

old, and by all accounts he has been an exemplary worker. He began his career in the night labor division of the Senate superintendent's office in 1972. Since 1986, he has worked off and on as a mechanic and driver for the subway service. By one estimate, he has taken 130,000 trips between Russell and the Capitol.

But it is not the length of Daryl's tenure that I wish to honor this morning, as impressive as that is. It is the spirit in which Daryl did his job every day. It is literally legendary.

The motto of the Architect of the Capitol is to serve Congress and the Supreme Court, preserve America's Capitol, and to inspire memorable experiences, and I think Daryl Chappelle embodies that motto.

First of all, he is the happiest guy you ever met, and he has a genius for lifting people's spirits. One of the stories I heard about Daryl this week came from a woman on my staff. She told me she met Daryl on her very first day here, more than a decade ago, and still remembers it vividly. She had just moved here from Kentucky for an internship. She didn't know her way around, and she was pretty nervous, and it must have shown too because after giving her directions to the office, Daryl not only gave her a big warm smile, he also left her with a message that she has never forgotten. As she stepped off the train and headed off to her first day on the job, Daryl looked at her and said, "Everything is going to be OK."

It is a great story, because it not only captures Daryl's spirit, it points to the secret of his success: Daryl is the undisputed champion of making the most of a brief encounter.

He showed us all the power of the small gesture. He reminded us that when all is said and done, what really matters is how we deal with each other. If you didn't happen to find yourself down by the trains this week, you missed something special. People were pretty much tripping over each other to say goodbye to Daryl Chappelle: Senators, visitors, colleagues, locals—everybody saying goodbye. It has been like a rolling party down there all week.

Over the years, through all of these trips, Daryl has had a tremendous impact on this place. Today we want to thank him for warming this place every single day, and for helping our image around here, because Congress may not have a very high approval rating these days, but nobody who ever had the pleasure of riding Daryl's train could ever leave Washington without feeling a little bit better about this place.

Now, Daryl, you may not have had any major pieces of legislation named after you during your years here; reporters may not have snapped photographs of you when you walked down the hall, but at the beginning or the end of the day, you lifted our spirits. You brought us all back to Earth. It is

hard to think of this place without you.

We wish you and Pat all the best in your retirement. I know you have been looking forward to spending more time with your bride. Thank you for your service, my friend, and thank you for your wonderful example.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:15 a.m. with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant majority leader.

#### HONORING SENATE RETIREES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the history of the United States of America, we estimate some 500 million people have lived in this great Nation—60 percent of them as of today. But in the history of America, with 500 million people, only 1,950 men and women have been given the opportunity to serve in the Senate, including the Presiding Officer, our newest Senator, from the State of Montana. So 1,950 men and women who have occupied this Chamber in the previous Senate, becoming part of the history of this Nation and contributing to this great institution. I have been fortunate enough to have served with some of the greatest, and I have noted their presence, their impact, and I have noticed their absence too.

When we take stock of the Senate and what it has done for America, what it means to America, it goes way beyond the men and women who occupy these desks. It includes a lot of people who make a contribution to this institution who may never be recognized for it, but, nevertheless, make this the great institution it is, serving this great Nation. Today we honor two of those people.

#### TRIBUTE TO DARYL CHAPPELLE

First I wish to join in honoring Daryl Chappelle. Daryl, thank you so much for 41 years of service in the Senate. His legendary smile has warmed my spirits on days when I was really down in the dumps. He always had that happy smile, wishing me well. He was always making a person's day a little bit better. Daryl, I want to thank you. Time and time again, I am sure even on days when you weren't so up, you made a point of adding to a positive feeling for everyone—not just Senators and staff but visitors as well. You have been a great part of our Senate family. I wish you the very best in your retirement. We are going to miss you on that rickety old train that runs back and

forth between the Russell Building and the Capitol. I wish you the very best.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I also come to the floor to give special tribute to our Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer, who is retiring. If one is not from Chicago and one doesn't know the scene very well, one may not understand what I am about to say. Let me make it clear. When one asks where Terry Gainer is from and someone says Chicago, one would then say: And?

He would add: The South Side.

And?

Beverly.

And?

Saint Barnabas.

When a person reports their parish in that section of Chicago, they have really identified themselves as being part of that great city and part of a great American Catholic tradition—Irish Catholic tradition in many respects—that Terry Gainer represents.

I think about him today and what his life has meant, but first I think of his family name. There aren't many names like the Gainer family name that carry with it so much respect in the city of Chicago. I think of his relatives I have worked with, the families who are related to him that I know, neighbors to staffers—the list goes on and on of the Gainers who have made an impact on the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Few can make the claim Terry can make in terms of what he has given to the city, the State of Illinois, and to our Nation.

Terry Gainer, of course, is the Sergeant at Arms today and has announced his retirement soon, after 7½ years serving in that capacity, or at least serving in the Senate with the Capitol Police and with the Sergeant at Arms office. He has served longer than any Sergeant at Arms since World War II. Terry served as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper since January of 2007. His accomplishments are so many.

Do not underestimate the responsibility that has been given to him and the men and women who work with him. This building is a target for people who would bring destruction to this building and death to those who visit. Sadly, we have seen graphic examples of that in recent years past. It has been Terry's job, both with the Capitol Police and now with the Sergeant at Arms office, to keep us safe and to keep the business of the Senate working every single day.

Terry had the background to achieve it. He volunteered to serve our Nation in Vietnam. After his service, he retired as a captain in the Naval Reserves in the year 2000. He earned his bachelor's degree from St. Benedict's College. He continued his family's proud tradition of law enforcement by serving in the Chicago Police Department for nearly two decades. As Senator MCCONNELL mentioned earlier, over a century of service by the Gainer family to the Chicago Police Department was carried on by Terry. He obtained a master's of science degree and

his law degree from DePaul University. He was appointed superintendent of the Illinois State Police by Governor Jim Edgar and held that position for 7 years. He was then called to Washington, DC, to serve as second in command at the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.

