

Sizemore was the pilot. Jones was the flight nurse. Dobbs was the flight paramedic. All three died when their medical helicopter crashed in the parking lot of Paces Creek Elementary School in Clay County, just about 150 yards from the helipad where the crew is based in Manchester.

For the crews, it was their time to mourn. To persevere. And to have closure.

It was Pastor Donald Sims, of the City of Hope Community Fellowship in Manchester, whose opening prayer began the memorial service.

"Lord, be with the families, their friends, and bring hope, healing and comfort to all who are here," he prayed.

From the St. Louis suburb of O'Fallon, Missouri, came Air Evac Lifeteam's president, Seth Myers. He was the first speaker at the service, and told the audience and his employees, "It with a heavy heart that I stand here. To honor the life of Eddy Sizemore, Lee Dobbs and Jesse Jones."

He spoke of the three who perished, and spoke of the many first responders who came to pay their respects.

"I see uniforms of all colors. They all represent one thing. That's the dedication to serve others. The attendance today is a testament of these three people who served. They loved doing what they did, and the crews working with them. They helped to save lives and make a difference in peoples' lives. They're gone from us today, but they'll never be forgotten," Myers said.

He then read a letter from a woman, thanking the crews for their service.

"I can't imagine the emotions at this time, but you will work as a team and persevere . . . For Eddy, Lee and Jesse, their impact lives on in the life of every person they saved . . . I challenge you to move forward. A Japanese proverb said, 'Fall down seven times, stand up eight.' Signed, Mandy Curley," the letter said.

Eulogies were given for all three members of the helicopter crew by friends and family. Eddy Sizemore was remembered first.

"My definition of a hero is someone laying down their life helping someone they don't know. All three of those men did. I'm alive and able to stand on this stage today, because of Eddy's experience as a helicopter pilot. Eddy saved my life," said Officer Chuck Johnson of the Laurel County Sheriff's Department.

Johnson recalled riding with Sizemore as a spotter during a marijuana search in 2005 when both worked together with the sheriff's office. They were in the air when the chopper hit guy wires, then plunged to earth, hit the ground and skidded 96 feet on the blacktop. Johnson said it was Sizemore's skills, and cool in the hot seat, that brought the chopper down safely.

"I believe that God has a plan of a mission of all of us here on Earth. On that day, our mission wasn't finished. On June 6th, Eddy's mission was complete, and he was called home," he pointed out.

There was another side to Sizemore. A lighter side that permeated the workplace, and gave Johnson and his co-workers a wealth of what he affectionately called "Eddy Stories."

"He loved to sit and laugh and loved to cut up with us. Eddy loved to keep people entertained. He also liked to cheat at playing Rook during our times we worked the night shift years ago with the Sheriff's Office . . . Eddy always had our back. All of us who worked with him will continue to mourn. There was only one Eddy Sizemore," Johnson said.

Kathy Guyn spoke next. She remembered when Jesse Jones was in her nursing classes at the Pineville campus of Southeast Community and Technical College.

"He was the type of student everyone liked. Fun-loving, and had a good time. Jesse was very intelligent. He wanted to be a nurse. He made his patients feel very important, and that they were the most important person in the hospital. He loved to hunt. On more than one occasion he would remind me and the other teachers that it was the beginning of deer season. And he loved his family, especially his grandparents. When he graduated, he told me he wanted to be a flight nurse. He was meant to be in the skies. If I needed a flight nurse, I would want Jesse Jones, because I know he was the best," she stated.

Eliza Brooks started her nursing career with Jones at Pineville Community Hospital. She also spoke on behalf of Jesse's family.

"He had an eagerness to learn more. My husband also worked at the hospital, and he and Jesse became friends . . . We would serve lasagna for Jesse every deer season, and on Christmas, our family had a camouflage stocking for Jesse. To the family, we want to thank you for sharing Jesse with us. He loved all of you. He lived life every day to the fullest. He was always loving, kind and compassionate. He knew what to do, and never looked back. The sky was not the limit for Jesse," she said, holding back tears.

Letch Day, of Air Methods Corporation, gave the first of two eulogies for Lee Dobbs, the last of the crew of three that Day called "Our fallen heroes, our fallen brothers."

"To know Lee was an honor. He was a strong-willed person. EMS was his job. It was his life. It was his passion. The one letter to describe Lee was 'C' character, caring, compassion, commitment, companion, and childhood hero. His character was what propelled him to excellence. He loved and cared for his family. And he cared for his family and others with compassion and commitment. He was to others a companion, and to his children, a childhood hero to them," he said.

Day then looked at Dobbs's three sons and told them, "Your Dad. He is a hero. Don't ever forget that."

Lee's own father, Herman Dobbs, took the stage next. His voice cracked as he began to weep, while talking about the son he lost almost two weeks ago.

