

After his honorable release from the Marine Corps, Elder Perry returned to Utah State University, where he earned a degree in finance and married his wife, Virginia Lee. Together, they were the parents of three children: Barbara, Linda Gay, and Lee. Family was always the highest priority for Elder Perry. Although his successful business career demanded much of his attention, he always made special sacrifices to spend time with his wife and children.

Elder Perry was also committed to balancing his busy work schedule with his church service. As his family moved across the country—from Idaho and California, to New York and Boston—Elder Perry served in various leadership positions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including two bishoprics, a high council, and two stake presidencies. In April 1974, he accepted a calling to serve in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Sadly, after serving as an apostle for only 8 months, Elder Perry's beloved wife, Virginia Lee, died of cancer. Nine years later, cancer would also take his daughter, Barbara. Although Elder Perry's life was marked by tragedy, it was not defined by it. His faith in God was unshakeable, as was his optimism. In response to heartbreak, Elder Perry said, "[The Lord] is very kind. Even though some experiences are hard, he floods your mind with memories and gives you other opportunities. Life doesn't end just because you have a tragedy—there's a new mountain to climb."

Elder Perry never stopped climbing those mountains, and he served valiantly as an Apostle of Jesus Christ. In 1976, he married Barbara Dayton—his loving helpmeet and able partner who helped him bear the heavy responsibility of his apostolic calling. I will always remember Elder Perry for the zeal and energy he brought to every facet of his life. Nothing could temper his enthusiasm, and nothing could deter him from doing what was right.

Elder Perry never tired of his calling. He so loved meeting with church members and leaders throughout the world that he once said, "My association with great men has been not only an education, but an inspiration." I can easily say the same of my own association with Elder Perry; it has been both an education and an inspiration, and I will always be grateful for his example.

I will never forget Elder Perry, his life of dedicated service, and his unwavering optimism. I consider myself lucky to have known him and even luckier to call him a friend. I will miss Elder Perry dearly, as will all those who knew him. I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Barbara, and their beautiful family. May God comfort them in this time of grief, and may his love be with them always.

OPENING OF THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I wish to welcome a great new diplomatic development in my home State of Colorado. Last week, Denver was proud to officially welcome the opening of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, TECO, the de-facto consulate of Taiwan in the United States. The TECO office in Denver will serve Colorado, as well as the States of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

I thank Taiwan's leadership for this wise decision, particularly Dr. Lyushun Shen, the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, TECRO in Washington, DC, as well as Mr. Jack J.C. Yang, the Director General of the new TECO Office in Denver.

As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Cooperation, I am committed to ensuring that the U.S.-Taiwan partnership continues to grow and prosper. Our nations must continue to work together to ensure regional stability and to advance economic ties, including through landmark initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP.

Our friendship has never been stronger. Taiwan is now the tenth largest trading partner for the U.S., while the U.S. is Taiwan's largest foreign investor. Our people-to-people relations are flourishing, with over 20,000 Taiwanese students studying in the U.S. each year. Over 75 U.S. cities have established sister city relationships with their Taiwanese counterparts, including Colorado Springs, CO, which has been a sister city to Kaohsiung since 1983.

I know our nation's bonds with Taiwan will only grow stronger, and I am proud that Denver will now be front and center in ensuring the continued friendship between our nations and peoples. I am confident that our Taiwanese friends will not find more hospitable and welcoming hosts for their diplomats and visitors than the people of the great State of Colorado.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SONNY SMITH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service and sacrifice of Johnson County Auxiliary Sheriff Deputy Sonny Smith who gave his life while in the line of duty on May 15, 2015.

Deputy Smith led a life of service. The last 11 years he dedicated to safety and law enforcement as a detention officer. He continued to serve for the past 6 years as an auxiliary deputy protecting the people of Johnson County on a volunteer basis.

Service was an important part of Sonny's life. He served his country in

the United States Navy and continued that commitment to his community when he left the military. Sonny was known for his compassion and leadership throughout Johnson County. His generosity was always on display. His fellow officers say they will remember Sonny as a humble man who was always willing to serve his neighbors. As a father of high school students, Sonny attended all the pep rallies, football games and fundraisers. He was always helping Clarksville High School. His daughters Makayla and Callie describe their dad as a man always willing to help others in need.

While he made a living working as a security guard at Arkansas Nuclear One, Sonny was a reliable handyman that many in the community reached out to for help repairing their garage doors.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Sonny's family, including his wife Amy, his daughters, and sons Dakota and Charlie.

Deputy Sonny Smith was a true hero, not only because of the uniform he wore, but also because of his final actions. By taking the lead when he responded to a residential burglary call and exercising his professional training, he saved the lives of his fellow officers.

I humbly offer my appreciation and gratitude for his selfless service to Arkansas.●

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, I spoke on the floor about two of the outstanding Federal workers at the National Institutes of Health and I indicated at the time that I would be speaking periodically about other Federal workers who are doing extraordinary things on behalf of the American taxpayer. People wonder where their tax dollars go; I would like to provide a few examples.

As I said at the time, "Government workers guard our borders; protect us from terrorists; treat our wounded veterans; dispense Social Security checks to our retirees; find cures for diseases; guide the Nation's air traffic; explore the tiniest particles and the vast expanse of outer space; ensure our air is safe to breathe, our water is safe to drink, and our food is safe to eat; support our servicemen and women in harm's way; and promote our interests and ideals abroad. Who does the government work for? Government Works for America."

The Partnership for Public Service announced the finalists for the 2015 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, also known as the "Sammies," last month during Public Service Recognition Week. As the Partnership notes, "Federal employees are responsible for many noteworthy and inspiring accomplishments that are seldom recognized or celebrated. The Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals