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#### TRIBUTE TO PAT HUGHES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for nearly three decades, the crack of the bat, the smell of fresh cut grass, the green- ing of the ivy, and the sound of Pat Hughes' voice reporting from the "beautiful and historic Wrigley Field" has let Cubs fans far and wide know, it is time for baseball. This July, Pat Hughes—the voice of Cubs baseball and a Chicago legend—was awarded the 2023 Ford C. Frick Award by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY—the highest honor in broadcasting.

Born in Tucson, AZ, Pat was raised in San Jose, CA. His father worked in the education department at San Jose State University, where Pat would later enroll. Pat would frequent the university's sporting events with his father and brother, smitten by the cadre of future greats that took the field for the Spartans. At around 17 years old, he realized he wasn't quite good enough to make a career playing, but his passion for sports fueled his determination to find a sports career.

Just hours before Pat's acceptance speech at Cooperstown, he recounted that, "It kind of feels a little bit surreal. As if it's almost happening to someone else, and I'm just kind of watching." Ironically, watching on sidelines was where Pat's broadcasting career began.

At San Jose State University, while sitting on the bench for his college basketball team, he started to announce the game unfolding in front of him before his first listening audience: the other benchwarmers on the team. One of his teammates complimented Pat's knack for play-by-play. Once basketball season was over, Pat called his first baseball game, San Jose State versus the University of California Santa Barbara.

In 1978, Pat graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in radio/TV journalism and began his baseball broadcasting career for a minor league team: the San Jose Missions. After a season with the Columbus Clippers, he joined the Minnesota Twins broadcast team in 1983 before moving to Milwaukee just a year later, where he called Brewers games on radio with Milwaukee legend Bob Uecker.

I first heard Pat when my son Paul enrolled at Marquette University. Back then, Pat was calling basketball games for Marquette, and even then, Pat had the distinct style that we all have come to appreciate. Pat would go on to call basketball games for Marquette for 16 seasons, including years spent alongside local legend, Coach Al McGuire.

Since 1996, Pat has been the radio play-by-play announcer for the Chicago Cubs. The 2022 season marked the 40th consecutive year that Hughes served as

a Major League Baseball announcer. With nearly three decades in Chicago, Pat is a Cubs institution. And, not only has he been a fixture in Wrigley since 1996, he almost never misses work. For nearly 11 years, he called nearly every inning of every Cubs game before he finally took a day off.

A student of the game and a master of his craft, Pat regularly studied broadcasters he admired. He would listen to recordings of games that he called, analyze the modulation of his voice, eliminate filler, and perfect his catchphrases, setting the standard of meticulous preparation that he carries with him today. And just like the benchwarmer back in the 70s that called the basketball game, Pat seizes every moment.

Never one to rest on his laurels, when Pat learned that he would be the just the third broadcaster to be inducted into the Cubs Hall of Fame, he went right back to calling the play, completely awestruck, but like the true professional he is, he never missed a beat. And little did he know that just a few months later, he would be getting the call from Cooperstown. Pat lives his life play-by-play—staying in the moment, constantly improving, and transporting Cubs fans everywhere to Wrigley Field with his distinctive voice. During Pat's acceptance speech in Cooperstown, he thanked Cubs fans for making him part of the Cubs family, inviting him to graduations, bar mitzvahs, and birthdays. And he was quick to give credit to the line-up of broadcasters that he deeply admired.

Many remember Pat's time in the booth with Cubs Hall of Famer, the late Ron Santo, his broadcasting partner from 1996 until 2010. The "Pat and Ron" show was a favorite for the fans as Hughes worked well with the former third baseman, who wasn't shy to hide his love for the Cubs. A nine-time winner of the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year Award, Pat also won three straight Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year Awards from 1990-92. He has called more than 6,000 MLB games, including eight no-hitters, the 25-inning White Sox v. Brewers contest in 1984 that was the longest game in American League history, and Kerry Wood's 20-strikeout game in 1998.

On November 2, 2016, when the Chicago Cubs ended a 108-year drought by winning game seven of the World Series, it was Pat who called the final out. He will forever be a part of Chicago Cubs history, and just as Pat studied other broadcasters, his legacy will be one to learn from.

