

BIRTHDAY OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on June 19, 1945, Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was born in Rangoon, Burma, to Ma Khin Kyi and Aung San.

Some speculate that she was destined to be a defender of freedom in Burma, as her father was the commander of the Burma Independence Army. Tragedy struck the family exactly 1 month after Suu Kyi's second birthday when General Aung San was assassinated. The family's loss was mourned by the entire nation.

As Burma's military leaders were to find out decades later, Suu Kyi has freedom and justice coursing through her veins. She has been a tireless advocate for the rights and welfare of the Burmese people and has sacrificed—along with other Burmese democrats—much in struggle for democracy in Burma.

Suu Kyi is a symbol of courage and determination for the world's oppressed. She is a shining example that principles are stronger than repression. Suu Kyi and other democrats have yet to surrender to the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, despite relentless attempts by the junta to bend and break their will.

How is Suu Kyi celebrating her 58th birthday? Most likely, she is not. I suspect she is alone and in Insein prison.

In the wake of a violent ambush by the junta on her convoy on May 30, Suu Kyi was arrested by the SPDC. Although U.N. Special Envoy Razali briefly saw her 2 weeks ago—and conveyed to an anxious world that she was not physically injured in the attack—we haven't seen or heard from her since.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, requested a meeting with Suu Kyi, but the thugs in Rangoon refused. Unbelievable, outrageous—but not surprising considering the regime's track record.

It should not be lost on anyone that the denial of an ICRC visit means Suu Kyi is being treated worse than a prisoner of war.

The best gift the free world can give Suu Kyi on her birthday is a full court press on the junta. Sanctions, import bans, and statements condemning the SPDC's outrageous actions will help buoy the spirits of the Burmese people and confirm that the international community is on their side.

The best gift the administration can give Suu Kyi is an import ban and the downgrading of diplomatic relations with the SPDC. The White House should not wait for the House to act on its legislation but should implement a ban on imports immediately.

Finally, the best gift I can give Suu Kyi is a commitment to continue to stand with her and the people of Burma for as long as it takes for freedom's triumph. She and her compatriots continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO JANINE JOHNSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we make many different kinds of speeches on the Senate floor. Some of those speeches seek to advance legislation and amendments and some aim to commemorate historic events. None are as sad as those we make in the memory of a member of the Senate family who has left us. On May 29, 2003, Janine Johnson, Assistant Counsel in the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel, passed away. Janine was 37 years old.

Many of us and our staffs knew Janine personally. Some of us only knew her only by her initials that appeared on the legislation and amendments we introduce here on the floor. She served the Senate for nearly 13 years, doing much of her work for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Agriculture Committee and the Energy Committee.

Over the years, Janine prepared thousands of bills for me and for the other members of the Environment Committee. Her expertise in those matters made my job easier and the jobs of the staff easier on countless bills. Janine was an expert drafter on matters of critical concern to the committee. She drafted several generations of Water Resources Development Acts. She drafted our last transportation bill, the mammoth Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and was in the process of drafting a new transportation bill when she fell ill. She drafted many parts of the last Farm bill, including the nutrition title of that bill. I mention that because I am told that no one has found a single drafting error in the hundreds of pages of that title.

That is very rare, but I am told by her colleagues that Janine's way was the way of a perfectionist.

And to her about Janine's history is to hear that it was a way of life. Janine was a native of Winchester, MA. She graduated first in her class from Winchester High School and ultimately graduated with high honors from Harvard Law School in 1986. She went on to clerk for the Honorable Cecil Poole on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she came to the Senate Office of Legislative Counsel. In addition to serving as Assistant Counsel, she was active in shaping the office itself. She interviewed new attorneys for the office, and she had an unparalleled ability to recognize those who would maintain the high standards of the Senate. That legacy will live on in the colleagues and friends she helped to bring into the Senate family.

According to Janine's friends here in the Senate, she loved life outside the Senate as much as her work within it. Janine loved theater, music and swing dancing. I am told that she loved living here in Washington, DC, where one of her favorite times of year was the spring because of her love of our cherry trees and the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The cherry blossom Janine admired is the most beautiful flower in Japa-

nese culture. It symbolizes the Japanese values of simplicity, purity and fleeting beauty. Many poets have described the pink and white blossoms as a metaphor for life, beautiful and simple, yet at the same time sadly ephemeral and fleeting.

