

Before we conclude, let us share our deepest gratitude to Ardythe Hope and to Brad Speakman, two Wilmington firefighters who were also badly injured in Saturday's fire. They are still in the hospital, Chester Crozer, recovering, and we pray for a speedy recovery.

We are thankful as well for the safety of John Cawthray and Peter Cramer and Terrance Tate, firefighters who were also injured in the fire and for all of their colleagues.

For Delaware's first responder community, in some ways, tomorrow will be like any other. Our firefighters, our police officers, our EMTs and paramedics will be on call, keeping us safe and secure, and we, the rest of us in our community and State and country, will go on about our lives, many folks really not thinking about them until the moment we need them. But no matter what we are doing and what we are thinking, when their shift starts, they will be on it. They will be on duty ready to run without hesitation, even into situations that would cause the rest of us to run in the opposite direction.

As Christiana Fire Chief Rich Perillo said this past Sunday, "the only thing we ever signed up to do is to protect our neighbors and neighborhoods, and that we will continue to do no matter what comes our way."

We are both so grateful for the dedication, the service, and the love shown by the Delaware fire service to protect neighbors. In that sense, today and tomorrow and the days after will be like any other in that we can continue to rely on our first responders, and we are grateful for that. But in so many other ways—in the ways that truly matter—it just will not be the same.

For Chris's and Jerry's families and friends, for their brothers and sisters at the firehouse, for all the members of our first responder community, and for all the Delawareans who had a chance to work or serve with them and to be protected by them, things will not be the same. That is why we pray for their families. We pray that tomorrow will be just a little easier for them than today and that the next day a little easier than tomorrow, and so on, until the pain is eventually matched by the joy that comes from remembering someone you love and by the gratefulness we all feel for having had the privilege to know someone special.

One of life's unsung joys is the look in a child's face in the presence of one of their heroes. Have you ever seen a young child as a fire truck goes by? Their eyes are wide with amazement. The station door rises, sirens wale, the lights flash, and the bright red truck goes by with an American flag waving off the back. As adults, we notice it. We take notice. We wonder what might have happened, and we go back to our day. Even though a child doesn't know where the truck is going, they know that is what a hero looks like.

As a father, I look at firefighters like Chris and Jerry with the same sense of

awe that young children do, not just because of their uniforms or the sirens or the truck but because of their deep and lifelong commitment to do a dangerous job.

They loved their children and their families. They have been there for their friends and neighbors. They have served their communities and their brothers and sisters and firehouse tirelessly, all while risking their lives every day, leaving for a shift not knowing if they would come home that night or the next morning. That is what a hero looks like.

This week and the weeks to come, I know Senator CARPER and I and our whole community will remember, mourn, pray for, and be grateful for Chris and Jerry. Like a child watching an engine rush by, we will see their lives fly by in our memories and our tributes knowing they went by too quickly, leaving us before we can truly appreciate where they are going or why. But amidst so much we cannot know, we can take solace in knowing that they are going there for a reason far bigger than any one of us.

And as we watch their lives pass by in our memories, we can say to ourselves what the child says when he sees a fire truck go by: That is what a hero looks like.

Let me leave you with the same passage from Scripture shared by Senator CARPER from John 15. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Thank you, Chris and Jerry, for your sacrifice, your service, your love, and for laying down your lives for all of us.

I thank Senator CARPER for joining me tonight.

Mr. CARPER. I thank Senator COONS for those beautiful, heartfelt words.

A few years ago, the Senator who would have joined me and who would have joined Bill Roth before me would have been JOE BIDEN, who served here for six terms. He was someone who loved the fire service in Delaware and is still beloved by them.

I have heard JOE say a number of times—and I know Senator COONS has as well—these words when talking to people who had a serious loss in their life. He would say something such as this: May soon come the day when the memory of the one you have loved and lost brings a smile to your face before it brings a tear to your eye.

That would be my prayer for these families, the Leach family and the Fickes family.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JANE MARIE DOGGETT, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022. VICE CATHY M. DAVIDSON, TERM EXPIRED.

DIANE SUZETTE HARRIS, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022. VICE PAULA BARKER DUFFY, TERM EXPIRED.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020. VICE AARON PAUL DWORIN, TERM EXPIRED.

SYLVIA OROZCO, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022. VICE PAUL W. HODES, TERM EXPIRED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

WILFREDO MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GLENN FINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE JON T. RYMER, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

BRENT FRANKLIN NELSEN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN E. HASTINGS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 28, 2016:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. KENNETH P. EKMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JON T. THOMAS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ALFRED F. ABRAMSON III
COL. PETER B. ANDRYSIAK, JR.
COL. ROBERT W. BENNETT, JR.
COL. JONATHAN P. BRAGA
COL. JOHN W. BRENNAN, JR.
COL. DAVID E. BRIGHAM
COL. MIGUEL A. CORREA
COL. CLEMENT S. COWARD, JR.
COL. PATRICK J. DONAHUE
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. DONAHUE
COL. ROBERT L. EDMONSON II
COL. SCOTT L. EFFLANDT
COL. DAVID J. FRANCIS
COL. PAUL H. FREDENBURGH
COL. DAVID M. HAMILTON
COL. NEIL S. HERSEY
COL. LONNIE G. HIBBARD
COL. JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, JR.