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Brookings Executive Education

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REMEMBERING MCCAIN

Since 9/11/01, September has become a month of remembrance for the almost 3,000 lives lost during the terrorist attacks and the countless men and women who bravely responded to that tragedy from 2001 to today.

This year, Americans also are remembering another hero: U.S. Senator John S. McCain III.

McCain spent his entire career serving the nation as a naval aviator, war hero, congressman and senator. The country mourns the loss of this extraordinary American patriot.

In tribute, the Brookings Executive Education team dedicates this newsletter to all the people who serve.

NEVER FORGET



During class, many Brookings Executive Education alumni — from active-duty military and veterans to health analysts to EPA scientists — have shared stories about their response to 9/11 and its aftermath. These stories underscore the U.S. government's unflagging efforts to keep the country and its citizens safe.

One example is provided in a first-hand account by Captain Patrick C. Burns, U.S. Navy (Retired). Pat is deputy director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, a [MS-Leadership](#) student and a former Brookings Executive Education [LEGIS fellow](#).

Burns was recalled to active duty after 9/11. He wrote movingly about that time — from the moment he was alerted to the attacks on the World Trade Center to the day, months later, when he took his brother Tim to Ground Zero to read the names of the people who had been killed. Tim had worked with some of the victims.

“As we looked around, we both knew how fortunate we were to be alive,” Burns states at the end of his piece. This first-person account of New York in September 2001 by a member of the Brookings Executive Education community is posted on the BEE [website](#).

A LIFE OF COURAGE



Robert Kagan and Senator John McCain at the Brookings Institution, June 6, 2013

Photo by Paul Morigi

Statement from John R. Allen

August 25, 2018

Tonight, we mourn the passing of a true American icon, a hero of unparalleled repute.

Senator John McCain ranked among the finest Americans I have ever met. He was a leader, a patriot, a hero, and we were all inspired by his integrity, his grit, and his unabashed pride in America. From his early days as a proud Naval Academy Midshipman to his unparalleled record of service in war and in peace, Senator McCain embodied the very best of American values. Our great nation is a much safer place thanks to his tireless efforts. Few sacrificed as much as he for a better, more prosperous world, and it is truly the world that mourns his passing.

The whole Brookings community sends our deepest condolences to Cindy and the entire McCain family during this challenging time.

Senator McCain— John—the world is darker without your bright, powerful spirit. We will strive to carry on the example you set in your life and service. You shall never be forgotten.

*John R. Allen
General, USMC (Ret.)
President, Brookings Institution*

Proud Charter Member of ‘McCain’s Navy’

I had the great honor of working for John McCain.

I first met him while he was still on active duty serving as the U.S. Navy’s Senate liaison. McCain was exploring opportunities to serve his country in another capacity: as an elected official. He retained a consulting firm to advise him about campaigns and elections. I was the firm’s Director of Campaign Services.

Among my most-cherished memories was walking with him door-to-door-to-door in the blistering heat of an Arizona summer as he introduced himself to prospective voters. Although he charmed many people, he upset some lifelong Arizonans who viewed him as a carpetbagger. Of course, what they did not realize was that, as the son of a U.S. Naval officer, he moved frequently. In fact, McCain's longest residency had been in Hanoi, Vietnam, where he was a prisoner of war for five and a half years.

But McCain rarely spoke about his personal experiences in captivity. Instead, he talked about the valor, courage and bravery of his fellow captives. The newsletter includes two of his remembrances that are worth recounting and illustrate his unwavering defense of American values.

Mary Ellen Joyce
Associate Dean and Executive Director
Brookings Executive Education

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