

at home to bring to school or to have her put money on the accounts of less fortunate students. At Maryland, it took shape McNair's death.

The leadership piece took over because he is definitely led by his moral compass, and that comes from understanding right from wrong and what happened to Jordan was so hard on him that he could no longer be quiet," Jodi McKennie said.

His father's five-year stint as the boys basketball coach at Archbishop Curley also had an impact on the younger McKennie.

"I had a couple of kids who had problems with their family and he would see Dad get up and go and do things [for the players]," the elder McKennie said Monday. "It was the same for me. When I got to college, I didn't realize my Dad, who was a Marine Corps dude, was in my brain. You don't realize until it has to be shown."

Recalling when his son walked out on Durkin, the elder McKennie said his son called him beforehand to tell him of his intentions.

"I said, 'Ellis, before you do anything, do you want to talk about it?' and he said, 'Dad, I got this,'" the elder McKennie said.

McKennie doesn't think he would have been any less a leader this season had he not worked his way up the depth chart and into a starting role.

"I have a type of rapport with teammates, they know what I'm about, and that I actually care about this team and this university," McKennie said. "Whether I'm playing, whether I'm having a good game or a bad game, whether I'm on scout team, it wouldn't make a difference, just the type of guy that I am."

Said senior defensive tackle Brett Kulka: "Ellis is great. He's definitely a leader. You can see that in the locker room as a whole. He's an encouraging player. He likes to help younger guys. He understands what it takes to win in terms of you need everyone on the team. He really embraces that role."

It has been more than 17 months since McNair died and McKennie said it is unlikely that he will ever get over it completely. He had known McNair since they were kids and McNair played Little League baseball on a team coached by McKennie's father.

"You're never going to feel normal. It almost turns into a new type of normal, it's a new reality you've got to live it," McKennie said. "I can't lie and say I don't think about it every day. I get texts from his parents before every game. . . . You're never going to move on from it."

"I think it was important that when Coach Locks got here, he had a meeting with a bunch of us and he said, 'We can move on without forgetting Jordan. We can take steps forward, but we'll not forget where we came from and not forget Jordan in any sort of way.'"

Even though the patch of grass at Maryland Stadium with McNair's number has grown over, McKennie said, "Internally we honor him every day. His locker is still in our locker room. We pray in front of it before every game."

Four years later, McKennie is only one of three players remaining from the 19 members of the 2015 recruiting class, along with linebacker Isaiah Davis and defensive end Keiron Howard.

"There are less than 10 guys from my class that made it through their eligibility," McKennie said. "Our class is extremely interesting because it's been filled with so much turmoil. A lot of guys didn't finish, but we also had two first-round draft picks, DJ Moore and Darnell Savage. So it's like a pretty big spectrum. I've been the only offensive lineman left for two years."

Locksley said Tuesday that the person and player he helped recruit to Maryland while

servicing as the team's offensive coordinator has grown tremendously in the past five years.

"He's a guy that's been directly affected with the three full-time coaches, two interims, the loss of a former high school teammate [and] dear friend, and this kid continues to stand strong." Locksley said at his Tuesday news conference, where he announced that McKennie and three other seniors would serve as captains for Saturday's game.

"He's one of the guys you can sell the University of Maryland with. He's the epitome of a student-athlete. He's a guy that has the right kind of habits and behaviors, where he's going to be really successful on the field and off the field. Really I can't say enough great things about the leadership that he's provided, not just for the players, but even to me as the head coach. He's the epitome of what a Maryland player should look like."

For much of his career, McKennie focused "pretty heavily" on the front half of his hyphenated position as a student-athlete, graduating in three years with a degree in government and politics and then working on his master's degree in public policy, which he will finish in the coming weeks as he gets ready to start studying for his LSATs and a career as a lawyer or politician.

"We used to joke that he would be the first black president and then we had [Barack] Obama so now we're banking on him being the second black president," his mother said.

Even with what he has accomplished off the field—twice earning All-Big Ten academic honors, being elected to the university senate during the 2019-20 academic year, interning for U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) last summer—McKennie thinks of himself mostly as a Maryland football player.

"That's what I do every day," he said. "There hasn't been a day in the past five years when I haven't come to this building aside from a few holidays. It's going to be a weird change. I'm looking forward to what's next for me, but I'm definitely going to miss everything that has come about. I'm starting to appreciate things differently now. I'm going to practice not dreading practice anymore. I'm happy to be there with my teammates."

Unlike many of his former teammates who left long before their eligibility expired or moved on the moment they played their final game, McKennie said there will always be an attachment.

"I love this university and I love what it means to be a Terrapin," McKennie said. "It means so much more to me than just playing on Saturday. If it was about playing time, I still wouldn't be here. I should have gone somewhere else and played a little bit sooner. It means so much to me to represent this university and represent this state that I've called home for most of my life, that's the most important part to me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND HANNA CANADA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gary and Hanna Canada for receiving the American Bankers Association's Bruning Award. This award is dedicated to bankers who demonstrate a strong sense of leadership and dedication to providing financial guidance and credit to ranchers, farmers, and businesses in rural America.

The Canadas are well known throughout southern Arkansas for their partnership running their business hand-in-hand, which helps explain why, for first time in the 22-year history, the award has been presented to a team of ag bankers.

Gary Canada began his professional career as a teacher and coach, eventually working his way up to principal. In 1975, Gary joined the Bank of England and climbed the ranks to become the chairman and president of the bank. Over the years, Gary has served on numerous committees and boards, including the ABA's Agricultural and Rural Bankers Committee, Arkansas Rice Council, and Bayou Metro Irrigation District. In addition to his work with the bank, Gary has farmed cotton, rice, and wheat and run a cow and calf operation.

Similarly, Hanna Canada began her career as a teacher before working at the Bank of England. Her early years at the bank consisted of working as a teller before transitioning to board secretary assisting with policies. Hanna currently serves as the executive vice president of the Bank of England and member of the board of directors. Along with her hard work and dedication to the bank, she also serves as an emergency medical technician.

Gary and Hanna Canada demonstrate what it means to give back to your community. Every opportunity they have had to help those in need, they have not hesitated to step in and lend a hand. In addition, Hanna hopes to inspire other women to step into leadership roles in the agriculture banking community. The couple's desire to grow the farming community in the State is remarkable and reveals why they are so well-deserving of this recognition.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Canadas for their hard work, dedication, and leadership to the city of England, the ag community in their area, and the State of Arkansas. I am grateful for their work and for the ABA recognizing their careers and contributions with the Bruning Award.●

TRIBUTE TO PARKER WALTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Parker Walter of Madison County for his extraordinary bravery in the face of danger.

In late September, the American Red Cross awarded 6-year-old Parker Walter with a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action from their National Lifesaving Award Program. This was the first time in 20 years that a Montanan has received the distinguished Lifesaving Award from the American Red Cross. Parker heroically saved his 4-year-old brother Cooper from drowning when he slipped into a rushing irrigation ditch behind their home. Parker immediately screamed out to his mother and grandmother to alert them and quickly ran over to pull his younger