"Knowing Lee as my son, he would have said, Dad, did you tell the Jones family, and the Sizemore family, I'm sorry for their loss? They were my partners. That's what he'd want me to say. He was my son. We tried to bring him up that way. I'm just so thankful the Lord gave me a son like that," Dobbs said, his voice choked with emotion.

In the place where the North Laurel High Jaguars held court, there were three wreaths on the stage—one each for the three fallen crew members. In the middle of each wreath was a picture of each of them. On each side of the stage was a large video screen, which showed pictures and moments of the lives of Lee, Eddy and Jesse. The seats on the gym floor were reserved for family members and Air Evac employees. When the doors opened at 10 a.m. for the service, the seats quickly filled, with other Air Evac crews and first responders joining the general public on the home side of the bleacher seats.

Two Air Methods Corporation employees from Missouri—Ray Haven and his wife, Veronica—sang the inspirational song "I Will Rise." Ray played acoustic guitar, while he and Veronica sang the duet.

Towards the end of the service, three recorded songs were played over the speakers while the audience watched the visual montage of the three men they called "their family."

One was the song "You Never Let Go," followed by "Shine Your Light," a tribute to first responders by Robbie Robertson, a former member of The Band. The set ended with an encore of "You Never Let Go."

When that ended, Brian Jackson, the program director of Air Evac 109 in Manchester, came to the stage, accompanied by nine crew members. Some of the crew shared stories and lighthearted moments about their work with Lee, Jesse and Eddy.

Several in the audience got some good laughs from the stories, which a nearby person in the bleacher seats said they needed.

Jackson told the crews and first responders, "Thank you for your prayers and your support during this time. It really means a lot. We agree. They were brothers to us. They would want me to tell you, Crawl back on that ambulance. Crawl back on that truck. Crawl back on that airplane. Do what you do best."

When the Manchester crew finished their final thoughts, they pinned the wings on the wreaths of Dobbs, Sizemore and Jones.

Letch Day returned, and presented a framed print in memory of the three crewmen to the Air Evac 109 base in Manchester.

"We're asking them to be our 'Guardian Angels' in memory of the job they did so well," he said.

Jackson and the base crew proudly accepted the print.

Kentucky state flags were presented to the families of the three crewmen by Mike Poynter, the state EMS director. Air Evac Lifeteam flags were also given to the three families, as were three fire helmets brought to them in memory of their fathers, by the Manchester Fire Department.

The tones were heard over the speakers, and the Last Call was given by a dispatcher. When that ended, a piper played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes as the color guard left the gymnasium. And the service ended.

Nearly everyone who attended went outside to wait for an aircraft flyover. Six helicopters and one airplane hovered overhead for the next five minutes, each one's pilot and crew showing in their own way their own respect and honor for their fallen comrades.

For those up in the air, and on the ground, this past Saturday was their time to remember.

It's a good bet that many of them will forever remember those final words when they heard the crew's last call inside the gymnasium.

"November One-One-Nine Alpha Echo is out of service. God speed and blue skies."

## IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I would like to speak briefly about how the immigration reform bill affects access to health insurance coverage. In particular, I am pleased that the Senate-passed legislation preserves the ability for States to cover lawfully residing pregnant women and children under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program CHIP. Importantly, States may extend full benefits under these programs to individuals who gain legal status as a result of the bill, including those granted Registered Provisional Immigrant RPI, Blue Card, and V-visa status.

My home State of Washington is one of 27 that have decided to exercise the option to extend these health care benefits to children or pregnant women. We do this because we know that when women have access to prenatal care, children are born healthier. We all benefit when children receive the immunizations they need and are able to see a doctor when they are sick.

During the debate on S. 744, two of my colleagues, Chairman LEAHY and Senator ROCKEFELLER, came to the floor to discuss this issue. I join them in support of preserving States' rights to extend Medicaid and CHIP benefits to lawfully residing noncitizen children and pregnant women. I thank my colleagues for addressing an issue that is critical to my home State and I echo their comments on the intention of the Senate with regard to this issue.

Madam President, I would also like to speak today about the need for comprehensive immigration reform by highlighting the work of one of my constituents.

I was touched when I read a poem written by 10-year-old Erin Stark of Bellevue, WA. I met Erin last month at a welcoming ceremony for new immigrants in my home State of Washington. She told me about her passion for writing and explained that she won a national writing contest with the submission of her poem on immigration. I think her words exemplify the diversity and extraordinary contributions made by immigrants to this country.

“WHAT WOULD YOU MISS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS,  
IF THEY DIDN'T COME TO AMERICA?”

Would you miss the food?  
The pot stickers, sushi, and dumplings,  
Pizza, spaghetti, curry, or crepes?  
Just think about it for a minute or two,  
Could you survive eating fish at every meal?

Could you?

