

# Richard C. Halverson

U.S. SENATE CHAPLAIN

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES



REVEREND RICHARD C. HALVERSON  1916–1995



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Memorial Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

Richard C. Halverson

1916-1995

*United States Senate Chaplain*



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## BIOGRAPHY

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON was born February 4, 1916, in Pingree, North Dakota. He attended then Valley City State College for 2 years. He received his bachelor of science degree from Wheaton College in 1939. He earned a bachelor of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1942.

He became Managing Director, Forest Home Cristian Conference Grounds, California, from June 1942 to October 1942, and from April 1944 to October 1944. He served as Assistant Minister of the Linwood Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas, from October 1942 to April 1944.

Reverend HALVERSON served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Coalinga, California from October 1944 to October 1947; Leadership Education, First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, California October 1947 to May 1956; Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland from December 1958 to May 1981.

He was an associate, International Prayer Breakfast Movement, Washington, DC, from May 1956 to present.

Reverend HALVERSON was elected Chaplain, United States Senate, February 1981 until his retirement, March 1995.

He was a Board Member, World Vision-U.S., 1956–1983; Chairman, Board of World Vision-U.S., 1966–1983; and President, Concern Ministries, Inc., Washington, DC.

Reverend HALVERSON published several inspirational books: *A Day At A Time*, *Be Yourself . . . and God's*, *Between Sundays*, *Man To Man*, *Perspective*, *The Quiet Man*, *No Greater Power*, *We The People*, *The Living Body—The Church Christ Is Building*, and *The Wisdom Series*.

In association with World Vision and the Prayer Breakfast Movement, he participated in pastors' and leaders' conferences in Asia, Australia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Oceania and the United States.

Reverend HALVERSON is survived by his wife, Doris Grace Seaton, of Arlington, Virginia, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., of Arlington, Virginia, Stephen S. of Vista, California, and Deborah Halverson Markey of Laurel, Maryland, and nine grandchildren.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES  
TO  
RICHARD C. HALVERSON

## Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *November 29, 1995.*

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, made the following announcement and offered prayer:

The Senate of the United States is a family. We care for each other, rejoice with each other, and suffer with each other. This morning, I announce to you that the former Chaplain, Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, died last night. No person in recent history has done more to enable the Senate to be a family of caring people who support and encourage each other than Dr. HALVERSON.

Let us pray:

Blessed living Holy God, Sovereign of this Nation and this Senate, we thank You for the way that You enrich our lives by the gift of persons who care. We praise You for the life of RICHARD HALVERSON, for 14 years the Chaplain of this Senate. We praise You for his integrity rooted in his intimate relationship with You that radiated upon his face and was communicated by his countenance. We thank You for the profound way that he cared for all of us and established deep relationships. He introduced people to You and helped them to grow as persons.

We bless and praise You now, Lord, as You are here with comfort and encouragement for us. You are with his wife, Doris, his sons, Chris and Steve, and his daughter, Debbie. Put Your arms of love around them, giving them hope.

Lord, we thank You this morning for the assurance that this life is but a small part of the whole of eternity and that death is only a transition in the midst of living for a man like RICHARD HALVERSON.

And so we thank You for him and praise You for Your enrichment of our lives through him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who has defeated the power of death and reigns forever. Amen.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as the Chaplain mentioned in his opening prayer, the Senate today is mourning the passing of Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON.

As all Senators know, Dr. HALVERSON served as our Chaplain from 1981 until his retirement earlier this year.

Throughout his service as Chaplain, Dr. HALVERSON was a friend and counselor not only to Senators, but to the entire Senate family.

As many of my colleagues said upon Dr. HALVERSON's retirement, from Senate staffers to elevator operators to police force members to electricians, it would be impossible to tell how many lives Dr. HALVERSON touched here on Capitol Hill.

He came to the Senate after many years of service to churches in Missouri, California, and Maryland. He was recognized worldwide as a great humanitarian and traveled extensively through his leadership of World Vision, the Campus Crusade for Christ, Christian College Consortium, and the prayer breakfast movement.

Mr. President, perhaps our colleague, Senator Nunn, said it best earlier this year when he called Dr. HALVERSON "our friend, our colleague, our mentor, our adviser and, most of all, our example."

Later today, Senator Daschle and I will be submitting a resolution of condolence to be delivered to the Halverson family. It is my intent to include all Members of the Senate as cosponsors of this resolution.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Record stay open for 15 days so that Senators may offer tributes to Dr. HALVERSON, and that these tributes be printed as a Senate document.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Frist). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the majority leader has just spoken for all of us. There is not a person in the Senate today who has not had the good fortune to benefit from the friendship of Dr. HALVERSON.

Someone once said that life has no blessing like that of a good friend. Dr. HALVERSON was a good friend to all of us. Rather than mourn his death, it is appropriate to celebrate his life, because, indeed, it was a celebration of joy, of blessing. It was a recognition that through his religious belief, emanating every morning as he came to this Chamber, we all felt a little stronger, we all felt a little better, we all felt perhaps a little wiser, we all felt a little more able to work

with each other. His contribution to his country and to this body will last for a long, long time.

So today we celebrate his life. We send our condolences to his wife, Doris, and his family. We wish them the best. We recognize that in life comes achievement, and with his achievement, we all are the better.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, later on, pursuant to the wishes of our leader, I will have much more to say about Reverend HALVERSON. I considered him to be one of my best friends in the whole world, but more than that, he cared for a lot of people. He was a true Chaplain, not just up here, but in the halls and byways and offices of this place with families, with people who work for the Senate from the lowest paid to the highest paid. He took care of them.

He was very, very sick, particularly the last 3 weeks. I talked to his wife, Doris, this morning, his son Steven. Chris, his other son, was not there. It is kind of wonderful to see their expressions, because they obviously believe and they are very, very confident he is very happy today and that he is in everlasting life. That is marvelous to see, because that is just the way he would want their faith to be.

So not only to that family, but to all his large family here and everywhere in this city, and other places that he served, I think I can join with all of them in saying very simply that we thank God Almighty for sending people like Dr. HALVERSON to us.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I think the words that we "celebrate the life of RICHARD HALVERSON" are appropriate. RICHARD HALVERSON, as has been pointed out, served as Chaplain here for 16 years.

As has been mentioned, he did not restrict his duties to just the opening prayer. He came to see us when we had difficulties. He was a constant mentor, as has previously been suggested, and a constant good example. He epitomized what leading the Christian life is all about.

So we have been blessed to have known him. His life is one we all should celebrate and try to emulate to the greatest extent possible. So to all of his family, we send our very best wishes at this extremely difficult time, and our deepest condolences.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I join in the statements that have been made here this morning and say that our lives have been so enriched by Dr. HALVERSON. He was

the U.S. Senate Chaplain, but he was a friend of the Senators of this institution.

In our roles, so often we need to have that camaraderie, that facilitator that can help us in finding that higher wisdom and the inner peace. RICHARD HALVERSON provided that to us. I know now that he has that inner peace, and we share, as has been stated in the blessings, having him as part of our lives here.

Our prayers are with him, as well as with Doris, Chris, and all of the family. We thank the Lord for providing him to us.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, our long-time Senate Chaplain and dear friend, Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON, has passed away, just 8½ months after his retirement. He retired in March, after more than 14 years of distinguished service to this body. During his tenure as our Chaplain, Dr. HALVERSON proved himself over and over again not only to be a comforting spiritual guide, but an understanding, knowledgeable counselor. His ministry and support helped us immeasurably as we wrestled with difficult personal, political and policy issues.

DICK HALVERSON was superb at arranging for guest Chaplains, thereby giving wide representations to the many diverse religious faiths and denominations in our Nation. As Chaplain, he provided pastoral services for Members and our staffs—in particular to staffs, policemen. Every conceivable person that worked in the Senate felt his influence, knew him as a friend. He was a tremendous help to them in their personal problems. His soothing countenance and understanding manner made us feel more at home here in Washington.

Sworn in on February 2, 1981, the Reverend Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON was the 60th Senate Chaplain. A native of North Dakota, he was a graduate of Wheaton College and the Princeton Theological Seminary. He held honorary doctoral degrees from Wheaton and Gordon Colleges, and served churches in Kansas City, Missouri; Coalinga and Hollywood, California; and for 23 years at his last pastorate at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. HALVERSON was deeply involved as an associate in the international prayer breakfast movement in Washington, and I had the personal pleasure of working directly with him on this project during the time he served here in the Senate. He was involved with the prayer breakfast for almost 40 years. He also served as chairman of the board of World Vi-

sion and president of Concern Ministries, and authored several books, including "A Day at a Time," "Be Yourself . . . and God's," "Between Sundays," "No Greater Power," and "We the People."

RICHARD HALVERSON was an outstanding example of why the Senate has always had a chaplain. He was completely devoted to the Senate and we are grateful for his many years of service. We appreciate him, we will miss him, and we extend our sincerest condolences to his wife Doris, his son Chris, and all their family. Dr. HALVERSON left his mark on this body, and it is not the same without him. The Senate is better for having had his guidance and wisdom for 14 years, and the Nation and world are better for having had him for all the years of his life. He was a true blessing.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, last night the U.S. Senate lost one of its greatest servants. Dr. HALVERSON left us in bodily presence but his spiritual legacy will remain eternal. For 14 years, Dr. HALVERSON provided guidance and counsel to the Senate as its Chaplain, continually reminding us of the true meaning of leadership. For Dr. HALVERSON a true leader was first a servant. He reminded us each and every day, as he strolled these halls, of what it means to serve the people around you.

I have said before that Dr. HALVERSON was one of the most Christlike men I have ever known, and today that sentiment has not changed. Even in failing health, he continued his ministries right to the very end. Those of you who remember him, recall his humble spirit, his compassionate heart, and his penetrating intellect. All of these qualities were supplemented with an uncanny ability to address complex issues with an insightful simplicity that cut to the core of an issue, illuminating the vital components so that even a child could understand.

Dr. HALVERSON will be profoundly missed. He will be missed by the Senators, but this mournful occasion will impact all who are involved in the business of Congress. Dr. HALVERSON was not just a pastor to the hundred men and women who serve in this body, but he was a pastor to the police officers, to the custodians, to the food service workers, to everyone who was fortunate to cross his path. He ministered to all he encountered, indiscriminate of position, background, and stature. He genuinely loved everyone. I cannot recall him ever uttering an ill word toward anyone.

