

and I have always had the greatest personal respect and admiration: ADM Lloyd R. "Joe" Vasey.

Joe Vasey was my father's dear friend and comrade for so many years. As he marks a century of life well lived, I send him the warmest wishes and convey to him thanks of a grateful nation for embodying the very finest qualities of patriotism and for his constant service to a cause greater than himself.

From the Naval Academy to dangerous duty in the Second World War to five commands at sea to service in the highest councils of military command, Joe Vasey's was a most distinguished and honorable Navy career. But he did not believe that his retirement from active duty relieved him of the responsibilities of patriotism. He continued to serve the national interest by founding the Pacific Forum to promote security and stability in the critically important Asia-Pacific region.

The only elaboration of this illustrious life I can offer are reminiscences of a friendship, some of which I was privileged to personally observe, which for me served as emblematic of a tradition; that of service as an officer in the U.S. Navy and the bonds of respect and love that unite good officers in shared sacrifice and devotion to their service and their country. It is the tradition upon which, in the most difficult moments of my life, I relied for the strength to persevere for my country's honor and for my self-respect.

Very late in his life, my father was interviewed for an oral history of our officers in the post-World War II Navy. "There's a term which has slipped somewhat into disuse," he remarked in the interview, "which I always used to the moment I retired, and that is the term: an officer and a gentleman." Had my father been asked to identify a contemporary who personified the virtues he considered essential to the life of an officer and a gentleman, I have no doubt he would have thought first of his friend Joe Vasey.

My father's respect and affection for Joe Vasey was unlimited. Their friendship was forged in the crucible of war and strengthened to last a lifetime by their shared experiences aboard the USS *Gunnel* as it prowled the Pacific from Midway to Nagasaki in search of the enemy. And find them they did. On one occasion, the ship sank a Japanese freighter and destroyer, but was then forced to submerge for 36 hours while avoiding Japanese depth charges. With the temperature on the submarine reaching 120 degrees and oxygen running low, my father decided to surface and try to fight the remaining Japanese ships. But he offered his torpedo officer, Joe Vasey, and the rest of his officers the option to abandon ship. To a man, they agreed with my father and rejected that course. When the *Gunnel* surfaced, its weary crew found the Japanese destroyers had given up and were steaming away. My father, Joe Vasey,

and their comrades lived to fight another day.

My father and Joe Vasey were proud veterans of an epic war. They never felt the need to exaggerate their experiences, extraordinary as they were. But they did talk about the lessons of leadership they learned and how they could be applied to new circumstances. And they had many occasions to do so. They were together when my father became commander-in-chief of Pacific Command during the Vietnam war and Admiral Vasey served as his most trusted adviser as head of strategic plans and policies. They were together when they argued to Washington for a strategy to win the war rather than just continue the bleeding. And they were together when my father gave orders for B-52s to bomb the city in which his son was held a prisoner of war. They were the best of friends and exemplified that noblest of traditions: brothers in arms.

I count myself immeasurably fortunate to have benefited from their example early in life so that I could derive the strength I needed to survive later misfortune from their stories, their courage, and their honor.

So to Joe Vasey, a great patriot, a good man, an officer and a gentleman, and a brave defender of this Nation, I wish a very happy birthday, fair winds, and following seas. ●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:25 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 337. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

H.R. 387. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 494. An act to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 618. An act to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 688. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 689. An act to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 698. An act to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 337. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 387. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 494. An act to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 618. An act to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 688. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 689. An act to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 698. An act to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-669. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Army Force Structure (OSS-2017-0149); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-670. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2017 report on the plan for the nuclear weapons stockpile, complex, delivery systems, and command and control systems (OSS-2016-1038); to the Committees on Armed Services; Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC-671. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure; Adjusting Civil Money Penalties for Inflation" (RIN3052-AD21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.