

RECOGNIZING MARIA MATOS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

• Mr. COONS. Madam President, on behalf of Senator TOM CARPER and myself, I wish to recognize two special occasions in Wilmington, DE happening on September 5, 2014: the 45th anniversary of the Latin American Community Center, LACC, serving the Hispanic community of Delaware as well as to honor the service, dedication and passion of a name synonymous with the service to Delaware's vibrant Hispanic community: Maria Matos.

The LACC's continuum of care promotes education, life skills, and an enhanced quality of life while celebrating diverse Hispanic cultures. The LACC was founded in 1969 in the Hilltop section of Wilmington serving and supporting the community and people that surround it.

Over the last 45 years, the LACC has focused on lifelong learning that concentrates on the educational needs of client families, from quality pre-school programs to adult education; and life empowerment, focusing on the immediate life needs families and individuals may face, from short term case management to a job placement or English language skills.

Since 1994, Maria Matos has been the executive director and driving force behind the LACC. Her impact has been felt not just in the Hispanic community, but throughout Wilmington and New Castle County. She has contributed her leadership skills to such boards as the Medical Center of Delaware, Grand Opera House, Delaware Community Foundation, and Advisory Council for the Fund for Women, as well as at the grassroots level supporting the Hilltop Working Group, an alliance of residents and legislators who work to promote the community's well-being.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate Ms. Matos on her years of service to the LACC as well as the LACC on its 45 years of service to the community, and wish each of them luck in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JAMES LIVINGSTON

• Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to honor Beaufort, SC resident, Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston, a 33-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, for his tireless service to this country. He is truly an American patriot worthy of our recognition.

Born in Towns, GA, General Livingston knew from a young age that he wanted to serve his country. While enrolled at the Military College of Georgia, he was a member of the nationally recognized Corps of Cadets. After graduating from Auburn University in 1962 with a degree in civil engineering, General Livingston rose through the ranks of the Marine Corps. From Vietnam to

the Philippines and domestically, wherein he was the first commander of the Marine Reserve Forces, General Livingston distinguished himself with exceptional service all over the world. Throughout his long and storied career, General Livingston has made his mark as a man who leads by example.

General Livingston, serving as the operations officer for 3D Battalion, 7th Marines, oversaw Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon. Despite the urgency and chaos of the situation, General Livingston led with poise and professionalism: characteristics that would define his career. Due in large parts to General Livingston's leadership during Operation Frequent Wind, more than 7,000 American civilians and Vietnamese people in a desperate situation were airlifted out of Saigon and to safety.

In 1968, while serving as the commanding officer, Company E, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, General Livingston led his men on a determined assault on the village of Dai Do, where another Marine company had been isolated the night before when enemy forces seized the village. Despite being twice wounded by grenade fragments, General Livingston refused medical treatment and continued to lead his men across 500 meters of open rice fields. Having re-established contact with the surrounded Marine Company, General Livingston then learned of a third Marine Company leading an attack on nearby Dinh To village. Marshalling his resources, General Livingston consolidated the two companies and led a support effort to halt the aggressive enemy counter attack from Dinh To. After being wounded a third time and rendered immobile, he remained in the combat zone and supervised the evacuation of his men. Only after his fellow marines were safe did General Livingston allow himself to be evacuated. For his gallantry, bravery, and selflessness, General Livingston was awarded the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon in 1970.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, General Livingston also holds the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. It is because of men like James Livingston that Americans sleep easy at night, knowing they are safe from those who wish to inflict harm upon them.

It is an honor that this Saturday, August 2, General Livingston will be the keynote speaker at my Vietnam Era Veterans Honor Ceremony in Columbia, SC where I will honor more than 1,500 veterans. General Livingston and his fellow veterans deserve to be recognized for their gallant efforts, and it will be my honor to stand with him on this special occasion.

