

and public servant, and my personal friend, Ed Lane. After battling cancer for more than 2 years, Ed passed away on August 2. He was 73 years old.

Ed was passionate about supporting his hometown of Lexington and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He was well connected to the State's business community through his work as a commercial real estate broker. Seeing a need for a publication for and about Kentucky business, he founded and was the publisher of the Lane Report, a great business news magazine for Kentucky.

Encouraged by his friends in the community to seek public office, Ed also represented the 12th District of Lexington on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Council since 2005. He was reelected without opposition in 2014. As a council member, he brought his business experience and his wisdom to fight for and represent Lexington businesses and his district.

In addition to his public service as a council member, Ed supported his community through many philanthropic efforts and volunteer service. He served on the boards of many community, arts and civic organizations, including the Breeders' Cup Host Committee, the UK Sanders-Brown Center of Aging Foundation Board, the Lexington Downtown Development Authority Board, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Airport Board, the Kentucky Arts Council, the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games Advisory Committee, LexArts, the Lexington Ballet, the Lexington Philharmonic, the Better Business Bureau of Lexington, Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass, the Mayor's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Committee, the Fayette County Equine Task Force, the Commerce Lexington Agribusiness Committee, and others.

Ed was an artist, photographer, and art collector. He loved cooking, reading, gardening, and talking politics. He also loved fast cars, earning him the nickname "Fast Eddie" in the 1960s. Ed is survived by his daughters Susan Brett Lane and Katherine Meredith Lane.

I was deeply saddened to hear of Ed's passing. He was a good friend, and I always enjoyed reading the Lane Report, especially Ed's engaging One-on-One interviews. Elaine and I send our condolences to his family.

The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article detailing Ed's life and achievements. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Aug. 3, 2015]

LEXINGTON COUNCIL MEMBER, BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER ED LANE DIES AT 73

(By Greg Kocher and Karla Ward)

Lexington Urban County Councilman Edwin "Ed" Green Lane III, founder and publisher of The Lane Report magazine, died Sunday night. He was 73.

Lane, a longtime commercial real-estate broker, had battled cancer for more than two years, according to a statement Monday afternoon from The Lane Report, an online and monthly print magazine of business news.

He made his first run for public office in 2004, when he was elected to represent the 12th District on the council. He took office in 2005 and had been re-elected to two-year terms ever since.

Lane is survived by daughters Susan Brett Lane and Katherine Meredith Lane, who were with him when he died, according to The Lane Report.

"The staff is saddened by the passing of an amazing man, but it is lessened by how we marvel at the legacy Ed Lane leaves," said Mark Green, editorial director of Lane Communications Group.

"His energy, his intelligence, his enthusiasm, his optimism and concern for his family, community and the nation will be missed but will continue to influence us. He was a true leader. The man had enthusiasm for life."

Mayor Jim Gray issued a statement: "Not only was Ed highly successful in his own business, he was an outstanding public servant who brought his business experience and expertise to City Hall to fight for Lexington's business men and women. He also was a strong advocate for his district. Our city will miss his leadership and experience."

Sen. Mitch McConnell said he "was saddened to hear of the passing of my good friend Ed Lane. Ed was a dedicated public servant and a tireless advocate for the people of Kentucky. He was also a successful businessman and publisher. I always enjoyed reading the Lane Report, a great publication for and about Kentucky's business community, especially Ed's engaging 'One-on-One' interviews."

Councilman Bill Farmer Jr. said Lane's knowledge about real estate proved valuable whenever the council considered whether to buy property.

"He could make or break any land deal," Farmer said. "He could sit and go through the numbers at the microphone, off the top of his head, about what the overhead would be, how much something would cost, what the cost would be per square foot. . . . He could look at any deal like that and criticize it or laud it, and immediately you would go, 'Yep, that's it and why.'"

That talent for finances made Lane a strong member of the council, former Mayor Jim Newberry said.

"His financial acumen was way above average," Newberry said. "He was really helpful when it came to budget issues or the pension problems, or whether or not we ought to refinance bonds."

He said Lane also was "a fun person to be around" and they became good friends.

"Ed just had a personality that I would characterize as delightful," Newberry said. He "had a good sense of humor, didn't get too worked up about things, certainly didn't take himself or what he was doing too seriously. . . . He gave a lot to the community and had so much more to give."

Lane was born in Nashville and graduated from the University of Georgia.

