

Eventually Bud, using the GI bill, went back to college, and then he went to get his degree in dentistry. He was a beloved dentist not only in Fairbanks but all across the region.

Now, he was a bush pilot, and he had a plane, so he and Mary Jane, who was a trained dental assistant, traveled all around the small villages in the interior.

Trust me, these villages do not and certainly back then did not have any dental care, so they provided dental care throughout the interior to tiny, little communities for free, for anybody who needed it.

As their three daughters were growing up—Janine, Jennifer, and Julie—it was a big time, a momentous time, in Alaska.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was being debated. One of the biggest land settlements in American or all history took place right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Bud and Mary Jane were both highly involved in this monumentally important bill for Alaska and in the overarching efforts to attain rights and lands for the Alaska Native people.

One of Bud's best friends was Ralph Perdue, a strong Alaska Native leader, who, along with Mary Jane and Bud, founded the Fairbanks Native Association. Working together, they focused heavily on education for Alaska Natives, particularly high school education, something most Americans take for granted. Until 1970, rural Alaska—a huge swath of America—by and large did not have any high schools. The small communities, small villages, did not have any high schools. To get a high school education, young students and even children had to leave their homes and their villages and travel to boarding schools in very faraway places in Alaska and in the lower 48.

Now, that was an injustice—one, among others, that the Fairbanks Native Association decided to tackle. They produced studies. They gave lectures. They talked to State officials. They talked to Federal officials. They and so many others across the State helped lay the groundwork for the seminal lawsuit brought by a group of Alaskans that resulted in a State-signed consent decree to provide high schools in communities throughout the State—communities with at least 15 students—rather than sending their children all across Alaska, hundreds of miles away, or to the lower 48, thousands of miles away.

At the time, this education settlement was the largest education settlement in American history, but Bud's commitment to education didn't stop there—not even close. He was on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska, eventually serving as president of the university. It should be noted that later, Mary Jane, his wife, also served on this very important board.

With a combined 24 years of service together, Bud and Mary Jane were on the University of Alaska Board of Re-

gents. Bud helped run the university when the president abruptly resigned.

He and Mary Jane also opened their home to villagers all across the State who came to Fairbanks and just needed a place to stay. They knew that Bud and Mary Jane would take them in. "Our house was always full," their lovely daughter Julie said.

There were always people living with us who were empowering themselves through education. To this day, I still have Alaskans stop to tell me how they were helped and given a second chance by my parents.

As Julie also noted, there was always a huge amount of smoked salmon strips on the table for all to share—the best smoked salmon in Alaska, I might add.

There is so much more to Bud Fate's life. For instance, at the young, tender age of 70, he decided he was going to run for office. He ran for the State legislature, and he won in a landslide. He served two terms. He was immediately elected chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, which is a huge, important committee in Alaska, and was highly respected on both sides of the aisle.

The list of boards and commissions that he sat on is way too long to go into here, as is the list of service organizations he has volunteered for and led.

He has known Presidents of countries and dignitaries from all over the globe. He is as comfortable at his fish camp on the Yukon River as he is in the board room.

As I mentioned, he is a rabble rouser with very strong opinions—I have heard them for many years, but at heart all of his opinions are focused on a commitment to treat everybody with respect and kindness and provide every Alaskan—every American—an opportunity to better themselves.

He is a good man—Bud Fate—one of the best. The measure of Bud and the impact of his life is probably best reflected in his family and his friends, so many of whom gathered in Fairbanks on December 4 for his 90th birthday, where people from all walks of life all across the State came together—well over 100—talked about his generosity, how it impacted them, how it impacted families, and how it impacted people all around him.

People gave speeches about how he and Mary Jane took in people from all walks of life—veterans coming back from Vietnam who needed comfort and respect, people who needed a helping hand, food, warmth, just love. He lifted people up, so did Mary Jane, and they saved lives.

I was actually one of those people giving a speech in Fairbanks at Bud's 90th birthday party, and I talked about the profound impact Bud has had on my own life—after all, Bud Fate is my father-in-law, and I can't imagine a better one.

He has taught me so much. Bud and Mary Jane, along with my own mom and dad, have provided me a model—

actually, for me and Julie, my wife, of what a true partnership looks like. He is a model for how fulfilling a life of service can be, especially a life in the great State of Alaska.

As I mentioned, he is not just a model for me but for the whole State of a life well lived and a life lived in full.

So, Bud, thanks for all you have done for Alaska, for America, for Fairbanks, for our family, for our great State, and all you continue to do. Thanks for being a great father-in-law and a friend, and, Bud, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KIAH MORRIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I recently had the pleasure of meeting with my friend, former Vermont State Representative Kiah Morris, who among many distinctions was only the second African-American woman ever elected to the Vermont Legislature. Kiah's talents are far-reaching. She has also been an actress of stage, film, and television, spoken word performance, as a singer, dancer, and arts manager. Whether as a legislator or on a theater stage, Kiah's work has focused on amplification of the voices of oppressed people, on human rights, and on social justice.

It was in keeping that Kiah recently traveled to El Salvador and Honduras under the auspices of Oxfam America to meet with families struggling with the violence, poverty, lack of opportunity, injustice, and hopelessness that is causing thousands of destitute, frightened people to abandon their homes to seek refuge elsewhere. In those countries, Kiah saw where people had been gunned down, victims of gangs or corrupt police. She listened to the stories of threats and extortion, of kidnappings and deadly attacks, of fear and desperation. Inspired by the people she met and outraged by the brutality they described, she wrote a poem.

I ask unanimous consent that Kiah's poem, which captures the essence of what the debate here over Central American refugees should be about, be printed in the RECORD.