I congratulate Pat; his wife Trish; their daughters Janell and Amber; and his entire family on this achievement. Cubs fans everywhere are flying the W for you. And, as Pat would say, "Get out the tape measure, Long Gone!"—all the way to Cooperstown.

#### REMEMBERING DR. SHANNON KULA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Shannon Kula, former Senator Barbara Mikulski's chief of staff and a beloved member of the Maryland congressional team and Capitol Hill community. Shannon passed away recently after a long and heroic fight against breast cancer.

As Senator Mikulski remarked, "Her vibrant, inspirational personality made an impact on us all. She had such dedication, during those long hours—always with a smile and encouraging word. Shannon was a great friend, great advisor and brilliant strategist who took charge of making things happen all while making everyone feel good while she did it. She had a luminous spirit that blessed us all."

We all know the role that our staff plays in the work and life of the Senate. Shannon helped Senator Mikulski on so many of her accomplishments—from the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to guaranteeing access to women's preventive healthcare to policies that support military families—Shannon was by Senator Mikulski's side. She also helped organize the bipartisan women Senators and played an important role in helping elect more women to the U.S. Senate.

Shannon played an important role in developing and enacting policies that improved people's lives. She also improved the lives of those who had the good fortune to work with her. The friendships she developed with the Mikulski staff and the wider Senate community were deep and lasting. She led with grace and humor. She mentored younger staff. She set a tone of civility and kindness, even in the rough and tumble world of politics. She was a valued colleague to so many people and a leader of what we in the delegation like to call "Team Maryland."

Shannon received B.A. degrees in political science and government and in psychology from the University of Rochester. She was the first person in her family to attend college. While Shannon was working in the Senate, she finished her master's degree and doctorate at Georgetown University, a truly remarkable accomplishment for anyone who knows the long and unpredictable hours Senate staff routinely work. After she left the Senate, she continued to serve, as director of the University of Saint Joseph's Women's Leadership Center and when she ran for a Congressional seat in her home State of Connecticut.

Shannon married her college sweetheart, Dr. Ron Clark, a U.S. Marine who served 20 years in the Corps. Everyone who knew the couple recognized what an incredible team they were. She was a loving aunt who was very involved in the lives of her nieces and nephews, traveling the world with them and encouraging them through their educations and military service.

Shannon's death is a tragedy. But her life was a triumph. I join Senator Mikulski and so many others in our Capitol community in honoring her extraordinary life. May her memory be a blessing to her family and friends; may her life be a continuing inspiration to all who, like Shannon, strive to serve others.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD HAYES CESLER, SR.

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my fellow Members of Idaho's congressional delegation Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, we pay tribute to an outstanding Idahoan, Richard "Rich" Hayes Cesler, Sr., who served our country and its veterans with great distinction. He passed away on July 16, 2023.

Rich not only assisted living veterans and their families, but also made sure thousands were recognized and honored after their passing. Rich partnered with Fred Salanti in co-founding the nonprofit Missing in America, MIA, Project. Rich served as the MIA Project's national cemeteries/laws coordinator. Since 2006, the duo led MIA Project volunteers nationwide who have interred the unclaimed cremated remains of nearly 5,800 veterans.

As a Vietnam veteran, Rich connected with the many veterans and their families he helped. He grew up in Portsmouth, VA, and joined the U.S. Air Force directly after high school. He obtained the rank of sergeant during his service from 1966 to 1972. He was trained as a jet aircraft mechanic and aircraft maintenance technician and served as a crew chief in Saigon, Vietnam, working on F-111 aircraft.

His loved ones characterize Rich as "a true renaissance man" who dabbled in many different hobbies and occupations. His obituary includes a list of his vocations after his military service noting that in no particular order he "was a life insurance agent, a police officer, Veteran Service Officer, small business owner, general contractor, cargo/baggage handler, senior customer service agent, international head judge for car stereo contests, promoter, Director of two State Veteran cemeteries, beta tester, trainer, VFW state commander, he drafted legislation, delivered seminars, was a competitor at car stereo contests, a published writer, and a die-hard veteran supporter and advocate." In fact, he was recognized with a 2011 Spirit of Freedom: Idaho Veterans Service Award for his unselfish dedication to his fellow veterans and their families. His work as director of two State veterans cemeteries to ensure veterans and their spouses received the burials they were promised and his founding of the MIA Project were among the many examples of his dedicated service to others cited in his award recognition.