In 2002, Terry became chief of the United States Capitol Police and was instrumental in facilitating the substantial growth of that force in the challenging days following 9/11/2001.

After a brief stint in the private sector, Terry returned to public service when he was appointed by Majority Leader HARRY REID to serve as Sergeant at Arms. HARRY REID, himself a former Capitol Hill policeman, understood the responsibility and understood Terry was the right person for the job.

As I noted earlier, during his tenure as the Sergeant at Arms, Terry has done an exemplary job of balancing security and public access to the Capitol and to the Senate. His steady management hand, his quick smile, his constant presence in the halls of the Capitol and Senate office buildings are going to be greatly missed.

I wish to thank Terry Gainer personally for his friendship, support, the little favors he has done for me and for every Member of the Senate to make our lives and the lives of our family better. You have truly added to this great institution, as much as any person who served because you have made your mark and you have kept us safe and you have kept the millions of visitors during your tenure safe as well.

That is quite an accomplishment, Terry.

Congratulations to you and especially to Irene, who has been patient throughout it all, with her own career and her own effort, raising the family and making her mark professionally. The two of you are quite an example to all of us of public service at its best.

Thanks, Terry, for your service.

And now comes the tough responsibility of following in the steps of Terry Gainer.

Majority Leader REID has announced that Drew Willison, who is in the Chamber here today, will be replacing Terry as the next Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper—officially on Monday.

Drew has spent more than 5 years in two stints as the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and he has learned from the best—Terry Gainer.

Prior to his work in the Sergeant at Arms office, Drew was a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee staff, where we worked together. He had roles in the Energy and Water Subcommittee effort, as well as the Legislative Branch Appropriations. His experience and knowledge of the legislative branch will serve him well in his new capacity.

I congratulate Drew and wish him the very best of luck. Terry's service as Sergeant at Arms has set the bar very high, but I know, Drew, you are up to the challenge.

Mr. President, let me end by thanking again Terry, Irene Gainer, the Gainer family, and all who support them for unselfishly giving to this Senate such an extraordinary contribution—for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with our home State of Illinois and with this great Nation for so many years.

Terry and Irene have more than earned the right to move to the next chapter in their lives and to celebrate that time with their 6 children and 14 grandchildren.

I congratulate Terry on his distinguished public service career, for his accomplishments as a law enforcement officer, a decorated veteran, and the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper. Most importantly, I thank Terry for his friendship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER AND DARYL CHAPPELLE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, let me offer my congratulations to the Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer, and also my thanks to him for his service to this great institution. We know we will miss him but also wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

Mr. President, I also want to express, as have the majority leader and the Republican leader, my best wishes to Daryl Chappelle, as he leaves after 40 years of service to the U.S. Senate.

There are some people you run into each day who sort of make you feel better and brighten your day, and Daryl was one of those people.

I know we get involved in some pretty tough debates around here, and people sometimes walk around with a scowl on their face, but it is nice when people like Daryl help break that mood and remind us that we are lucky to be alive each day and come to work in such a wonderful place as the U.S. Senate.

I wish both Chief Gainer and Daryl well in the next chapter of their lives.

#### VA ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor primarily to talk about a very serious matter; that is, our U.S. military and our commitment not only to those who wear the uniform of the military—and, of course, I am aware of the Acting President pro tempore's long distinguished service—but also the solemn obligation we have to our veterans once they leave active-duty status.

They have more than upheld their commitment—in the mountains, in the valleys of Afghanistan, in the deserts of Iraq, and in postings around the world, from Japan, to Korea, to Kuwait, to Israel, to Germany, and all across the globe. Of course, they have joined generations of men and women—the “greatest generation,” of which my dad was a member, the World War II generation; and, of course, then those who fought in Korea, in Vietnam, and, of course, the most recent conflicts we have had, which I just mentioned, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My strong conviction is that we owe a moral obligation, not just a legal obligation, to those veterans, to keep our commitments to them once they separate from military service.

I am sorry to say the Department of Veterans Affairs has repeatedly and outrageously failed to uphold its own commitment to America's Armed Forces and our veterans.

The problem, the way I see it, is we have almost become desensitized because we all know as a result of the drawdown of our military after our exit from Iraq and now Afghanistan we are getting a large number of people retiring from military service, so it is understandable there would be more pressure put on the Department of Veterans Affairs to process these claims, to process these retirements, but what we have learned is there are outrageous examples—for example, in Phoenix, where 40 veterans died because their names were taken off of the appointment system list in order to make the backlog look not as bad as it really was. Many of them had been put on what was called a secret waiting list that was designed to conceal the unconscionably long wait times endured by up to 1,600 sick veterans.

So what I mean when I say I think we have become almost desensitized to this backlog—where more than half of the claims now made with the VA are backlogged, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs' own criteria—it takes something like this, where 40 veterans have died because they were put on a secret waiting list in order to cook the books at the Phoenix VA, to hopefully wake us up and to get us to do something about this outrageous situation.

According to the investigation, high-level officials in the Phoenix VA knew about the secret waiting list, and they did nothing about it. It is even worse than that. Not only did the Phoenix officials tolerate this list, they actually defended it.

A former Phoenix VA doctor told CNN that the list “was deliberately put in place to avoid the VA's own internal rules.” That is why I call this a case of cooking the books. To avoid accountability, to avoid solving the problem, they tried to sweep the problem under the rug, and that is outrageous.

One of the victims of the secret waiting list was a 71-year-old Navy veteran named Thomas Breen. In late September, Mr. Breen was rushed to the