

Joe Blount continued in the restaurant business, opening the original Ram's Den in the house next to the family home on Upper College Road.

"I can remember getting up with my dad at about 4 in the morning and going down and getting the fires going," the general said. "He'd get the baking started for the day. By the time I was 10 I was making the bacon and eggs, putting them up for people. Basically, I was a short-order cook."

By that time he also had become a favorite of the school's basketball team, and particularly of its coach, Frank Keaney, another local legend. In fact the whole family was more or less adopted by the university community, to hear the sons tell it. One day, Frank Blount remembers, Keaney came in to see Joe Blount with an idea. It seems he had a team that needed to work to eat, but needed flexibility for practice and games; Joe hired them all as waiters, cooks and dishwashers. When they were playing he tended not to have that much business anyway. Loretta opened a soda shop at Lippitt Hall and worked as a switchboard operator, the same job she had had in the Navy. She became friends with each of the university's presidents over the years, and for years it was a tradition for the president to stop the commencement march to walk over and shake hands with Loretta Blount.

"She loved that," Frank remembered.

"I started out as waterboy for the team, and later I was the mascot," Bruce Blount said. "I grew up knowing more older men, and more athletes, than I knew of kids my own age. "Back then we didn't just walk around in sneakers, you had regular street shoes, and coach wouldn't let me on the floor with them on. So I would stand in the corners during practice, and when the ball came to me, instead of tossing them back in I would just put them up. I developed a really different sort of shooting style, but I could hit from almost anywhere."

Once he started high school, Blount found himself constantly traveling between gyms, from URI's Rodman Hall to St. Francis and the Old Fagan's Hall in Peace Dale, the South Kingstown team's alternate gym. With his gym bag over his shoulder and a basketball under his arm, Blount became a familiar sight on Kingstown Road.

"I could get around better than anybody without a car," he said.

That famous basketball career could have led Blount away from Kingston but didn't. Despite being recruited by schools like Brown and Harvard, Blount knew he wanted to attend URI, then called Rhode Island State.

"There was never any question," he said. "I was absolutely enthralled with the idea of playing for Rhode Island, and Coach Keaney was an idol to me." On his way to collecting more than 1,000 points in his college career, Blount also acted as captain of both the basketball and baseball teams. But he also found time to begin what would be his ultimate career. As an ROTC cadet, Blount became cadet colonel in his senior year and was commissioned in the regular Army as a second lieutenant in the Infantry when he graduated in 1950.

Starting out as a training officer in the 4th Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne, he was made platoon commander in Korea the next year, then company executive officer, then company commander in the 45th Infantry. He was selected as aide-de-camp by Maj. Gen. C.E. Ryan, commander of the Korean Military Advisory Group, and returned to the states with Ryan after his injury.

Since then he has worked his way up the ranks, spending time as a staff officer at the Pentagon, in the Southern Command in the Canal Zone and as commander of the 1st Bat-

alion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry in Vietnam. In 1969 he was made secretary of the U.S. Army Infantry School in Fort Benning, Ga., and in 1971 was assigned to the European Command, eventually serving as community commander of the American Military Community in Wurzburg, Germany.

Finally, in 1983, he was promoted to lieutenant general and made chief of staff of the NATO Allied Forces South Command, consisting of units from Greece, Turkey, Italy the United Kingdom and the United States.

"I always followed Bruce, did whatever he did, only not as well," said little brother Frank Friday. "When he was in the NATO command, I thought that was a big deal. But I had the most fun when he was on the general's staff at Dix when he was stationed there. Whenever my company needed anything, they would come to me and I would call up, say, the motor pool and tell them I needed a Jeep. They'd ask who I was and I would say, 'This is Lieutenant Blount' in my best command voice and get whatever it was I needed.

"Of course it only lasted about a month before everybody figured out there were two Lieutenant Blounts on base, but we would begin to laugh our heads off whenever I told him what I was doing."

"For the longest time in my life I was 'Bruce Blount's brother,'" he said. "And to this day I am very proud of that."●

HONORING MS. MARY MORAN AND MS. VICTORIA METZ

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I'm pleased to honor the service of Ms. Mary Moran and Ms. Victoria Metz, the outgoing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) co-presidents at the Arlington Traditional School, a public alternative elementary school in Arlington, Virginia.

