

remarkable events about this man's epic saga of life which I was present to witness by virtue of my relation to both him and his community.

I first met him in 1974 while handling public relations for Patrick T. Welsh's House of Delegates campaign and later, in 1978, for the same man's state Senate campaign. Today, Mr. Welsh is President of The Eastern Baltimore Area Chamber of Commerce. None of his successes would have happened without the fair coverage of Mr. Oelke and The Eagle—and the same is true of every other candidate for public office from that time to this.

In 1984, when I worked at Dundalk Community College and the entire collegiate community harnessed its abilities and energies to re-employ area residents, Mr. Oelke was there as well, and when I had occasion to run for the office of Congress of the United States in 1982, 1984 and 1988, I got a fair hearing from him each and every time.

Thus, he was, is and remains my ideal of what a newspaper publisher should be: fair, faithful and true. I am not surprised that he died in church in the arms of the Lord and the family that loved him. I, too, shall miss him.—Blaine Taylor, Joppa Road, Towson.

Please accept our most sincere wishes regarding Mr. Oelke's death. Hopefully his family, friends, and the staff at The Eagle are doing well.

I am new to the Baltimore area, so I obviously have no previous knowledge of Mr. Oelke and the paper. However, your staff should know that his story and the related story of the newspaper is a great one. He sounds like he was a good person with his head and heart in the right place. It is great when the good guys win!

Anyway, just know that I was personally moved by learning about Mr. Oelke's life. I will look to learn more in upcoming issues of your paper. Keep up the (his) great work over there at The Eagle.—Paul Kin, The writer is a community relations director representing Bradley-Ashton-Dabrowski-Matthews Funeral Homes.

THANKING LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL D. MCGINTY FOR HIS LIFE LONG CAREER IN THE AIR FORCE

• Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, over the last 33 years, Lt Gen Michael D. McGinty has served as an exemplary Air Force officer. His career-long efforts to provide quality support to all the members of the Air Force and their families serve as a benchmark for other military services and leave a lasting and positive legacy of Air Force personnel policy and practice.

Lt Gen Mike McGinty entered the Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the University of Minnesota Reserve Officer Training Corps program. In his early days as an Air Force pilot, Lt Gen McGinty flew the F-4 and logged over 115 combat missions in Southeast Asia, including 100 missions over North Vietnam.

As his Air Force career progressed, Lt Gen McGinty gained vast experience both as a pilot and as a personnel expert. He earned the rating of Command Pilot with more than 3,500 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, including the F-4, A-10, C-21 and T-39. He also invested 19 years of his career working a broad range of Air Force personnel issues.

In March 1988, Mike McGinty assumed command of the 10th Tactical Fighter Wing at the Royal Air Force Station in Alconbury, England. During a time of great change in world affairs, Lt Gen McGinty worked diligently to maintain and solidify local host nation relations while simultaneously enhancing quality of life support for service members assigned to his command. As a result of Lt Gen McGinty's vision and dedication to his troops he established Alconbury's first-ever Family Support Center.

As commander of the Air Force Military Personnel Center, and more recently as the Air Force's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Lt Gen McGinty led the Air Force through a period of great challenge and change. During his tenure, Mike moved Air Force personnel systems into the "electronic era." He expertly managed significant drawdowns of both military and civilian personnel while simultaneously meeting the expanded personnel requirements resulting from increased deployments. A constant advocate for Air Force people, he led the way in working difficult issues in the rated force management, recruiting, retention, and transition assistance arenas. Lt Gen McGinty worked to meet changing Air Force needs by expanding the role of Department of the Air Force civilians in Air Force personnel management. He increased career broadening opportunities for Air Force civilians through developmental positions at the Air Staff, the Air Force Personnel Center, and major command headquarters. He established the first-ever Air Force Civilian Executive Matters Office, introducing policies and operations that ensure training and development of senior civilians that parallels their military counterparts. His efforts in this arena clearly enhance force stability.

Most importantly, Lt Gen McGinty's career has been based on his unfaltering support of Air Force people. His philosophy has been that "the strength of the Air Force lies in its members." He remains a strong advocate for ongoing quality of life initiatives, enhanced family support services, career mentoring, and leadership by example.

I have personally known Mike McGinty for several years as both a colleague and a friend. We have worked together to improve our nation's Air Force by addressing the critical people issues we face: retaining our key qualified and experienced Air Force professionals, improving the quality of life for our families, enhancing our recruiting efforts, and placing our pay and benefits programs where they should be to take care of those who guard and defend our nation. Mike has led the way in this effort, a performance characteristic of his entire career. The men and women of the Air Force, as well as our entire nation, owe him a debt of gratitude. I recall his candor and wisdom during testimony as a shining ex-

ample of how well our military leaders represent the best interests of our men and women in uniform.

Also a dedicated family man, Mike and his wife, Karen, are the proud parents of a daughter, Shannon, and a son, Tim. In addition to flying, their interests include bird watching and photography.

During his distinguished career, the general has earned some of our nation's highest honors: the Distinguished Service Medal twice, the Legion of Merit twice, the Distinguished Flying Cross with device, the Meritorious Service Medal four times, and the Air Medal ten times, along with the Air Force Commendation Medal and numerous campaign and service medals.

Lt Gen Mike McGinty's vision, leadership and dedication will have a lasting positive impact on the Air Force and the nation. As he embarks upon his retirement, I wish him continued success in all that he and Karen pursue. Those of us in Congress, and the men and women of our Air Force, will greatly miss him.●

REMOVING HOLD ON H.R. 2610, A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as you know, I believe that the Senate custom of placing holds on legislation should be practiced in public. In that spirit, I rise today to remove the hold I placed on H.R. 2610, a bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I do not object to Senate consideration of this legislation.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH UNITED WAY TORCH DRIVE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a remarkable example of community commitment taking place in my home state of Michigan this fall, the United Way Torch Drive. This year will mark the 50th United Way Torch Drive in metropolitan Detroit.

The Torch Drive was officially kicked off in 1949 by General Mark Clark with a goal of raising \$8,550,000. Many people doubted that this goal could be reached. During that period of time, similar fundraising campaigns in other cities were falling short of their goals. However, the people of the Detroit area proved the skeptics wrong, contributing almost \$9.3 million to the Torch Drive in three weeks. The metropolitan Detroit Torch Drive was the first such drive in the country, and its success has been a model for cities throughout the country.

The Detroit Torch Drive has been helped by local and nationally recognized Americans from every walk of life. Business leaders like Max Fisher and Lee Iacocca have lent their time and talents to the Drive. Entertainers like Jackie Gleason, Audrey Hepburn and the Supremes have donated time as