January 23, 2017

REMEMBERING PARKER BEAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I join many Kentuckians who were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Parker Beam, the master distiller emeritus of Heaven Hill Distillery in Bardstown, KY. Parker was a giant of the industry. By far, he helped promote "the new Golden Age" of bourbon in the United States.

The Beam family is no stranger to bourbon. Tracing its distilling roots in Kentucky back to 1795, Parker Beam continued the tradition of his lineage. When he succeeded his father as master distiller, Parker grew Heaven Hill Distillery with its first premium small batch and single barrel bourbons. During his long career, Parker won numerous awards and accolades for his craft and became a charter member in the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame.

Parker was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease in 2010. Since then, he dedicated himself to finding a cure with this disease and established the Parker Beam Promise of Hope Fund. After 50 years of bourbon and a courageous battle with this disease, Parker passed away at the age of 75.

Kentucky's bourbon heritage has brought pride, culture, and economic development to the Commonwealth. Parker Beam helped cultivate that tradition and pass it on to the next generation. He was a man of skill, authenticity, and passion, and his legacy will surely live on. Elaine and I send our condolences to his friends and family.

Mr. President, The Herald-Leader in Lexington, Kentucky published an article on Parker Beam's career. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Herald-Leader, Jan. 9, 2016]

PARKER BEAM, MASTER DISTILLER OF KENTUCKY BOURBON, DIES

(By Bruce Schreiner)

Parker Beam, who carried on his family's historic bourbon-making tradition as long-time master distiller for Kentucky-based Heaven Hill Distilleries, died Monday after battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 75.

Beam's career as a whiskey maker spanned more than a half century at Bardstown, Kentucky-based Heaven Hill, a family owned and operated distilled spirits company and maker of the popular Evan Williams brand. Beam was responsible for distilling and aging Evan Williams—the world's No. 2-selling bourbon—and other Heaven Hill whiskeys.

"He was a true industry giant long before the current renaissance," said Alex L. Shapira, president of Heaven Hill Brands. "Without question, he was committed to our industry and possessed a real passion for the craft of distilling.

Beam's pedigree as a bourbon maker was impeccable. As a grandnephew of Jim Beam, Parker Beam was born into a family that traces its whiskey-making roots in Kentucky to 1795, when Jacob Beam set up his first still. Park Beam, Parker's grandfather and namesake, is the founder of Heaven Hill in 1960 and learned the craft by working alongside his father, Earl. The job of master distiller shifted from father to son in 1975 when Parker Beam assumed the role. He developed the company's first premium small batch and single barrel bourbons.

That father-son partnership extended into another generation when Parker Beam's son, Craig, started working at Heaven Hill in the early 1980s. For years, the Beams shared duties as co-master distillers. Parker Beam had the title of master distiller emeritus at Heaven Hill at the time of this death.

"Parker Beam wasn't just a name on a bottle—he was the living embodiment of the whiskey inside—authentic, classic, well-aged and distilled from old-fashioned hard work and gentleman integrity," said Eric Gregory, president of the Kentucky Distillers' Association.

Craig Beam had his own humble start. On one summer break from school, he cleaned pigeon droppings in a vacant warehouse purchased by Heaven Hill. He later drove a bottling operation.

During his years-long battle with the disorder, Parker Beam raised funds in hopes of helping find a cure. Parker Beam was among a small fraternity of master distillers who oversaw production at various Kentucky distilleries during bourbon's revival.

According to a 2014 report by the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Institute, distilling contributes $3 billion in gross state product to Kentucky's economy every year, up from $1.8 billion in 2010. Kentucky bourbon and Tennessee whiskey exports shot past $1 billion for the first time in 2013, according to the Distilled Spirits Council. By 2015, Tennessee whiskey and rye whiskey rose 7.8 percent to $2.9 billion, while bourbon and Tennessee whiskey exports topped $1 billion for the third straight year, the group said.

Parker Beam began his career at Heaven Hill in 1960 and learned the craft by working alongside his father, Earl. The job of master distiller shifted from father to son in 1975 when Parker Beam assumed the role. He developed the company's first premium small batch and single barrel bourbons.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL POMPEO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I voted against Representative Pompeo's confirmation as Director of the CIA.

His changing statements on the use of torture leave me no choice. His written answers to the Senate Intelligence Committee, saying that he will consult with CIA chiefs and determine whether the methods in the U.S. Army Field Manual are sufficient and, if they aren't, work with legal experts and congressional overseers to make changes, are extremely alarming and contradict what he told me personally when we met in my office.

Federal law now clearly prohibits torture and "cruel, inhumane, and degrading" treatment of detainees and prohibits any techniques not authorized by the Army Field Manual. We cannot go backwards on this seminal issue of human rights.

For years, I was highly critical of the CIA's detention and interrogation program. I opposed repeated captures and interrogations, and I voted against Representative Pompeo's confirmation to be CIA Director because, in order to win the war on terrorism, we must remain true to the principles upon which our country was founded.

Slide 2: ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute.