province at the time of his command.

For his last assignment, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, then Gen. James T. Conway, called General Williams back to Washington in 2009 to become the director of Marine Corps Staff. He was appointed by President Obama and pinned on his third star, placing him among the select group of only 16 lieutenant generals in the Marine Corps. In this new capacity, General Williams was the principal assistant and advisor to the Commandant and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. Additionally, General Williams also maintained influential communication with his counterparts in the Army, Navy and Air Force for the crucial advancement of the Corps' point of view on matters in which all have vested interest.

General Williams embodies everything that it means to be a U.S. Marine. The time he has spent in the Marine Corps has not only had a great impact on the institution, but he also helped professionally develop countless marines over his nearly 40 years of selfless service. Through his example, those marines have come to know and appreciate that only by sacrifice will the freedoms of others, with honor, courage and commitment be secured.

Furthermore, General Williams has been a tremendous asset to me and my staff. He was a reliable source of information and advice in resolving a number of issues that affected Alabama. I got to know him then and to learn of his love for his home State and for her people. I will miss his guidance and leadership with the Marine Corps, but am very thankful that he will be bringing his considerable talents to Huntsville, AL.

On behalf of the State of Alabama and the U.S. Senate, I congratulate Lt. General Willie J. Williams on his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps and wish General Williams only the best as he takes off the uniform and begins a new chapter in his life of service in Huntsville.●

REMEMBERING DANIEL JOHN MEADOR

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute today to Daniel John Meador, who was born in 1926 in Selma, AL. Mr. Meador attended the Citadel and graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama Law School, and received a master of laws from Harvard Law School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army, first in artillery, then in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in Korea during that conflict. Following the war, he returned to the United States and served as a law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black of Alabama, then on the U.S. Supreme

Court. He practiced law in Birmingham, AL, for a short time before joining the faculty at the University of Virginia. In 1965-66 he was a Fulbright lecturer in England, and from 1966 to 1970 was the dean of the University of Alabama, School of Law, departing just as I was starting law school there. In 1970, he rejoined the University of Virginia law faculty as James Monroe Professor of Law, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. At the University of Alabama, he was a true reformer who wanted the school to be one of national stature. He also was a strong and principled leader for racial progress during those difficult times of discord. We can take pride in the fact that his work paved the way for the school to be one of the very best public law schools in America.

Dean Meador's major professional interest was the State and Federal appellate courts, and he was involved in numerous projects and studies designed to strengthen and improve them. From 1971 to 1975, he served on the Advisory Council for Appellate Justice and in 1977-79 he was an assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice where, at the request of Attorney General Griffin Bell, he organized a new office in the Department—the Office for Improvements in the Administration of Justice. Its mission was to identify problems in the Federal and State courts and develop solutions. In addition, he served on numerous boards and committees working to further improve the Court system in our Nation. He was a good writer. I enjoyed his novel, *His Father's House*, set in Marengo County, Alabama, and Germany.

Few lawyers have been held in higher esteem, or have received more honors, or participated in more projects for the betterment of the profession than Dean Meador. While Alabama has perhaps produced a few lawyers better known than Dean Meador, few have given more brilliant and sustained service in so many ways to the nurturing and development of the law and the courts than he. The great American rule of law system was enriched by him throughout his life.

He is best remembered by those who knew him as a masterful teacher with a passion for history, friends and family. He leaves behind his wife, Alice, brother, three children, and seven grandchildren. They have been given a great legacy indeed. Dean Daniel John Meador was a great Alabama native, one of its greatest servants of the law, and I am honored to be able to pay tribute to his many contributions to education, the law, and the courts.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND REES

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to MG Raymond F. Rees, one of Oregon's most remarkable military leaders. After 51 years of service to our Nation and the State of Oregon, General Rees will retire from the