

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

12. A determination has been made that New Zealand can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of New Zealand.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a critical and often hidden issue facing our Nation. Each year, nearly 18,000 foster children across our country age out of the system with no permanent place to call home. Right now, over 125,000 foster children are eligible for adoption and waiting for their forever family. Over 1,600 of those children live in Nevada. Every single child deserves a safe, loving, and permanent family.

November is National Adoption Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the many ways that families are created, including through adoption. There are children in our communities, waiting to belong, to be loved, and to be a part of what so many of us take for granted. Sitting down to a meal with a parent, knowing you have a family member in the audience at a school event or knowing that someone is, indeed, waiting up to make sure you get home safe and by curfew. The very idea that someone cares enough to make sure homework is done, and to listen when your day doesn't go so well does immeasurable good for children.

Our Nation's foster children are in a situation that is no fault of their own. Most are there due to severe neglect or abuse. They have experienced trauma. They have been suddenly taken away from all they know, bringing few possessions, stored in a garbage bag, with them as they move from home to home. The goal is always to reunite foster children with their biological families if it can be done safely, but unfortunately, that isn't always an option. For the children who remain in our foster system, we can and must do better.

Absolutely no child is unadoptable. By working together, we can achieve a future where every child in our Nation knows without a doubt they belong and they have a family. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about adoption to visit www.adoptuskids.org or reach out to local community organizations to find out more about how to get involved with mentoring or supporting foster children in other ways.

As I hear from constituents about the work they do to help raise awareness and improve outcomes for foster youth, I am so encouraged. I remain

committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to create a brighter future for our most vulnerable children.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIS MCKENNIE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an inspiring young man, Ellis McKennie. I had the good fortune of getting to know Ellis when he was an intern in my office, first in the summer of 2018 in my State office and then again this past summer in Washington. He was a diligent worker, always searching for ways to help. He was keen to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. One thing that became obvious right away is that Ellis is an empathetic young man; in one instance, as a youngster, he asked his mother to make lunches for less fortunate fellow students. I am very grateful to Ellis for his service to the people of Maryland during his internships and for his service to the University of Maryland as the epitome of a student athlete. Ellis has been an offensive lineman on the Terrapins' football team for the last 4 years. Perhaps more important than his leadership on the field, though, has been his leadership off the field, where he has advocated fiercely for meaningful athletic reform in the wake of his boyhood friend and teammate Jordan McNair's tragic death from heatstroke last year. Ellis has worked hard to mobilize his teammates and the entire campus to become more engaged politically. In recognition of his ability to bring people together for positive change, the student body elected Ellis to the university senate this year.

Somehow, among Ellis's football career, activism, and student governance, he has also found time to set an exemplary academic record, twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors and completing his undergraduate degree in just 3 years. Now, while he plays his final season for the Terrapins, he is busy earning a graduate degree in public policy. Next, Ellis plans to attend law school and hopes to serve as an elected official 1 day, perhaps here in the Senate.

I have been so impressed by everything that Ellis has been able to accomplish at such a young age and by everything that he aspires to achieve in the future. Most of all, I am proud of his enduring commitment to building community, helping those in need, and fighting for what's right. Young people like Ellis should reassure all of us that the future of our country is in capable hands.

On November 20, the Baltimore Sun ran an article by Don Markus entitled "Maryland's Ellis McKennie found his voice when Jordan McNair died. Now he looks to finish his career strong." The article captures the qualities that make Ellis such a special young man. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARYLAND'S ELLIS MCKENNIE FOUND HIS VOICE WHEN JORDAN MCNAIR DIED. NOW HE LOOKS TO FINISH HIS CAREER STRONG.

(By Don Markus)

Ellis McKennie spent his first three years at Maryland as a nondescript reserve offensive lineman, redshirting his first season after graduating from McDonogh and serving as a little-used backup the next two.

It took the death of Jordan McNair—a fellow offensive lineman who had been more like a little brother since they grew up on the same street in Randallstown—for McKennie to find his voice.

It then took McKennie getting a role this season, briefly as a versatile reserve and then as a starter in seven games at four positions, to have the platform to use it.

"As someone who's a leader on this team. I feel confident to express the feelings and attitude of the team," McKennie said last week, sitting in the auditorium of the Gossett Team House. "I'm that way to Coach [Mike Locksley], too."

"I'm on the leadership council and I'm one of the guys coach is asking, 'Where do you think the team's at?' I'm that voice for him and when the media comes asking the same questions. I'm confident that I can represent the team in a good way in the public light."

