

## A TRIBUTE TO MAYER "BUBBA" MITCHELL

Arlene, I cannot begin without expressing the deep love and affection that we all have for you. Throughout your life—and in particular in this past year—which I know was especially trying—you have been an "eshet hayil" a true woman of valor. Having known you and Bubba so long and having spent so much time with both of you, I know that you feel blessed to have had a life with Bubba—but, Arlene, it was equally a blessing for Bubba to have you.

To you Arlene, and to you, Abe—his partner and best friend Fannie, Ann—and to Joy, Melinda, Richard, Lisa, and the entire family I want you to know that I consider this to be one of the great honors of my life to be asked to speak and pay tribute to your husband, brother, father, and grandfather.

You know, I spent a lot of time walking the halls of Congress with Bubba. Often, after an election, I would introduce some of the new members of Congress. Inevitably, a few of them would call me a day or two later and ask if I could get them back in touch with the Mayor of Mobile. I would laugh and let them know that they had met the Mayor from Mobile, not the Mayor of Mobile. But, as you can imagine, after just one more meeting, as the bonds of friendship began to take hold, he became to them what he was to all of us—Bubba. And, once you had Bubba in your life, you knew you had something special.

Bubba was a planner.

He had a clear idea of how things should be and a discipline that allowed him to realize his vision. It was in that spirit that he called me last spring when he heard that his good friend the Republican Leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, would be the keynote speaker at AIPAC's Annual Policy Conference in Washington. He wanted to be sure that he would be able to introduce the Senator—who honors us with his presence here today—I of course agreed, because you just did that when Bubba called. However, as important as providing a proper introduction for his friend Mitch was, this time Bubba had more he wanted to say. He said, "Howard, I'm not feeling too well and for all I know this could be my last conference, and I have something I want to say."

He began his remarks at the conference that evening with a simple question. Bubba asked: "Have I made a difference?" He went on: "It is a question that many of us ask ourselves, particularly as we advance in age. For me," Bubba said, "it is a question that has become persistent—and the answer more important—in a year of personal health difficulties."

If you were there that night you know that in asking that question Bubba wasn't really speaking about himself. He was holding himself up as a standard bearer of the pro-Israel movement in America—he was asking everyone if we have done enough. In challenging himself he was challenging us—to make the most of the opportunities that God has given us and realize that we have a sacred obligation to ourselves and to each other.

It was vintage Bubba: Make yourself the example. Challenge others to follow.

Bubba was a humble and wise man.

Despite his many accomplishments, Bubba was a man of great humility. In a world of politics, where it is so easy to become cynical or jaded, Bubba remained respectful and grateful for the opportunity to play a role in history. He never lost his sense of awe.

How many times did he put his arm around one of us at a particular historic moment or in a place of renown and remind us to appreciate that moment—to remember how blessed we are to live in America and to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we are afforded.

It was September of 1991. Bubba and I were about to meet with the President of the United States in the Oval Office—we were

there to ask him not to link urgently needed loan guarantees for Russian immigrants to Israeli politics and policies. We knew it would not be an easy conversation to have.

In the moments before we headed to the White House, Bubba told me, "You have to get yourself ready for this. And to do that, you have to do two things. You have to spend time to realize the awesome power of this office. And then you have to not be intimidated by it."

Bubba was not one to dish out advice that he himself did not live by. And a few hours later I listened as he spoke truth to power, respectfully, carefully, but clearly. I listened as he made his case, relaying to the President in detail about his own parent's exodus out of Russia, fleeing persecution and pogroms. "Mr. President," he said, "this is not an abstraction for me. This is deeply personal. Mr. President, you have an historic opportunity to make things different for the next generation."

The son of Russian immigrants, the man from Mobile was always able to say and do what he felt was the right thing—because he believed so passionately that he—and each of us still—has a critical role to play to ensure the future of the Jewish people, of America and of Israel.