Honoring Rich Cesler in Congress in September during National POW/MIA Recognition Month, a time set aside to highlight ongoing efforts to seek answers for families of America's prisoners of war—POWs—and missing in action—MIA—is deeply fitting as Rich made sure lost soldiers were honored here at home. He saw firsthand that America's veterans did not only go missing overseas. He recognized that the shelves of funeral homes, coroner's offices, and State hospitals and even far less ceremonial locations should not be the final resting places for veterans who do not have remaining family or have lost touch with their families. MIA Project volunteers' commendable efforts to honor veterans lost right here at home were rightly recognized. This includes our understanding that he was being considered for a Presidential award for his Missing in America Project. Rich said, "The MIA Project has become the voice for those who have none and continues to be dedicated to remembering our forgotten heroes."

Rich accomplished one of the greatest things we can achieve in our lifetime: He used his talents and experiences to meaningfully help others. His actions demonstrated his deep understanding that great personal rewards came from giving to others instead of seeking personal gains. And, despite his solemn work, he found and shared joy. Rich was known for his amazing sense of humor. As noted in his obituary, "This was one of his greatest joys, to laugh and make others laugh." May the joy, levity, and dedication he gave to so many during his time on earth comfort his many friends and loved ones, including his wife of 47 years Joyce; six children and their spouses; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and many others. We join in mourning this great Idahoan and American and pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy. •

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID HECKER

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan's labor movement, David Hecker, president of the American Federation of Teachers—AFT—Michigan. David has made an immeasurable impact on the State of Michigan and its many educators and healthcare providers over the past 40 years, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today and celebrate his upcoming retirement.

David's engagement with the labor movement first began in 1977, when he became a member of AFT Local 3220, a union of graduate assistants at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned his Ph.D. in industrial relations. Following his graduation, David's commitment to strengthening the labor movement continued to grow, serving as the executive assistant to the president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO from 1986 to 1996, where

he worked to protect the welfare of Michigan's labor force and support the activities of local unions.

David's history with the Michigan chapter of the AFT began with his service as secretary-treasurer for the organization in the late 1990s. In 2001, David was named the president of AFT Michigan, a role which he has occupied with distinction since. Under his leadership, AFT Michigan has organized many new locals that represent thousands of Michiganders working in public education and healthcare, in addition to expanding partnerships in the State and overall strengthening Michigan's labor movement.

In 2004, David expanded his involvement with the labor movement to a national level, and began his service as a vice president of the national AFT, which included serving on the AFT executive committee and cochairing the AFT organizing committee. For many years, he has been a member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and Metro Detroit AFL-CIO's executive committees and has also been a member of AFT delegations to the Education International World Congress, worked with the National Union of Teachers in England, the Cambodian Independent Teachers Union, and higher education unions in Israel and the occupied territories.

David's legacy of leadership and service expands beyond the labor movement. His work includes serving as the chair of Community in Schools Michigan and the Green and Health Schools Coalition; as cochair of the Metropolitan Affairs Corporation; on the boards of Promote the Vote, the Michigan League for Public Policy, the Education Alliance of Michigan and New Detroit; and finally, as an officer-at-large of the Michigan Democratic Party.

I cannot understate the impact that David Hecker has had on Michigan's workforce and labor movement. A lifelong trade unionist, he has over these many years steadfastly promoted positive change in our communities and created a model for public service that is unmatched. Though his leadership at the American Federation of Teachers Michigan will be sorely missed, his legacy will most certainly endure and continue to inspire.

##### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KEVIN P. BURNS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kevin P. Burns as he retires from a distinguished 52-year career in the U.S. Air Force as an Active-Duty pilot and later as a civil servant at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Kevin graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975 and served honorably as an Active-Duty pilot until 2002. As a fighter pilot during the Cold War, he was deployed to Iceland where he intercepted and escorted Soviet bombers away from U.S. bases. He later served as a test pilot and flew more