worked for Senator BENNETT's father, also a Senator. He worked with Senator Robert Bennett, very close to the political establishment of the State of Utah, a friend to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, and would have been well suited for the U.S. Senate. Had Kent come to the Senate, we would have had three Senators from Russell, KS, since Senator Dole's hometown is Russell, while I was born in Wichita and moved to Russell at the age of 12. Kent would have fit in this establishment very well. He would have been a credit to the Senate.

On August 30, Steve Mills, who was also Kent's colleague for the debate tournaments, and I went to Salt Lake City to participate in Kent's funeral services. He was a great American. He had a knack for writing, contributed extensively to the newspaper in Washington on columns. He was a brilliant man, an outstanding lawyer, and a really great American.

I have taken a few moments today to eulogize him because his record is worth noting for the permanent record in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, especially since he was a member of the Senate family, even though for only a 3-month period.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following obituary printed in the RECORD.

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

KENT SHEARER

Kent Shearer, 1929–2007. Kent Shearer, age 77, died peacefully August 23, 2007, in Portland, Oregon. Kent was born October 5, 1929 in Ellsworth, Kansas to William Shearer and Agnes (Phillips) Shearer and was married to Alice Neff in Russell, Kansas; January 25, 1952. Preceded in death by wife, Alice and daughter Lorraine (Lori). Survived by son Edward (Bo) and his wife Renee Montmorency, grandsons Samuel and Beau of Portland, Oregon and sister Jane Shearer of Kansas City, Kansas. Kent graduated from Russell High School in Russell, Kansas with honors. He participated in the debate, drama, and forensics program and won two State Championships in debate. He attended Kansas University and earned a degree from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He continued with debate on the KU varsity team, winning many individual tournaments across the country, including the National Invitational Tournament and twice being invited to participate in the West Point Nationals. In 1954, Kent received his law degree from Kansas University and entered the Army Judge Advocates Corps where he served until 1957. Kent and Alice made their home in Utah from 1958 until Alice's death in 1997. Although a lawyer by trade, Kent's passion throughout his life was Utah politics and the Republican Party. He was an active organizer of the Salt Lake County and Utah Young Republicans during the 1960s and 1970s and served as the Utah State GOP Chairman from 1971 to 1973. Kent was a key behind-the-scenes member of many political organizations and campaigns (including Alice's political career as a Salt Lake City Council member). He penned a much discussed and anticipated column in The Enterprise Newspaper on a wide range of topics for over 30 years. After Alice's death in 1997, Kent moved to Portland, Oregon to be close to his son's family. He pursued an intellectual retirement, spending his time reading, writing and providing all the answers to his grandsons' many questions. Kent's accomplishments were many. However, all pale in the light of his sharp mind and quick wit, his basic sense of decency and the many people he touched throughout his life. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral services will be held at St. Marks Cathedral, 231 East 100 South, Salt Lake City on Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 1 p.m. Following the service, a reception in Kent's honor will be held at the Alta Club, 100 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City. Published in the Salt Lake Tribune from 8/26/2007—8/28/2007.

TRIBUTE TO ADA MAE GROETZINGER HAURY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek to pay tribute to an outstanding educator. As the Senate takes up the appropriations bills—it soon will take up the bill on funding for education—it is appropriate to focus on the importance of education in our society.

My brother, my two sisters, and I have been able to share in the American dream because of our educational opportunities. My father had no formal education. My mother only went to the eighth grade, when she had to leave work to help support her family where her father had died in his mid-40s of a heart attack. But because of their love for education and recognition of its importance, their children have benefited from great educational opportunities.

Our health is our No. 1 capital asset. Without good health, none of us can do anything. And our No. 2 capital asset is education. Without education, there are severe limitations. I say this in the context of paying tribute to Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, the Russell High School debate coach.

She came to Russell in the fall of 1945, in her early 20s, having recently graduated from college herself. She brought a level of intensity to high school debating, which level of intensity was unparalleled in my educational experience. We had a class in debate at 9 o'clock in the morning. Then she would sit at 4 o'clock and have another round of debate, again at 5, again at 7, and again at 8 o'clock. And she would judge the debates. In retrospect, it seems surprising that somebody would have done that. Each member of the debating team debated twice in 1 day, once in the class at 9 and once in the other lines.

The analytical process in working through the debate topics—one of which was national health insurance, another of which was lowering the voting age to 18—was great for high school students. Our high school coach, Ms. Groetzinger, emphasized a smooth delivery. If anybody faltered during the course of a 10-minute speech or a 5-minute rebuttal, that individual was likely to be rated fourth. She rated everybody on every day of the debates.

It was not only the first team which excelled, but it was the second team which also excelled. We went to one tournament at Salina High School, a town about 70 miles east of Russell, and the second team did better in the preliminary rounds than the first team. The second team advanced to the semifinals, and the first team, which I was on, sat and watched the proceedings because they had done better than the first team.

One year everybody on the debating team went through one tournament undefeated. So it was a very remarkable background in analysis, in organization, in extemporaneous speaking, and very good training for the practice of being a trial lawyer, very good training for being a Senator, very good training for the questioning which we do in the various committees where we serve.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KELLY

Mr. SPECTER. When Ada Mae Groetzinger left Russell High in the spring of 1946, Tom Kelly became the debate coach. Tom Kelly had not had experience as a debate coach. He was the drama coach. He directed the school plays ''Lost Horizon'' and ''Nothing But The Truth,'' and was very adept at that. But having inherited an extraordinary group of high school debaters, Tom Kelly was our coach when we won the State AA championship in the spring of 1947.

With the experience he gained at Russell High School, he then went on to Hutchinson Junior College, where he won national championships and was an outstanding teacher in his own right.

He gave two lectures to us which have carried forth with me to this day. Every Friday, when we would prepare to go to a debate tournament, Mr. Kelly would organize the students and start to tell us about the forthcoming trip. His slogan was ''Don't choke up in the clutch.'' That means: Don't get too nervous to do your job. ''Don't choke up in the clutch.'' We would go to the tournament, characteristically come back having won the tournament, and on Monday he would again address the high school debaters and say: ''Don't rest on your laurels.'' Those were Tom Kelly's words, which have carried through to this day.

I made these comments and was reminded of the outstanding educational experience from those two high school debate coaches as I reflected on the events going to Salt Lake City for Kent Shearer's funeral. This past May, over the Memorial Day recess, Kent Shearer, Steve Mills, Gene Balloun, and I—the four debaters on the high school team—paid a visit to Ada Mae Groetzinger, who is since married and is now Ada Mae Groetzinger Haury, in her retirement home in Newton, KS.

It was a good event to have the four of us get together. At that time, Kent was not feeling well. He suffered from emphysema. It was a good occasion for the group to get together with our high