

safety, and for their homes extends nationwide. In Delaware, we have not experienced the devastating effects of fires seen in other states, yet men and women from my state have been willing to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in helping fight these devastating fires.

The Delaware Wildfire Fire Crew, a 20-member advanced firefighting group made up of eight Department of Agriculture Forest Services employees and twelve volunteers has been on the road for two weeks, battling fires in Wyoming, South Dakota, and Virginia. Most recently, the crew helped put out a lightning sparked fire that burned approximately 850 acres of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia.

Their heroism and their selflessness were apparent. I want you to know that my heart was filled with pride when I learned this convoy of Delaware firefighting personnel was en route to offer assistance. These men and women were willing to stop what they were doing at a moment's notice. They were willing to put their own lives on hold, leave their own families, and help those who needed help.

At some point, all of us need to look back and take stock of where we have been and where we are going. Have we lived our lives in the service to others, or merely for ourselves? Have we made clear our commitments and worked with purpose to fulfill them, or simply meandered in search of a cause? At the end of the day, can we say with confidence that we did our best and worked to our fullest potential?

For these firefighters, and the thousands of others fighting this season's wildfires, the answers are clear. They live a life of service. They embody a commitment to excellence that serves as an example and an inspiration to us all. Whether working to protect those of us here in Delaware, or risking their lives to fight the raging wildfires of the West, they proved to us that if a family is in trouble, if a fire threatens a home—Delaware's volunteer firefighters will be there for us—and for America—leading the way.●

TRIBUTE TO ROGER C. CLOUATRE

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to pay a posthumous tribute to one of the most dedicated leaders of my State, the late Roger C. Clouatre. As a corporate executive of Vulcan Chemical Company, as well as a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, he demonstrated dedication, pride in his work, and a commitment to the well being of those he represented and served.

Much has changed in our Nation since September Eleventh. There is a growing, yet genuine enthusiasm for the things that are truly important, our family, our friends and the welfare

of our country. Long before these tragic events, however, the man I memorialize here today practiced these ideals. He leaves behind a proud family; a thankful community and a Nation better off, because he was an American citizen for 53 years.

His friends say he "completed 80 years of work in 53 years of life." It is a record of accomplishment that we can all learn from. Yet, even though he battled cancer for the last 12 years of his life, it did not diminish his devotion to his children, his compassion for his friends and his dedication to the work of the Ascension Parish School Board. His planning and execution were always based in reality, but he himself represented an idealist's view of a man serving God, family and friends. He made us all laugh and kept a positive attitude that always seemed to affect our daily outlook on life.

His son Spencer, a graduate of West Point, said eloquently at his father's funeral that although Roger has the potential for national service, he instead invested every moment of his energy on the community he dearly cared about, and the family he loved so much.

Roger and his wife Katherine were the proud parents of four children, Spencer, Stephanie, Styles and Stuart, each a blessing in their own right.

Though many awards and accolades found him in life, his service and dedication to his community were largely responsible for the public support of a \$30 million bond issue that is creating new schools and expanding educational facilities throughout the parish.

Again, his son Spencer put it best when he said:

"We were all very lucky to have him at the local level, for his capabilities surely could have affected state and national events. He was a leader—a Chief Executive Officer, a General—someone that we all wanted to follow, a role model we all emulated in some way or another."

His deflection of self at the height of the me-generation and the uncompromising support of others that he demonstrated throughout his life, even at times of unspeakable pain, should provide all of us with the inspiration to go forward in our work.

Unfortunately, all of my colleagues will not know Roger Clouatre. Looking back, I see how fortunate I happened to be to have had the occasion to seek the wonderful advice of this great American. Though he was seemingly lost in the deep fabric of this mighty Nation, he was in fact, a quiet hero. May Roger's star always reflect a wonderful luminescence upon our Nation and provide all of us with a reminder of the thousand ways in which we may all work to make this a greater Nation still.●

JACK F. OWENS, IN MEMORIAM

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on

the life of Mr. Jack. F. Owens upon his passing. Jack was a good friend and a man who made remarkable contributions toward educational opportunities for thousands of Delawareans. He was a man with a kind heart, diverse interests, great abilities and boundless energy.

Jack was born in Easley, SC. After graduating from Easley High School where he excelled in various sports, Jack went to Furman University where he continued his academic and athletic exploits, lettering in three sports, and graduating in 1952.

After serving his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jack returned to South Carolina and began a career in academia, first in the Pickens County School system and then at Greenville Technical College.

Responding to the call of then Delaware Governor Charles Terry, Jack came to Delaware to help open Delaware's Technical and Community College in Sussex County in March of 1967. He was the school's first administrator and headed the Sussex County campus for twenty-eight years, retiring in 1995. In 1993, Jack received Delaware's highest honor when he was awarded "The Order of the First State."

As Governor, I had the honor of signing into law legislation that named the Sussex Campus in Jack's honor. Today, it is called "The Jack Owens Campus." The energy and commitment found in the students and faculty at DelTech are, in large part, due to Jack's vision.

Even after his retirement, Jack remained committed to public service. He served on numerous boards and commissions including The Arthritis Foundation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ducks Unlimited, and served as a board member of the Beebe Medical Center and as Chairman of the Delmarva Chicken Festival. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Wilmington College and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, where he helped establish a community college system.

Jack leaves behind his wife Donna, 6 children and 6 grandchildren. He also leaves behind many friends, colleagues and several generations of students who are living more productive, satisfying lives today because Jack made the decision thirty-five years ago to come north to Delaware.

Jack's lifelong dream was that students in Sussex County would have the opportunity to receive undergraduate and advanced degrees in their home county. He lived to see that dream fulfilled.

Jack's legacy will live on in the lives of those he helped shape, in the halls of education facilities he helped build, and in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend. I rise today to commemorate Jack's life, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family support. Jack embodied the best of Delaware. He will be sorely missed.●