

honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His was a life spent in service to our great country and its Navy and sailors.

An Atlanta native, Admiral Houser entered the Naval Academy in 1938 at the age of 16, as part of the class of 1942. He was commissioned early with his class in 1941, after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. During World War II, he served for 3 years as a deck officer aboard the USS Nashville, which saw combat in the battle for Guadalcanal, raids on the Marcus and Wake Islands, and operations around Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. In 1945, Admiral Houser entered flight training and was designated a naval aviator the following year. He saw combat in Korea as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 44 and during the Vietnam War as commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Constellation. Other commands-at-sea included Fighter Squadron 124, the USS Mauna Loa, and Carrier Division TWO as a flag officer.

Ashore, Admiral Houser served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1960 to 1962 and again from 1967 to 1968 as Director, Strategic Plans Division. He was the Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1962 through 1963; a member of the staff of the National Security Council in 1965; and Director of Aviation Plans and Requirements for the U.S. Navy from 1968 through 1970. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 1972 and served his last tour of duty from 1972 to 1976 as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare, where he was responsible for all Naval aviation matters. Admiral Houser said that his most satisfying accomplishment as Deputy Chief was saving the F-14 fighter from cancellation.

Admiral Houser received numerous medals and decorations while on Active Duty. They include the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards; the Legion of Merit, four awards; the Bronze Star with Combat V; and the Air Medal, two awards. In retirement, he was also honored to receive the prestigious U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award in 2003.

After retirement from the Navy, Admiral Houser went on to a successful career in the telecommunications industry, working for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Communications Satellite Corporation, and Com21, among others. But he always remained dedicated to the Navy he so loved. He served as a trustee of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation for 30 years. He served on the International Midway Memorial Foundation and helped establish the annual Navy Midway Dinner. He spearheaded the creation of a Midway Memorial in the yard of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Beyond all his accomplishments, Bill was a great friend. When I returned home from prison in Vietnam, he was instrumental in helping me return to flying status. I remain forever indebted to him for his support and assistance.

Bill passed away on February 5, 2012, and is survived by his wife Jan; his 3 daughters, Cindy, Gayle, and Francie; his 2 stepdaughters, Karla and Louise; 11 grandchildren; and 1 great-granddaughter. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy.'" By that standard, VADM William D. Houser, USN, Retired, lived a life of immeasurable worth. God bless and Godspeed, old friend.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND FRED LUTER, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Fred Luter, Jr., of New Orleans, LA on being elected to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention and acknowledging Reverend Luter's unique role as the first African-American leader of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. Fred Luter, Jr. preached his first church sermon in 1983 at the Law Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. He then became pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in 1986. Under the leadership of Reverend Luter, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church community grew from 65 members in 1986 to over 7,000 members in 2005. Thanks to Reverend Luter, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church grew to be the largest Southern Baptist Church in the State of Louisiana.

In 2005, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church was extensively damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Along with the church, Reverend Luter also lost his home to flooding. Displaced members of the church totaled approximately 2,000 people. Reverend Luter, in cooperation with Rev. David Crosby, found a temporary home for Franklin Avenue Baptist Church during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As well as setting up a temporary church, Reverend Luter continued to minister to his congregation, even holding services in Baton Rouge, LA, and Houston, TX. After tremendous hard work and determination, Reverend Luter reopened the door to Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in April of 2008.

In 2011, Reverend Luter became the first African-American to be elected as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Convention is a cooperative of over 45,000 churches they diligently seek to bring about greater racial and ethnic representation at every level of Southern Baptist institutional life.

Reverend Luter was then nominated by Rev. David Crosby to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 19, 2012, Reverend Luter was elected to be the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is with a special measure of commendation and heartfelt congratula-

tions on becoming the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention and for his commitment to ministering to his congregation that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Reverend Luter's family in honoring and celebrating the life of this most extraordinary person.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jewish Family Services, a philanthropic treasure in Connecticut. This year marks a momentous 100th anniversary of community service.

Founded June 1912, Jewish Family Services was built to assist European immigrants coming to this country to seek the American dream and escape persecution. These new residents of Connecticut confronted the challenges of their new lives with hope and determination.

Jewish Family Services has touched all generations, giving unconditionally to all those in need. Following the value of *Tikkun Olam*—"healing the world"—their mission is truly boundless. Their courageous staff of experienced social workers has helped facilitate new lives for many citizens, empowering their first steps towards change.

Jewish Family Services has recently focused on programs to support new careers and combat long-term unemployment. Through the Jewish Employment Transition Services, JFS has helped ease the desperation of joblessness. These programs complement many others including a food pantry, mental health services, care for the aging, children, and Holocaust survivors, counseling for life transitions such as divorce, and financial tutoring.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary while preparing for the next decades, Jewish Family Services has created three new funds—one dedicated to our children, the Changing Children's Lives Fund, another for those confronting emergency situations or personal crisis, the First Responders Fund, and a third, aptly named the Future Fund.

By giving help and getting help, Jewish Family Services has formed a family for the Greater Hartford area. It embraces community assistance as a given and disperses inspiration and hope. Its one hundred years are a prelude to future accomplishment and contribution.●

FOREST RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 125th anniversary. On July 13, 2012, the residents of Forest River will recognize the community's history and founding.

Named after the river that flows through the area, Forest River was established in 1878 as a stop for both the