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Senate

IN MEMORY OF SARAH MAE SHOEMAKER CALHOON

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the passing of a wonderful woman, mother, and American. Sarah Mae Shoemaker Calhoon died on July 7, 2001 outside of Columbus, OH, (Hilliard), after a courageous battle with cancer. Mrs. Calhoon was 75 years old.

Mrs. Calhoon was born on August 31, 1925 in Philadelphia, PA to the late Samuel and Sarah Mae Shoemaker. She spent her childhood in Philadelphia, where she would graduate from Cheltenham High School. On August 29, 1947, just two days before her 22nd birthday, Sarah Mae Shoemaker was married to J. Thomas Calhoon, a Marine from Grandview Heights, a suburb of Columbus, OH.

The new Mr. and Mrs. Calhoon had their first child, Thomas F. or "little" Tom as they often called him early in their marriage. In September of 1948, Tom, Sarah, and "little" Tom moved to Columbus, OH, where, over the next four years they would become the proud parents of three more sons, Sam, Don, and Bob. Their only daughter, Susie, would be born in April of 1961.

Although I did not know Sarah Mae Calhoon personally, I have known her son Tom for more than half of my life. We met as undergraduates at the Ohio State University in the 1960s and have been fraternity brothers for more than three decades. Despite living so far from each other, Tom and I have managed to keep in

touch over the years. It is often said that all children are a reflection of their parents. If Tom is even a faint reflection of his mother, it is a great tribute to the values she carried throughout her life and instilled in her children.

Since her recent passing, I have heard and read many wonderful things about Sarah Mae Calhoon. I have learned about her strong commitment to the community of Columbus, whether it be through her active membership in a variety of organizations like the PTA, 4-H, the Lions Auxiliary or in her unofficial role as the "zoning watchdog" of the Calhoon's neighborhood on Old Cemetery Road. I have read about her great success as a multi-million dollar producer in the real estate industry. I have heard, from both former customers and competitors alike, about the dedication, loyalty, and integrity that she brought to her job every day.

Most importantly, however, I have learned about her unfailing commitment to being a mother and wife. Nothing was more precious to Sarah Calhoon than her family and she did all she could to ensure that all of her children grew up in a loving and nurturing environment that would enable them to go on to lead valuable and fulfilling lives. She consistently put the needs, concerns and feelings of her family and others, before her own wishes, never asking for much but always giving a great deal. Her life served as an example, providing

inspiration to women everywhere struggling to maintain the careful balance between career and family, a task that she carried out with admirable grace and skill.

Everything that I have learned about Sarah Mae Calhoon since her death has only confirmed what I had always pictured my good friend Tom's mother would be like: the epitome of an exemplary wife, mother,

business woman, and citizen.

In closing, I would like to extend my greatest condolences to her husband, their five children, seven grandchildren, and countless others whose lives were touched by this wonderful woman. As we celebrate her remarkable life, let it be known that Sarah Mae Calhoon will be dearly missed, yet never forgotten.