After college, he worked for a major advertising agency in New York for a couple of years, according to The Lane Report website. He later moved to Atlanta, where he was sales manager for WRNG radio and was president of the Atlanta Young Republicans.

He also got into the commercial real-estate business, which led to a job as national director of real estate for Lexington-based Jerrico in its Atlanta regional office, The Lane Report said. Lane came to Lexington

regularly as he scouted new locations for the company, and he was involved in many site acquisitions for Long John Silver's Seafood Shoppes nationwide.

In 1981, Lane started the Lexington-based commercial real-estate brokerage Lane Consultants and, later, Lane Communications Group, publisher of The Lane Report.

Running a magazine is "a risk that very few people have been able to be successful in," but Lane "did it terrifically well," said Jim Host, founder of Host Communications and former Kentucky secretary of commerce.

"It ended up kind of being the official business magazine of the state," he said.

Host said Lane was kind, insightful and had a non-threatening demeanor during interviews "but also really got to the core of what he was trying to communicate."

"I admired the dickens out of him," Host said.

Former councilman Doug Martin said he and Lane were from opposite ends of the political spectrum, but they enjoyed breaking bread together in a restaurant or at Lane's home.

"He was a fine chef," said Martin, who sat next to Lane in the council chambers from 2009 to 2013. "He was always very proud of coming up with some great concoction or some great recipe or some great ingredient that he'd found. He would have pots of herbs and fish and seasonings, and it would all just kind of stew together, and it would end up in this fabulous presentation."

Services will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 15 at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home on Harrodsburg Road. Visitation will begin at 6 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO JIM RUTLEDGE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and congratulate a distinguished Kentuckian who is closely associated with the Commonwealth's most famous product. Jim Rutledge, the master distiller of Four Roses Bourbon, has announced his retirement from that position effective September 1, 2015.

Jim is in his 49th year working in the bourbon business, and has been the master distiller at Four Roses since 1995. As master distiller, Jim is in charge of perfecting each Four Roses bottle. He oversees every stage of the distillation process and oversees the character, quality and consistency of each barrel.

Jim began his career in the distilled spirits industry with Seagram's Louisville Research & Development operation in 1966. He was transferred to the Four Roses distillery in Lawrenceburg, as the Kentucky area manager, in 1994 and then named master distiller in 1995. In 1998, Jim received Seagram's top award, the Mel Griffin Quality Award for North America, and in 2001, Jim was inducted into the inaugural class of the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame.

In 2007, Jim received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Malt Advocate Magazine, and in 2008, the leading liquor industry publication, Whisky Magazine, named him the Ambassador of the Year for American Whiskies as part of their annual Icons of Whisky Awards. Jim was also inducted into Whisky Magazine's Hall of Fame in

2013. He was only the second American inducted into this elite group.

Jim was also active with the Kentucky Distillers Association board of directors for 13 years, and served as chairman of the internationally attended Kentucky Bourbon Festival for 7 of the 9 years he was on the board. The Kentucky Bourbon Festival is a 6-day event that takes place in Bardstown, KY.

Jim graduated from the University of Louisville with a BSC in marketing and a minor in chemistry. Let me add that not only did Jim and I both attend the University of Louisville, we are also fraternity brothers.

In retirement, Jim hopes to stay involved with bourbon and the distilled spirits industry. I suspect he will also get to spend more time with his wife Beverly Anne, as well as his children Dennis, Deborah, Cynthia, and Doralee, and his grandchildren.

Jim will be missed as the face of Four Roses Bourbon but I know the entire distilled spirits industry in Kentucky joins me in recognizing his lifetime of accomplishment and wishing him the best in retirement. I want to wish congratulations again to Jim Rutledge for his many successes in the world of bourbon.

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE BLAKENEY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian who is bringing home Olympic gold. Danielle Blakeney of Erlanger is a rhythmic gymnast who has won three gold medals at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

Danielle won the gold medal in the ball routine competition. She also won gold in all-around rhythmic gymnastics, and was part of the gold medal-winning team in the group ball competition.

Danielle also won a silver medal in the ribbon competition, a bronze medal in the clubs competition, and placed fifth in the hoop competition.

Danielle is 24 years old and a graduate of Boone County High School. She is one of six Kentucky athletes competing in this year's Special Olympics, among 7,000 athletes representing 177 countries.

