



Rockefeller Statement Regarding the Naming of the Federal Building and United States
Courthouse in Martinsburg, West Virginia in Honor of W. Craig Broadwater
February 8, 2011

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I come to the floor today to discuss legislation that I am introducing to name the Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Martinsburg, West Virginia in honor of a dear friend, W. Craig Broadwater.

Judge Broadwater served at this courthouse during his tenure on the federal bench, until his untimely death in 2006 after a battle with cancer. This legislation is a small, yet fitting tribute to his remarkable service to West Virginia and America.

It is difficult to put into words how tremendous of a loss his death was to his family, friends, community, State, and Nation. But I think it becomes much clearer when one looks at his life – his contributions to Justice and the Defense of our Nation, his love for his family, and the difference he made in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Craig earned his undergraduate degree from West Virginia University in 1972 and his law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1977. He spent the next several years in private practice in Wheeling, West Virginia, and also served as a hearing examiner for the West Virginia Worker's Compensation Fund and a special prosecuting attorney for Ohio County.

His career on the bench dates back to when I was Governor of West Virginia and had the honor of appointing him in 1983 to be a Circuit Judge for Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock Counties. There, he worked to protect our State's most vulnerable children as Chair of the Committee to Develop Child Abuse and Neglect Rules. The "Broadwater Committee", as it became known, reformed our courts' response to the needs of children in our judicial system.

Craig served as a state court judge until he was nominated by President Clinton to be a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia. He was confirmed by the Senate on July 12, 1996, and commissioned to serve on July 26, 1996.

During his ten years on the federal bench, Craig exhibited all of the characteristics that we hope for in a judge. He was intelligent, thoughtful, principled, and fair. Anyone who appeared before him knew that the case would be decided on the merits, without bias towards any of the claimants.

But beyond his service on the bench, Craig was also a hero and a patriot who answered the call of duty time and again. He began his military career in 1972 with a tour in Korea as an Army Military Intelligence Officer. He continued his service as a member of the West Virginia National Guard, where he rose to the rank of Brigadier General. Even while serving on the federal bench, Craig fought to protect our country. His service

included a 2003 deployment as Deputy Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, and a 2005 deployment to Iraq as Commanding General of the Joint Interagency Task Force-High Value Individuals at Camp Victory, Iraq. His awards are too numerous to count, but among them are the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Bronze Star.

But despite all of his awards and accomplishments, the thing that made Craig the most proud was his family. I am privileged to know his wife Chong, and his children Chandra, Taeja, and Shane – and to have their blessing in introducing this legislation.

As I reflect on Craig's life and career, I still remember the day he was confirmed by the Senate for a seat on the federal bench. It was a great day for me and for all West Virginians. At the time, I came to the floor and said that Senator Byrd and I had recommended him for this position because he "represents the very best of our State" – and how true that is even today.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know him personally describe him as courageous, kind, compassionate, and loving. And although his life was cut short, he had already achieved more than most of us could ever hope to accomplish in several lifetimes.

I am very appreciative that Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito has agreed to join me in introducing companion legislation in the House of Representatives, and is going to work with me to get this bill signed into law. The bipartisan nature of our effort is truly a testament to the impact that Craig had on all of us, regardless of political affiliation.

In closing, Mr. President, the naming of a federal courthouse in his honor is such a small gesture, especially compared to what Craig did for our country.

But it is my hope that whenever the citizens of West Virginia visit or pass by the W. Craig Broadwater Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Martinsburg, West Virginia, they will remember his life and be inspired, as I have been inspired, to give back to our country in such a meaningful way.

I yield the floor.