Janine's friends in the Senate would say that she was like the flowers she loved to see, but that her memory will not be ephemeral to the Senate, to her work here, or to the many friends and family she leaves behind.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to pay tribute to a very talented, kind and generous member of our Senate family, Janine Johnson. Sadly, at the far too young age of 37, Janine passed away. For the past 13 years, Janine served as Assistant Counsel in the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel. Some of us were privileged to work with her directly and benefit from her skill and keen intellect.

While many of us over the years have recognized the well-deserved contributions of our staff in our personal offices or on committees, we all know that we depend highly on the exceptional professional judgment and tireless efforts of the staff in the Senate Legislative Counsel's office. While Janine did not work for an individual Senator or Committee, it is without question that Janine was devoted to the institution of the Senate, skilled in the intricacies of the law, and served the Senate with distinction.

Janine was the primary Legislative Counsel for many issues under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was during my tenure as Chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee that my staff and I were privileged to work with Janine. She was our counsel for the development of the National Highway System Act of 1995, and later on the landmark Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, commonly referred to as TEA-21. Also, during my chairmanship, Janine guided us on the development of several Water Resource Development Acts, that were enacted on a biennial cycle.

It was during those long days and weeks in working in committee, on the Senate floor and later in conference on TEA-21 that we witnessed the exceptional skill, thoroughness and professionalism that Janine brought to every issue. The surface transportation bill expired in the fall of 1997. The Congress passed a 6-month extension bill and we came back in early 1998 to renew our efforts on a full 6-year reauthorization bill. Janine was there with the committee every step of the way.

The staff recollections of Janine's contributions to the development of TEA-21 are unmistakable. I hear of her deep commitment to the law, to turning vague concepts into statute, and faithfully executing the views of the committee and Senator's agreements on complex policy issues. Most importantly, I hear staff use heartfelt words

to describe Janine's grace, her delicate nature, her respect for her colleagues, her genuine kindness, and her commitment to the work at hand. I'm told that on many occasions when staff completed work for the night, usually past midnight, and left sections for Janine to draft that often her work was on their desks by 9:00 the next morning. She was always willing to stay long past when the Metro closed, as long as she had a ride home.

We, in the committee, relied heavily on Janine's legal abilities, her legislative drafting precision and we were fortunate to have her as a star on our team—although for far too short a time.

Janine's academic achievements are superior, graduating with high honors from Harvard Law School in 1986 and then clerking for the Honorable Cecil Poole on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. With her exceptional qualifications, I'm confident that she would have been successful in any career path she chose. Fortunately, for us, she came to the Senate and for 13 years we have all been more successful because of her.

The poet Albert Pike has said:

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

Janine has certainly touched many of us in lasting ways. The Senate is grateful for her service and we share our condolences with her friends and family.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, as Senators, we are accustomed to the glare of the public spotlight and there are even some members of Congress who crave such attention. In general though, we are here because we share a deep desire to serve our country and to help ensure that our government and its laws are true to the spirit of America.

We sometimes forget that we are also part of a Senate community filled with people who believe in that same kind of public service. Though they do not share the spotlight with us, we could not do our jobs without them and the nation would suffer.

So, I want to recognize the contributions made by all staff, and in particular the experts in the Office of Senate Legislative Counsel that help keep us true to the law, its structure and its functioning. They help put our ideas into real form and maintain the integrity of the code.

That is why it is very very difficult today to note the passing of Janine Johnson, Assistant Counsel in Office of Legislative Counsel. She was an integral and crucial part of that office.

Her professionalism, her deft grasp of complicated statutes, her work ethic, and above all, her pleasant manner and bearing, will be sorely missed by that office, but also by me, my office and in particular, my Environment and Public Works Committee staff.

Many of my staff have worked with Janine for a decade or more and have

been uniformly impressed by her unparalleled skill and commitment to her job.

