

fly, fight, and win with efficiency, speed, and through world-class technology. They have come a long way since 1907 and will no doubt continue along this prominent trajectory.

At present, the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force dwarf comparable forces across the globe. Ours is the largest and most technologically advanced force in the world. Our airmen continuously strive to fulfill the five core missions of the Air Force: No. 1, air and space superiority; No. 2, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; No. 3, rapid global mobility; No. 4, global strike; and No. 5, command and control—all the while remaining committed to these central duties, the Air Force has recognized that strategic agility is the future. With the new Air Force 30-year strategy, triumphed by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III, our outstanding airmen are able to adapt and prepare for a world with ever-evolving global threats. Faced with new challenges, such as the danger posed by ISIL, the Air Force ensures we are one step ahead, placing our freedom and safety out of harm's reach. For the past 67 years our Air Force has proven to be responsive and brave in the face of change. It is a force we can all be proud of and, above all, a force we can trust.

The U.S. Air Force remains one of our most crucial tools for tackling global conflict. Its wide-ranging scope ensures it provides global vigilance, global reach, and global power while helping to manage crises around the world to safeguard our freedom. Using technology in air, space and cyber space, the Air Force has become integral to all fronts of U.S. defense. The Air Force is deployed in war zones, natural disaster relief, and intelligence gathering, demonstrating there are no bounds to its significance. By confronting conflicts around the globe, the Air Force protects U.S. citizens and plays a vital role in spreading peace and freedom to the worldwide population.

The Maryland Air National Guard is a wonderful example of dedicated citizen airmen who serve the Nation, the State of Maryland, and their local communities. An integral part of the Maryland community, our Air National Guard works to ensure the safety of the citizens of Maryland, coordinating responses to any State crises. Yet these same airmen have been called upon to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their experience and talents are an invaluable asset to the Department of Defense. Most recently, the 104th Fighter Squadron of the Maryland Air National Guard deployed four A-10C fighters and 100 personnel to participate in Exercise Saber Strike, supporting strategic training and foreign partnerships in Estonia. This is just one illustration of the good work of the Maryland Air National Guard. Our 175th wing is continually deployed worldwide to assist with training, hu-

manitarian relief, international cyber defense, and combat operations, all of which demonstrate the wide-ranging significance of our Maryland Air National Guard.

When remembering 67 years of stalwart service, we must never forget that we owe these years of triumph to the men and women behind the machines, the airmen. I thank them personally for their dedication and bravery to the United States of America. I am fortunate to have one—Maj. David James Wilson—currently serving on my staff as a defense legislative fellow. We ask a lot of these courageous men and women, and they continue to exceed our expectations with integrity and excellence. They are dedicated to service before self. They sacrifice their personal safety to ensure the U.S. flag continues to stand tall and fly free. They are the warriors who have answered our Nation's call. They are team members who leave no airman behind. They will not falter nor will they fail. For this, we owe them our enduring gratitude, support, and admiration.

Today, on the 67th birthday of our Air Force, we congratulate the men and women who have taken to the skies in defense of our freedom. Their valor and sacrifice humbles me. Let us remember this feeling of awe and pride not just today but every day as we applaud the accomplishments of our Nation's airmen, past and present, and wish the U.S. Air Force a happy 67th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on more than once occasion, I have talked about the hardworking men and women who toil mostly in anonymity here in the Senate. We have people who work on our staffs and on the committees. We have floor and cloakroom staff. We have parliamentarians and legislative counsel and enrolling clerks. We have carpenters and plumbers and electricians. To me, all of these people are part of the Senate family. And I am always grateful for the dedication, skill, and pride each brings to his or her job. Many of these individuals live in Maryland and I am proud to have them as constituents. While we Senators may have our partisan differences, the Senate functions well at an institutional level because of the professionalism and devotion to public service of its staff people who typically log long hours; endure government shutdowns, security threats, and other perturbations; and work in facilities we try to make as accessible as possible to the American people and anyone else who wishes to visit.