I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston for a life and career dedicated to the protection of this Nation, her ideals, and her citizens.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE C. WRIGHT

• Mr. COONS. Madam President, on behalf of Senator TOM CARPER and myself, I wish to honor the exemplary service of the executive director of the Delaware League of Local Governments, George C. Wright and recognize his recent retirement. For over five decades, he has been a tremendous and courageous leader serving in many positions throughout our great State. His hard work, perseverance, and dedication will truly be missed.

Since the 1960s, George has played an active and integral role within Delaware. For six terms, he served as councilman in the town of Smyrna before serving as its mayor for 14 years. Since then, George has been a crucial member and leader of the Delaware League of Local Governments. As he steps down from his position as executive director, we join the many Delawareans he has worked with in thanking him for his diligent efforts to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy.

Born in Chesapeake City, MD and educated in the public school system there, George studied at several distinguished universities including Maryland State College in Princess Anne and the University of Delaware. After his graduation, George began his career during the turbulent 1960s as Head Start director in Smyrna, a town that was once denounced by former Attorney General David Buckson as having the worst race relations in the State. George later went on to serve on the town's council and as the chief of staffing at the Dover Air Force Base. In 1981 he was able to overcome many racial barriers in order to become the town of Smyrna and state of Delaware's first African-American mayor.

Most recently, as the executive director of the Delaware League of Local Governments, George has successfully worked with 57 municipalities in Delaware to help forge a common voice across the State. George's work has been nothing short of inspirational and we are sincerely grateful for all that he has done on behalf of the towns, cities and counties in Delaware.

We wholeheartedly thank George for all of the work he has done for local governments of Delaware. His model leadership and dedication has truly touched every corner of our great State. We offer our sincerest congratulations on a job well done and wish him many happy, healthy, and successful years to come.●

EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS' WEEK

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to recognize and congratulate the leadership and volunteers of New Hampshire's Exceptional Citizens', EC, Week at Camp Fatima as the program marks its 60th year of providing continuous service to children and adult campers with special needs.

Held every year at Camp Fatima on the picturesque Upper Suncook Lake in

Gilmanton Iron Works, EC Week is a non-sectarian outdoor camp program sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Manchester. Attendance, which is free for campers, is funded by generous contributions from individuals and businesses. During EC Week, campers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of traditional camping activities, giving them a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and have some good old-fashioned summer fun.

Borne of the idea that "it would be great to allow these children the same camping experience as other kids," Bill Haller, president of The United Life and father of a child with Down syndrome; Dr. Tom Walker, a pediatrician at St. Paul's School; and the Rev. Richard O. Boner, associate pastor at St. John's Parish in Concord, who founded Camp Fatima for Boys, began work on this concept, starting EC Week in 1954.

As they set out to create an entertaining and rewarding camp experience, the program founders teamed up with student nurses from Sacred Heart Hospital in Manchester, a group of Sisters of Mercy, a group of Sisters of St. Francis, and seminarians from St. John's Seminary, in preparation for the camp's launch. The first year 25 boys and girls attended the camp.

Since that first year, EC Week has grown immensely and now includes 170 campers and more than 300 volunteers from around the country. It is a unique and special experience that is treasured by so many, and has served as a model for the creation of similar camps around the country.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of EC Week next month, I want to commend the Diocese of Manchester and the EC Week staff and volunteers. Their hard work and dedication has brightened the lives of thousands of campers and allowed them to have exciting experiences they otherwise may never get to enjoy. I have no doubt this outstanding program will continue to benefit and delight campers for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. HAUGHT

• Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to recognize a dear friend, a proud American and a passionate West Virginia leader, Jim Haught, who is celebrating his 90th birthday on August 6, 2014. I am incredibly grateful for Jim, for his loyal friendship and his unwavering support over the years. I am proud to celebrate his vast achievements and his many years of dedicated service to his community, to West Virginia, and to our Nation.

A native West Virginian, Jim was born in the small town of Weston and was raised in New Martinsville. He was the proud son of Ben and Orpha Haught. With 11 siblings, there is no doubt that Jim learned early on about the meaning of life's most important concepts, including leadership, sacrifice, and commitment. True to Jim's

character, he also had an eagerness and a passion for policy and government affairs from a very young age.

Throughout his 90 years, and still today, Jim has always answered the call of service—whether it was for our great Nation or for the beautiful people of West Virginia. After graduating from Pine Grove High School, he joined the Navy and served proudly and honorably for 3 years.

After returning home from the Navy, he left his hometown of New Martinsville to focus on his education at Salem College and then at George Washington University in Washington, DC, where he was classmates with Margaret Truman, the daughter of President Harry S. Truman. Jim then went on to study law at West Virginia University and while there, founded the university's Young Democratic Club in 1948. It was also at West Virginia University that Jim first met my uncle, A. James Manchin. The two became life-long best friends.

Jim's commitment to his family and to the community continued after leaving West Virginia University. In 1952, Jim met his beautiful wife Melba in Parkersburg and soon thereafter the loving couple had their four boys, Greg, Cameron, Benji, and Danny. To this day, his commitment to his family has undoubtedly always been his No. 1 priority in life.

Steadfast to his smalltown values, Jim has never been afraid to stand for the principles he was taught at an early age, never forgetting his West Virginia roots. He has always strived to make a positive difference across our great State, and in 1958, Jim decided to run for public office to represent Wood County in the West Virginia House of Delegates. He served for 2 years, until Jim embarked on a new journey in 1960.

As a staunch Democratic supporter, Jim and A. James together played an extraordinarily significant role in John F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign in West Virginia. The duo worked tirelessly setting up county organizations in all of our State's 55 counties. They worked day and night laying the groundwork, coordinating statewide efforts, and gathering the support that directly resulted in Kennedy's Presidential victory. It was Jim's perseverance and energy that helped make JFK's Presidency a reality.

Jim and A. James' hard work and commitment to the campaign did not go unnoticed. When President Kennedy arrived in the White House, he personally called Jim and offered him a position as the Director of Federal Housing, while A. James became the State Director of the Farmers Home Administration. Honored, Jim accepted the position and moved to St. Albans in Kanawha County, where he remained active in his community while working for the President.

It is not surprising to anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing him, but Jim's success and his tremendous

accomplishments have been recognized on many levels.

Today, Jim continues to serve the people of West Virginia through the Hansford Senior Center, a community center he established in St. Albans to help care for aging seniors in the area.

It has been an honor and privilege to know such an exceptional West Virginian. Jim's imprint will always be marked by his countless contributions to the State of West Virginia. I join all West Virginians in wishing Jim a happy birthday and in celebrating his 90 years of success, and I look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with my dear friend for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GERRY COHEN

• Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, I wish to honor the service of a great North Carolinian, Gerry Cohen, who will retire in August as special counsel to the North Carolina General Assembly. For nearly 40 years, Gerry Cohen has served the general assembly with incredible knowledge, distinction and commitment.

Gerry was first hired as a general assembly staff attorney in 1977 and later became the director of the bill drafting division before taking on his final role as special counsel.

I had the pleasure to work with Gerry firsthand during my time as a State senator from 1999 to 2009. I found Gerry's extensive knowledge, legendary memory and professionalism invaluable and truly unmatched.

Gerry will retire leaving a lasting mark on the institution he served over a long and illustrious career. His professionalism and grasp of the issues have endeared him to Republicans and Democrats alike and earns him the title of "statesmen." He will be truly missed and impossible to replace.

Gerry earned a degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and later attended the UNC School of Law. As a second-year law student, he served on the Chapel Hill Town Council before beginning his work for the North Carolina General Assembly. Gerry also served on the board of the Raleigh Transit Authority between 2009 and 2013.

North Carolina General Assembly members, both past and present, will sorely miss an institutional giant with an incredible grasp of the issues facing our State. Gerry and his wife intend to travel and enjoy time with family and friends in the next phase of their lives and will fortunately not have to travel far to enjoy our State's picturesque mountains or beautiful coastline.

I wish Gerry and his family well and thank him for his incredible service on behalf of North Carolina.●

REMEMBERING ADMIRAL CHARLES R. LARSON

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to honor the extraordinary life