

England's outstanding football player, and becoming Boston University's first All-American in football. Upon his graduation, he was offered a lucrative contract to play football for the Cleveland Browns but chose instead to sign with the Red Sox so he could remain near his widowed mother.

Here are a few stories that illustrate the character of this young man and the esteem in which he is held.

While still a student in 1953, Harry Agganis was inducted into the new Boston University Hall of Fame. He declined gifts of a car and \$4,000 from his classmates and instead asked that the cash equivalent be put toward establishing a scholarship for Greek-American students with financial need.

On June 6, 1954, he homered at Fenway Park and scored the winning run as the Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers. Following the game, he changed into a cap and gown in the Sox clubhouse, ran down Commonwealth Avenue in time for the graduation ceremonies on the B.U. campus, and received his bachelor's degree in education.

As the 1955 season opened, he was off to a good start, but on June 2 he was hospitalized with pneumonia. He rejoined the team 10 days later but fell ill again. He died on June 27 of a pulmonary embolism. Ten thousand mourners attended his wake.

His career was brief, but his name lives on. In 1956, a 1,000-seat baseball facility, Harry Agganis Stadium, was dedicated in his honor at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he served. A memorial plaque placed at the field reads, "Endowed with peerless talent, Corporal Agganis exemplified the finest in competitive spirit and sportsmanship. An All-American football player, and later a professional baseball player, his outstanding accomplishments in the field of athletics were an inspiration to other Marines who served and were teammates with him during his career in the Marine Corps."

He was inducted posthumously into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974. In 1995, Gaffney Street in Boston was re-named Harry Agganis Way. In 2004, Agganis Arena was dedicated in his honor on the Boston University campus. Each year, members of the New England Sportswriters Association present the Harry Agganis Award to the outstanding New England college football senior.

His character and accomplishments have been set to music by a talented songwriter and devoted Red Sox fan in Bangor, ME, named Joe Pickering, Jr. Joe recently retired after 30 years of dedicated service as executive director of Community Health and Counseling Services in Bangor. It is my pleasure to have printed his inspiring lyrics into the RECORD:

THE GOLDEN GREEK

Time washes away people who depart
You who remain cherish heroes of the heart
They seldom grace earth but, not for long
The Golden Greek lives in this song

Too many athletes spell team as m-e
The Golden Greek knew team meant only we
This All-American truly stood apart
The Golden Greek was simply pure of heart
Four hundred churches honored for forty days
The man who touched many hearts in so many ways
Fifty thousand said goodbye as his church choir
Sang love for the man who set the sports world afire

Harry Agganis stirred heart and soul
Did God take him so he would never grow old?
Heroes live forever though Harry died young
The song of the Golden Greek will always be sung

Thousands of marines in the Carolina sun
Named a field for the marine who left no deed undone
The first Olympic heroes won olive wreaths
His silver wreath from the king and queen of Greece

The seventh child of immigrants born in Lynn
Learned playing the game right was the way to win

He hit major league pitching at fourteen years of age
Then went on to glory on the sports page
This Hall of Famer scrambled forty yards from the pocket

He threw feather passes or shots like a rocket
Though he looked and played like a Greek god

This flesh and blood hero was one with the lord
He gave to the poor and church, gifts he received

Harry lived the golden rule, as he believed
His smile warm and bright like sunshine in July

Why at twenty-six did this Red Sox star die?
The NFL played games in honor of his name
All for a man who never played a pro game
He planned to play for the Sox and the NFL
What might have been only God can tell

This hero of the heart was like no other
His last words: were "take care of my mother"

In the pantheon of sports, the Golden Greek reigns
His mem'ry glowing like the Olympic flame

TRIBUTE TO LATOYA LUCAS

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Latoya Lucas of Colorado Springs, who will be awarded today with the 2009 Tony Snow Public Service Award. This distinction was created to "honor extraordinary individuals who are passionate about serving their country while dealing courageously with debilitating intestinal diseases and ostomy surgery."

In 2003, Latoya was a new mother and an Army specialist serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom when her humvee was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. She thankfully survived the incident, but her injuries resulted in a colostomy and 2 years of intensive rehabilitation. Latoya's brave service has been recognized by such honors and distinctions as the Purple Heart Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction Award. In 2005, she became the first female recipient of the Mili-

tary Order of the Purple Heart's Retiree V Patriot of the Year Award.

After her retirement from the Army, Latoya became a motivational speaker and writer to share her remarkable story with others and encourage people to draw strength from their struggles. Latoya's book, "The Immeasurable Spirit: Lessons of a Wounded Warrior about Faith and Perseverance," received the Gold Medal Award from the Military Writers Society of America. Additionally, Latoya is the chair of the Wounded Warrior Welcome Home Social. She has inspired so many others to draw strength from adversity. As Latoya has said, "There are so many soldiers who come back home with injuries and untold numbers having ostomy surgery. I answer questions they have and show them that they can lead a full life with an ostomy."

There are thousands of veterans and Active-Duty members who call Colorado home, a fact that is a source of pride for me. Coloradans like Latoya are a testament to the bravery and strength of our veterans and their remarkable ability to deal with life-changing injuries. Latoya has become a leader and a source of strength for fellow citizens who face similar injuries, and I want to thank her for her service to this country. I am proud to have this opportunity to share just some examples of Latoya's bravery and achievements, and I congratulate her and the other Great Comebacks Award recipients.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3820. An act to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes.

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: