

Democrat Party's candidate for President, who happens also to be a Catholic." But there was one Catholic Mass in the White House, on November 23, 1963—a Requiem Mass for the slain President.

As I reflect now on how much life intersected with John Kennedy's life, I prefer to think about the beginning of the Kennedy Presidency rather than its tragic ending. I prefer to remember his Inaugural Address. It was just 1,355 words and 14 minutes long, but it set in motion a generation of Americans with a passion for public service.

Some were inspired to defend liberty as soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen. Some would march for civil rights in the South. Some would join the Peace Corps and become ambassadors of peace in villages throughout the world. And some would answer the call to service by seeking public office.

John Kennedy was a powerful and positive force in my life and the life of our Nation. To me, he embodied a time when politics could be harnessed to higher aspirations, to do good things for the country.

Not only did his Inaugural Address famously challenge us to ask ourselves what we can do for our country, it also provided timeless advice on how to overcome the bitterness of partisan politics. An election, he said, is "not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom," not an end but a beginning "signifying renewal." That is still good advice.

John Kennedy was a committed Democrat and few people loved politics more than he and his family. But he understood—as he wrote in his book *Profiles In Courage*, that "there are few if any issues where all the truth and all the right and all the angels are on one side." He accepted the fact that democracy relies on competing views and vigorous debate.

But he did not believe the objective should be to win political power but to solve our country's problems. As he once said, "Let us not despair but act. Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past—let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

That is what I have always tried to do—to find the right answer and to do what is best for my country and the generations of Americans to follow. That is why, 50 years after John Kennedy's death, I still try to follow his admonition to "go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

He acknowledged that this was not the work of a hundred days, or of a thousand days, or of one administration, or of a lifetime, but of generations. Even so, he said, "Let us begin." Mr. President, to you and to all our colleagues in the Senate, I say: Let us continue.

THE CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, November is National Family Caregivers Month. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I would like to take a moment to discuss the important role caregivers play in the lives of our Nation's veterans as they cope with the visible and invisible wounds of war.

For generations, as the men and women of our armed forces returned home with serious injuries sustained overseas, their wives, husbands, parents and other family members stepped in to care for them. These family members have often provided this care at significant personal sacrifice. Their dedication to the needs of injured veterans has often resulted in lost professional opportunities, negative impact on their own physical and mental health, and reduction in income.

Under the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010," a number of important benefits were made available to these caregivers for the first time, with additional services and benefits made available to caregivers of seriously injured post-9/11 veterans and their families. These additional services and benefits include a tax-free monthly stipend, travel assistance, health insurance, mental health services and counseling, caregiver training and respite care.

Passage of the Caregivers Act served as an important step in ensuring the caregivers of our newest generation of veterans received the additional resources to provide the best possible care for their loved ones. However, limiting eligibility for these additional services and benefits to caregivers of post-9/11 veterans created an inequity between caregivers of the newest generation of veterans and the tens of thousands of hardworking, dedicated caregivers who provide care to all other veterans.

In an effort to address the disparity, I introduced legislation earlier this year that would extend the services and benefits of the Caregiver Program to caregivers of veterans of all eras. Through this expansion, severely injured pre-9/11 veterans and their families may now leverage the benefits from which, until now, only post-9/11 veterans have benefited. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this bill would expand access to services to approximately 70,000 caregivers of pre-9/11 veterans. I am pleased the committee passed my legislation, S. 851, the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013 earlier this year and am working to bring it before the full Senate for a vote.

All caregivers of our Nation's injured veterans deserve our full support. This is an issue of equity. As a long-standing advocate for veterans, I will continue to work to ensure caregivers have the resources they need. We have learned from experience and research that veterans are best served when they can live as independently as pos-

sible. I hope my fellow Members will help me honor the commitment this country has to all of its veterans by supporting S. 851 when it comes to the Floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS GIACCONE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Chief of Police Nicholas Giaccone of the Hanover, NH Police Department for his 40 years of dedicated service to the law enforcement profession, the Town of Hanover, and the State of New Hampshire.

Chief Giaccone began his law enforcement career in 1973 as a patrol officer with the Town of Hanover, home of Dartmouth College. Nicholas Giaccone was promoted to detective in 1977; detective sergeant in 1987; and assumed the role of acting chief of police, then chief of police in July of 1994. As a detective sergeant, Nicholas Giaccone helped lead the investigation into a double homicide of two graduate students, which culminated in the successful prosecution and conviction of Haile Selassie Girmay on March 2, 1993.

He was chief of police when two Dartmouth professors, Half and Susanne Zantop, were killed inside their Etna home in 2001, garnering national headlines for days. Chief Giaccone's diligence in ensuring the department properly handled the vital physical evidence at the scene, led to the successful convictions of Robert Tulloch and James Parker. They were sentenced on April 4, 2002.

During his long tenure as a police chief, Chief Giaccone has been a leader in promoting community oriented policing; in improving public safety within the State of New Hampshire; and in promoting sound public policies and practices, which have helped keep New Hampshire one of the safest States in the Nation. Chief Giaccone has worked tirelessly with community leaders, New Hampshire's Legislature, and other public officials, to better the administration of justice and promote public safety.

As Chief Nicholas Giaccone celebrates his retirement, I want to commend him on a job well done, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well in all future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES LANE, JR.

• Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Lt. Col. Charles Lane, Jr., of Omaha, for his contributions to the United States of America through his military and public service. Mr. Lane passed away on November 8, 2013, at the age of 88. He lived a life dedicated to defending our country and helping others in the greater Omaha community.

