

helping the U.S. achieve an important strategic victory in the Pacific.

Finally, in March of 1945, Tom arrived in Okinawa as a hardened soldier and expert marksman.

Here, Tom aided in the capture of pivotal Japanese territory, before contracting a mosquito-borne illness.

Tom was transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington, in September of 1945, spending a total of seven months in the hospital.

Tom was honorably discharged from the Army on February 18, 1946.

He eventually settled in Lewistown, Montana, where he joined the police force and spent the last seven years of his 22-year career as Chief of Police.

After retiring from the force at the age of 55, Tom went on to become a jeweler—in both Lewistown and then Billings—for the next 14 years.

He married his wife, Georgia, just a few years ago at the age of 90. And he is the proud father of five children and a multitude of grandchildren.

I now have the profound honor of presenting Tom with his own set of military honors.

For his bravery in line of duty, Thomas Huff received the Marksman Badge with Carbine Bar, Expert Badge with Rifle Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Arrowhead, Good Conduct Medal, and Bronze Star Medal.

Tom, these medals serve as a small token of our country's appreciation for your incredible service and profound sacrifice.

You are a true American hero. Thank you so much for your service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL E. KUNZ

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mr. Michael E. Kunz for his 54 years of extraordinary service as Clerk of Court for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1962, Mr. Kunz was appointed as a deputy clerk following his graduation from Father Judge High School in Philadelphia and went on to receive both his bachelor of science degree and his master of business administration degree from St. Joseph's University. Throughout his career, Mr. Kunz showed an unparalleled enthusiasm for innovation and a profound dedication to ensuring the accessibility of our justice system for all Americans. I would like to take this time to reflect on his service and on the example he set for those who seek to serve their country.

As one of the longest serving Federal court clerks in history, Mr. Kunz represents the growth of the court administrative infrastructure and the importance of the clerk's office in the operations of the court. Mr. Kunz spent much of his career overseeing the expansion of the Eastern District's facilities in Allentown, Easton, Philadelphia, and Reading to accommodate a larger Federal caseload and increased numbers of article III judges, magistrate judges, and court employees. He introduced innovations that allowed the court to do its work more efficiently and transparently than ever before. He helped to pioneer 17 out of the 26 nationally supported automation

systems in the Federal judiciary, as well as advances in electronic case filing, docketing of cases, and fiscal management. Mr. Kunz supervised the introduction of the electronic courtroom; at present, 22 courtrooms in the Eastern District have full electronic capabilities. To ensure accuracy of court records, he implemented digital audio recording systems in all courtrooms in the Eastern District. Such systems allow litigants and members of the public who may not be able to order an expensive transcript or travel to a courthouse to access judicial information in an affordable, timely manner.

Mr. Kunz demonstrated his commitment to improving the courts and preserving their memories by serving on a number of national committees and advisory boards. In 1989, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed him to the Advisory Committee to the Board of the Federal Judicial Center concerning the development of programs relating to the history of the judicial branch. Mr. Kunz served on committees overseeing court statistics, the development of automatic case management systems, changes to the decentralization of the budget and to the Judicial Salary Plan, and is a founding member of the Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1994, he received the Director's Award from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, just one of many commendations he received throughout his career.

For over 50 years Mr. Kunz has stood for equality and efficiency in the justice system and embodied the selfless character of a true public servant. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Mr. Michael E. Kunz for his decades of service and wish him the best for his retirement in the years ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANICE MITCHELL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of my staff member Janice Rankin Mitchell of Madison, MS, on the occasion of her retirement following a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Senate as a constituent service representative.

Janice joined the staff of U.S. Senator John C. Stennis on January 15, 1978. She joined my staff in January 1985 following Senator Stennis's retirement.

Janice's tenure as a Senate employee has been historic. Janice Mitchell is one of the longest serving staff members in Senate history and the only African-American woman to have worked for two Senators from Mississippi.

Janice has been a steady and effective presence in my Jackson, MS, field office, where she has directly served Mississippians in need of help with Medicare, Medicaid, and the Social Security Administration.

Janice is compassionate, caring, and proficient. She has exceeded her duty

to help Mississippians navigate Federal programs and receive the benefits to which they are entitled. During her tenure in the Senate, Janice has managed nearly 5,000 constituent cases, more than 3,000 of which have been resolved favorably.

One constituent, Mr. Buddy Cooper of Florence, MS, wrote to me about Janice's work on his behalf. He described her as "the person who reached out her hand and led us from darkness to light . . . who went from being a friend to part of the family."

Beyond her service to the Senate, Janice's involvement in her community and church reflect her commitment to serve others. Janice is a faithful and devoted member of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. She has served in many ministries there, including the choir and the Sunday school, where she is currently in charge of all classes for teenagers.

Janice and her husband of 37 years, Johnny Mitchell, have two children, Jonathan and Jasmine, and a granddaughter, Ja'Lena, by Jonathan, and his wife, Santana. Janice's parents, the late Reverend and Mrs. Nelvis Rankin, Sr., would be proud of their "baby daughter."

Retirement will be the end of Janice's 38-year career with the Senate but will mark the beginning of many new opportunities for her and her family. Janice looks forward to travelling and spending time with her family in her favorite role as "Granny."

From myself and all of those who have worked with Janice, we say thank you for your years of service to Mississippi and the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL AUGUSTUS L. COLLINS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute today to MG Augustus L. Collins, the adjutant general of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. General Collins is retiring after a remarkable legacy of nearly 40 years of military service.

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant appointed General Collins as adjutant general in 2012, and the readiness of Mississippi's 12,275 citizen soldiers and airmen has thrived under General Collins's strong leadership. The excellent organizational and command skills exercised by General Collins have ensured that Mississippi's National Guard forces are equipped and trained to accomplish any mission, whether responding to natural disasters at home or deployed to combat zones overseas.

General Collins enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard in March 1977. Following his enlistment, he completed State officer candidate school and was commissioned in July of 1980. As a commissioned officer, General Collins advanced quickly up the ranks