Janine had a knack for taking even the most complicated concepts and proposals and breaking them down into manageable parts. Then, she found ways to integrate them into existing statutes. To many staff, she was a legislative magician.

One did not need to know Janine for very long to see that she shone with a pure and intense inner light that made the way clearer and easier for others. But, the memory of her kindness and delicate humor will live on and inspire those who follow her.

Janine was a talented woman and a lawyer's lawyer. She had a green thumb and many days brought one of her prized amaryllis plants in to brighten the front office. She also spoke many languages, including beginning Russian which I believe she started in Middlebury, VT.

The Senate has suffered a great loss with the passing of Janine Louise Johnson. I wish her family and friends all the best in coping with the pain. However, I want to note that her significant contributions to the Senate and to the nation will not be forgotten and that she should serve as a model for us all.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I join my colleagues to mourn the premature passing of a dedicated member of the Senate staff.

Ms. Janine Johnson was an Assistant Counsel in the Office of the Legislative Counsel. She was a 1986 graduate of Harvard College and a 1989 graduate of Harvard Law School.

Her responsibilities included drafting legislation in areas that are within the Agriculture Committee's jurisdiction. Her thoughtful work and dedicated service to members of the Senate are reflected in legislation such as the 1996 and 2002 farm bills and the 1998 child nutrition reauthorization.

The work of the Office of the Legislative Counsel often goes unnoticed and under appreciated, but it is talented attorneys like Ms. Janine Johnson who provide such a valuable service to the Senate. I extend my sympathies to Ms. Johnson's family and friends.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. DOLE. I want to explain why I was necessarily absent from the June 13 vote on the confirmation of R. Hewitt Pate to be an Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust. At the time the vote took place, I was speaking to the Flue Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation, a group of more than 500 North Carolina tobacco farmers, in Raleigh, NC. My attendance at the event was important in order to listen to the major concerns of our State's tobacco farmers, as well as to address one of North Carolina's top priorities, a tobacco quota buyout, which is critical to the livelihood of all tobacco farmers and the economic security of our State.

Had I been present, I would have voted for Mr. Pate.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, 2 months ago when President Bush declared an end to combat operations in Iraq, I rose to pay tribute to the seven service members with Indiana roots who sacrificed their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I observed that while these seven fine young men were engaged in a noble and worthy cause—making the world safer for all freedom-loving peoples—their deaths again showed us that freedom never comes without a heavy price in human lives.

At the time I delivered those remarks, I and all Americans understood that there would still be dangerous times ahead for our service members, but we sincerely hoped there would be no more reports of American service members killed in combat operations.

Today, I am sad to report, our troops in Iraq are still very much at risk of injury or the ultimate sacrifice as they work to restore order and a civil society in this troubled country. It seems that almost every day we receive news of soldiers being ambushed or attacked in hit-and-run type incidents. More than 40 American troops have fallen since May 1st. We are still suffering combat casualties, and it is obvious that reconstruction of Iraq is going to be a lengthy and difficult process.

During these past 2 months, three of those who fell were brave young men with Indiana roots. Three more Indiana families have been devastated by the loss of a loved one. Today, I would like to pay tribute to these three fine young men.

Marine Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith of Anderson, IN, was killed on May 10 in Kuwait when the Humvee he was riding in struck a trailer in a military convoy. Matthew, a Marine Corps Reservist, was 20 years old and a sophomore at Indiana University. He went overseas with his unit in February and had traveled all the way to Baghdad while providing support to Marine combat forces.

On the day Matthew died, his father, David Smith, received the first letter from his son since he went overseas. Matthew wrote that he was proud to be in Iraq as a marine fighting for his country's freedom.

Matthew Smith will be missed.

Army Private Jesse Halling of Indianapolis was killed on June 10 in the city of Tikrit when his military police squad became engaged in a firefight after being ambushed. Jesse was in the turret of a Humvee firing a machine gun at their attackers when a rocket-propelled grenade struck the vehicle. His commander has recommended him for a Silver Star Medal for bravery under fire.

Jesse was 19 years old and had enlisted in the Army right after his graduation from Ben Davis High School, where he had participated in Junior