

was a defender of human rights, a journalist, a teacher, and a hero.

As many fled Cambodia during the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge in 1975, Mr. Dith sent his wife and children to safety abroad but stayed behind with investigative journalist Sydney H. Schanberg to help ensure that news of the events there reached the outside world. He believed his country and people could only be saved from the Khmer Rouge if individuals in other countries understood the tragedy gathering in his homeland.

Amidst the crisis spreading throughout Southeast Asia in the years following the Vietnam war—a crisis my father, Charles Whitehouse, also saw firsthand through his work as U.S. Ambassador to Laos and Thailand in the 1970s—Dith Pran was a witness to, and a fierce critic of, the greatest atrocities men have inflicted upon their fellow men.

Against all odds, Mr. Dith survived the Cambodian genocide in which 2 million Cambodians, one-third of the population, were killed. Most of his extended family were also killed. He suffered through 4 years of hard labor, living on just one teaspoon of rice a day and whatever animals and insects he could find. Mr. Dith finally escaped from a commune and travelled 40 miles to the Thai border through what he coined “the killing fields,” past the bodies of those killed by the Khmer Rouge, before reaching safety.

After reaching the United States, Mr. Dith became a photojournalist for the New York Times. He founded the Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project to educate individuals around the world of the horrors he survived in order to prevent future genocides. He was appointed a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1985.

For his efforts to educate the world, Mr. Dith was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1998. He also received the Award of Excellence from the International Center in New York.

Dith Pran said: “Part of my life is saving life. I don’t consider myself a politician or a hero. I’m a messenger. If Cambodia is to survive, she needs many voices.” Dith Pran has been a powerful and compelling voice for his countrymen and the land he loved. His willingness to share his story brought light to dark places and hope to millions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THURMAN ADAMS, JR.

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Honorable Thurman G. Adams, Jr., Delaware’s longest serving State Senator.

Senator Adams was first elected to Delaware’s 19th senatorial district in Sussex County in 1972. He served as senate majority leader from 1999 to 2003, when he was elected President Pro

Tempore of the senate by his colleagues.

When I was Governor of Delaware, I worked closely with Thurman on many issues. He serves as chairman of the Senate Executive Committee, which considers gubernatorial and judicial appointments. Thurman has a keen understanding of the important role Delaware plays as a worldwide corporate center and has been a consistent champion of Delaware’s judiciary. Thurman has also been a strong advocate of public safety issues, sponsoring legislation to establish Delaware’s “Enhanced 911” emergency telephone system. As owner and president of his own feed and grain agribusiness, T.G. Adams, and Son, Inc., Thurman has worked for the interests of Delaware’s farming and business communities. He is a leader in such issues as highway and local roadway improvements, education accountability, and the growth of Delaware Technical and Community College’s Owens Campus in Georgetown.

Thurman has a long history of civic and community service. Prior to being elected to public office, he served as chairman of the Governor’s Highway Safety Committee and a member of the Delaware State Highway Commission. Active in his community, he has held such positions as director of Milford Memorial Hospital and the Medical Center of Delaware, director of the Baltimore Trust Company for 27 years, president of Harrington Raceway, chairman of the Union United Methodist Church Administrative Board, and president of the Eastern Shore Grain Dealers Association.

The recipient of awards too numerous to list, Thurman was most recently awarded the Liberty Bell Award, presented by the Delaware State Bar Association in recognition of significant contributions to the community by a nonattorney, and the Silver Good Citizenship Award of the Delaware Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He also received the University of Delaware’s Medal of Fame Distinction and the “Wall of Fame” Award.

As his record shows, Senator Adams has a strong commitment to the State of Delaware. Born and raised in Bridgeville, he attended Bridgeville High and later graduated from the University of Delaware. He returned to Bridgeville where he built a successful business and raised his family. Thurman was a devoted husband to his wife Hilda, to whom he was married to for nearly 50 years. Senator and Mrs. Adams raised three wonderful children whom any parent would be proud to call their own. No stranger to tragedy, Thurman lost his beloved wife to cancer in 2002 several years after the death of their son Brent. Despite these heartbreaks, Senator Adams remains devoted to his children, seven grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

I have known Thurman Adams for many years. On a personal note, I remember fondly stopping by their sum-

mer home for lunch following the annual Fourth of July parade in Bethany Beach and enjoying immensely food and fellowship with him and his family. I can also attest to his expert egg-tossing skill, having been at the receiving end of his smoothly delivered toss at the Delaware State Fair Governor’s Day celebration. We have enjoyed many times together both personally and professionally, and we have shared times of deep sorrow, as well.

I am proud to congratulate my long-time friend and colleague on reaching this impressive milestone. The people of Delaware, and especially residents of the 19th District, are certainly well-served and fortunate to have been represented by such a man as Thurman Adams. Delaware is a far better place in which to live and work because of his stewardship and his leadership. •

HONORING ALBERT W. BELL

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I honor Albert Bell, who is retiring from the Durango Police Department following a lifelong career in law enforcement.

Since moving to Colorado from Kansas nearly 27 years ago, Al has dedicated himself and his talents to protecting the communities of southwest Colorado—first as a sergeant and then as Undersheriff for the La Plata County Sheriff’s Department, and, for the past 14 years, as chief of police for the Durango Police Department. He also served with me on the Police Officers Standards and Training Board and the Anti-Bullying in Schools Task Force during my tenure as attorney general of Colorado.

I am honored and privileged to have worked with Al personally over the years, both as attorney general and now as a U.S. Senator. Throughout his career and our work together, Al has demonstrated strong leadership, integrity, and an unyielding commitment to public safety. These attributes have made him one of the most well-regarded law enforcement officials in our State.

Al’s contributions to southwest Colorado extend beyond law enforcement. He currently serves as president of the Southwest Colorado Mental Health Board of Directors, and is a member of both the La Plata Health Care Project Steering Committee and the Regional Juvenile Center Task Force. Al’s involvement in these and other community organizations speaks to his generosity, selflessness, and his love for the southwest Colorado community.

In short, southwest Colorado has benefitted tremendously because Al Bell chose a path of public service. He has set an example for all Americans to live by. While I am sorry to see him go, I know that he has very much earned a healthy and happy retirement.

On behalf of the people of Colorado, I thank Al for his service, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. •