And so he reached out to governors and members of Congress, presidents and prime ministers to better his state, his country and our world—to improve all our lives. For Bubba Mitchell, life wasn't only about him or his needs. It was about stepping beyond himself to something far greater. Bubba showed us that our actions can have meaning and our lives can be significant as long as we never shy away from speaking the truth or doing the right thing.

Bubba was a man of quiet courage.

Many in politics attempt to persuade with the belief that volume and bravado are the key to making a point. But Bubba understood that a few wise words, softly spoken, always trumped the loud chatter. Yes, he was quiet, his manner was all southern charm and understatement—but he was doggedly determined to get results. . . . and he was stunningly effective.

Bubba had the ear of presidents and prime ministers, and they too would seek him out for information, counsel and clarity. It is no surprise therefore, that in Bubba's last days, President Bush, the Prime Minister of Israel, senators and members of Congress, and countless elected officials—many of whom are honored guests with us today—called him to thank him for devoting his life's work to his community, his country and our world. And it is no surprise that each of them thanked him for his unflinching friendship.

Bubba was a man of action.

He realized that we live in a time of miraculous promise, but also real danger for America, for Israel, and the Jewish people. He understood the stakes and the consequences if leadership was lacking.

When something needed to be done, he did it. And when something else needed to happen, he stepped forward yet again. And again and again. The cumulative effect of his life's work was profound. Bubba built and sustained friendships with literally dozens and dozens of elected officials and decision makers that directly deepened the quality and strength of the relationship between Israel and the United States.

Bubba was a leader.

I had a conversation yesterday with a veteran member of the House of Representatives whom I had called to inform of Bubba's passing. This member said something that I have been reflecting on ever since—something that says so much about who Bubba was to all of us. She said, "you know when I got into politics I had a simple goal—gain the respect of Bubba Mitchell. Because I knew that if I had his respect everyone else would fol-

low." The degree of respect that others had for Bubba can be measured in many ways. But the fact that over 25 current and former members of AIPAC's national Board traveled from across the country to be here today is a remarkable tribute to his leadership.

It is very important to me that his 8 grandchildren hear what I have to say. You should know that for the last 25 years at AIPAC there was no higher praise—and no greater reward—than to have your grandfather tell me or one of my colleagues or one of our fellow Board members in that soft-spoken way of his—that he was proud of us.

Last March Bubba wondered out loud in front of 6,000 friends if his life had had meaning—if he had made a difference. Well today we gather here to pay tribute—to celebrate the life of someone whose accomplishments are so many, so varied, and so valued that his legacy rises to something greater than mere difference making. Bubba's difference deserves its own category—Bubba was a Jewish hero. Through his actions—through his courage, generosity, leadership, determination, and wisdom—he came to define what it meant to be a Jewish leader in America in this century. He enriched all our lives—he took care of his family, he made Alabama better, he made America stronger, and Israel safer.

As with so many others in this room, Bubba was my mentor, my teacher, my friend—my hero. How lucky I have been, how lucky we all have been—to know and to love Bubba.

So Bubba, I think we can all answer your question now.

You made quite a difference.

Your memory will forever be a blessing. And we pledge to you that our continued work will be your lasting legacy.

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 ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS
 

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 TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES  
 NAVAL ACADEMY

• Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the U.S. Naval Academy's class of 1957. On Saturday evening, October 27, 2007, the class of 1957 will celebrate its 50th class reunion in Annapolis, MD.

On June 29, 1953, 1,135 young men each received a one-page form entitled "Interpretation of Oath" addressed: "To a Candidate about to take the Oath as a Midshipman." It interpreted the practical aspects of the oath: trustworthiness, perseverance, language, cleanliness, and loyalty. It warned of many inoculations that soon would be given and then finished with:

Men cannot be trained for a profession of arms by surrounding them with luxuries and babying them. Young men who are worthwhile do not wish to be coddled. The first few days, when the drills are over and the night has come, you will find that you are tired and perhaps a little homesick. In a few days you will find that you are feeling better, you have a better appetite and sleep better than you ever did before. If you do your part you will find that the academy will do its part by you.