I am deeply saddened by this great loss. Dr. HALVERSON was my close friend and brother. Now, Dr. HALVERSON is ex-



periencing joy and happiness incomprehensible to those of us here on Earth. But until I see him again, I will miss this good and faithful servant. I will miss his warm greetings. I will miss his thoughtful prayers. I will miss his example of humility. Most of all, I will miss being his friend.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, our Senate family lost one of our finest and most respected members yesterday with the passing of the former Senate Chaplain, Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON.

As many in this body know, Reverend HALVERSON ministered to the spiritual needs of Senators, our families, and our staffs for many years. A man who was deeply devoted to his duties as a servant of God, and to his congregation, Reverend HALVERSON selflessly served the Senate and the Lord almost literally to the end of his life. Despite a lingering illness in his later years, the Reverend was never too tired or sick to spend time with someone who required his guidance and counsel. He was a man who always had a kind word and a positive thought to share with us. I remember, Reverend HALVERSON would often clip newspaper and magazine articles that he felt were particularly relevant to the issues of religion and morality and send them to Members. Along with these articles, he would include a thoughtful note offering his opinion on the author's thesis, a gesture that not only reminded us that the Reverend was looking after our spiritual well being, but that there are laws and directives as important as those found in the Constitution and code books that should dictate our behavior and conduct as leaders of the Nation. Reverend HALVERSON was so committed to the cause of restoring and maintaining righteousness in America, he was the only natural choice to author the foreward to the book Right vs. Wrong, written by my good friend and former Chief of Staff, Harry Dent.

I had the pleasure of knowing Reverend HALVERSON throughout his entire tenure in the Senate, and I can attest that he was one of the most faithful, capable, and dedicated Chaplains to have served the United States Senate. Those of us who were here when Reverend HALVERSON retired last year felt this Chamber had lost a friend, those of us who are here today know the world has lost a kind and compassionate man.

Reverend HALVERSON is survived by his wife Doris, and I hope that she knows that each of us joins her in mourning the loss of her husband. While her husband and our friend is gone, he has left a little something of himself with those

who knew him and we will never forget the service he rendered, or the man he was.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, 60 years ago, during the holiday season that we are now celebrating, a young man by the name of RICHARD HALVERSON, fresh from the humble upbringing in North Dakota, found himself discouraged and lonely in Hollywood, California—discouraged by his struggles to become an actor, and lonely as he was away from home during Christmas for the first time in his 19 years of life. It was then that DICK HALVERSON heard a call from the Lord—first, to believe and follow God, and then to preach the Lord’s gospel and minister to all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

In 1988, I was privileged to be appointed to the U.S. Senate, filling the vacancy created by the election of then Senator Dan Quayle to the Vice Presidency. Several thoughts occurred to me and my family at that moment, but one of the greatest was that I would have the privilege of serving in the same institution where Reverend DICK HALVERSON served as Chaplain. My admiration for Dr. HALVERSON extended then and now beyond the fact that we graduated from the same institution, Wheaton College. My respect for DICK HALVERSON is based on the way he lived his life every day in humble service to his God.

The American public primarily saw Chaplain HALVERSON in the role of opening each Senate session with prayer. As he prepared those invocations each day, Pastor HALVERSON prayed that God would give him the wisdom to speak the Lord’s truth in what is known as the world’s greatest deliberative body. Without touching on specific bills or legislation, Dr. HALVERSON prayed that God would lead Members of the Senate in reasoned, respectful debate.

For example, Chaplain HALVERSON prayed here on the Senate floor, “God of our fathers, if we separate morality from politics, we imperil our Nation and threaten self-destruction. Imperial Rome was not defeated by an enemy from without; it was destroyed by moral decay from within. Mighty God, over and over again you warned your people, Israel, that righteousness is essential to national health.” Words of wisdom from a man of great wisdom.

Those of us privileged to know Dr. HALVERSON also experienced the dedicated and loving service he provided away from the lights of the Senate floor. Washington, DC, is one of the toughest, most intense places anybody can live, especially for those of us who work on Capitol Hill. From over-

loaded Senate schedules to endless traffic jams, Washington can grind even the strongest individuals—which I think is one of the reasons God gave us DICK HALVERSON.

Pastor HALVERSON used to say, “I never try to be in a hurry.” While all of us would scurry around from scheduled event to scheduled event, Chaplain HALVERSON lived that phrase, “I never try to be in a hurry.” And he slowed us down. A smile, a hand on the arm, a twinkle in his eye, and the words “God bless you” were delivered literally thousands, if not tens of thousands of times to Members of this body.

While our lives can be filled with stress and strife, it was Chaplain HALVERSON who always had the time to walk back with us to our office, chat with us on the telephone, and when necessary counsel us through our deepest struggles.

The real greatness of DICK HALVERSON, however, was exhibited in the ways that he provided this selfless service, not just to those of us privileged to serve as elected officials here in the U.S. Senate, but to all who crossed his doorstep or came upon his path. Just ask the Senate staffers, just ask the security guards, just ask the custodians, just ask the cooks in the kitchens, all of whom DICK HALVERSON knew on a first-name basis.

For Pastor HALVERSON, we are created equal in the sight of God. Each person is equally important and equally significant. Each personal need conveyed to him by others was serious and substantial regardless of who it was who conveyed that need. Our loss is great and our prayers are with his surviving family.

But for RICHARD HALVERSON this is a new day. He has left his post in his Nation’s Government to sit in the throne room of the King. He has fought the good fight. He has finished the race and he kept the faith.

Chaplain HALVERSON once described himself as “a servant to the public servants.” Because he served his role so well, we know today with confidence that DICK HALVERSON is hearing those loving words from the Lord Almighty, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 196, submitted earlier today by Senators Dole and Daschle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

S. RES. 196

*Whereas*, the Reverend Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON became the 60th Senate Chaplain on February 2, 1981, and faithfully served the Senate for 14 years as Senate Chaplain;

*Whereas*, Dr. HALVERSON for more than 40 years was an associate in the International Prayer Breakfast Movement and Chairman of the Board of World Vision and President of Concerned Ministries;

*Whereas*, Dr. HALVERSON was the author of several books, including "A Day at a Time", "No Greater Power", "We the People", and "Be Yourself . . . and God's"; and

*Whereas*, Dr. HALVERSON was graduated from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, and served as a Presbyterian minister throughout his professional life, including being the senior pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Bethesda, Maryland: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Reverend Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, late the Chaplain of the United States Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate recesses or adjourns today, it recess or adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 196) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I wish to make a couple of remarks concerning a very sad event that happened this week, and that was the death of our friend, RICHARD HALVERSON, the Chaplain of the Senate for the last 14 years.

I first want to express my condolences to Chaplain Halverson's family—his wife, Doris, his son, Chris and daughter-in-law Maura, his son, Steve and daughter-in-law Paula, and his daughter, Debbie and son-in-law Fred, and his nine grandchildren.

Chaplain HALVERSON was a friend, not only to myself but to all Senators as well the Senate staff and the entire Senate family. He certainly was a pastor of exceptional repute, a person who has been defined by many as "a man of God," as a person who certainly loved the Lord and showed that love by his words and by his actions. It was evident when he would sit in his chair in the Senate Chamber and greet people on a daily basis. This love for people was not reserved

for Senators only, but it was generously given to people who sweep the floors or those who work in the restaurant or the elevator operators. Chaplain HALVERSON was a friend, and he will certainly be missed.

He is loved by many thousands from his service in the pulpit and for his 14 years as Chaplain of the Senate. I really consider it a blessing to have known him, to have worked with him, to have shared many good times with him. To have been with him with families in prayer. To have worked along side him with the National Prayer Breakfast, in which he had been instrumental. He has left a very valuable mark on our lives.

A friend of mine from Oklahoma once commented to me about Dr. HALVERSON. He asked me if I knew him. I asked, "Why?"

He said, "I will tell you, I have had the pleasure of knowing him for years," and my friend paid him the highest compliment I ever heard paid anyone. He said Chaplain HALVERSON was the most Christ-like man he had ever known. I think that was an appropriate definition for a wonderful servant of God who also served this body.

So we extend our sincerest condolences to the Halverson family and we want them to know we love Chaplain HALVERSON and that our thoughts and prayers are with them and will continue to be.

I might mention to the Senate that it is our intention—and I am working with Chaplain Ogilvie on this—to have a memorial service for Dr. HALVERSON a week from Tuesday, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Once the arrangements have been finalized, I will make a formal announcement to my colleagues early next week.

MONDAY, *December 4, 1995.*

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to a great friend to the Senate. The former Chaplain of the Senate, Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON passed away last week. For 14 years he tended to the spiritual needs of this body and all the people who make it work.

Educated at Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, Reverend HALVERSON worked in several places including California, his last place of ministry prior to moving to Washington. As the 60th Chaplain of the Senate most of

our Nation knew Reverend HALVERSON from the prayer he delivered every morning. His respectful and quiet manner was an example to us all for how to conduct ourselves and treat others with dignity. I remember with fondness the mornings when I sat as the acting President of this chamber, and listened to Reverend HALVERSON speak, urge and console not only the Members of this body but everybody listening throughout the Nation.

Besides his duties as Chaplain of the Senate Reverend HALVERSON also was a minister to the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, and an author of several books. He took a lifetime interest in trying to speak to the improvement of the moral being of individuals, and the moral health of our Nation. I will miss Reverend HALVERSON, our country will miss Reverend HALVERSON, and this body will miss Reverend HALVERSON, but we are all better because of his life. I hope the example of his life will continue to set a standard for us all.

I know that Reverend Halverson's wife Doris and all the members of his family know better than all of us what an exceptional and spiritual man he was. I want to express my sympathy to them with this loss.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to honor the memory of our long-time Senate Chaplain and spiritual leader, Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, who passed away November 28. Dr. HALVERSON served as Chaplain for 14 years, joining the Senate in 1981 shortly after I, too, entered the Senate. He retired this past March after distinguished service to this body and to the Nation.

As Senate Chaplain, Dr. HALVERSON played many roles. His prayers would open each daily session of the Senate, often reminding Senators of the higher objectives of our work. When passions ran high over controversial legislation, Dr. HALVERSON's opening prayers would give Senators pause for reflection and helped maintain the Senate's tradition of reasoned, respectful debate.