Going into Saturday's senior day matchup with Nebraska (4-6, 2-5 Big Ten), McKennie is hoping that he can help Maryland (3-7, 1-5) end a five-game losing streak.

"I can't stress how important it is for us to beat Nebraska," McKennie said. "I can still remember singing the alma mater after the Syracuse game [a 63-20 win on Sept 7] thinking, 'I can't wait to do this some more this season.' If that's the last time I get to sing the alma mater at Maryland Stadium, that'll be tough for me to handle. I'm going to do whatever I can to get this win."

McKennie's role as a leader for the Terps began to evolve in the weeks and months after the 19-year-old McNair's death from heatstroke in June 2018.

It was McKennie and then-sophomore center Johnny Jordan who were designated to speak when the still-grieving team met with the media for the first time in late August.

It was McKennie who carried the flag with McNair's jersey number—79—out for the 2018 season opener at FedEx Field and waved it after the Terps upset then-No. 23 Texas, 34-29.

It was also McKennie who walked out with a couple of his teammates from a team meeting after former coach DJ Durkin, who had been put on administrative leave in the aftermath of McNair's death, had briefly been reinstated in late October. Durkin was fired by university President Wallace D. Loh the following day.

"They say in the face of tragedy that people get closer together, and that's what happened on this team," McKennie said. "We lost a brother, but at the same time, when you go through something like that with a group of people and you come out the other side, you have a different kind of relationship with them. That role during that whole time period just kind of fluidly turned into a leadership role on the field this season."

Jodi McKennie wasn't surprised that her middle child became the de facto team spokesman among the Maryland players.

"From the time he was a little boy, he was the most empathetic child you could meet," she said last week. "He could not stand to see anyone he thought was suffering in any way."

It meant asking his mother to make extra lunches for other kids who didn't have food

at home to bring to school or to have her put money on the accounts of less fortunate students. At Maryland, it took shape McNair's death.

The leadership piece took over because he is definitely led by his moral compass, and that comes from understanding right from wrong and what happened to Jordan was so hard on him that he could no longer be quiet," Jodi McKennie said.

His father's five-year stint as the boys basketball coach at Archbishop Curley also had an impact on the younger McKennie.

"I had a couple of kids who had problems with their family and he would see Dad get up and go and do things [for the players]," the elder McKennie said Monday. "It was the same for me. When I got to college, I didn't realize my Dad, who was a Marine Corps dude, was in my brain. You don't realize until it has to be shown."

Recalling when his son walked out on Durkin, the elder McKennie said his son called him beforehand to tell him of his intentions.

"I said, 'Ellis, before you do anything, do you want to talk about it?' and he said, 'Dad, I got this,'" the elder McKennie said.

McKennie doesn't think he would have been any less a leader this season had he not worked his way up the depth chart and into a starting role.

"I have a type of rapport with teammates, they know what I'm about, and that I actually care about this team and this university," McKennie said. "Whether I'm playing, whether I'm having a good game or a bad game, whether I'm on scout team, it wouldn't make a difference, just the type of guy that I am."

Said senior defensive tackle Brett Kulka: "Ellis is great. He's definitely a leader. You can see that in the locker room as a whole. He's an encouraging player. He likes to help younger guys. He understands what it takes to win in terms of you need everyone on the team. He really embraces that role."

It has been more than 17 months since McNair died and McKennie said it is unlikely that he will ever get over it completely. He had known McNair since they were kids and McNair played Little League baseball on a team coached by McKennie's father.

"You're never going to feel normal. It almost turns into a new type of normal, it's a new reality you've got to live it," McKennie said. "I can't lie and say I don't think about it every day. I get texts from his parents before every game. . . . You're never going to move on from it."

"I think it was important that when Coach Locks got here, he had a meeting with a bunch of us and he said, 'We can move on without forgetting Jordan. We can take steps forward, but we'll not forget where we came from and not forget Jordan in any sort of way.'"

Even though the patch of grass at Maryland Stadium with McNair's number has grown over, McKennie said, "Internally we honor him every day. His locker is still in our locker room. We pray in front of it before every game."

Four years later, McKennie is only one of three players remaining from the 19 members of the 2015 recruiting class, along with linebacker Isaiah Davis and defensive end Keiron Howard.

"There are less than 10 guys from my class that made it through their eligibility," McKennie said. "Our class is extremely interesting because it's been filled with so much turmoil. A lot of guys didn't finish, but we also had two first-round draft picks, DJ Moore and Darnell Savage. So it's like a pretty big spectrum. I've been the only offensive lineman left for two years."

