

Verna, his mom, had to give birth there because there was no room at the Community Hospital of Evanston, the only hospital in town that accepted Black patients. Hecky was one of nine siblings. He had a successful career in public service, serving as the director of several nonprofit agencies.

One day, Hecky got an idea for a restaurant. He was dating Cheryl Judice, a sociologist who would later become his wife. They didn't know much about food, but Hecky's mom did. Verna had lost her job at a restaurant, and his dad was unemployed at the time. So when the restaurant next to Hecky's office went on the market, he figured he would buy it, and his parents could actually run the restaurant. On October 13, 1983, Hecky's Barbeque opened up with only \$100 in the register. Many of the first recipes came from Verna and his Creole grandmother's native New Orleans.

Everyone enjoyed Hecky's. Chicago Bears legend William "The Refrigerator" Perry was an early customer, drawn to the sauce-drenched ribs, fries, and two slices of Wonder Bread. Chicago Bulls great Scottie Pippen had Hecky's cater the team's private plane on occasion. When the Northwestern Wildcats faced off with the University of Southern California Trojans in the Rose Bowl in 1996, then-mayor Lorraine Morton and Hecky bet the mayor of Pasadena that the Wildcats would win. The Trojans won 41 to 32, and Hecky made ribs and chicken for the entire Pasadena City Council.

But it was more than a restaurant. Hecky used his place to help high school kids learn responsibility and social skills, giving many of them their first jobs. He worked long hours, starting early in the morning, but he always had fun. No task was too small. He was cook, cleaner, and manager alongside his mother and the kids he was mentoring.

Hecky was a champion for local youth. In 1994, he founded the Forrest E. Powell Foundation. Named after his father, the foundation offers grant and scholarship opportunities. In 2016, he started the Evanston Work Ethic Program, which helps young people prepare for vocational or trade school.

In 2011, Hecky left work early, thinking he had the flu. He made light of it, but his wife knew better. He later was diagnosed with liver failure and told he had 6 to 7 months to live.

Hecky resolved that he was going to be fine and against tough odds, he lived to receive a liver transplant in 2015 and was able to get his life back. Hecky then joined the Northwestern Medicine Transplant Advisory Council Board to help people get their own lives back too.

For all this work, Hecky received the key to the city of Evanston in 2014, Abner Mikva Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, and the street in front of the restaurant was officially renamed "Hecky Powell Way." A person did not know Evanston until they experienced it with Hecky.

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Evanston, Hecky stepped up. Hecky's kept the whole staff on payroll and donated meals to hospital workers, shelters, and the Evanston Fire Department. Hecky, as the unofficial mayor of Evanston, was the face of the community poster that read "No Mask, No Sauce."

Evanston has lost a true leader of the community. He was kind and generous without ever asking anything in return. I was honored to count Hecky as a friend and enjoyed many great times together with him. Squeezing in a stop at Hecky's was part of every Evanston visit.

This June 19, people will celebrate with Hecky's Juneteenth Strawberry pop. For years, Hecky was part of the Jubilee, celebrating the arrival of news in Galveston, TX, that the Civil War was over and President Lincoln had issued his Emancipation Proclamation. He was Evanston's biggest supporter of making Juneteenth a holiday. This year, Evanston has its first Juneteenth Parade, and Hecky was going to be a big part of it, so it is fitting that the community will be dedicating part of the celebration to him.

Hecky is survived by his wife Cheryl, seven children, Sharmin, Terry, Dawn, Joy, Hecky Junior, Jason, and Gigi, as well as his mother and seven siblings.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS BERGESON

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson, of the U.S. Air Force, and the deputy commander of United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL. Lieutenant General Bergeson is one of our Nation's finest military officers, and he will retire from Active military service on September 1, 2020, bringing to a close 35 years of distinguished service to our great Nation.

In 1985, Lieutenant General Bergeson commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He commanded units at every echelon from fighter squadron to a numbered Air Force. Lieutenant General Bergeson also held various staff assignments, including positions as chief of aviation, strategic operations, Multi-National Forces-Iraq; senior defense official and defense attaché in the UK; and director, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, at the Pentagon.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as the deputy commander, United Nations Command Korea; deputy commander, U.S. Forces Korea; commander, Air Component Command, South Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command; and commander, 7th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces at Osan Air Base. Over the course of his career, Lieutenant General Bergeson flew numerous fighter aircraft to include the F-15, the F-22, and the A-10. He is a graduate of the NATO Defense College

in Rome and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

At a time of great uncertainty in the world, particularly in the Middle East, Lieutenant General Bergeson served as a critical leader in Central Command, a combatant command that has an enormous influence and presence in some of the most volatile parts of the globe. Lieutenant General Bergeson is an exceptional leader and an American patriot who is committed to our Armed Forces, our national security, and our Nation. It is for Lt. Gen. Tom Bergeson that we, with profound admiration and deep respect, pay tribute to for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for over three decades as a leader and selfless servant.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recognize Lieutenant General Bergeson's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Lieutenant General Bergeson for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by his wife, Pam, and his children, Erik and Kristin. I extend my best wishes to Lieutenant General Bergeson and his family and wish them the best in retirement and the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN MARITIME WORKFORCE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I offer remarks to honor the men and women of the American maritime workforce and to thank them for their service. June 5, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Act of 1920. Commonly referred to as the Jones Act, the act has served over the last century as the foundation of the Great Lakes and domestic shipping industry. This vital maritime law ensures that cargo moving between domestic ports is carried aboard vessels that are American-built, American-owned, and American-flagged, which in turn strengthens and supports U.S. homeland security while driving economic benefits to local communities. Each and every day, 365 days a year, the Jones Act functions to protect our Nation's 95,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways, limiting inland access to foreign vessels and crews while mariners serve as the eyes and ears to strengthen border and homeland security.

America's dependence on the Great Lakes and the seas is integral to our economic health and our sovereignty. Nowhere is this more evident than in my own State of Michigan. According to The American Maritime Partnership, Michigan's Great Lakes domestic maritime industry contributes \$2.8 billion annually to our State economy, including 12,140 jobs and \$703.6 million in worker income. With 37 deep-draft ports, Michigan has more than the 7 other Great Lakes States combined.

Over the last 100 years, the men and women of the U.S. maritime workforce