

the glass. That speaks a lot about the character of the officer about whom we are speaking today.

Mr. President, we both extend our heartfelt thanks to GEN Pete Chiarelli, to his wife Beth, and to his children and their families for their lifetime of service to the Nation. Words cannot characterize properly the extraordinary character of General Chiarelli's accomplishments.

The Nation thanks him and wishes him success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

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#### HONORING REGINALD COOPER AUGUSTINE, JR.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to an American hero and Illinois resident who was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on December 2.

Reginald Cooper Augustine, Jr. was born on October 12, 1913 in Decatur, IL. His parents, Reginald and Pauline, were prominent members of the community, both serving at different times on the Decatur school board.

Reginald was an all American kid growing up in Illinois during the Great Depression. As a teenager in the 1920s, he spent his Saturdays at the silent moving pictures. In junior high, he spent a year delivering the Decatur Herald—getting up every morning at 3 a.m. and returning to bed by 5 a.m. During high school, he played football and participated in the school band, while also working at the Biflex Bumper Company.

After graduating from Decatur High School in 1931, Reginald attended Northwestern University as a member of the third entering class of Austin Scholars. This program, launched in September 1929, provided full room, board, and tuition for 4 undergraduate years, plus a year of all-expenses paid study and travel abroad. He received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern in 1935, with a major in Latin and a minor in German. These language skills proved pivotal in the direction of the rest of his life.

After college, Reginald spent 16 months touring Europe and North Africa on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that he acquired in Rotterdam, perfecting his knowledge of German, French, Italian, Dutch, and Spanish. During an extended stay in Germany, he witnessed a Nazi party rally in Heidelberg that he later described as akin to a Fourth of July celebration with scarlet swastika banners and leather-booted storm troopers. He returned to the U.S. in late September 1937, never forgetting what he had witnessed.

The Selective Service Act of 1940 required all U.S. residents between the ages of 21 and 35 to register, and in 1940, Mr. Augustine was 27. He was to be drafted in February, 1942, but after the Japanese Empire bombed Pearl Harbor, he went straight to the enlistment center in Peoria to sign up and serve his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

During the Second World War, Mr. Augustine was selected to join an elite detachment of linguists, spies and scientists by COL Boris Pash, who headed a mission code-named Alsos. This mission was led by LTG Leslie R. Groves under the Manhattan Project. Groves suspected German physicists were engaging in a similar nuclear program and feared that they would complete a bomb first. The Alsos mission was tasked with determining whether the Nazis had developed an atomic bomb. Mission operatives moved into newly liberated areas just behind advancing Allied lines to find Nazi scientists, capture and interrogate them, as well as confiscate and secure stocks of refined uranium that were urgently needed by the Manhattan Project.

Reginald was selected as an ideal candidate and put in charge of field operations for this elite detachment because of his knowledge of French and German, as well as his extensive experience in Europe. During one operation in search of uranium in September 1944, he and Colonel Pash entered a plant located near Antwerp, Belgium where fighting was still going on between British and German forces. There, they found approximately 70 tons of refined uranium.

Far more difficult was a mission to southern France, which at that time was a dangerous no man's land, occupied by 2 competing resistance movements—one Communist, the other non-Communist. According to Reginald's memoirs, "no British or American forces, and not even any units of the regular French army" were present in the area. As part of a group of 6 Alsos officers, he conducted the negotiations with partisans and officials. At a French arsenal in Toulouse, armed with a Geiger counter, he discovered a major cache of uranium. Reginald, Colonel Pash, and a well-armed U.S. military contingent later returned to remove the uranium by force. Reginald accompanied the shipment of uranium back to the U.S. on a U.S. Navy ship. This uranium was eventually used in the Little Boy bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Reginald went on many other critical missions, including one to recover the international radium standards from a small eastern German town only hours before it was handed over to Soviet forces. He oversaw the safe transfer of Nazi scientists, as well as American scientists, from one place to another. On one occasion, he found himself face-to-face with a Nazi checkpoint, manned by an armed German crew, but escaped unharmed.

Another mission that Reginald described as "a grand climax to all Alsos operations in the war," was the seizure of a strategic German atomic research center near Stuttgart. Once the area had been secured, he escorted several captured German scientists to American territory, including Otto Hahn, discoverer of the nuclear fission principle, Nobelist Max von Laue, and

physicists Karl Wirtz, Erich Bagge and Carl von Weizsacker.

Robert Norris, author of the 2003 book *Racing for the Bomb: General Leslie R. Groves, the Manhattan Project's Indispensable Man*, noted that "Alsos was one of the most successful intelligence operations of the war."

Reginald was promoted to the rank of captain by the end of the war. He was decorated for his service, including the Bronze Star and Order of the British Empire, which he received personally from King George VI.

After the war, he continued to serve his country for over two decades as a member of the Central Intelligence Agency. This included postings in Munich and Frankfurt during the 1950s and 60s, and to Saigon in 1968.

Reginald Augustine passed away on June 30 at the age of 97 and will be laid to rest today at Arlington Cemetery. He is an example of our nation's Greatest Generation of heroes that grew up during the Depression, responded to their country's call to arms during World War II, and continued to serve during the long Cold War against communism. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt described, "This generation of Americans [had] a rendezvous with destiny."

Mr. Augustine is survived by his wife of 61 years, two daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren. We owe him and his family, as well as his generation, a debt of gratitude.

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#### HONORING JOHN KATZ

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the distinguished public service of a true statesman from my State of Alaska, John Katz. At the new year, John will step down as director of the State of Alaska's national office here in Washington, DC, after nearly three decades in that position. John Katz is an Alaska pioneer. He has been a key player in virtually every major public policy decision in Alaska for the past 40 years—and Alaska has only been a State for 52 years. John helped Alaska's transition to statehood in our formative years. He shaped and implemented key congressional laws, including the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

John laid the foundation for Alaska's robust resource-based economy, which at one point was providing this Nation a quarter of its domestic oil. John has helped transform the Last Frontier into a modern society, bringing basic facilities like water, sewer, and phone service to a territory one-fifth the size of the lower 48 States. Overall, John has helped carefully manage Alaska's often strained relationship with the Federal Government. After working as a high school teacher and coach in Baltimore public schools, John began his long career of service to Alaska when he joined the staff of Alaska Congressman Howard Pollock. My dad, Nick