For the past two years, both Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have dedicated themselves to educational achievement by assisting the students, parents, teachers and administration of Arlington Traditional School. They have appeared on numerous occasions before the Arlington County School Board to discuss educational issues and sustain support for the Arlington Traditional School. Ms. Moran and Ms. Metz have also frequently met with individual members of the School Board to answer questions and have reached out to other local PTA presidents.

During the tenure of Mary Moran and Victoria Metz as co-presidents, the Arlington Traditional School PTA has played an integral role in the following activities: Math Night, Science and Technology Night, the DARE Program for 5th Graders; Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Native American Month, the Fall Family Get-Together, Holiday Open House, Parent-Teacher Conference Luncheon and Dinner, Summer Reading Challenge, Back to School Night and Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA generously purchased computers for student use at the Arlington Traditional School.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz were also responsible for the Arlington Traditional School PTA's outreach efforts into the community. The PTA made significant contributions to the Arling-

ton Community Temporary Shelter, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, UNICEF and the Red Cross's International Relief Fund.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have truly made a difference at the Arlington Traditional School. Their success illustrates that our public schools benefit and prosper when parents take active leadership roles in supporting education.●

A TRIBUTE TO THE BELLES OF INDIANA ON THEIR 45TH REUNION

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise before you today to recognize the Belles of Indiana who are celebrating their 45th Reunion this summer. The Belles of Indiana, a choral group comprised of Indiana University students, were the first singing group to perform overseas with the United Service Organizations (USO). The Belles entertained soldiers stationed in Japan and Korea, performing 75 shows in 77 days during the summer of 1955. Their voices and energy brought great joy to all those who heard them perform. These singers displayed strong patriotism for their country and acted as outstanding ambassadors from Indiana. I am pleased to submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because of their great contributions to our soldiers and country.

I would like to commend the following members on their participation: Doris Day Block, Robert Bluemle, Vera Scammon Broughton, Dennis Escol, Roberta Ratliff Graham, Sondra Gauthier Harroff, Sally Graham Johnson, Helen Rapp Nefkens, Sandra Pawol Overack, Carolyn Hill Pain, Joyce Harrod Sakakini, Nancy Speed Schultz, Sue Ann Steeves, Cynthia Findley Stewart, Annabelle Baldrige Menguy, Sharlie Shull Stuart, Linda Foncannon Tucker, Ellen Dallas Wiggins, Mary Musgrave Wirts, Joyce Lancaster Voit, and Barbara Lockard Zimmerman. I would also like to recognize those members of the Belles of Indiana who are no longer with us: Eugene and Keitha Bayless, (Choral Director and his wife), Mary Mauer, Irma Batley Corcoran, Mary Sinclair Baron, and Joan Drew Irwin.

I am pleased to pay tribute to these great Americans whose positive attitude and high energy boosted morale for our overseas troops. The history of America is replete with stories of its sons and daughters being summoned and responding to their nation's call to duty. It is a proud history of accomplishment, honor, and victory. The Belles of Indiana answered their nation's call to duty and diligently persevered to be emissaries for the families and friends of servicemen who were far away from home.

I extend my congratulations to the Belles of Indiana for being the first entertainment group to travel and perform with the United Service Organization. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring these courageous

women and men for their valiant service to our country.●

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. MEZZO

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph A. Mezzo of New Jersey and the 4th Regiment of the United States Marine Corps, whose gallant actions in 1937 prevented an already tumultuous conflict from destabilizing further. The 4th Marines were deployed near the Soochow Creek in China to diffuse tensions that emerged after Japanese forces penetrated Chinese boundaries. Further intensifying the situation, a Chinese officer killed two members of the Japanese military, creating a hostile climate that culminated in armed conflict. Amidst heavy gunfire from both Japanese and Chinese forces, Mr. Mezzo and the 4th Marine Regiment demonstrated tremendous fortitude and resolve as they assisted in the stabilizing of the Soochow Creek, halting what could have been a major international battle.

After all other American forces returned home, the 4th Marines remained in the Soochow Creek, accepting an even greater challenge of returning a Chinese rice barge that had been captured by the Japanese to its rightful owner. Mr. Mezzo and his fellow Marines executed this risky maneuver, thereby diffusing a situation which could have added fuel to an already volatile situation. The 4th Marine Regiment courageously exhibited the Marine Corps standard of Semper Fidelis, which saving the lives of many people.