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

I SAW THE PLACES THEY DIED

(By Kiah Morris 2019)

I saw the places they died
I saw the places they died
I saw the blood on the wall as if it were fresh

I saw the bullet holes pierce their flesh
 I saw the places where they died and their
 spirits left their bodies onto a heavenly
 place
 Far from a war-torn country of our design
 which orchestrated their demise
 On the darkened brick walls splashed with
 stucco
 Metal bars on windows each home a fortress
 from the violence that hovers in wait
 across the thresholds
 Street vendors who compete for our
 Starbucks money to feed their souls
 and nourish their dreams
 I saw the places they died in the tears behind
 the eyes of a priest who saw too much
 Mental memorials to the expressions of
 horror and sadness on the face of a
 mother who died trying to save their
 daughter's life captured in the space
 between his eyes and the weight of
 their loss
 Their state-sanctioned murders designed to
 leave no witnesses behind
 Ordered bullets to fillet her face to ensure no
 viewer could recognize their own moth-
 er's eyes in her frozen gaze
 I saw the places where they died, where the
 children were not spared
 No life too precious to halt corruption and
 gang warfare
 Daily genocides where there are no sacred
 spaces or sanctuaries in which to hide
 I saw the places that they died in the cobble-
 stone streets
 Where people are pawns in a corruptors
 endgame
 The depth of the violence bears no shame
 I saw the places where they died when I
 heard the women speak of the terror
 that they face every day,
 Every week
 The normalcy of rape, the dignity decimated,
 the beatings meant to break and the
 constant earthquakes that shake the
 fragile state
 I saw the places they died in the hopeful
 smiles of the proud feminists who carry
 the burdens of their sisters as a shield
 To protect the dignity of their humanity
 which too often is forced to yield
 I saw the places they died, float off into still
 air
 Laden with promises unfulfilled and hidden
 ambitions laid bare
 I craft petals with poem to form a bouquet
 dropped off in a history of genocide
 With the hope the path these roses display
 will propagate a garden in honor of the
 many places they died.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRAD CATON

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Brad Caton for his exemplary dedication to duty while serving as a Department of Defense congressional fellow and a congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. This month, he will begin his transition to serve as a budgetary analyst in the Army's Budget Office.

As a native of Libby, MT, Brad was commissioned as an infantry officer upon graduation from the University of Montana, where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in business administration. A dedicated scholar, Brad went on to earn his master of business administration from the University of Montana and later a master's degree in legislative affairs from the George

Washington University. Brad has been very successful in his Army career and has served in a broad range of assignments.

His billets have spanned from serving as an infantry platoon commander with the 4th Infantry Division with a deployment to Iraq to assignments managing the Army's financial resources. Brad exemplifies what it means to be a Montanan with his leadership, perseverance, and versatility. This was evident during his first assignment as a budget analyst for U.S. Army Central Command and while he commanded the Pontiac Recruiting Company in Eastern, MI. Following command, Brad continued to display his Montana Resolve as the support operations officer at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea. Additionally, he was deployed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan while serving as the deputy assistant chief of staff, financial management for the 1st Armored Division.

In 2017, Brad served as my Department of Defense congressional fellow. For a year, I had the privilege of working closely with Brad. He was extremely passionate about serving and representing Montanans. He consistently went above and beyond his immediate responsibilities to work in areas outside of the veterans and defense realm. He used his insight as a Montanan to provide critical local feedback on rural Montana priorities, including Tribal and energy issues. He was always thinking of Montana while representing the Department of Defense in my office. Following his fellowship, Brad transitioned to serve as a congressional budget liaison for the U.S. Army. In this capacity Brad arranged and escorted me over to visit the Montana National Guard while they were deployed to Afghanistan over the holidays. He continued to work tirelessly with all Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow and as a liaison was outstanding and represented the Department of Defense and U.S. Army to the U.S. Congress well.

The foundation of Brad's military success is his family and his Montana roots. In fact, Brad bought a house in Red Lodge during his fellowship which he hopes to retire to 1 day. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Eryn Beckman of Colstrip, MT, and a committed father to his children, Isabel, Evan, Pierce, and Audrey. Brad and Eryn's attitude of service, sacrifice, and care for others permeates every organization and activity they participate in, and they are truly examples of servant leaders in the Army and their communities.

Throughout his career, Brad has exemplified what it truly means to be a Montanan as he positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously

from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and his invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with MAJ Brad Caton over the past 3 years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Brad for his service to our country, and we wish him all the best as he continues service in the U.S. Army.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WHEELER

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise to formally express my appreciation to Mr. Jeremy Wheeler. Jeremy is a congressional relations officer in the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, over the last year, he served as a fellow on my national security and veterans team.

Jeremy has supported my work helping the veterans of Indiana and the Nation using his exceptional knowledge of the Veterans Affairs system and his experience working with many of the veterans service organizations. A dedicated public servant, Jeremy has spent much of the last two decades serving our Nation. He served in the U.S. Army for 6 years, including two combat tours in Iraq in 2003 and 2005. After 5 years working in Hollywood, he returned to government service at the Department of Veterans Affairs and has spent much of this decade working to improve the quality and access to care for our Nation's heroes, establish deeper relationships with veterans service organizations, and strengthen the VA's outreach and communications capabilities.

In my office this year, he has provided valuable insight into how the legislation before this Chamber would be implemented and how it would impact the VA's ability to continue serving our veterans. And perhaps most impressively, I am not sure how many offices on Capitol Hill can boast an Emmy-winning staff member. This is just one of the many unique contributions Jeremy has brought to my office. In the last year, I have continually been impressed with Jeremy's work ethic, professionalism, candor, and knowledge.

Next month, Jeremy will be returning to the VA, where I have no doubt he will continue seeking innovative ways to caring for veterans. I wish him the best in all his endeavors, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Veterans Guest House.