

of all ranks in the art of “operational” level warfare. Long after the senior mentor ranks thinned, due to intense scrutiny and significant pay cuts, Lieutenant General Short stuck with the program because it was his passion.

Lieutenant General Short touched many lives as evidenced by comments written about him by those who knew and served with him:

“He was a father, a husband, a grandfather and what made it all work was his complete devotion to those he loved and commanded. It was an honor to serve alongside him.”

“High standards, demanding, but fair. You knew where the bar was and he challenged you to exceed it. He pushed me to limits I did not know I could reach.”

“He was a no-nonsense leader who let his Commanders command. He was also a hands-on mentor who touched thousands; admired by all and will be greatly missed.”

“A superb officer, great warrior and outstanding teacher.”

“A great leader . . . as the Air Boss for Operation Allied Force he provided clear guidance and support for me and the men and women in my deployed Wing . . . I consider it a high honor to have served under him in combat!”

“He really was the kind of leader that made you want to work for the organization and its goals. His name always comes up when we talk about the good men in those days.”

“General Mike Short was a great leader and Patriot. He was a mentor and more importantly a friend. Mike loved his Family and his Country . . . he will be missed.”

“He did a superb job in a very tough situation. With leadership and top cover like that, the U.S. Air Force is unstoppable.”

“I will miss your words as they were always on target and well understood. Rolling a nickel on the grass in your remembrance, sir.”

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Lt. Gen. Mike Short for his selfless service to this Nation, to his wife, Jini, and to his children, Chris and Jenn, and their families, for a lifetime of service to this Nation. Words cannot describe the extraordinary character of Lieutenant General Short, his accomplishments, or the lasting impact he will have on generations of service members. His personal accomplishments live on through the examples set by his son and daughter, two highly capable and highly respected Air Force senior officers. My prayers are with his family, and I pray the “Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly.”

#### TRIBUTE TO ALBERT RATNER

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 90th birthday of Albert Ratner on December 26, 2017. Albert has lived a life of faith and service. Whether as a loving father, life-long philanthropist, or a successful businessman at Forest City Realty Trust, Albert has worked tirelessly for his community.

Over his career, Albert has shown a particular passion for giving back to the Jewish community, improving our schools, and supporting innovation at the community level.

In Denver, Albert led the charge to transform the Stapleton Airport into a thriving community center with high-quality, affordable housing, green spaces, and new schools. Among those schools is Denver’s Science and Technology High School, which has attracted many brilliant students over the last 13 years. Albert’s work to revitalize downtown areas across the country have earned him numerous awards, including the National Building Museum Honor Award, the Urban Land Institute’s J. C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development, and the Michigan State University’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Albert is the proud father of Deborah and Brian, who follow his lifelong values of service, community, and faith. He is also a loving husband to Audrey, his wife of 36 years, and before that, to his first wife, Faye, who tragically died in an automobile accident. On Albert’s 90th birthday, we celebrate his accomplished life, one defined by good humor, compassion, family, and faith.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the upcoming 90th birthday of Albert Ratner on December 26. Albert has led a distinguished life that has touched and benefited countless people in Ohio and around the world.

I consider Albert a dear friend and a wise adviser, and Jane and I have enjoyed the friendship of him and his wife, Audrey, over the years. Whether it is a discussion over dinner or catching up during a Cavs game, we treasure our time with Albert and Audrey.

Albert grew up in Cleveland during the Great Depression, where his family, who were immigrants from Poland, turned a small company into a thriving business through hard work and dedication. Well known for his civic involvement in Cleveland and as a leader in the Jewish community, Albert is a life trustee of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation and a member of the International Council of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The Ratner family was instrumental in establishing the Cleveland Jewish Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society in 1976.

Albert is currently engaged in a series of poverty-related initiatives in his hometown of Cleveland and throughout the State in partnership with the Governor and local leaders. Beyond his influence in Ohio, he has helped those in need across the country by supporting innovative educational initiatives that have given promising youth access to an education that has opened doors for each of them.

Albert is a loving husband and father. He has been married to Audrey for 36 years. His first wife, Faye, who he met in high school, was tragically killed in an automobile accident, after which he continued raising his daughter

Deborah and son Brian to follow in his footsteps as fully engaged members of their community. He has lived a life of kindness, cheerfulness, and compassion for all of our fellow citizens.

Albert’s life has been guided by a love for his Jewish traditions. He often talks about the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam, to repair the world, and how even when the obligation seems too great, we must not desist from it. That is how he lives. He is truly a great American.

Happy birthday to Albert Ratner.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HYDRAULIC INSTITUTE

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Hydraulic Institute and pay tribute to the exceptional role that pump manufacturers have played in improving the delivery of water to American homes, American industry, and American agriculture over the past century. Today pump systems touch the lives of every American, and the Hydraulic Institute plays a central role in developing the policies and standards needed for safe, reliable, and efficient pump operations.

On April 18, 1917, the Nation’s leading pump manufacturers met in the La Salle Hotel in Chicago for the purpose of forming a trade association that would “promote friendship and cooperation among manufacturers in improving overall pump performance.” Since this auspicious gathering of pump manufacturers, government agencies have relied on the Hydraulic Institute to provide the technical expertise required to set pump standards that reflect the evolving priorities of society.

In recent years, energy efficiency has emerged as a national priority, and the Hydraulic Institute has worked closely with the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the efficiency of pumping systems. These systems now account for over 20 percent of domestic electrical energy use and the standards, laboratory testing, and labeling advanced by the Hydraulic Institute will ultimately save consumers and businesses billions of dollars.

Pumping systems protect our communities from flooding and fires, deliver drinking water to our homes, irrigate our farms, and bring water and fuel to American manufacturers. The Hydraulic Institute works closely with Congress to ensure that the laws governing energy, water, and infrastructure reflect the prominence of pumping systems in the management of these essential resources. I would like to specifically applaud the Hydraulic Institute for bringing an important perspective to congressional deliberations on how to thoughtfully increase investment in our Nation’s critical water infrastructure.