I came to know Dr. HALVERSON well through his attendance at our Bible study sessions, where he came to learn and share his thoughts on the Old Testament. He was a gracious, valued participant and we benefited from his spiritual insight.

As many know, Dr. HALVERSON established himself as a Chaplain who never tired of selfless service. He was always available to spend time with someone who needed his time, either for spiritual guidance or counsel. His energies were

not just directed at Senators, but at their spouses and staffs, and hundreds of Senate employees. In this role, he played a vital role in keeping the fabric of the U.S. Senate together.

The Senate was a better place for having had the compassionate service of Dr. HALVERSON as its Chaplain for 14 years, and the Nation owes him its gratitude for the role he played in our midst.

My wife, Joan, and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Halverson's wife, Doris, and his many children and grandchildren. We will all miss his faithful, caring presence.

TUESDAY, *December 5, 1995.*

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay my respects to the Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON, whose recent passing saddened all of us in this Chamber. He was, for us, a spiritual Rock of Gibraltar, always present as a reminder of eternal values, in the midst of even the most temporal of debates.

One of the remarkable things about the life of this faith-filled man is the fact that he became the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate at a time when most people his age retire and go fishing or play golf. At 65, Reverend HALVERSON undertook the most significant, perhaps the most difficult, task of his life—ministering to the spiritual needs of 100 U.S. Senators, their staffs, employees of the Senate and countless others who came to him for counsel and prayer. He fulfilled that mission with great honor.

I will always remember Reverend HALVERSON as a gracious man, a man of considerable intellect, and especially a scholar of the Old Testament and the Jewish religion, about which we had memorable conversations.

We will miss Reverend HALVERSON, especially in a time when partisan rancor seems so sharp and divisive here in Capitol Hill, and in a society where bedrock values like belief in God and respect for one another seem to be at such risk. His warm presence always stood in strong contrast to the trials of the moment. We have faith that he is in the embrace of a loving God.

Yet, I am confident he is praying for us still. May God bless Reverend HALVERSON, and may He grant his family and many friends solace from the grief we share at his pass-

ing, and confidence that life eternal is the reward for those who live to His will.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, last week the Senate and the Nation lost a gifted spiritual adviser. All of us mourn the death of Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, who served here for 14 years as Senate Chaplain before retiring last February.

As shepherd of his Senate flock, Dr. HALVERSON always brought strength of faith and a wealth of patience in his actions to all, whether on the floor of the Senate or to the broader national audience. For 14 years, his prayers began each of our working days and did so with spiritual substance, expecting from all of us the very best standards of conduct, understanding and commitment.

I valued his friendship as well as his spiritual leadership. I will hold a special memory of his committed caring and the twinkle in his eye.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, in one of his books, Dr. HALVERSON wrote, "It is foolish to say there is no God. But it is infinitely more foolish to say there is and to live as though there were not." Dr. HALVERSON's special grace was in his way of helping us to bridge the gap between faith and practice. As a preacher, Chaplain HALVERSON fought against unbelief but, as a pastor, he was equally concerned about hypocrisy.

DICK, as he was known to all of us in the Senate, loved his country, loved the Senate as an institution, but more importantly he loved us as individual Members of the Senate. His deep caring spirit was evident in his availability at all times to attend to the needs of Senators and our families. He knew us all and, even so, managed to love us whatever our backgrounds may have been. And, not only the Senators, DICK loved the staffers, the elevator operators, the police officers, and everyone he met in the course of a day on the Hill. No one knew more people than did DICK.

His daily prayers in the Senate acted as a reality check for each of us. One morning his prayers began:

Gracious Father in Heaven, help us to keep our priorities straight. In this center of power, secondary matters have a way of preoccupying our attention and preempting our time. Help us not to take ourselves too seriously, forgetting that we are fallible human beings with many needs. Deliver us from VIP syndrome which expects or demands preferential treatment.

It is these actions and thoughts which live on in our hearts and minds as we think of DICK. His words and love taught



us much and each of us is the better for having known him. He was a special gift to us and we shall remember him.

THURSDAY, *December 7, 1995.*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened last week when I learned of the death of our beloved former chaplain, the Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON.

Reverend HALVERSON served as Chaplain of the Senate for 14 years, assuming this post on February 22, 1981. He retired on February 5, 1995. I regret that his retirement, the time he had so looked forward to spending with his family and many friends, was cut so short.

But, the time and service he gave to the Senate will always be appreciated by those of us who benefited from his positive outlook and his constant good humor. Rarely was Dr. HALVERSON seen by Senators, staff, or support personnel without a smile and a "God bless you."

And, perhaps the one thing I admired most about Dr. HALVERSON was the fact that he served not only the institution of the Senate, but also Senators as individuals. He could see beyond policy debates, beyond partisan politics, beyond institutional glamour and mire. He could look beyond our roles on this great international stage and help us carry the burdens we felt as husbands or wives, parents, neighbors, or friends.

Though ordained as clergy in the Presbyterian denomination, his ministry reached out to us all. Catholic, Jew, Methodist, or Mormon, Dr. HALVERSON helped us all to remember that our walk in faith was infinitely more important than any legislative battle of the moment.

Like all Senators, I mourn the death of this man of God, but give thanks for the opportunity to have known him and to have served this body with him. I join my colleagues in extending heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, our former Senate Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, will be sorely missed, especially by those of us who had the great privilege of knowing him and benefiting from his special ministry.

His daily prayers and his words of greeting, whenever we met, were most comforting. History should record that as a result of his guidance, many unfortunate adversarial crises

were successfully averted in the Senate. I believe he succeeded to helping maintain the Senate on a even keel.

We will miss him. I will miss him.

MONDAY, *December 11, 1995.*

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, one of the first people I met when I came to the Senate, and one on whose kind interest I came to rely, was RICHARD HALVERSON, the man who served as Chaplain of the Senate from 1981 until early this year.

Many of my colleagues have commented on his service to the Senate, and to all of us who work here. He considered what he called the Senate family—from the most senior cook to the least junior Senator—his flock. His approachable manner and generous ways endeared him to us all. “I try never to be in a hurry,” he said in an interview with the Hill last year. Everyone responded to this gentle, important courtesy in a place where schedules are demanding and often implacable.

Kipling wrote of those who “can talk with kings and keep the common touch.” Dr. HALVERSON, in the course of his ministry here, demonstrated that he was capable of this skill, and each of us appreciated that when he talked with us, as well as with kings, we were elevated by his special attention.

He will be in our thoughts and prayers for years to come.

TUESDAY, *December 12, 1995.*

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON, our friend and our Chaplain who served the Senate with distinction for 14 years. Dr. HALVERSON was a shining example for us all—he embodied all that we seek to be in the eyes of our families, our friends, the Americans we serve, and of course, God.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote: “There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.” Mr. President, I would say this is a fitting description of the community Dr. HALVERSON so gracefully ministered. There are as many different opinions in this Senate as there are Senators. Yet Dr. HALVERSON, in his kind and gentle manner, was al-

ways able to provide the individual counsel and insight that helped us reach decisions on issues both monumental and mundane. Amid the busy hustle and bustle of events here in the Senate, it is not difficult to lose grounding, and it becomes ever more important to remember our place in the universe. Dr. HALVERSON, through his daily prayers, helped us to keep our perspective.

Of course, Dr. HALVERSON served all the Senate employees, and those who knew him loved him just as much as he loved them. He was always available to help and guide people in need, people in pain, or people who just needed to talk.

But Dr. HALVERSON's work extended far beyond the United States Senate and the Capitol dome. He was minister to the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, leader of the prayer breakfast movement and World Vision, and deeply involved in several other evangelical organizations. Dr. HALVERSON reached out to many, and he will be sorely missed.

I want to extend to his family my condolences, and during this difficult time wish for them the hope and strength that Dr. HALVERSON inspired in all who knew him.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, tomorrow there will be a memorial service for the late Reverend Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON. I want to take this opportunity to express my sorrow and sadness over the passing of this man who served not only as Chaplain of the Senate for 14 years, but also as model of the Christian life.

Dr. HALVERSON came to the Senate after serving churches in Missouri, California, and Maryland. His leadership of World Vision, the Campus Crusade for Christ, Christian College Consortium, and the prayer breakfast movement, established him as a world-renowned figure.

But I always think of him as the Senate family Chaplain. He did not merely try to give guidance and wisdom to Senators. He served all in the Senate, including the family members of staffers at all levels of the Senate.

In moments of great stress, I know many Senators turned to Dr. HALVERSON for guidance and counsel. And every day, when Dr. HALVERSON opened proceedings with the prayer, he gave us strength and perspective in understanding the responsibilities we hold as Senators.

I am proud to have known Dr. HALVERSON and can truly say that I will miss him. I know that his family can be comforted in knowing that today he is with God.

WEDNESDAY, *December 13, 1995.*

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today the Senate is holding a memorial service to remember Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, our friend and our Chaplain from 1981 to March of this year, who passed away two weeks ago after a long illness. To each of us, whatever our individual religious beliefs, Reverend HALVERSON was someone special. To some of us, he was a confidant; to others, a counselor; and to still others, a pastor in the more traditional sense of the word. To each of us, he was a friend.

The Senate is, in many ways, a small community with many of the same dynamics inherent in small communities across our Nation. We work in close quarters and all know each other very well. Each of us have forged great friendships here, and each of us has seen great rivalries develop among colleagues. We are all public figures whose lives are all too often an open book. We come from widely different backgrounds, and each of us brings to the Senate a different set of values we hold dearly and ideals to which we are firmly and determinedly committed. And out of all of that, out of all the differing backgrounds and competing philosophies, out of the individual strengths and weaknesses, and out of the personal friendships and political rivalries, this community of one hundred men and women must produce public policy that ensures the well-being of more than two hundred and fifty million of our fellow Americans. That is an awesome responsibility.

As much as any of us, Reverend HALVERSON understood both the sense of community and the awesome responsibility of the Senate. Each morning, in his opening prayer, he would try to remind us that the sense of community, collegiality, and comity that has always been the trademark of this body is vitally important to carrying out the tasks that are demanded of us. He would remind us that the Senator on the other side of a heated debate is just as committed a public servant as we are. That no political party has a monopoly on compassion, or patriotism, or integrity. That the American Dream is neither conservative nor liberal. And that at the end of the day that sense of community, as Senators and as Americans, must prevail if we are to meet the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

Reverend HALVERSON understood that as Senators, our lives—official and often personal—are open to more scrutiny than most Americans would tolerate. He understood that not

only our votes and our speeches, but our families and our lifestyles are often open to public review. As public officials we have accepted that. Nonetheless, Reverend HALVERSON understood that scrutiny does take a human toll, reminding us that as we would like to be treated with understanding, so we must be understanding ourselves. And reminding us that for all of the public scrutiny of our lives and our conduct, for all of the public criticism that we sometimes receive for our votes and our political and philosophical beliefs, for all of the questioning of our motives that we must sometimes endure, the work that we do is so important to so many people that we must persevere.

Reverend HALVERSON always understood that election to public office does not take away the pressures that face every other American man and woman; work-related stress, family concerns, health concerns, or the self-questioning that every individual faces from time to time throughout their lives. Similarly, he understood that election to public office does not bestow skills or talents that we did not possess before; nor does it eradicate any personal weaknesses we possessed before our election. But Reverend HALVERSON was always there to remind us that deep within each of us is the ability to meet every challenge that our careers and our lives present.

A few years ago, I was quite ill. I left here one February night with a headache and did not return until late in the summer. During those months, as he was during all of his 14 years here, Reverend HALVERSON was there for me. I have never forgotten that, and my family has never forgotten that.

Throughout his 14 years as the Senate Chaplain Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON was a committed public servant and a friend to each of us. We shall miss him.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, with sadness, tempered by gratitude, I rise today to mourn the passing of the late Chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON. Recently he left this Chamber and this world, but the impression he left is all around us.

Mr. President, we all know that national politics is often wracked by deep disagreement. The task of steering history's most civilized Nation on a wise course through democratic means arouses strong passions. Only spiritual guidance and divine grace could steady this Chamber during the tempests of every age, and we are fortunate to debate in soft tones, and to determine great questions as a civilized community.

For the last 14 years, America herself was blessed to have Dr. HALVERSON, the Senate's Christian humanist, to keep our civilization decent.

Whenever a member of our little civilization lost a loved one—or gained one—the Chaplain's office was a proven source of consolation and hope.

I took the oath here not too long ago, and I remember, among a flood of invitations, one from the good Chaplain asked to come to the weekly Senate prayer breakfast. There are many bipartisan meetings in the Capitol, but the calm communion of Catholics, Jews, and Protestants was tripartisan as well as profoundly contemplative. I treasure those Wednesday morning gatherings as occasions to make deep and abiding friendships with my colleagues.

Mr. President, John Stuart Mill wrote that "one person with a belief is a social power equal to ninety-nine who have only interests." Here in this Chamber, one Chaplain with unshakeable belief was a social power equal to all 100 of us, each with a host of interests and beliefs. He calmed our fears, he kept us together, and every morning he called us to prayer.

Now, as he taught us, I join my colleagues in praying for his soul.

FRIDAY, *December 15, 1995.*

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, passage of a wonderful, gifted and true Christian gentleman, former Senate Chaplain RICHARD HALVERSON, has left another void in our society and great sadness to this friend of his. My wonderful wife, Pat and I always felt DICK HALVERSON was one of God's greatest gifts to us and our spiritual well-being. He never let us down, and he always built us up.

The Christian glow of Chaplain HALVERSON, like a strobe light in the dark or a beacon in the storm and fog, shone brightly always and will everlastingly. Few have attained or maintained the mission of what obviously was God's wisdom and compassion in creating and sending forth among us poor sinners this giant workman for faith and good.

I knew him well years before he was called upon to be the spiritual leader of the Senate. Way back in the early 1970's, when I first met this man, I correctly sensed, when he came to Nebraska to lead us in a Governors' Christian retreat, his

devotion and his unique ability to spread our Maker's message of peace and love and understanding.

While he is gone from us in this life, and we will miss him, the light and glow of RICHARD HALVERSON does not even flicker. It is brighter than ever. For this wonderful man, who has been taken from us and from his family, we issue condolences to that great family of RICHARD HALVERSON, but we commit to continue his gentle but most effective teachings that he has left all of us for the betterment of mankind. God bless my brother, RICHARD HALVERSON.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Georgia [Mr. Nunn], is recognized for up to 25 minutes. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended sufficient time to accommodate my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I first wish to express my gratitude to the Senator from Nebraska for his fine comments on Reverend HALVERSON, a man we all dearly loved. There was a beautiful and wonderful memorial service to him in the Senate caucus room this week where not only Senators but, more importantly, Senate family—policemen, people working in the dining room, doorkeepers—expressed their profound appreciation for the life and example of this wonderful, wonderful disciple of God. I will be making more complete remarks, and I will also, at a later point, insert in the Record some of the remarks made at his memorial service so that all Senators can read them.

I certainly join at this juncture with my friend from Nebraska and thank him for his poignant and very appropriate observation about this dear brother who meant so much to this body and the entire Senate family.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, declared, "The world is my parish." In a like fashion, Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON might have declared that the Senate side of the United States Capitol, the city of Washington, DC, and the United States of America were his parish.

No one who ever passed Dr. HALVERSON in the hallways or in the streets of this Federal community had any reason to doubt that Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON was a man in whom the Light of God's Love shone brightly. From the men and

women who clean our offices at night to the men and women who prepare the meals in our dining rooms and cafeterias, to the men and women who deliver the mail throughout the office complexes, to the men and women who police the streets of Capitol Hill, to the men and women who serve in the offices of Senators and on the elevators and in committee staffs to the men and women who sit on the Floor of the United States Senate as elected officials of the fifty sovereign States, no one was beyond Dr. HALVERSON's love, his ministry, and his care. If one followed Dr. HALVERSON throughout his daily routine, one would not find a man more possessed by, as well as animated by, the Capitol Spirit of the Living God. I have met few men in any ordained order of the clergy or any denomination, who fit the phrase "Men of God" so well as did Dr. HALVERSON.

Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON was a man of plain speech and honest demeanor. His eloquence was often in his simplicity. No problem brought to him by one of us or by anyone on Capitol Hill was too small for his attention or too menial to call forth from him a prayer or a blessing. Having come from a major Washington parish—The Fourth Presbyterian Church on River Road—a church numbering among its members thousands—Dr. HALVERSON, on assuming the chaplaincy of the U.S. Senate, shouldered his duties without missing a beat. During his years of service among us, he was in much demand nationwide to share his spiritual maturity and the depth of his insights with thousands upon thousands of people in conferences across our country. In spite of the demand upon his time, however, Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON never neglected his primary duty here in the United States Senate. Working as one man among ordinary men and women—the men and women elected to the high position of United States Senator, Dr. HALVERSON seemed to grasp instinctively our needs as human beings first and our needs as Senators second. In all of the years of his service here, Dr. HALVERSON sowed seeds of faith, and kindness, and love that will continue to bear fruit in all of our lives, and in the life of this institution long after all of us have departed its halls.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. HALVERSON for the pastoral care that he lent to me personally during the ordeal of the loss of my beloved grandson in a truck accident. And I remember with thankfulness his ministry to my wife during her seasons of illness and debility. And I shall never forget the witness that Dr. HALVERSON shared with me of his own faith as he and I opened our hearts to one another and



searched the deeper things of life in sometimes casual conversations or in moments of profound insight. If ever there were a model of the "Priesthood of all Believers," Dr. HALVERSON was a priest of that order of "Melchisedec" spoken of in the Holy Scriptures. Dr. HALVERSON had the enviable ability to share his faith in God as one might recommend to another his Best Friend. For RICHARD HALVERSON, God was no abstraction, but the first reality of waking in the morning, traveling forth into the world by day and returning home at night to his slumber.

I saw the sun sink in the golden west;  
No angry cloud obscured its latest ray.  
Around the couch on which it sank to rest  
Shone all the splendor of a summer day.  
And long, though lost to view, that radiant light,  
Reflected from the sky, delayed the night.  
Thus, when a good man's life comes to a close,  
No doubts arise to cloud his soul with gloom,  
But faith triumphant on each feature glows,  
And benedictions fill the sacred room.  
And long do men his virtues wide proclaim,  
While generations rise to bless his name.

I have no doubt that Dr. HALVERSON has indeed now gone to his reward in that Eternity for which each of us yearns in his heart of hearts. Death can be no victor over the life of a man like RICHARD HALVERSON—a man whose daily walk and whose wisdom were rooted in the Eternal Word of God. Indeed, as Jesus said, when he saw Nathanael coming to him, we might also say of Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON, "Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile."

My wife and I extend our deep deepest sympathies to Mrs. Halverson and to the family of Dr. HALVERSON. He was not slick; he was not even particularly polished, perhaps, but neither was the Jesus Christ whom he served. This was not just a vocation, it was an avocation, and what you saw was what you got.

As I said to his son after Dr. HALVERSON's passing, I have no doubt—and I had no doubt that Dr. HALVERSON knew—of his son's grief. I felt that way when my own foster father passed from this earthly life. I felt that way when my grandson was taken at the age of 17. I felt that his spirit still lived, and that he knew of my grief.

Dr. HALVERSON knows today of his family's grief. They can take solace in the promise that he still lives, and that they can one day be reunited with him.

ROSE STILL GROWS BEYOND THE WALL

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,  
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,  
Watered and fed by morning dew,  
Shedding its sweetness day and night.  
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,  
Slowly rising to loftier height,  
It came to a crevice in the wall,  
Through which there shone a beam of light.  
Onward it crept with added strength,  
With never a thought of fear or pride.  
It followed the light through the crevice's length  
And unfolded itself on the other side.  
The light, the dew, the broadening view  
Were found the same as they were before;  
And it lost itself in beauties new,  
Spreading its fragrance more and more.  
Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,  
and Make our courage faint or fall?  
Nay! Let us faith and hope receive:  
The rose still grows beyond the wall.  
Scattering fragrance far and wide,  
Just as it did in days of yore,  
Just as it did on the other side,  
Just as it will forevermore.

MONDAY, *December 18, 1995.*

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON. To many in this body, he was a spiritual leader. To others, he was a counselor. To me, he was both of those and he was also a friend.

I got to know DICK HALVERSON when he responded to my pleas for help with the Missouri Prayer Breakfast. Despite his hectic schedule, he helped and encouraged me in developing the Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Conference on Faith and Values in Leadership. His display of kindness and love was remarkable. Even more remarkable, however, was that this was not remarkable—it was just the way DICK was.