Immigrants are coming every day,  
Variety is what they bring with them in every way.

Would you miss the holidays?  
Day of the Dead, and Chinese New Year,  
Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Ramadan too?  
Why did the Christians travel the distance,  
Was it to share their beliefs and Christmas?  
Immigrants are coming every day,  
Variety is what they bring with them in every way.

Would you miss their art,  
Painting, literature, and music,  
Plays, sculpture, and design?  
Life would be dull without art,  
People might become sad and would get broken hearts.

Immigrants are coming every day,  
Variety is what they bring with them in every way.

Would you miss the things they made?  
Railroads, canals, communities, and skyscrapers,  
Schoolhouses, highways, churches, and businesses?

What would kids do without schools?  
We might turn into fools!  
Immigrants are coming every day,  
Variety is what they bring with them in every way.

Immigrants are coming every day,  
They bring recipes, celebrations, talents, and skills.

Variety is what they bring with them in every way.

USA would be bland without immigrants,  
Now our nation is colorful and the joy is infinite.

—Erin Stark

Mr. President, I would like to extend a special welcome to Erin Stark. I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROHIT KUMAR

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Rohit Kumar, who will soon, unfortunately, be leaving Senate service for other pursuits.

Rohit stood by me and others here in the Senate as we navigated through deep challenges faced by our Nation, and he has consistently and vigilantly worked for the American people to promote a lot of good, and to prevent a lot of bad from happening.

Rohit is a consummate Senate professional whose skills and accomplishments have provided a long strand of service to this body and to the country. He is a rarity, combining a razor-sharp intellect, logical patterns of thought, and an ability to obtain fair and balanced assessments of challenges that typically involve tradeoffs across a host of competing interests. He adds to that an uplifting disposition and a keen wit.

Rohit possesses mastery of policy, politics, rules of the Congress, and more. While most of us would be content having mastery of any one of those realms, Rohit has managed to master them all. He is a complete package.

Rohit has been an asset to me, to my caucus, to Senate Leadership, and to the country, and his presence will be missed by all of us.

All of us here in the Senate are also indebted to Rohit's beautiful family, which has endured the often-rigorous demands that his Senate service has placed on them. I can think of more than a few occasions where Rohit was negotiating issues that are deeply important for the future of our Nation in stressful, around-the-clock marathon sessions.

If you were to ask me to construct a template for an ideal person to have by your side to navigate through the tough decisions, tradeoffs, and negotiations we face in Congress, I would simply point to Rohit Kumar.

We are all very sad to see Rohit leave. We trust that he will be able to take a bit more time with his family, and will pursue future endeavors with more of the same rigor and industriousness he has consistently shown in his service to the country while working in the Senate. Wherever he goes, without doubt, those around him will benefit tremendously.

I wish to thank Rohit for the many years of outstanding assistance he has provided to me, to my colleagues in the Senate, and to the country. I also thank his family for sharing Rohit with us, and for persevering as we often tapped his talents around the clock. I am proud to have worked with Rohit.

#### REMEMBERING HARRY BYRD JR.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man I admired for many years, former U.S. Senator Harry Byrd Jr. Sadly, Harry

passed away July 30, 2013, leaving behind a lasting legacy that garnered the respect of many throughout our State and Nation.

Senator Byrd made history in 1970 when he became the first person to win election to the U.S. Senate as an independent candidate. He used that independence to be a voice for good and was someone people respected for his deliberative manner.

Senator Byrd was not one to introduce unnecessary legislation and in fact believed legislation was not always the answer. However one of his proudest moments as a legislator was his work on a bill that mandated a balanced Federal budget in 1978. He set the tone for my own commitment to this principle that I have continued to fight for throughout my service in the Senate.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Harry during my early years as a Senator. In fact, after the important and difficult Labor Law Reform battle I waged 2-years into office, I received a note from Harry that I treasure to this day. This Independent Senator praised my work and declared that “. . . the American people are indebted to you.” Strong words from a strong man that I looked up to and admired as a very junior Senator just learning the ropes.

Senator Byrd not only conquered the political world—he was a highly respected voice in the newspaper business—two entities not always known for cohesive relationships. He spent many decades in publishing and served as editor and publisher for two newspapers; as well as the vice president of the Associated Press.

His service in the Senate was matched by his service to his country in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander during World War II. His love for America and the ideals it represents could be found throughout the good works he performed throughout his life.

Our nation lost a truly wonderful man. I know that many people will truly miss his strength, leadership, and wisdom.

Elaine and I convey our deepest sympathies to his three children and their families. May our Heavenly Father bless them with peace and comfort at this time. The contributions and impact Senator Byrd made on his family, his community, and our Nation will be felt and appreciated for generations to come.

#### UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 reaffirms the strong relationship the United States has with Israel. As the legislation states, our countries share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.