Danielle is no stranger to winning medals. She is competing in her second Special Olympics World Games. In addition to winning the all-around gold medal in rhythmic gymnastics at the 2011 Games in Athens, Greece, she won two golds, a silver and a bronze in individual events at that games as well.

The mission of the Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them the opportunity to see the power of sport change lives. The first Special Olympics Games was held in 1968 in Chicago, and saw a thousand people with intellectual disabilities from 26 States and Canada participate.

Today, Danielle Blakeney and her fellow athletes are the inheritors of that legacy. I want to congratulate Danielle for her many athletic achievements. She truly makes Kentucky proud and we are pleased she will be bringing her medals home to the Bluegrass State.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the respective anniversaries of three of the most important programs for American seniors: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. Among other things, this bill created the Social Security Program and made a promise to all Americans: that if you work hard, contribute, and play by the rules, you can retire and live in dignity.

Before Social Security, more than 50 percent of older Americans in this country lived in poverty. Many of these seniors worked hard their entire lives but became dependent on others and often had to beg for basic necessities, such as food, shelter, and medical care. "Poverty-ridden old age" was a pressing national concern both for seniors and younger Americans, who wondered if their years of hard work would provide enough for them to survive in their old age.

Today, less than 9 percent of seniors live in poverty. This significant decrease in poverty among seniors is a direct result of Social Security and the secure retirement it provides.

As we approach the program's 80th anniversary, Social Security is the most successful program in American history, and its trust fund contains sufficient assets to fully fund all promised benefits for almost 20 years. Yet, notwithstanding its success, Social Security remains deeply controversial among many Republicans and super-wealthy Americans, who are committed to weakening and ultimately destroying the program.

Just 10 years ago, President George W. Bush tried to privatize Social Security, which would have forced deep cuts to guaranteed benefits and a massive increase in debt. More recently, several leading Republicans have called for delaying the retirement age and cutting benefits. I have strongly opposed all these proposals to break our promises to seniors, and I will continue to do so.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson expanded our Nation's commitment to seniors by signing into law the Social Security Amendments of 1965—the legislation that created Medicare. For 50 years, this program has helped millions of American seniors live longer, healthier lives and has also provided them with the peace-of-mind and economic security that comes with having comprehensive health coverage.

I remember what it was like for seniors who became sick or injured before

Medicare was enacted. In fact, Medicare was implemented during my tenure on the board of trustees for the Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, now the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. Prior to Medicare, 40 percent of seniors who came into that hospital were required to have a signature from a friend or relative who agreed to be responsible for their medical bill if they could not pay. If the patient could not produce a signature, they were turned away. Nationwide, nearly half of all seniors age 65 and older were uninsured, and if you were fortunate enough to have health insurance, you paid more than 50 percent of the cost out-of-pocket. That is how bad it was for seniors. Today, 98 percent of all seniors are insured and can go to the hospital or see their doctor when they need care. This program has truly been a lifeline for millions of seniors throughout the country.

And let us not forget about Medicaid, which was also created under the Social Security Amendments of 1965. Medicaid provides health care and long-term services to 16 million low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities. Medicaid pays for services that Medicare does not cover. It ensures that low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities have access to a wide variety of services. These options often allow them to remain in their communities rather than relocating to nursing homes.

I have long worked to protect and strengthen Medicare and Medicaid for the millions of seniors and younger Americans who depend on these benefits. In 2010, I proudly cast my vote in support of the Affordable Care Act, which is strengthening Medicare and working to keep seniors' hard-earned savings in their own pockets. Since this law was enacted, millions of seniors throughout the country have saved more than \$15 billion dollars on their prescription drug costs and the program's solvency has been extended for 13 years. The Affordable Care Act has also given States the option of expanding their Medicaid Programs so that more low-income Americans can access the care they need.

Sadly, Republicans have repeatedly attacked and tried to eliminate Medicare and Medicaid, just as they have done with Social Security. Throughout the last 50 years, they have tried to privatize Medicare, convert Medicaid into a block grant program, and cut benefits for both programs. Now, they have set their sights on the Affordable Care Act, with repeated challenges to the law before the courts, more than 50 votes to repeal or undermine the law, and Republican Governors turning back millions of Federal dollars to expand their Medicaid Programs and expand access to health care in their States. Republicans are determined to destroy effective health care programs in spite of all the good they have done, but my Democratic colleagues and I will continue to work to prevent this from happening.