DICK's legacy will be a lasting one. Words written during his life endure and will serve as inspirational challenges not only to us, but to those yet to be born. A family nurtured by this father, husband, and grandfather will bear a continuing witness to his love. And the countless lives that he touched and influenced and saved help make this world a better place and heaven a more crowded place.

What is the measure of man's life? RICHARD HALVERSON knew the answer. A man's life is measured by how much he loves God and how deeply he cares for those that God has put around him. DICK's life was a full one—measured great by any standard of earthly success—counted great by the one opinion that counts. For DICK lived life and lived it abundantly, knowing what was important and what was not. I will miss DICK, but I will also rejoice at all God did through him.

TUESDAY, *December 19, 1995.*

Mr. MACK. I rise today to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON. In his position as the U.S. Senate Chaplain for the past 14 years, Reverend HALVERSON acted as spiritual leader to me personally, as well as to the entire Senate. His unwavering devotion, knowledge, and guidance have been a powerful example of living by one's convictions. It is an example from which we should derive inspiration as we search for the true meaning in our lives. I will keep the family of Reverend HALVERSON in my thoughts and prayers during their time of grief.

**Memorial Services for  
Dr. Richard C. Halverson**



MEMORIAL SERVICE  
in  
CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION  
for  
Dr. Richard C. Halverson

Fourth Presbyterian Church  
5500 River Road,  
Bethesda, Maryland

DECEMBER 11, 1995



ORGAN PRELUDE

Mr. Fred Markey

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Dr. Rob Norris

FAMILY GREETINGS

Reverend Chris Halverson

ANTHEM

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross  
Sanctuary Choir; Text: No. 185 in the pew hymnal

SCRIPTURE READINGS AND COMMENTS

Philippians 1:21, *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*—Judge Martin Bostetter.

Acts 20:24, *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*—Reverend Bob Strain.

Ephesians 4:7, 11–13, *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*—Mr. Phil Jordan.

SONG OF PRAISE

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Instrument of Praise; Text: No. 493 in the pew hymnal

SHARING

Mrs. Barbara Skinner  
Senator Mark O. Hatfield  
Mr. Doug Coe

Dr. Billy Graham  
Louise B. Risk  
Jim and Betsy Kumnick

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Hymn No. 463

MRS. BARBARA SKINNER

Jesus told his disciples once, he said from now on I'm not going to call you servants, I'm going to call you friends, because a servant doesn't know



what his master is doing, but as a friend, everything the Father has told me I'm going to tell you. Well, DICK HALVERSON was first friend of my husband Tom Skinner, then he became my very good friend. In fact he joined the two of us together in matrimony. Now it didn't bother DICK that he was one of three ministers to perform our wedding ceremony, because I told him as a 35-year-old black woman, it's so hard to find a man I don't want to take any chances on one of you ministers not showing up! So DICK came an hour early! But he not only came early, he stood there and he greeted 475 people individually. And he said to me a little bit later, almost in tears, and this was the spirit of the man, he said, "Barb, I saw people who I would have never had a chance to meet but for you and Tom. Why are our worlds far apart?" He said, "Can we make a pact that from now on, we're going to give away our friends?"

And that's what we basically spent a lot of time doing, giving away our friends. One of the things that Tom Skinner, John Staggars and Sam Hines shared with this man we called DICK, is a very clear understanding of what the kingdom of God is about. DICK understood that the kingdom was not about what we were going to do later. He and Tom would sit around after they preached a lot and talk about the idea that heaven is that place where Jesus is Lord and God is in control because in heaven there's no racism or sexism or violence or broken relationships, but that the work of God's people is to model that on earth. So that the unbelievers would know what heaven really was like. So the idea for DICK was that you did that by the way you treated people at every level. So DICK would hook up with Stu Murtoff and Sam Hines and John Staggars and go to Lorton Prison. That was very natural for him. That reconciliation was not something you preached about, it was something you did every day.

If you ran around with DICK on Capitol Hill you saw that he knew the name of every policeman, every page, every person who cooked, because people mattered to him. The Gospel was not about what he preached, his talk and his walk were the same. And I remember DICK standing with me as we were going to one of the prayer breakfasts and he had tears in his eyes and he said, "You know, Barb, what Washington, DC, means to me?" He said, "I got it first from a man named Abram Vereide," who as many of you know was the father of the prayer breakfast movement, he said, "Abram stood at the 14th street bridge once and he looked at Anacostia on the east, the poorest of the poor live there, and he looked over to Georgetown on the west, where the richest of the rich live, he said they will never come together unless you and I come together." And so that's what DICK's whole life was about, it was about walking with people who God walked with. And so he was our friend who could come and have dinner with us and hang out with us. He loved John Staggars and Sam Hines and Tom Skinner like brothers. He dreamed about a city in Washington, DC, where the poor and the non-poor hung out together, spent time together, and that the walls of fear would only be broken down when we realized that we were one at the foot of the cross—we were all equal at the foot of the cross. And that's what his whole commitment was about. When he talked about the city of Washington, he almost always followed it with the gospel message in Jeremiah 29 when it says if you pray for the city, the city will prosper. Because it prospers, you too will prosper. And he absolutely saw Washington, DC, not as a crime capitol of the world, but as a city that was set on a hill for God. That the only issue was when would the 84 million of us who said, according to the gallop poll, that we have had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, when would we put down our fear and our hostility and our stereo-

types and our anger and all of our attitudes about one another, and accept that the blood of Jesus was the only color that existed. That at the foot of the cross everybody was seen as the same by God. So DICK's attitude, frankly, was that he earned nothing, that God had given him everything. His whole life was about giving himself away, giving his friends away, and he only hoped that there would be, like Abram Vereide, a leadership lead by God on behalf of the poor.

I believe that the heritage of that is in this room. I believe that the sons and daughters of many of those who walked with DICK HALVERSON must accept, as he accepted, that we have already been healed by the 39 stripes of Jesus. That there is no other meeting to be held, here is no other plan to be laid, that all we need to do is to ask Jesus, as DICK had said to Tom many times, he said, "I simply pray and ask God, who are the black brothers and the brown and the red and the yellow brothers you want me to walk with? Lord, just give me enough courage, when you send them my way, not to qualify them. But to accept, if you've accepted them, I have."

Let me just close by sharing, what I consider, really the testimony of DICK's life and it was the same testimony that I believe represented the life of John Staggars and Sam Hines and Tom Skinner, who have all gone to heaven. I can just imagine these guys up there slapping "high fives" having a serious time! But it says that when I die, give all that's left of me away, to children and old people who wait to die. And if you need to cry, cry for your brother who's walking the streets beside you. And when you think of me, put your arms around anyone and give them what you mean to give to me. I want to leave you something, something better than words or sounds. Love doesn't die, people do. So when all that's left of me is love, give me away, I'll see you at home in heaven.



#### REMEMBRANCES

THE HONORABLE MARK O. HATFIELD

When Dr. HALVERSON was chosen to be the chaplain of the United States Senate, he provided for fourteen years the counsel to that Senate, continually reminding us what true leadership really meant. It was not an admonition, it was an example. Because Dr. HALVERSON, first of all, as a leader, became a servant. And he reminded each and every one of us that everyday, we are to serve the people around us.

I am reminded of one occasion when we were walking across the plaza to the Capitol building, and one of the policemen hailed Dr. HALVERSON and said, "I need your prayers." Dr. HALVERSON immediately went over, grasped this policeman by the arm and prayed the prayer to meet his need. How many times have we promised or stated so easily, as a matter of almost routine, I will pray for you, or I will remember you in my prayers, and then move ahead with the days routine, and have the commitment slip our mind? But Dr. HALVERSON responded on the spot, quickly, quietly, and with compassion.

I can not begin to share with you this evening, the full scope of Dr. HALVERSON's daily compassionate outreach, exemplified in Jesus' great commandment, Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself. His ministry was total. He would attend a bible study of the old testament, hosted by one of the Jewish Senators, at the same time he could expound upon the Jewish-

ness of our Christian faith, because he was able to not only speak the scripture, but he was willing to apply it.

I can remember on one occasion when there had been a great tragedy, and one of the Senator's staff persons being murdered. And everyone was in a state of shock. It was Chaplain HALVERSON who went to the Senator's office, offered to gather the Senator's staff together, and to pray and to ask God's compassion. And that staff, even though dispersed today, will probably consider that as one of their rich experiences in coming to understand the ministry of RICHARD HALVERSON.

I can remember, too, that when Senator Byrd's grandson was killed in a very tragic situation, and it was DICK HALVERSON who traveled to West Virginia to conduct the funeral services. I can remember when our oldest daughter was to be married, and it was Chaplain HALVERSON, who traveled to Portland, Oregon, to marry one of the young ladies that grew up in this church. So he has shared our griefs, and he has shared our joys.

I might say too, that his prayers have been very powerful prayers. I know of no time in history when his prayers often were not only reported in the media, but editorialized by the media. Some of his prayers penetrated our consciousness, and sometimes even our egos, as when one Christmas season he prayed, Heavenly Father, help us to be mindful that the proclamation of the coming of Your Son was made to simple, humble shepherds out on a hillside, and not to the Roman Senate. His private prayers were also very, very powerful. One morning he was having breakfast in the Senate dining room with Dr. Billy Graham. Not many people in the dining room at that hour, and he noticed the waitresses were sort of congregated around the door opening into the kitchen. As they finished breakfast, walking by he gathered them, as he could so easily do, and he and Dr. Graham had prayer with our waitresses. It was that sensitivity to all people in all walks of life.

Dr. HALVERSON's ministry was reconciling. He recognized especially those moments of tension in the Senate, when relationships were ruptured, when animosity prevailed. And one evening, as it came to the 12:00 midnight hour, and the rule of the Senate was, at the beginning of any new session, you shall have prayer, and at 12:01 they invited DICK HALVERSON to open the 12:01 a.m. session, again with prayer. "Heavenly Father, Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. And all the king's horses and all the king's men, could not put Humpty Dumpty back together again, and Lord, help the Senators not repeat that experience here."

I have said before that Dr. HALVERSON was one of the most Christ-like men, or persons I have ever known. And even in his failing health, he continued his ministries when the Secretary of the Senate would take him by one arm, and Chris would take him by the other arm, and help him to mount the podium to offer his morning prayer.

I want to encapsule what I would identify my friend and his ministry, with all of his talents and all of his skills, he was a singing, a suffering, a praying, a preaching, a comforting and compassionate presence in the United States Senate. And we all miss him.