Lieutenant Colonel Lane's military career began in 1943, when he entered

the Cadet Corps at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, AL. He soon became a fighter pilot and joined the Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron. In World War II, Lane flew 26 combat missions, flying P-51 Mustang fighter planes. Following the war, Lieutenant Colonel Lane continued his service in the U.S. Air Force for 27 years, until his retirement in 1970. His last station was at Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Base, near Bellevue, NE. Following his service, Lane and his family remained in the area.

In 2007, Lane was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush in recognition of his bravery, courage and sacrifice during World War II. Along with his fellow Tuskegee Airmen, he bravely rose above the racial divisions of the time to serve our country with honor and valor. In addition to their courageous service, the Tuskegee Airman provided inspiration to our country, paving the way towards greater equality for all Americans.

As a civilian, Lieutenant Colonel Lane continued to serve his community. As Executive Director of the Greater Omaha Community Action Inc.—GOCA, he fought poverty on a number of fronts by addressing hunger, substance abuse, mental health and others. Spanning his tenure of more than two decades at the agency, he was known as being determined efforts to help the impoverished achieve self-sufficiency.

Demonstrating Lieutenant Colonel Lane's tireless passion for service, upon retirement he continued to volunteer his time, talent and resources to a number of important causes in the Omaha area. He founded the 99th Pursuit Cadet Squadron of the Nebraska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. As the Squadron's first Commander and later its Commander Emeritus, he mentored countless youth and promoted aviation throughout Nebraska. He also served as a national representative of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

May Lieutenant Colonel Lane's lifelong commitment to our great Nation and serving others is truly commendable. I ask my colleagues and the citizens of the United States to join me in honoring his service on this day.●

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to honor the tradition, culture, contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of those that originally inhabited this great Nation. With over 5 million individuals of Native American descent in the United States, it is important to celebrate the instrumental impact Native American culture has had on American history. National Native American Heritage Month is an oppor-

tunity to focus our attention on tribal sovereignty by ensuring trust responsibilities are upheld and government-to-government relationships with tribes across the Nation are strengthened.

This month has added significance to me, as I represent a state with nine treaty tribes. I would like to personally acknowledge and honor South Dakota's nine treaty tribes: the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Creek Sioux, the Flandreau Santee Sioux, the Lower Brule Sioux, the Oglala Sioux, the Rosebud Sioux, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Yankton Sioux. Each tribe brings rich cultures and histories that greatly benefit all South Dakotans, not just in November, but throughout the year.

American Indians across the United States have served and continue to serve in our Armed Forces at rates higher than any other ethnic group, and their dedication and commitment to the United States is unwavering. This month, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and Yankton Sioux Tribe were honored with Congressional Gold Medals for the contributions of their code talkers during World Wars I and II. The use of tribal languages equipped our Armed Forces with a system of communication that was not decoded. The valiant contributions of tribal code talkers to the United States are unparalleled and to be commended.

It is also important to reflect on the numerous contributions Native Americans across the country have made in our society this November. Countless dedicated individuals continue to work on the ground in Indian Country to improve tribal communities for future generations. However, the Federal government must also uphold its trust responsibility with tribes and continue to improve access to healthcare, education, and adequate housing. Thoughtful communication and collaboration between tribal and federal leaders on these issues is necessary to advance the quality of life for American Indians.

This November, I urge Americans to participate in the celebration of Native American Heritage Month by taking a moment to learn more about the heritage, culture, and various contributions Native Americans have made to the United States throughout our shared history. I would like to acknowledge and praise the more than 70,000 American Indians in South Dakota who enrich our communities on a daily basis. Education and awareness of tribal histories will enable us to move forward as a Nation which embraces the diversity of all.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE E. WILLIAMS, JR.

• Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, today I recognize and pay tribute to Charlie E.

Williams, Jr., who will retire as director of the Defense Contract Management Agency—DCMA—on November 25, 2013, after more than 30 years of service to our Nation.

Director Williams began his public service career in 1982 through the Air Force Logistics Command at Kelly Air Force Base in Texas. Over the following years, his career included a series of appointments with ever-increasing responsibility. He was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Contracting, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, a U.S. member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Airborne Early Warning and Control Program Board of Directors, the team lead of Program Executive Officer and Designated Acquisition Commander programs, and finally, Director of DCMA.

Director Williams was stationed at Fort Lee, VA for his final mission. As Director of DCMA he oversees the delivery of all products and services, from water to weapons systems, to our troops around the world. He leads nearly 11,000 personnel, both civilian and military, who execute contracts worldwide, covering more than 19,900 contractors and more than \$223 billion in obligations. Recently, Director Williams and DCMA oversaw more than 300 critical theater support contracts valued at more than \$20 billion, delivering logistics, security, transportation, maintenance and critical life-support services to 230,000 International Security Assistance Force personnel at over 180 forward operating bases. Under Director Williams' leadership, DCMA professionals provided mentorship and guidance to more than 60,000 deployed contractor personnel throughout Afghanistan, executing more than 5,000 missions, despite significant danger. Their efforts ensured service of more than 240 million meals to coalition force personnel, production of more than 10 billion gallons of water, and delivery of 48 million bags of laundry and 900 million gallons of fuel.

I commend Director Williams' commitment to duty and cause, as well as his passion for public service. In every role in which he served, he contributed to the success of the mission, demonstrated high standards of conduct, and served with honesty, loyalty, and integrity. His long career of service will leave a lasting impact on our Nation. Director Williams is a devoted husband to his wife, Tujuanna, and dedicated father to his two daughters, Chloe and Charity.

I extend my gratitude and that of the entire Nation to Director Williams for his service to our country. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States are fortunate to have had Director Williams among our ranks. I wish him the best of luck in the months and years ahead.●