

death for millions of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Acting Chairman would be well advised to remember that.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANN KALAYIL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to acknowledge Ann Kalayil. Earlier this year, after 6 years, Ann stepped down as Regional Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration's—GSA—Great Lakes Region. Ann Kalayil is a trailblazer. She is the first woman—and first Asian American—to serve as GSA Administrator of the six-State Great Lakes Region. I am honored to congratulate her on a job well done.

Headquartered in Chicago, IL, the GSA is the Federal Government's real estate and procurement manager. As Regional Administrator, Ann Kalayil was responsible for 128 Federal buildings, 986 leased locations, 11 U.S. land ports, nearly 1,000 employees, and about \$150 million in contracts to small and economically disadvantaged businesses. To say Ann Kalayil had a big job is an understatement, but it will come as no surprise to the people who know her that she met the challenge head-on and thrived in the role.

Her story is the story of the American dream. Born in Chicago, Ann was the daughter of Indian immigrants. When she was 5 years old, her parents moved back to Kerala, India. It was the first time Ann met her siblings, Tom, Sales, and Lisa. They were ecstatic to meet their baby sister but spoke very little English and struggled to communicate with each other. So what did Ann do? She took it upon herself to learn Malayalam, a South Indian language native to Kerala, India. Malayalam is an extremely complicated language, but Ann picked it up immediately, and people never guessed it wasn't her first language. This is how Ann would handle situations throughout her career. She never feared going out of her way to learn the needs of the community or group, even if it meant she would do most of the work. All that matters to Ann Kalayil is getting results.

People who know Ann best describe her as fierce, outspoken, and compassionate—just like her late father, Philip Kalayil. Her dad taught her the importance of these shared values and public service. Philip Kalayil was a Chicagoland legend. He was leader in the Indian American community, starting organizations to help people stay in touch with their culture and religion. Later, he would start the Indo-American Democratic Organization, empowering people to register to vote and make their voices heard. Ann would later serve as its president. In 2008, Philip was recognized by the Association for Asian American Studies with its Heart of Asian America Community Award, a well-deserved honor.

You could say public service was in Ann's blood, and although Philip is no

longer with us, I know he would feel the same way. What a proud moment it must have been for him, watching his youngest daughter being sworn in to a top Federal job—appointed by the President of the United States—while holding the family Bible.

Growing up as Philip Kalayil's daughter, Ann had a front row seat in how to be a leader in the community and has waged countless successful campaigns, issues ranging from education policy, campaign finance reform, immigration reform, and documenting Asian American history. During the 2008 Presidential campaign, Ann cochaired Obama's Asian American and Pacific Islander Leadership Council and was among a select few who was in a reserved area near the stage in Grant Park when Obama greeted a crowd of nearly 200,000 to celebrate the historic election. For all she takes on, her brother Tom only recalls seeing Ann nervous once, and it was when she was asked to throw the first pitch at a Chicago White Sox game following her appointment at the GSA.

Prior to her appointment at the GSA, Ann worked for more than 12 years at the University of Chicago in Information Technology Services in Emerging Technologies and Communications and as director of Client Services and Support. Like her father, she was also a teacher. Ann taught interdisciplinary courses on Asian Americans at DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Ann also holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a bachelor's degree in computer science from Northeastern Illinois University, a master's degree in Asian studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

I want to congratulate Ann Kalayil on her wonderful career and her outstanding service to our community and the country. I wish her all the best.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO UTAH'S SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINEES

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, one of the great privileges of representing my fellow Utahns in the U.S. Senate is the annual opportunity to meet the exceptional young men and women from the great State of Utah who have answered the call of service by applying to the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Under title 10 of the U.S. Code, each year, Members of Congress are authorized to nominate a number of young men and women from their district or State to attend the country's service academies. It is my distinct honor to recognize 10 of these exemplary Utahns this year.

Each of these 10 students is of sound mind and body. This will serve them well in Colorado Springs, West Point, Annapolis, and Kings Point—but to succeed they will need more than this.

The journey on which these young men and women will soon embark requires more than mental and physical aptitude. It also demands strong moral character—leadership, courage, honesty, prudence, and self-discipline. It calls for a commitment to service and love of country.

Today I would like to recognize and congratulate each of these impressive students, all of whom embody, in their own unique way, the standards of excellence on which America's service academies are built.

Jacob Lee Angeletti will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. Jacob will be graduating from Bingham High School, where he was the captain of the soccer team. He also captained his championship club soccer team, was named to the Utah Olympic Development Soccer Team, and encouraged young athletes as a coach in the local soccer league. A leader among his peers, Jacob participated in the Boy Scouts and also served as a president in his church's youth organization.

Emilyanne Rose Baker, from Wasatch High School, accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after visiting multiple service academies. Active in both her school and community, Emilyanne served as president of the Japanese Club, a group leader for Youthline, and a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was the scholar-athlete on the swim team.

Cody William Brophy will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy after graduating from Corner Canyon High School. Throughout high school, Cody prepared himself to attend an academy by preparing academically, physically, and by seeking leadership opportunities.

He ran cross county and track, played competitive soccer, was a member of the National Honor Society, and participated in the Civil Air Patrol. Cody also attended Boys State and served as president of the peer leadership team council.

Andrew Jesse Dansie has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. An Eagle Scout and active member of JROTC, Andrew will soon graduate from Snow Canyon High School. Using his skills as captain of the swim team, he served others as coach of a special needs swim team. Andrew was selected as one of five students to represent his school with the district leadership academy, where he sharpened his leadership skills through service opportunities.

Hunter Mansfield Holt, from Desert Hills High School, will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In addition to being an Eagle Scout and member of the National Honor Society, Hunter also attended Boys State.