

paddle later in life. While she loved any sport on television, watching her beloved Redskins was her real passion. Once in the 1970's, during the Redskins' heyday, she and Dad were in Europe when the Redskins were playing an important Monday night game. My Dad awoke about 5 a.m. on the Tuesday morning—11 p.m. Monday night Washington time—to find Mom lying very still on the floor next to their bed. Alarmed, he called out to her, only to be told to "Be quiet, Stan!"—because she was listening to the 'Skins on the Armed Forces Network using a transistor radio she brought for the occasion, and reception was better on the floor.

But, as much as we laugh about those stories now, the most remarkable thing is that Mom's role as spouse never once kept her from performing well her other life's goal as a mother. In the first twenty years of their marriage, the family lived in ten different houses, in four states, and on two continents. Change was a constant in our lives, as it was for all service families of that era and today. But no matter where we were or what house we were in, we always knew that home was where Mom was. Dad traveled or was deployed frequently in those years, and though his strong persona was never far from our thoughts, Mom was never far from our sides—and always on our side. I remember Dad at many of my Little League games, but I remember Mom at all of them, and I can still see her, vividly, running along the fence with her arms held high as I circled the bases after my first home run at the McLean Little League fields.

But one thing Mom left out of the album those many years ago was a goal she achieved nonetheless—world's greatest grandmother. While I do not recall a lot of gum, candy, soft drinks, or Pringles in our home growing up, there were entire shelves—lower shelves, of course—and a separate refrigerator filled with whatever her grandchildren's little hearts desired. For those who can join us at our home for the reception after Mass, you will be treated to a Eunice Kimmitt menu that will include these and many more of her favorites. What a gift it was and is that the grandchildren and she—as well as my Dad—got to know each other so well. And she was so very proud of her grandchildren, and fiercely protective of each of them.

Mom was a person of deep and abiding faith. She was raised Methodist in Napoleon, Missouri, in a church whose hymnals were in German, so it was big news in that small town when she returned from Germany in 1947 as a pregnant Catholic married to an Irishman from Montana. And, just like naturalized American citizenship, no one appreciates the Catholic faith like a convert who embraces the faith later in life on their own initiative. From weekly confession—even when my Dad was in Korea and the confessional sessions must have been brief—through weekly Holy Communion when she was homebound, and then Last Rites just before she died, Mom's faith was an integral part of her being and thus the legacy she leaves to all of us.

Indeed, I am firmly of the view that my mother was and is a saint. I am as sure of that fact as I am of any tenet of my faith. For 16 of the 18 years our brother Tom lived after his accident in 1985, Mom spent an average of six hours a day with him, every day of every year, whether in Arlington, Washington, Alexandria, or Richmond, as we, led by her, sought the best possible care for Tom. That is over 35,000 hours, or 4 full years, at Tom's side. Many in the Church today visited Mom and Tom at some point during that period, and I am sure felt, as did I, that we were privileged to be in the presence of two of God's most blessed children,

now reunited by and with Him. And I would like to offer particular thanks to Father Roos and the St. Agnes community, who were so attentive to Tom and Mom during those many years when Tom was just down the road at Cherrydale Nursing Home.

So, if Holly is right—that Dad met Mom at the Pearly Gates last Friday with a cigarette, glass of wine, and a to-do list—I am pretty sure that Mom told Dad, after hugging him, Kathy, Margaret, and Joe, that sitting down to continue her personal Scrabble tournament with Tom was at the top of her to-do list. And as they sat down for their first game after a twenty-year break, I know Tom's first words to her were, "Mom, thanks. I always knew you were there."

And I also know that at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon, they and Dad will all say, as they did so many years in person, "Go Army, Beat Navy!"

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF PAUL H. BEA, JR.

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to thank a dedicated public servant for his service to the people of New Jersey. Mr. Paul H. Bea, Jr., has been Washington representative for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for over 25 years, serving as a voice of the Port Authority here in Washington, DC.

As a former Port Authority Commissioner, I can tell you that this agency is the most complex regional transportation agency in the country. It runs three major airports that handled almost 100 million passengers last year. It operates the largest seaport on the east coast of the United States and the second largest container gateway in the country. It runs a bi-state mass transit system and maintains under its care and responsibility such landmark assets as the Lincoln Tunnel, the Holland Tunnel, the Bayonne Bridge, the George Washington Bridge, and the World Trade Center complex in lower Manhattan.

Mr. Bea has provided lawmakers and policy makers advice and information on a variety of topics including the Federal budget, aviation, surface transportation, tax, and trade issues, but he has developed a particular expertise in the field of maritime, port security, and environmental matters. Through Paul's work with the New Jersey and New York congressional delegations on behalf of the Port of New York-New Jersey, he has contributed to the improvement of both the underwater infrastructure and the Hudson-Raritan estuary.

In 2002, Paul became chairman of the Coastwise Coalition, a public-private sector partnership that works to educate policy makers on the potential of domestic waterborne transportation to enhance the capacity of the national transportation system.

In 2004, he was invited by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta serve on the Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Council. His principal efforts on that panel involve coastwise shipping, intermodal freight transportation, and waterway issues.

Mr. Bea's experience in Washington dates back to 1970, when he arrived to work on the staff of the late Congressman Edward J. Patten from New Jersey. He was responsible for Federal budget, appropriations, energy, environment, transportation and other issue areas.

In 1978, Mr. Bea went to work as a Washington representative for New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne on environmental and energy concerns, which were a focus of President Carter's administration at the time.

I am very grateful for Mr. Bea's service at the Port Authority. His capable representation has helped the Federal Government navigate through some very tumultuous times for our country, including the 9/11 terror attack on the World Trade Center, and the bombings at the same location in 1993.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey, I thank Mr. Bea for all he has done and will continue to do to make our country a safer, more secure, and efficient place to live and conduct business, and I wish him well.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

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-5075. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Recruitment Appointments" (RIN3206-AJ90) received on December 12, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5076. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding accounts containing unvouchered expenditures that are potentially subject to audit; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5077. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Reference Checking in Federal Hiring: Making the Call" to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5078. A communication from the Chairman, Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council,