

Doolittle, the B-25 Mitchell bomber #40-2344, would take off with only 467 feet of takeoff distance. This audacious and unprecedented raid was a one-way mission against enormous odds. What made the mission all the more challenging was a sighting by a Japanese patrol boat that prompted the task force commander, U.S. Navy Adm. William Halsey, to launch the mission more than 650 nautical miles from Japan, 10 hours early and 170 nautical miles farther than originally planned. Flying at wavetop level around 200 feet with their radios turned off, Cole and the Raiders avoided detection for as much of the distance as possible. In groups of two to four aircraft, the bombers targeted dry docks, armories, oil refineries, and aircraft factories in Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe, as well as Tokyo itself. The Japanese air defenses were so caught off guard by the Raiders that little anti-aircraft fire was volleyed and only one Japanese Zero followed in pursuit. With their bombs delivered, the Raiders flew towards safety in nonoccupied China, but had to bail out when their aircraft ran out of fuel.

The bombing mission sent a message that America was ready to fight back, and bolstered spirits on the home front. Lt. Col. Cole remained in the China-Burma-India Theater flying combat and transport missions from May 1942 to June 1943, followed by service with the 5th Fighter Group in Tulsa, OK, from June to October 1943. He retired from the Air Force on December 31, 1966, as a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours in 30 different aircraft, amassing more than 250 combat missions and more than 500 combat hours. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oakleaf clusters; Air Medal with oakleaf cluster; Bronze Star Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; and Chinese Army, Navy, Air Corps Medal, Class A, First Grade. All Doolittle Raiders were also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in May 2014.

In his final years, Lt. Col. Cole remained a familiar face at Air Force events in the San Antonio area and toured Air Force schoolhouses and installations to promote the spirit of service among new generations of airmen. On September 19, 2016, Lt. Col. Cole was present during the naming ceremony for the Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider, named in honor of the Doolittle Raiders. While he may have slipped the surly bonds of earth to reunite with his fellow Raiders, his legacy will forever live on in the hearts and minds of Americans.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate, I wish to offer our eternal thanks to Lt. Col. Cole and our condolences to his family. May we never forget the courage and honor of the Doolittle Raiders.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO MARK ALAGNA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD a gentleman from whom I have had the opportunity to learn and to work with through a great company located in my great home State of Georgia. Mark Alagna is the vice president of UPS global public affairs and has announced he will retire in June after having served the company for 35 years.

The world headquarters for United Parcel Service, called UPS, has been based in Georgia since 1991. It is the second-largest company in Georgia, and in 2018, UPS earned \$72 billion in revenue with locations worldwide. This company means a lot to my State.

In addition to that, UPS is a leader in delivering workforce training and mentorship programs that emphasize the development of professional skills, safety, and efficiency.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and the Workplace, I am always looking out for Georgia companies and workers, especially the ones that set the bar high. Mark Alagna has been an important member of that company who has provided me and my staff with needed information and assistance for many years.

Mark's service to UPS is long and distinguished, rising through the ranks as a loyal employee serving a company that reciprocated that sense of loyalty and development for a good staff member. He has been with the company since 1984 when he was hired as a package car driver, delivering packages directly to customers who depended upon this service. For the last 24 years, he has worked in the company's public affairs department, looking out for the company's interests by working effectively with Members of Congress in Washington, with a particular policy focus on labor issues.

Mark also serves as liaison to the board of the National Coalition of Multiemployer Pension Plans, is vice chair of the Labor Policy Coalition, and sits on the labor and pension advisory committee. Prior to joining the global public affairs team, Mark also managed several staff and operational assignments in the mid-Atlantic area for UPS.

I will miss the opportunity to work with Mark, who has been a trusted associate, and his absence will be felt at UPS and by all those who have had the opportunity to work alongside him. We all wish Mark and his family the very best in a long and happy retirement.●

### PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT AWARD

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate and honor two Louisiana students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their

communities. Kate Walker of Ruston and Nikki Leali of New Orleans have been named State honorees in the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor granted to one high school student and one middle school student in each State and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Walker, a sophomore at Cedar Creek School, is being recognized for raising more than \$70,000 to find a cure for a rare neuromuscular disease known as Friedreich's ataxia, FA. In addition to raising tens of thousands of dollars to bring awareness to FA, Kate used different kinds of media to spread awareness and educate the public about disabilities, including hosting a local screening of a documentary film about FA and starting a YouTube channel featuring weekly videos about the challenges facing people with disabilities. Kate's mission is to teach people the importance of treating people with disabilities the same as everyone else.

Ms. Leali, a seventh grader at Ursuline Academy, is being recognized for organizing a reading club that brings middle school students and younger children together. Nikki organized the club after conducting an annual book donation drive for several years that redistributed more than 55,000 books in her community. Nikki's club allows young children to build confidence in reading in a safe and fun environment, while also providing middle schoolers an opportunity to serve their community. Nikki has grown her club with a website and corporate sponsors, and she now has 15 to 30 children regularly attending her monthly meetings.

It is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Walker and Ms. Leali are inspiring examples for all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I also would like to salute other young people in my state who were named Distinguished Finalists by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are Hailey Enamorado, 15, of Denham Springs, LA; Julianna Gouthiere, 12, of Shreveport, LA; Myracle Lewis, 17, of Baton Rouge, LA; and Grace Sun, 17, of Shreveport, LA.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●