MR. DOUG COE

This evening it's my privilege to represent many associates scattered throughout the world that are friends of DICK and his family. Many of them are here tonight, but most are not. But they also would like to be here. Peo-

ple from Japan, India, Mongolia, Germany, France, throughout Africa and Latin America. They would like to say to DICK HALVERSON one last time, we thank you, we love you and we respect you.

Mark Hatfield and I met DICK HALVERSON some 43 years ago at Willamette University and we've been together, practically daily, ever since. I have listened to him personally preach and teach on six continents, and listened to him privately counsel me and many others for that long, and I can tell you honestly, that I have never grown tired of listening to him expand on the precepts, the principles and the person of his greatest friend, Jesus Christ.

As the years have gone on, I have moved, from not only being his student, to being his friend, partner, companion and brother. As you can imagine, tonight, along with all of you, there are a thousand memories which crowd into one's thoughts, over so long a period of time. But the one that always pushes its way to the front of my mind, is DICK on his knees. There has been a lot of mentioning about DICK's prayers. But, you know, often today we pray, but not often on our knees. I think of him, when I think of him in my mind, on his knees. The times are countless that I met him early in the morning at his home, to go together for a breakfast, only to find him on his knees. After I rang his doorbell and there was no answer, I would look through the crack in the blinds to observe DICK on his knees. When we traveled together, we were on our knees first thing in the morning and the last thing at night. That, my dear friends and colleagues, was the secret to his life and love for Jesus of Nazareth and everyone else. I remember when he preached here, "prayer is the work." That's what I remember most.

I grew up in a community out in Oregon, where it seemed like mostly women and sissies talked about Jesus. Then I met DICK and observed, little by little, that the strongest men would fall on their knees for Jesus.

There are no words to describe my feeling of personal loss today, for this wonderful partner, mentor and friend. Not again in this life, will we be able to sit together all day or all night, speaking in audible tones about the things pertaining to Jesus Christ and his kingdom. But I must tell you I hear him even more clearly now. Ringing in my heart and mind every minute, feeling constantly together, but invisibly. He was a friend who always answered when you called. And even before. He was a friend who made our grief less painful and our adversities bearable. He was a friend who made our disappointments less hurtful, our problems more solvable. He was a friend with whom we felt comfortable, who was always loyal, who put up with our idiosyncrasies and always made us feel loved. He was a friend who shared our lives and prayed for us constantly. He was there to encourage us along the path of our dreams and to give that boost needed, to climb the mountain. Yes, he was one of those friends that comes, as a great earthly treasure, to help prepare our eyes, our heart, our mind and our soul, for that place Jesus Christ has prepared for them that love Him.

This evening we all want to pay a special tribute to Doris, DICK's beloved wife and companion for so many years. Many of us have observed closely how they have grown in their love for the Lord and for each other. In a day when families are falling apart, DICK and Doris have a family that is falling more in love with each other. This, in the final analysis, in the true measure of a man's life. So to observe Doris, Chris, Debbie, Steve, their families, the grandchildren, all together loving Christ and loving each other, is the greatest example of all.

Yes, along with you, I loved DICK. This occasion gives us all an opportunity to thank God for our friend who walked through our lives and taught

us that physical death has no sting. Today we can rejoice, because the fact is, even though we can not see him, we are bound together more than ever through the life and power of Jesus Christ, whom we also can not see. But who is closer than life itself.



DR. BILLY GRAHAM

It is a great privilege for me to be here tonight and to hear all this, because it is all so true, and so much more than has been said. And nobody can sum it up. Two words I have heard over and over again tonight that sums it up for me. One was prayer and the other was love. And that summed up, in a sense, DICK HALVERSON's live.

He and I went to school together, I do not ever remember him in school, and he would never remember me, because he was an upper classman and he was a very brilliant student compared to me. And we had no reason to know each other in those days, except just by sight. But the first time that I ever really got to know him was at Forest Home in California, at a summer conference that Henrietta Mears was chairman of, a college briefing conference of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, of which Dr. Ogilvie has just come to be the chaplain of the Senate to succeed Dr. HALVERSON. And I remember they had at the end of the week, they had a campfire, and if you wanted to re-dedicate your life to the Lord, or go into Christian service, you would pick up a little stick of wood and put it on that fire. And I remember somebody had pointed out DICK HALVERSON to me, and I had met him at that conference, and he was one of the first people to get up and go and put that stick on that fire. And I thought, my goodness, if he needs to do that, I need to put a whole load of wood on the fire because already, his godliness, his prayer life, his study of scripture had already affected me.

And I did not know DICK as well as many of you that have expressed themselves tonight, but I talked to him many times, of course, and was with him, I guess, several hundred times, and there are people here tonight that I see, that are well known across the country that knew him much better, and could speak for hours. But I was in a meeting once in Washington when people were giving their testimonies and they were speaking, they called them a popcorn testimony meeting, and there was one fellow that just kept on and on, and DICK HALVERSON was the chairman, he said, "That is enough, brother, let someone else." And he had no hesitancy in doing things like that. And I see that Chris has inherited all of that.

But I think it would be a wonderful thing tonight, if in your heart, in your life, you re-dedicated your life tonight, as I would like to do myself. Because very rarely, do our lives, no matter who we are, get to cross a life in a lifetime like DICK HALVERSON. There are just not many people like that. And you have had the privilege of crossing paths with him and being with him, and what he has meant to all the people that have spoken tonight, he has meant to you. And he wanted all the glory and all the praise and all the honor to go to the Lord Jesus Christ, as has already been said several times here. He did not want anything for himself. He wanted it all for Christ.

And to Doris and to the family, we love you and thank God that you gave so much of his time to people like us, who he blessed. How many times I called him on the phone to get his advice on things, through all these years, and he never failed. And he never failed to say, "Let us pray about it." We

would have prayer over the phone. And I want to thank all of you and to this church for what you meant to him. God bless you all.



LOUISE B. RISK

Anticipating his big smile, I would sometimes greet DICK by saying: "Here he comes, love on the hoof." The hoof referred to his Dakota roots; love was his way of life.

DICK's love for his fellow human beings shone brightly but was pale compared to his love for Christ. Like Paul, DICK could say: "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

True friends are not supposed to be perfect but to be understanding. My friendship with DICK began in the 1960's, shortly after I started to attend his Thursday morning Bible class. DICK's teaching was good, the conversation over tea and coffee more of a problem. On this particular Thursday the group was ardently espousing political and social points of view different from my own. Walking out the door, on impulse I said to DICK: "I do not think I can fit in." I was startled by an arm around my shoulder and the triumphant admonition, "Do your own thing!" From this intuitive, spontaneous comment developed a life I still enjoy—walking with a Savior whose service is perfect freedom.

It was not DICK's way to question others' political views, let alone to judge their souls. He could be awkward in settings of social affluence, uncomfortable in corridors of power. His heart was with the poor. Deeply conflicted yet skeptical of philosophers and theologians. He turned a blind eye to his own scholarship while maintaining inviolate daily time with books and Bible.

The last time I saw him, DICK could hardly walk up the steps to the pulpit at Fourth Church. But he could still preach loud and clear his unique vision of the gospel of love.

Love is alive on the hoof—roaming the verdant pastures, drinking the living water, luxuriating in the celestial food at the table of the shepherd king.



JIM AND BETSY KUMNICK

The world is poorer today. Who but God could even begin to calculate the impact of Dr. HALVERSON's life on this planet? Everywhere he went, he carried the aroma of Christ, casting a shadow of blessing and benevolence that touched thousands—probably hundreds of thousands—of lives. It will take an eternity to hear all the stories of salvation, love, and healing that resulted from the ministry of this dear servant of God. He was truly great because he was truly humble. The Gospel he preached was simple, as was St. Paul's: Jesus Christ, Son of God, came to earth to take our sins all the way to the cross where He died on our behalf. He rose again, ascended to heaven, and sent His Holy Spirit to indwell the lives of all His followers. One day all who trust Jesus as their Savior will be with Him forever. How often Dr. HALVERSON reminded us, "The Bible is true. Believe it!"

Thank you, Doris, for unselfishly sharing your beloved husband with so many people through the years. It cannot have been easy for you as DICK

became more and more well-known around the world. God honored him for faithfully proclaiming His message every time he stood in a pulpit or at a lecturn, ultimately raising him to a position of national prominence and spiritual power. Who knows how he has affected America for good by his influence on those who write our laws and govern our land? Who knows how many individuals bless him for his impact on their personal lives as he challenged them to follow Christ? Who knows how many people learned to stop and pray right then and there upon hearing a prayer request, as he did? Or how many learned to say, "I love you" to brothers and sisters in the Lord? How many have pondered how they are to live "between Sundays"? How many know they "go nowhere by accident"? How many have learned that where they are at a given time is exactly where God wants them, that this is "an unrepeatable moment"? Who will ever hear "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee" and not think of Dr. HALVERSON singing it as a benediction at the close of Sunday evening services?

We used to tell our children as we sat in church that they must be quiet and really listen, for this man is one of the great men of God in our time. Someone said today that DICK must be so excited to be gazing into the face of the Savior he shared with so many. And the response was, Jesus must be so excited to look into the face of His good and faithful servant! How true. What a privilege to have known him at all... We love him, we will miss him so much, we look forward to seeing him again. We will never forget him, and never stop thanking God for him. May our Lord watch over you and bless you in the loss of your dear husband and father, one of God's great men in this century.



#### MESSAGE IN SONG

Mr. Steve Halverson

#### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Hymn No. 43.

#### CONCLUDING PRAYER BY RICHARD C. HALVERSON, JR.

Our Heavenly Father,

More than a sparrow has fallen, you must have taken note of it.

More than a corn of wheat has been sown, you must have prepared a great harvest.

More than a lily of the field has withered, you must have arrayed him in glorious apparel.

More than all these, yet not so much than any of mankind, is this man of God, whose life was Christ and whose death was gain.

Tonight we rejoice not in what was accomplished through him, for his work was only to believe in Your Son, and his body was but to be worn by Your Spirit. Tonight we rejoice, rather, that his name is written in the book of life.

Well might we say with the Psalmist, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the Son of man that visiteth him. For that hast made him a little lower than the Angels, and has crowned him with glory and honor." And again it is written, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." In the victorious name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION OF DR. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

You go no place by accident this week; wherever you go, Christ is sending you.