Locksley said Tuesday that the person and player he helped recruit to Maryland while

serving as the team's offensive coordinator has grown tremendously in the past five years.

"He's a guy that's been directly affected with the three full-time coaches, two interims, the loss of a former high school teammate [and] dear friend, and this kid continues to stand strong," Locksley said at his Tuesday news conference, where he announced that McKennie and three other seniors would serve as captains for Saturday's game.

"He's one of the guys you can sell the University of Maryland with. He's the epitome of a student-athlete. He's a guy that has the right kind of habits and behaviors, where he's going to be really successful on the field and off the field. Really I can't say enough great things about the leadership that he's provided, not just for the players, but even to me as the head coach. He's the epitome of what a Maryland player should look like."

For much of his career, McKennie focused "pretty heavily" on the front half of his hyphenated position as a student-athlete, graduating in three years with a degree in government and politics and then working on his master's degree in public policy, which he will finish in the coming weeks as he gets ready to start studying for his LSATs and a career as a lawyer or politician.

"We used to joke that he would be the first black president and then we had [Barack] Obama so now we're banking on him being the second black president," his mother said.

Even with what he has accomplished off the field—twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors, being elected to the university senate during the 2019–20 academic year, interning for U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) last summer—McKennie thinks of himself mostly as a Maryland football player.

"That's what I do every day," he said. "There hasn't been a day in the past five years when I haven't come to this building aside from a few holidays. It's going to be a weird change. I'm looking forward to what's next for me, but I'm definitely going to miss everything that has come about. I'm starting to appreciate things differently now. I'm going to practice not dreading practice anymore. I'm happy to be there with my teammates."

Unlike many of his former teammates who left long before their eligibility expired or moved on the moment they played their final game, McKennie said there will always be an attachment.

"I love this university and I love what it means to be a Terrapin," McKennie said. "It means so much more to me than just playing on Saturday. If it was about playing time, I still wouldn't be here. I should have gone somewhere else and played a little bit sooner. It means so much to me to represent this university and represent this state that I've called home for most of my life, that's the most important part to me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND HANNA CANADA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gary and Hanna Canada for receiving the American Bankers Association's Bruning Award. This award is dedicated to bankers who demonstrate a strong sense of leadership and dedication to providing financial guidance and credit to ranchers, farmers, and businesses in rural America.

The Canadas are well known throughout southern Arkansas for their partnership running their business hand-in-hand, which helps explain why, for first time in the 22-year history, the award has been presented to a team of ag bankers.

Gary Canada began his professional career as a teacher and coach, eventually working his way up to principal. In 1975, Gary joined the Bank of England and climbed the ranks to become the chairman and president of the bank. Over the years, Gary has served on numerous committees and boards, including the ABA's Agricultural and Rural Bankers Committee, Arkansas Rice Council, and Bayou Metro Irrigation District. In addition to his work with the bank, Gary has farmed cotton, rice, and wheat and run a cow and calf operation.

Similarly, Hanna Canada began her career as a teacher before working at the Bank of England. Her early years at the bank consisted of working as a teller before transitioning to board secretary assisting with policies. Hanna currently serves as the executive vice president of the Bank of England and member of the board of directors. Along with her hard work and dedication to the bank, she also serves as an emergency medical technician.

Gary and Hanna Canada demonstrate what it means to give back to your community. Every opportunity they have had to help those in need, they have not hesitated to step in and lend a hand. In addition, Hanna hopes to inspire other women to step into leadership roles in the agriculture banking community. The couple's desire to grow the farming community in the State is remarkable and reveals why they are so well-deserving of this recognition.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Canadas for their hard work, dedication, and leadership to the city of England, the ag community in their area, and the State of Arkansas. I am grateful for their work and for the ABA recognizing their careers and contributions with the Bruning Award.●

TRIBUTE TO PARKER WALTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Parker Walter of Madison County for his extraordinary bravery in the face of danger.

In late September, the American Red Cross awarded 6-year-old Parker Walter with a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action from their National Lifesaving Award Program. This was the first time in 20 years that a Montanan has received the distinguished Lifesaving Award from the American Red Cross. Parker heroically saved his 4-year-old brother Cooper from drowning when he slipped into a rushing irrigation ditch behind their home. Parker immediately screamed out to his mother and grandmother to alert them and quickly ran over to pull his younger