

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and remember the full life of Marlene “Linny” Fowler for her exceptional service to her community, commonwealth and country.

Marlene was born in New York City, the oldest child of Harold and Miriam Oberkotter. Though she was raised in Harrington Park, NJ, Marlene spent her adult life living in Pennsylvania. Marlene, known affectionately as Linny, was a renowned philanthropist, artist and a pillar of her adopted community. Today I wish to honor her as such.

As a philanthropist, her influence can be seen across Northeast Pennsylvania, particularly in Bethlehem, the city she had called home since 1965. Upon the passing of her father Harold, a late UPS chief executive, Marlene became one of the wealthiest individuals in the Lehigh Valley. Choosing to eschew large homes or fancy cars, Marlene instead gave generously to support the arts, education and children. She helped to establish a childcare center and Hispanic Youth Center at Northampton County Community College as well as the college’s Southside campus, which proudly bears her family name. Her generosity also helped send hundreds of students to colleges and universities that they would otherwise have been unable to afford to attend. Even with her health failing, Marlene worked hard to maintain her involvement with the community up until her passing. Although she kept the total of her generosity a secret, by her own admission she gave away tens of millions of dollars over the course of her life.

As an artist, Marlene was trained in the art of stained glass, which she taught throughout her life. She also maintained a studio at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem, an institution she helped fund. As a pillar of her community, Marlene made sure her philanthropic efforts always had a human touch. She met with needy families and non-profit directors in the living room of her own home, investing herself as much as her money. Even as recent economic difficulties forced her to scale back some of her giving, she still continued to keep track of all the youth she helped send to school.

As Marlene’s family and friends mourn her loss, I pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that this great Nation will never forget the generosity of Marlene “Linny” Fowler. May she rest in peace.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STEM EDUCATION

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the great work that afterschool and summer learning programs in California and across the country are doing to engage children and youth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, education.

Afterschool and summer programs are a vital part of our country’s education tapestry. They provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences that stimulate student interest, develop crucial skills, and drive home the relevance of STEM to our daily lives. Out-of-school learning opportunities help children develop the academic and life skills, such as problem-solving and determination, which are crucial in STEM fields. Additionally, these programs provide key opportunities for mentors and role models to engage with children.

High-quality afterschool STEM learning programs are having a significant impact on the young people who participate in them. A recent study shows participants in afterschool and summer programs have improved attitudes toward STEM fields and careers, increased STEM capacities and skills, and a higher likelihood of graduating from high school and pursuing a STEM major in college.

One of these exemplary programs is the Woodcraft Rangers Program in Los Angeles, CA. Woodcraft Rangers exposes middle school students to cutting-edge STEM activities, including robotics. This highly engaging program allows students to configure high-tech robotics, enhancing their STEM skills, unlocking their imaginations, and exposing them to real-world problem-solving situations. Afterschool and summer programs are uniquely positioned to deliver valuable enrichment activities like robotics that help children gain valuable creativity, critical thinking, and team-building skills.

In addition to programs that serve children and youth directly, organizations such as the Afterschool Alliance are working to advance policies, research, and partnerships so that all children can access rich STEM education experiences through out-of-school programs.

Private companies are also embarking on efforts, such as Time Warner Cable’s Connect a Million Minds, CAMM, initiative, to promote youth interest and performance in STEM fields during out-of-school time. Businesses like Time Warner Cable know that investing in STEM education now helps ensure a robust workforce in the future, and they know that afterschool, summer, and other out-of-school programs are key venues for students to develop the problem-solving, team-building, and creative thinking skills necessary for a strong STEM workforce.

I applaud the afterschool and summer learning programs, advocacy organizations, and community partnerships across the country that are working to advance our students’ STEM achievement and our country’s future through enriching out-of-school learning. To support the work of these organizations, I hope that the Senate can come together to reauthorize the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program—the only Federal program dedicated to supporting afterschool and summer learning. •

TRIBUTE TO JIM SYMINGTON

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the work of Jim Symington, a friend and dedicated public servant who is retiring this year. In the summer of 1974 I came to Washington as an intern for Congressman Jim Symington. That experience, and the lessons I learned from this great leader were instrumental in my success as a political candidate and public official.

As a member of a family steeped in public service, and as the son of the great United States Senator Stuart Symington, Jim did not hesitate to take up the mantle of serving his country. Jim started his career serving others when he enlisted in the Marine Corps as a high school graduate. Following his military service, Jim earned his Bachelor’s degree from Yale University and his law degree from Columbia Law School.

Jim served for 2 years following law school as the assistant city counselor for St. Louis before going into private practice. In 1958, Jim entered the Foreign Service where he served as assistant to the United States ambassador for the United Kingdom. Upon his return to Washington, DC Jim served our Government in various positions including administrative assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy and the Chief of Protocol for the Department of State.

In 1968 Jim was elected to represent St. Louis, Missouri’s 2nd Congressional District, where he served four terms. During his time in Congress, Jim served on the House Commerce Committee and the Committee on Science and Technology. He also served as the chair of the Subcommittees on Space Science and Applications; Science, Research & Technology; and International Cooperation. He was an active voice on space exploration during a time when space exploration was a central topic. Upon leaving Congress in 1977, Jim returned to private law practice, and has had a distinguished legal career at Nossaman LLP/O’Connor & Hannan here in Washington, DC.

However Jim Symington has never been an ordinary practicing lawyer. He and his wife Sylvia have been friends, mentors, and highly respected members of a small group of true leaders in our America’s Capitol for many years. They are always in high demand as dinner partners or leaders of a civic endeavor. Together, their wit, intelligence, and musical prowess has constantly reminded the most powerful in our Nation that there is always more to learn and it is very dangerous to take yourself too seriously.

It is my honor to call Jim a mentor and friend. Like no other man I know, I also realize that the number of people who count on his friendship would be a record for a town where Harry Truman famously noted that if you wanted a friend you should turn to a canine. I am thankful for his friendship, advice and service to Missouri and this great