Today, I thank one such individual, Jerry Linnell, for 32 years of exemplary service to the Senate and the American people. Jerry is retiring at the end of the month. Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates in 1982 and became the Chief Reporter of Debates in 1999. For those

people who may be unfamiliar with the Reporters' office, it is charged with producing a verbatim account of everything that happens here on the floor of the Senate. Even with modern technology employed, that is a daunting task requiring a team of eight skilled reporters who take turns transcribing every word that we Senators utter on the floor. They have to be able to decipher our accents and occasional creative use of the English language, and they have to withstand filibusters. It is a mentally and physically challenging job. The Reporters the Senate employs are highly experienced professionals who take pride in their work. The Office has 15 people overall and a designee from the Government Printing Office, GPO; collectively, they are responsible for producing the Senate's portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is one of the crucial documents of our government.

Jerry is a Minnesota native, born in Duluth and raised in Grand Marais. He played on the high school football team and was captain of the basketball team. He attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis and graduated from its court reporting program. Jerry's first court reporting job was with Ward & Paul in Washington, DC, before moving to New Carrollton, MD and joining the Baltimore court reporting firm of Salomon Brothers. After several years in Baltimore and at one point passing in one test session 8 of the 9 highest testing requirements set by the National Court Reporters Association, Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates.

Jerry and his wife Jane first met on a dance floor; they were members of the DC Swing dance team and danced competitively. They enjoy traveling back to Grand Marais, where Jerry claims to have shoveled more snow than anyone else in the Linnell family, for various music events where he can play his accordion with local musicians and family members. He's also a country music fan.

Jerry is the proud father of Laurie, Jerry Jr., Heather and Katie, and the very proud grandfather of Colleen, Rachel, Leanne, Monica, and Jerry III. He currently serves as the President of the Linnell Family Association, a group composed of the thousands of descendants of Robert Linnell, who first came to the United States in the early 1600s to Scituate, Massachusetts. Jerry has spent many an hour refurbishing his Capitol Hill home, and plans on retiring between that home and a newly purchased and renovated home in North Carolina where he can play golf all year round.

Even though Jerry is a former Maryland resident, he is a diehard Washington Nationals fan. He and his wife Jane love to attend games together. In light of his more than three decades of public service, I won't hold that against him. But with the real prospect

this fall of a Beltway World Series between the Nats and the Baltimore Orioles, he should prepare himself to be disappointed!

Mr. President, in all seriousness, we are fortunate to have men and women of Jerry's caliber devote their time and talent to the U.S. Senate. Jerry is an outstanding public servant. While we will miss him—and his trademark suspenders—he certainly has earned a well-deserved retirement and on behalf of the Senate, I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

REMEMBERING JERRY L. HEDRICK

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry L. Hedrick, a lifelong North Carolinian, distinguished public servant, a United States Army veteran, and a leader of distinction at many levels in the American Legion, who died on August 25, 2014, concluding a life of superb and selfless service to the veterans of North Carolina and America. Jerry passed away on the eve of the American Legion's National Convention in Charlotte, NC, an event he had been actively planning for almost until the moment his life ended. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Jerry put his heart and soul into the Legion's mission throughout his life.

Jerry was born in Lexington, NC a year after the end of World War II and spent his younger, formative years in Davidson County, where he was graduated from Lexington Senior High in 1965, just as the war in Vietnam was escalating. Jerry joined the United States Army in 1966 and was trained as an armor crewman. He was subsequently assigned to Alpha Troop, First Squadron, of the Fourteenth Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fulda, Germany. This was in the early years of the Cold War that pitted North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, commanded by the United States, at outposts and in forward bases along the border that divided a free and democratic West Germany from a repressive communist regime in Soviet supported East Germany. The open lowlands around Jerry's base were known then and for the next 25 years as the Fulda Gap, where NATO expected a Soviet invasion of Western Europe would come through. At that time America's attention was turning toward Southeast Asia and the hot war there, but Jerry and his fellow soldiers had a vital mission, one that would continue until the demise of the Soviet Union.

