

He gave every ounce of himself, up until his last day on Earth, to defending the honor of our Republic. We have lost a booming voice for truth, fairness, and liberty that can never be replaced.

I grieve for a nation without Elijah's leadership. I know that we will hold his legacy close to our hearts and that we will strive to follow his example of moral clarity, but the loss of Elijah Cummings has ripped a hole in the fabric of our country that cannot be fully mended.

My thoughts and prayers are with Elijah's wife Maya, his three children, and all of his loved ones. Know that we are mourning alongside you.

And to Elijah—you left this world a better place than how you found it. Now it is time to rest.

HONORING RADIOMAN 2ND CLASS FLOYD A. WELLS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and patriotism of Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells. A native of Cavalier, ND, he answered the call to defend his country during World War II. At the age of 24, he made the ultimate sacrifice on December 7, 1941, along with 2,402 other soldiers and sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was not until earlier this year that his remains were positively identified, and on October 1 he was brought home to be buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Attending this burial were members of his family who traveled from across the Nation to pay their respects to this beloved member of their family. Even though most of them had never met him, together they mourned the lost blessings of Floyd not being a part of their family for the past 78 years.

He was remembered as a generous man and a gifted athlete who had a full life ahead of him. Floyd's life could have included competing in sports at college and having a family and home of his own.

Floyd's burial service was a poignant reminder of how the sacrifice of heroes defending our country has an impact on those who knew and loved them far into the future. He died so Americans could live in peace and prosperity. I am thankful he is now back in his home State, lying in eternal rest with other North Dakota heroes, and I am grateful for the continued work of the many patriots who are committed to identifying the remains of all unknown soldiers and bringing them home.

Mr. President, to the family of Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells, I join citizens across the Nation in sending our sincere condolences. It is heroes like Floyd whose service has kept our communities, State, Nation, and world safe. His life made a difference in the lives of all of us, and we are forever grateful.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO III

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I stand here today to grieve the loss and honor the memory of Thomas D'Alessandro III, a true public servant. I feel extremely fortunate to have benefited from Tommy's wisdom, his friendship, and his example over the years. He will be dearly missed.

Thomas—or "Little Tommy," as he was known—was born in Baltimore in 1929. He grew up in a very politically active home. His father was a Congressman and three-term mayor of Baltimore. His sister, NANCY PELOSI, went on to become the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. So, in a sense, it seems that Tommy was destined for life in the public sphere. But he never behaved like leadership was his birthright. Whatever the import his name carried, Tommy was always humble, always hard-working, always determined to earn the support and trust of his community. And that is exactly what he did. As president of the Baltimore City Council and then as the city's mayor, Tommy was on the ground, fighting alongside his constituents for what was right.

Tommy was the mayor of Baltimore from 1967 to 1971. It was a tumultuous time for Baltimore and for the entire Nation. After just 4 months in office, Tommy had to lead his city through the grief and unrest that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Despite being personally devastated, he did that with courage and grace. He went on to serve a term marked by an unyielding commitment to civil rights.

Tommy passed laws to ban discrimination in housing and public accommodations. He fought the racist practice of blockbusting in real estate. He funded anti-poverty programs and new schools in underserved neighborhoods. And he appointed more African Americans to public posts than any Baltimore mayor before him, including to positions that had only previously been held by White people.

He was a man of ideals, certainly. His Catholic upbringing instilled in him the values of generosity and fairness. He had a nuanced understanding of racial inequality in the United States, and he was profoundly disturbed by the intolerance plaguing the country.

But I believe that he earned the support and trust of his community because he didn't just espouse ideals—he didn't simply demand justice or condemn hatred. He delivered concrete, meaningful action to make Baltimore a more equal and harmonious place.

Tommy did all of this because he sincerely cared, not because it was politically convenient. In fact, he faced a lot of criticism for his leadership on civil rights from those who wished to preserve their own privilege. The easy thing would have been to turn a blind

eye to the injustices around him and protect the status quo, but that wasn't Tommy. He wasn't concerned with what was easy; he was concerned with what was right. He had a good heart, and he listened to it.

Even after leaving political office, Tommy continued to give back as a mentor and adviser to future leaders. I am immensely grateful for the counsel that he offered me as a budding lawmaker. As a Baltimore native myself, I have long looked up to Tommy and strived to follow in his footsteps. I can only hope to emulate his integrity, bravery, and compassion.

We have lost a hero and a legend but not a legacy. Tommy was somebody who always led by example. Even though he is no longer here with us, his example lives on. It lives on in the blossoming Baltimore that he cultivated. It lives on in the generations of dedicated public servants that he inspired. And it lives on in the quest for justice that he championed.

Nevertheless, this loss is a painful one. My heart and prayers are with Tommy's wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all of his loved ones as they grieve and heal.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA MEDALEN

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable woman who has been named North Dakota's Teacher of the Year. Sara Medalen is a reading and math interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary School in Minot.

While working with students to improve their reading and math skills, she has also implemented other innovative programs helping Sunnyside students gain greater self esteem. Girls arrive mornings before school for Books and Braids, so she can braid their hair while they read to her. The Girl Power group does charitable projects and hears from local women in various professions around town. Her STEAM Saturdays bring students together to collaborate on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics projects, and Strides for Sunnyside is a running group encouraging students to embrace healthy habits and physical fitness. Through these programs and her genuine love for teaching and learning, Ms. Medalen has made a profound difference at Sunnyside School. She is an inspiration to her students, parents and fellow educators across North Dakota.

Mr. President, I congratulate Sara Medalen on this well-deserved recognition. We all remember favorite teachers from our own schooldays, and no doubt they share many of the good qualities that Ms. Medalen brings to her classroom. WalletHub recently ranked North Dakota as one of the best States for teachers, and my State has many top quality educators who are just as remarkable as Sara Medalen. We cannot thank them enough for the positive impact they have every day on North Dakota students.●