Although Mr. Mezzo and his comrades acted with bravery and selflessness, their efforts, and the efforts of many gallant veterans, have gone virtually unrewarded and unappreciated. While their exploits may not be found in history books, the services with which these veterans have provided our country are invaluable. I would like to recognize Mr. Mezzo, the 4th Marine Regiment, and all veterans who have risked their lives for the welfare of our country. Their willingness to accept these dangerous missions is a testament to their senses of duty, honor and patriotism. For this, I salute our veterans to whom we own a debt of gratitude and our ceaseless appreciation, for they exemplify what it means to be American.●

VIRGINIA TECH'S CLASS OF 2000

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, yesterday, I inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the speeches of two graduates from Virginia Tech University who addressed their class during its commencement ceremonies last month. During the commencement ceremony, at which I had the privilege of also speaking with the Class of 2000, I listened to the eloquent and inspiring speeches of three Virginia Tech students, Class President Lauren Esleek,

Graduate Student Representative Timothy Wayne Mays, and Class Treasurer Rush K. Middleton. Yesterday, I inserted Ms. Esleek's and Mr. Middleton's speeches into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I have now obtained a copy of Mr. Mays' speech, and it is my pleasure to ask that a copy of his speech also be printed in the RECORD.

GRADUATION SPEECH BY TIMOTHY WAYNE MAYS

Good morning. I'd like to begin with a brief story that I recently read that illustrates the theme of my message today. A successful business executive and former University of Alabama football player was asked "what was the first thing coach Paul Bear Bryant said to you and the other scholarship athletes after arriving on campus." Surprisingly, at the first team meeting, Coach Bryant asked the group "Have you called your folks yet to thank them?" After hearing those words, the players looked confused—most had their mouths open. They looked at one another with disbelief. Apparently, not one of them had anticipated this question. These freshman athletes had been on campus less than 24 hours, but they already had their first lesson in team productivity. No one in the room that day had acknowledged having called home with a word of thanks. What was the essence of the lesson? Coach Bryant followed up his initial question with a second statement. "No one ever got to this level without the help of others. Call your folks. Thank them." [from *The Millionaire Mind* (Stanley, 2000)]

When I was asked to speak at today's graduation ceremony, I kind of struggled with what I wanted to talk about, but preparing this speech gave me the opportunity to reflect on how I got to this point in my life. And the main thing that stood out to me was the significant influence that certain individuals have had on my life. In some way or another, these people gave me a chance or an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise. Now some of these people are, of course, my parents and other family members who have given me a chance by raising me in a safe, loving, and spiritual environment. In the most challenging times of my life, their prayers and support have helped me stand strong, or sometimes, just make it through.

In a different way, some of the people who have most significantly influenced my life are friends, teachers, and even just acquaintances that have taken an interest in me for some reason or another. They have given me the guidance and motivation that I need to succeed. As a recent example, when I came to Virginia Tech, I wasn't sure what type of structural engineering work I wanted to do after graduation. Over the last four years, Dr. Tom Murray, in the Civil Engineering department here at Virginia Tech, has helped me find the specific type of work that I will enjoy. I will surely remember his help in the years to come when I wake up every morning happy to go to work. Also, it was Dr. Ray Plaut who took a personal interest in me during my college visit and brought me here to Virginia Tech. Everything that I have accomplished here at Virginia Tech would have been impossible without his help and guidance over the last four years. The truth of the matter is this: Had some of these people not entered my life, I definitely would not be here speaking today.

As graduates of this great university, we really do have so much for which to be proud. However, I challenge each of you to take the time to reflect on the individuals who have helped you get to this place in your life, and to personally thank them for taking an interest in you.

At this chapter in our life comes to an end, a new chapter begins, and one of the most exciting things to think about is the new people we will meet and the impact they will have on our lives. More importantly though, I hope that we can be influential people in others lives. By always recognizing the impact that other people have had on us, I believe that we can. Thank you very much and God bless.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 12938—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM114

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed is a report to the Congress on Executive Order 12938, as required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2000.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE LAPSE OF THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1979—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 115

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2000.