Jerry received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1968 and returned home to North Carolina. Soon after, he joined American Legion Post 8 in Lexington and found work as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, where he worked faithfully from 1969 until 2001. In the early post-Army years, Jerry somehow found the time amidst all his activities to study and

obtain a business degree from Rowan Technical Community College. Years later, when Jerry was asked what spurred his decision to join the Legion, he simply stated, "I was asked by fellow workers and I wanted to help veterans."

Throughout his over four decades of service to the Legion and to North Carolina's veterans, Jerry Hedrick held almost every leadership position from Post Financial Officer, to Post Adjutant, to Post Commander, and went on to serve as both a Department and District Vice Commander and Commander, as well as rising to National level committees that addressed Americanism, Military Affairs, and International Affairs. Jerry was also the North Carolina Department's representative to the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and would say in later years that some of his fondest memories were from his time on the National Executive Committee, which is responsible for drafting the annual budget and signing off on the American Legion's spending.

While he devoted much of his life's work to the Legion and to veterans' issues, Jerry Hedrick was also devoted to his wife Marie and to his family, and a prominent figure in his community, through volunteerism for the Moose, Masonic, and Elks Lodges.

When I reflect on the sum total of Jerry's life, I see a man who knew that the calling of service and the value of fellowship were essential elements of the American experience and what truly bind us together. As an advocate for veterans, his legacy is typified in the old saying that the measure of a man is not what he does but what he gives. Jerry lived those words until his last day with us.

I offer his wife Marie and his entire family my deepest condolences. They, all of North Carolina, and this Nation, have lost a lifelong friend, a true gentleman, a stalwart leader for veterans, and a role model for those committed to community and national service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STORY LANDIS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a truly exceptional public servant, Dr. Story Landis, who is retiring in a few weeks from the directorship of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health. I have been fortunate to get to know Dr. Landis during her 11 years as Institute Director. She has testified several times before the committees I chair, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, always with the poise of a leader at a prestigious national institution, the rigor of a renowned scientist, and the insight of a truly extraordinary pioneer working on the frontiers of our knowledge of the human brain.

Certainly, Dr. Landis has an exemplary pedigree. A graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University, Dr. Landis came to NIH in 1995 as NINDS Scientific Director, following a distinguished career as a neuroscience researcher and chair of the Neuroscience Department at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. As scientific director, she had the bold vision to stimulate collaborations in brain research across labs from different institutes on the NIH campus and led the planning for a unique national neuroscience research center at NIH. From the time Dr. Landis became NINDS Director in 2003, she worked with me, with the late Senator Spector, and with other NIH Institute Directors to make this center a reality. This spring I was fortunate to be at the NIH campus to help officially dedicate the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center.

I will remember Dr. Landis best for her courage, her ability to bridge gaps, and her passion.

First, her courage. Not many people remember this, but in 2007, Dr. Landis was the first NIH Director to speak publicly in opposition to President Bush's ban on Federal funding of stem cell research. That may not sound like much to us now, but at the time it was a remarkable act of professional integrity and personal courage. The American public was very divided, the scientific community was not unified, and most importantly, she worked for the administration whose policies she was publicly criticizing. She risked her job and her reputation to alert this Senate to the reality that research was being stifled—research with enormous potential to reduce human suffering. Just last week, I read a press report about stem cells being used to decode schizophrenic brains. This Nation is indebted to Dr. Landis for having the courage to speak a hard truth at a critical juncture in our Nation's scientific policy debate.

Second, let me talk about Dr. Landis's ability to bridge gaps. In truth, she has bridged so many divides throughout her career: She reached across institutes in 2005 to establish and develop one of the most effective trans-NIH initiatives in producing the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research and more recently launching the NIH BRAIN Initiative, which will bring together engineers, aging experts, and neuroscientists to transform our understanding of the human brain. She reached across scientific gaps in chairing the NIH Stem Cell Task Force and helping to coordinate and lead pain research efforts across NIH, and she bridged generation gaps in her enthusiastic mentorship, her work on career development, and her support for early-stage investigators.

But the gap I remember best is the divide between scientists and policymakers. I might be telling tales out of school here, but it was Story Landis and Jim Battey who sat with me for