You are no place by accident this week; wherever you are, Christ has placed you, has planted you.

A little statement from my favorite devotional writer, Oswald Chambers: "Never allow the thought 'I am of no use where I am.' You certainly are of no use where you are not."

You go nowhere by accident; you are nowhere by accident.

Wherever you go, wherever you are, Christ is placing you or sending you because Christ has a job He wants to do there and He can only do it in your body.

Think. Wherever you are, Jesus Christ is literally present in the flesh.

Believe that, and go in that confidence.



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Mr. Ed Weaver

MEMORIAL SERVICE  
in  
GRATEFUL MEMORY  
of  
Dr. Richard C. Halverson

United States Senate  
60th Chaplain

FEBRUARY 1, 1981–FEBRUARY 5, 1995

DECEMBER 13, 1995

## DR. RICHARD C. HALVERSON

FEBRUARY 4, 1916–NOVEMBER 28, 1995

The Reverend Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON was one of the truly great spiritual leaders of our time. He was the distinguished and beloved 60th Chaplain of the United States Senate from February 2, 1981 to February 5, 1995. Dr. HALVERSON expressed deep care and encouragement to the Senators, their families and staffs, and Senate employees. During his 14 year ministry as Chaplain he enabled the Senate to be a caring family of people who help each other enjoy the delights and endure the difficulties of life.

Chaplain HALVERSON's eloquent prayers opening the Senate expressed his love for God and his patriotism for our Nation. His preaching and writing made him a pastor to the Nation.

However, it was Dr. HALVERSON's radiant countenance and love-filled "God bless you!" that warmed the hearts of people at the Capitol. He had an amazing knowledge of people's needs and was a faithful intercessor. As a spiritual counselor, he helped people experience God's love and find answers to their deepest questions. He had a way of making people feel loved, accepted, valued and special.

RICHARD HALVERSON was a native of North Dakota. He was educated at Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Honorary doctoral degrees were awarded him by Wheaton College and Gordon College. Prior to coming to Washington to work with the Prayer Breakfast movement and subsequently as Senior Pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, for 23 years, he was Leadership Education Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California.

As an author, Dr. HALVERSON published over 20 books and wrote the popular nationally distributed newsletter, *Perspective*. He served on the boards of several Christian organizations and has been a leader in the movement of the ministry of the laity.

Our beloved friend is survived by his wife, Doris, and three children: Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., Stephen S. Halverson, Deborah Halverson Markey, and nine grandchildren.

We are profoundly thankful for the impact of this great man of God!

PIANO PRELUDE

Leroy Hazzard, piano, Human Resource Department, U.S. Senate  
Cathy Miller, piano, National Christian Choir  
Judy Hooks, synthesizer, National Christian Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie

CHORAL PRAISE

National Christian Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie

SHARED BLESSING

Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie

READING OF SCRIPTURE AND PERSONAL WORD

Reverend Chris Halverson

A FAVORITE HYMN OF DR. HALVERSON

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS (VERSUS 1, 3)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of fuming with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
To Thy great Faithfulness, mercy and love.

**Chorus:**

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

**Chorus.**

GRATEFUL REFLECTIONS

Members of the Senate and Staff, led by Senator Don Nickles

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN RICHARD C. HALVERSON

(By Robert G. Ellis, Jr.)

When Chaplain Ogilvie asked if I could say a few words in behalf of my brother and friend, Chaplain RICHARD C. HALVERSON, I considered it an honor. As Chaplain Ogilvie walked away, the scripture from John 15:13 came to mind. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." More than 53 years ago, Chaplain HALVERSON made a commitment to give his life for me, you, and the world, as an example, so we could know the love of our Heavenly Father.

Chaplain HALVERSON not only was the Chaplain to the U.S. Senate, but to all he came in contact with. He was the Chaplain to the police officers, the subway drivers, the cafeteria personnel, the labor personnel, the electricians, the elevator operators, the elevator mechanics, the housekeeping personnel and all the staff here on Capitol Hill. His ministry included the world, because he knew that everyone is a child of God. He extended his ministry, because he committed his life to serving our Father in Heaven. In his special and loving way, Chaplain HALVERSON was saying, "I know that my Redeemer lives." His example was to show the job of living a Christ-like life, so we can all partake of our Heavenly Father's gift of eternal life, if we will follow suit.

The United States Capitol Police appreciated Chaplain HALVERSON, and the love he extended to us. It was indeed special to have his life shared with us. To Chaplain Halverson's very special family, we extend our love and appreciation. You too have been special in our lives. May God bless each of you and comfort you at this time.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I say these things. Amen.



TIME FRAME

(By C.J. Martin)

Born to serve, receive and resend,  
Born to fertilize as salt and extend,  
Born to give. Perpetuate life,  
Serve mankind and friend.

Born to support, nurture, refine and defend,  
Born to be called upon and admired through thick and thin.  
Born to admire the race, keep pace, finish with God's grace  
and remember His timing is to be embraced.

#### EMBRACE THEE

Peace like a dove in early morning light,  
reflecting, measuring, balancing wide and narrow streams  
of air that lift to new rewarding heights.  
Peering over God's creation, marveling at this joyous wonderful sight.  
Dazzling sun rays miraculously split cloud cover, revealing  
undiscovered, splendid, ordained sights  
that might go unnoticed in one's mundane or over-zealous life.

Oh, God, intercede, let not another day become night,  
without respectfully understanding your creative life.

See the flower, smell the rose, plant a tree, smile peacefully,  
sing a song, but hurriedly, swiftly, unashamedly embrace thy  
heart and see, not one but three in Thee.

#### A FAVORITE HYMN OF DR. HALVERSON

##### AMAZING GRACE (VERSUS 1, 5)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

#### A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie

#### CHORAL ANTHEM

National Christian Choir

#### BENEDICTION



## **Condolences and Tributes**





## Christian Booksellers Association Adding Reverend Richard C. Halverson to the “Hall of Honor”

JULY 1995,  
*Denver, CO.*

Narrator. He’s been called “the conscience of our Nation’s lawmakers” . . . “the soul of the Senate.” For 14 years, the presence of Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON has been felt everywhere on Capitol Hill—from the corridors of leadership and power . . . to both chambers of Congress . . . even to the Office of the President.

Until his recent retirement from the post of chaplain to the United States Senate, Dr. HALVERSON had the unique privilege and awesome responsibility of opening each day’s Senate proceedings with prayer—and he did so with remarkable spiritual sensitivity, neither compromising his own convictions, nor offending those who thought differently. As one Senator recalls, “his prayer was always the soothing balm we needed—the right word to put some healing into the Senate’s contentious process.”

With a passion for moral and spiritual revival in America that is eclipsed only by a desire to bless individual lives, Dr. HALVERSON touched many people in his daily work on Capitol Hill—congressional staffers, Capitol policemen, servers and cooks in the Senate dining room—and of course, Senators on both sides of the political spectrum. Republicans and Democrats alike sought him out for counsel, eager for the inspiration he never failed to give . . . thankful for his consistent Christian example.

To the fractious din of Washington’s politically-charged atmosphere, HALVERSON’S presence brought a calming effect. He was available to people at their convenience and in their time of need. He was a listener . . . an encourager . . . and an affirmer, who always seemed to know when someone was troubled, sick or in need of prayer. And though he sought to turn the hearts of a Nation’s leaders toward heaven, he did so not with confrontation or rebuke, but with quiet humility, meekness and love.

He prayed for each Senator by name—and he interceded for their spouses, their children and staff as well. His daughter, Debbie remembers seeing him early in the morning, kneeling by his big green leather chair. “I have to be sure every morning before I leave home, I have had some time with the Lord—time in His word,” he said. “I want to be very sure that God knows that as far as I am concerned, I have nothing to offer except what He does in and through me.”

And God has done much through RICHARD HALVERSON. It was he who reminded the Senate and the Nation that without God, a democracy cannot stand. “Take creator God out of the formula,” he wrote, “and the whole structure collapses.” Even today Dr. HALVERSON continues to remind us of God’s wisdom through his books. Still he prays for our Nation and its leaders. Still he pauses to affirm and encourage those around him.

And so, in deep respect and admiration, we pause to recognize Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON—and to welcome him into C.B.A.’s Hall of Honor.

# Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1994,  
*North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, North Dakota.*

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON was born February 4, 1916, in Pingree, North Dakota. He attended then Valley City State College (later university) for 2 years, before receiving a bachelor of science degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, in 1939. He earned a bachelor of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1942.

He has served as the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate since February 2, 1981. He was pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland, from December 1958 to May 1981. Since 1956, he has been active in the International Prayer Breakfast movement. He was Chairman of the Board of World Vision-U.S. from 1966 to 1983, and has been an Associate in the International Prayer Breakfast Movement since May 1956. He has also written several inspirational books.

In association with World Vision and the Prayer Breakfast Movement, he has participated in pastors' and leaders conferences in Asia, Australia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Oceania, and the United States.

Former President George Bush wrote to Governor Schafer that Reverend HALVERSON ". . . is one of the most thoughtful individuals I have ever met. When I was President, Dr. HALVERSON would send me words of comfort and cheer. He cared deeply, and this caring was so evident to me and to the Members of Congress whose paths crossed his. Please give Dr. HALVERSON a warm embrace from his friend here in Texas, whose life is a little bit better because he came my way."

Reverend HALVERSON and his wife, Doris, have two sons, one daughter, and nine grandchildren.

## PROGRAM

### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Alvin A. Jaeger, Secretary of State

### MUSICAL SELECTION

Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus  
Tom Porter, Director  
Julie Schwartz, Accompanist

### HISTORY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT ROUGH RIDER AWARD

James E. Sperry, Superintendent  
State Historical Society of North Dakota

MUSICAL SELECTION

Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus

PERSONAL TRIBUTE

Reverend Arthur H. Grimstad

AWARD PRESENTATION

Governor Edward T. and First Lady Nancy Schafer  
Dr. Richard C. Halverson

BENEDICTION

Reverend Mark A. Bayert



[From USA Today, March 25, 1994]

BISMARCK.—Governor Schafer on Saturday inducts the Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON into the Rough Rider Hall of Fame—the State’s highest honor. HALVERSON, a native of Pingree, North Dakota, has been chaplain of the U.S. Senate since 1981. . . .