Truer words have never been written.

Later that afternoon these young men stood in Tecumseh Court in The Yard at Annapolis, MD, took the oath,

and became midshipmen in the U.S. Navy, class of 1957.

Almost 4 years later on June 7, 1957, 848 of them graduated with a bachelor of science in engineering, took another oath, and were commissioned into the Armed Forces. Of the Navy Blue majority, 568 were commissioned into the Navy: 160 went to Pensacola to become naval aviators; 203 went into destroyers; 42 to auxiliary ships; 94 to capital ships including aircraft carriers; and 104 of the class went into submarines a year or so later. Sixty-four went into the United States Marine Corps and 206 were commissioned into the then academy-less Air Force.

During the ensuing 50 years, the class of 1957 distinguished itself in service to the Republic. Of the original graduating class, 534 served for 20 years or more. Thirty-eight of them gave their lives in the execution of their oaths. Charles Duke walked on the Moon. Leo Hyatt endured 2,050 days of captivity in North Vietnam. Bradley Parkinson developed the global positioning system. Altogether, the class of 1957 produced 21 admirals and generals. Class members served an average of 1.3 times as commanding officers. The class served with distinction throughout the cold war, including the very hot Vietnam war, and emerged victorious.

Following their retirement or resignation from their respective services, members of the class continued in a variety of careers and professions: 169 of them became presidents or vice presidents of companies or corporations; 33 served as chief executive officers.

Mr. President, I salute the U.S. Naval Academy's class of 1957. Most importantly, I wish to extend warm and hearty congratulations to them for a job well done, or as the Navy would say it, "Bravo Zulu, '57!" I extend my best wishes for their continued success during the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL HERBERT S. LOCKETT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to COL Herbert S. Lockett, former ombudsman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Colonel Lockett has a long and distinguished history of service to our Nation, both as a soldier and as a volunteer ensuring that National Guard and Reserve soldiers are prepared for battle. His service, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, is noble and commendable. It is for this reason that I honor him today.

Colonel Lockett served as a combat medic in the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II, earning a Bronze Star, an Outstanding Leadership Commendation, and three Campaign Stars. He cared for those who were wounded and risked his own safety in service to others. Those who brave bullets to provide care are truly heroic, and Colonel Lockett was no exception.

He went on to serve in Korea as an infantryman, where he earned a Silver Star for Gallantry at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. While his unit had taken heavy casualties, and many in his unit threatened to desert, he took charge and they fought until reinforcements arrived, earning two Presidential Unit Citations and credit for 2,000 Chinese KIAs.

Even after retiring from active duty, Colonel Lockett continued to serve his country. Colonel Lockett has been a volunteer with National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve helping to prepare soldiers in National Guard and Reserve units to be deployed for combat operations. For his efforts in this regard he has been awarded the James N. Roche Spirit of Voluntarism Award, the highest award given by the committee.

Mr. President it is my honor to pay tribute to this great Alabamian, and most of all this great American. He serves as a shining example of the American spirit. He is loved by all who know him for his tireless work and determination.●

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2198. A bill to require the Architect of the Capitol to permit the acknowledgment of God on flag certificates.

S. 2205. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1778. A bill to authorize certain activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-200).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2207. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Green McAdoo School in Clinton, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2208. A bill to protect public health and safety in the event that testing of nuclear weapons by the United States is resumed; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SMITH, Mr.

CRAPO, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2209. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to improve America's research competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2210. A bill to provide incentives for investment in research and development for new medicines, to enhance access to new medicines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2211. A bill to ensure the recovery, resiliency, and health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 2212. A bill to support the establishment and operations of Teachers Professional Development Institutes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 354. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 723

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 723, a bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.