

have also unfailingly answered the call to duty, providing vital services to support the Nation in times of crisis. Their service was never clearer than during the activation of civilian merchant mariners amidst the Second World War. These men and women moved critical supplies to overseas troops and allies, while enduring the highest rate of casualties of any service. More recently our domestic maritime workforce has respond swiftly to a range of crises facing the Nation, including facilitating the largest boatlift in world history following 9/11 and the current and ongoing delivery of essential medical supplies and goods to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On this week's centennial anniversary of the Jones Act, I thank the men and women of the U.S. maritime industry for their service, and I vow to continue to work here in the Senate to uphold the integrity of the act's protections for our Michigan and Great Lakes workforce.

REMEMBERING JOE VANDEVER, SR.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Joe Vandever, Sr., who was one of the last surviving Navajo Code Talkers.

Joe was born February 5, 1923, into the Red Running Into the Water People clan, born for Two Who Came to the Water clan. He passed away 5 days shy of his 97th birthday, on January 31, 2020, in Haystack, NM.

Joe enlisted in the Marines when he was 19. He went through boot camp at Camp Pendleton and spent 6 months of intensive training learning the code and how to operate communications equipment to become a Navajo Code Talker.

Navajo Code Talkers transmitted key military information through a code based on the Navajo language that the Japanese never broke. They participated in every major Marine operation in the Pacific theater and gave the Marines a critical advantage throughout the war. However, when they returned, they couldn't talk about their work, which remained classified until 1968.

In 2001, Navajo Code Talkers, including Joe, received the Congressional Silver Medal.

Joe epitomized the bravery and skill of the Navajo Code Talkers. Joe's Navajo name means "going places," and he certainly did during the war. Serving in the 6th Marine Division from 1943 to 1946, Joe was stationed on 16 battleships—serving from Samoa to Guadalcanal to Guam to Japan to China. Joe translated messages from Navajo to English and set up communications posts on the frontlines.

Joe was a spiritual man, and he provided spiritual support for others in his Marine division. He liked to tell a story about how he knew he would come home from the war. Before he left, he had been blessed in a ceremony.

When he was in Guam, a bird he called a sheep-face bird—which was a Cassin's kingbird—came to him. There were no sheep-face birds in Guam, and that bird gave Joe a sign he would return home safely. And he did.

After he returned, Joe honored his Navajo traditions as a medicine man. He held many different jobs over the years—working at an oil refinery, in construction, and as a miner, prospector, farmer, and chauffeur. For 14 years, he was employed at the Gallup Indian Medical Center as a custodian.

Joe was fiercely proud of the Navajo language. According to Joe, "Our language is powerful," and "we [won]the war with our tongue." He wanted younger generations to learn the language and counseled them: "Don't ever leave your language."

Joe was a loving family man. After the war, he came home and married Bessie, to whom he was married for 73 years, until she passed away on September 24, 2019. He and Bessie had 9 children, 36 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. He inspired them and encouraged them to pursue higher education, and he was beloved by them all.

Joe lived a long life, and a good life—with kindness, optimism, good humor, integrity, and commitment and love for family and community. His light will continue to shine bright in his children and his future generations. I am honored to pay tribute to Joe Vandever who faithfully served our Nation and his family and Tribe.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL WILLSON

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I rise to acknowledge the service of Mr. Darrell R. Willson, who is retiring as the Administrator of the National Gallery of Art in July after a 50-year career serving the public.

Mr. Willson has spent the three past decades with the gallery overseeing the backbone of its operations—protecting and preserving its historic buildings, working to expand its footprint, and ensuring that it maintains a world-class staff. As an executive officer of the institution, he has worked closely with gallery leadership, executive branch officials and Congress—including with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations—to ensure that the gallery has had the people and resources it needs to fulfill its mission. During his tenure, the gallery has completed more than \$400 million worth of renovations to the East and West Buildings and welcomed visitors to new public spaces such as the Sculpture Gallery and the Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain. In short, his work has provided the gallery with a stunning backdrop to showcase its collection of more than 150,000 sculptures, paintings, drawings, and photographs to the American public.

His work with the National Gallery of Art is not the only contribution on Mr. Willson's resume that deserves rec-

ognition. Prior to joining the gallery, Mr. Willson worked for a decade at the Art Institute of Chicago, rising through the ranks to become executive director of protective services. He also served the public as a local law enforcement official with the Waukegan, IL, police department. And of course, these positions are all in addition to his most important role—his service as a husband, a father, and a grandfather.

Mr. Willson deserves to take great pride in all of these important accomplishments—especially his tireless work in support of our Nation's great arts and cultural institutions—as he retires from the gallery. On behalf of the Senate, I send him our thanks and warmest congratulations for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RAVI ZACHARIAS

• Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, the State of Georgia and truly the entire world lost an exceptional beacon of goodness and faith when Ravi Zacharias passed away on May 19, 2020. However, our loss is Heaven's gain. Ravi was a man of deep faith, love, and service to others. He embodied the command of Jesus in Mark 16:15 to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Ravi first came to know the teachings of Jesus Christ when he was 17 years old, when a nurse read the Word of God to him while he was recovering from a suicide attempt. From that day forth, Ravi made it his mission to share with others the joy and faith which had rescued him from despair.

In 1971, when he was just 25 years old, Ravi traveled to war-torn Vietnam, where he ministered in hospitals, military bases, and prison camps. The trip nearly cost him his life. Yet he went on to travel to every corner of the world sharing the Gospel.

In 1983, Reverend Billy Graham personally invited Ravi to speak at the inaugural International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam. This helped Ravi develop a new passion for apologetics. Not only did he want to spread the Gospel, he wanted to help train others how to defend their faith in a rapidly secularizing world. A year later, Ravi founded Ravi Zacharias International Ministries to carry out this mission.

Over the years, Ravi continued sharing faith and love around the world through speaking engagements, books, and radio appearances, reaching untold numbers of people in need.

Ravi built incredible institutions for sharing the Christian faith. He founded the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He founded Wellspring International, a humanitarian group helping women and children around the world. In 2017, he founded the Zacharias Institute to teach apologetics in Atlanta, Georgia.