[From the North Dakota Tribune]

CHAPLAIN BECOMES ROUGH RIDER

(Associate Press)

Calling him a man with the ability to comfort the troubled, Governor Ed Schafer on Saturday gave U.S. Senate chaplain and Pingree native RICHARD HALVERSON North Dakota’s highest honor.

“I am so proud to be able to give this award to Dr. HALVERSON and recognize his ability to interact with people, his skills of reaching down inside and understanding what is happening with another person and to respond to it to make them feel better,” Schafer told about 150 guests at a ceremony at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

HALVERSON, 78, a Presbyterian minister, is the 25th person to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, the State’s highest honor.

He is Schafer’s first selection for the award and the first to receive it for religious work.

“This is like a dream to me,” said HALVERSON, who has been the Senate chaplain since 1981. “There are no words to adequately express the gratitude I feel, the honor I feel, and also—I have to tell you—the unworthiness I feel.”

HALVERSON was born in Pingree, a community about 20 miles northwest of Jamestown, and attended what is now Valley City State University for 2 years.

He was a singer and member of a vaudeville troupe in his youth and went to Hollywood seeking work as a performer. After becoming disgusted with life there in 1935, he attended a church service, converted to Christianity and decided to enter the ministry.

HALVERSON plans to retire as the U.S. Senate chaplain for health reasons, but said he has agreed to stay on until the Senate has time to find a replacement.

"It has been such a very busy session for them, for all of the Senators," HALVERSON said. "It has really bothered me that they would have the burden of trying to select another chaplain right now." HALVERSON, who currently lives with his wife Doris in Virginia, said he plans to spend several days in North Dakota.

"I am going to rent a car in the morning and drive to some of my old haunts," he said.

HALVERSON is the fourth Rough Rider recipient within two years. Former Governor George Sinner named three last year, his final year in office: Chicago Bulls basketball coach Phil Jackson, actress Angie Dickinson and author Larry Woiwode. Woiwode, who lives on a farm near Mott, attended Saturday's ceremony.



[From the Grand Forks Herald, March 27, 1994]

#### SENATE CHAPLAIN GETS ROUGH RIDER AWARD

(By John MacDonald)

PINGREE NATIVE RICHARD HALVERSON HAS BEEN U.S. SENATE CHAPLAIN SINCE 1981, WILL RETIRE SOON

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"I am so proud to be able to give this award to Dr. HALVERSON and recognize his ability to interact with people, his skills of reaching down inside and understanding what is happening with another person and to respond to it to make them feel better," Schafer told about 250 guests at a ceremony at the North Dakota Heritage Center.

#### HE'S 25TH RECIPIENT

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#### PLANS TO RETIRE

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Woiwode, who lives on a farm near Mott, attended Saturday's ceremony.



[From Grand Forks Herald, December 18, 1993]

#### U.S. SENATE CHAPLAIN TO GET ROUGH RIDER AWARD

(By Dale Wetzel)

##### RICHARD HALVERSON IS FIRST PERSON GIVEN AWARD FOR RELIGIOUS WORK

BISMARCK.—Governor Ed Schafer made his first selection for North Dakota's highest honor Friday, saying U.S. Senate chaplain RICHARD HALVERSON will receive the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award.

HALVERSON, a Pingree, North Dakota, native, will be formally presented with the award in March at a Bismarck prayer breakfast. He is the first person to be honored for his religious work.

Schafer made the announcement Friday in the Capitol's Senate chambers as HALVERSON and his son, Richard Jr., looked on. Both men are Presbyterian ministers.

"I cannot imagine any honor that anyone, certainly I, could receive that would be greater," HALVERSON said. "I honestly do not feel worthy of this honor. . . . I knew about the award, but I could not believe it."

HALVERSON, 77, said recently he intends to leave his job as U.S. Senate chaplain for health reasons. He is staying on in the position, which he has held since 1981, until a successor is found.

Schafer's wife, Nancy Jones Schafer, informed HALVERSON of the honor about two weeks ago. Nancy Schafer met HALVERSON in 1988, when both were involved in organizing and conducting a religious leadership meeting in Fargo.

##### ONE RECIPIENT A YEAR

Governor Schafer intends to name one Rough Rider recipient each year, a custom started by the award's founder, former Governor William Guy. One of its recipients is Schafer's father, Harold, who was honored in 1974 for his business success and philanthropy.

U.S. Senator Kent Conard (D-ND), welcomed Schafer's decision. HALVERSON "is a marvelous man. He is somebody who provides spiritual strength

to every Senator. I know he does to me,” Conrad said. “There is some difficult times in life and he is somebody who is always there for people.”

HALVERSON was born in Pingree, an east-central North Dakota community located about 20 miles northwest of Jamestown, and attended what is now Valley City State University for 2 years.

A singer and member of a traveling vaudeville troupe in his youth, HALVERSON went to Hollywood to seek work as a performer in 1935. He became disgusted with life there within six months, attended a church service, converted to Christianity and decided to enter the ministry, he said.

#### 25TH AWARD RECIPIENT

HALVERSON is the 25th person to receive the Rough Rider Award. Portraits of award winners line the Capitol’s ground floor.

Award recipients are selected by the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and Superintendent of the State Historical Society.

Schafer said he settled on HALVERSON after spending time on Veterans Day, November 11, studying the portraits of previous winners. Veterans Day is a State holiday, and the Capitol was virtually deserted.

Honoring HALVERSON is a way to represent the religious faith and moral values many North Dakotans hold dear, Schafer said.

“The addition of Reverend HALVERSON is an acknowledgment of the strong religious beliefs of North Dakotans, and our pride in the truly special people like Reverend HALVERSON, who dedicate their lives to Christianity,” Schafer said.

HALVERSON is the fourth Rough Rider recipient within 2 years. Former Governor George Sinner named three last year, his final year in office: Chicago Bulls basketball coach Phil Jackson, actress Angie Dickinson and Larry Woiwode.

The honor was established in 1961.

## Remarks of Senator Robert C. Byrd

*January 31, 1985.*

Mr. President, our distinguished Senate Chaplain and my friend, the Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON, is the subject of a very complimentary and accurate front page story in today's Wall Street Journal.

Dr. HALVERSON is a true friend of all of us here in the Senate. We are indebted to him for his kindnesses and understanding.

I am particularly indebted to Dr. HALVERSON, who was of particular help to me during the period shortly after my dear grandson, Michael, was lost in a terrible motor vehicle accident.

Mr. President, I salute Dr. HALVERSON as an extraordinary man of the cloth. I also congratulate him on the very fine article in The Wall Street Journal which captures what I believe to be the essence of the man: His concern for all of us here in the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article from today's issue of The Wall Street Journal be printed in the record at this point.

[From The Wall Street Journal, January 31, 1985]

SERMONS ON THE HILL BECOME A TRADEMARK OF SENATE'S CHAPLAIN

(By David Shribman)

REVEREND RICHARD HALVERSON GETS POINTS ACROSS IN PRAYERS; AN AMEN  
FROM THE PRESS

WASHINGTON.—Let us pray.

"Save us, Lord," the preacher says, "from immaturity that cannot handle the prestige of high office, from love of power which breeds abuse and arrogance in power which corrupts."

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, a former vaudevillian, speaks of the heavens to try to bring his flock down to earth.

Mr. HALVERSON is the Senate chaplain and, not so incidentally, one of the shrewdest observers on Capitol Hill. He addresses his prayers to God, but they often seem to be sermons on the Hill, directed at his parishioners.

"Dear God," he said at the opening of the election year session last January, "surprise even Senators by leading them through a productive legislative session."

BALM FOR THE LOSERS

Two months later, when it seemed as if half the Senators had limped back to the chamber after decisive losses in the early presidential primaries, Mr. HALVERSON greeted them with a poignant prayer:

"We pray this morning for the Senators who have withdrawn from the race for nomination," he said. "Be real to them in their lonely, questioning hours. Minister to whatever need they experience within. Especially do we pray for their wives, who probably suffer more than their husbands."

And as the vote on the school prayer issue approached, he prayed: "Help the people to understand, Lord, that no Senator is against prayer whatever his or her position on the issue." A few days later, he asked God to protect his Senate flock from "zealous advocates who often are very nasty and abusive."



Mr. HALVERSON, who was the minister of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, for nearly a quarter-century, has transformed the normally invisible chaplain's post into one of Washington's bully pulpits. His prayers often drew humorous responses from Howard Baker of Tennessee, the former majority leader, who would ask—only partly in jest—for equal time.

"He used to pray for the President, for Congress, and even for the pages and telephone operators," says Mr. Baker, now a Washington lawyer. "But the day he started praying for the tax collectors, I told him he had started meddling."

With his shock of white hair and his domineering presence, Mr. HALVERSON is one of the few figures in the capital who can go over the head of Congress without fear of political repercussions. "Help the Senate to avoid superfluous issues that retard rather than advance progress," he said last February. As the Senate gathered for a new session recently, he prayed, "May the pressure of special interests and public clamor not have priority over truth and justice."

Mr. HALVERSON's appeal is bipartisan. "In telling us not to be so pompous around here, he lets us know that not only our constituents are watching what we do," says Senator John Melcher, the Montana Democrat.

Mr. HALVERSON, who is the 60th Senate chaplain, is not the first to find inspiration in the events of the day. Jacob Douche, an Episcopal clergyman who was chaplain to the Continental Congress, read the 35th Psalm when told—wrongly, it turned out—that the British had fired upon Boston: "Let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt."

Four days after the Declaration of Independence, Mr. Douche again led the Continental Congress in prayer, this time for the survival of the frail young nation. "Look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American states, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor," he intoned.

In the beginning, and unto this day, the notion of congressional chaplains has generated great controversy.

In 1774, John Jay of New York and John Rutledge of South Carolina complained that the presence of Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Episcopalians and Quakers in the Continental Congress made a single prayer impossible. But Samuel Adams of Massachusetts put an end to the debate when he responded, "I am no bigot. I can hear prayers from a man of piety and virtue, who is at the same time a friend of his country."

Four years before the outbreak of the Civil War, when the country was being torn apart by the slavery question and was most in need of divine intervention, a group of Congressmen questioned whether a legislative chaplain "conflicted with the spirit of the Constitution and tended to promote a union of church and state."

In our own time, Mike Royko, the iconoclastic Chicago columnist, wrote, "If you Senators and your 6,000 staff members need somebody to hold your hand or pray for you, his \$52,000-a-year salary should come out of your own pockets, not ours." (Mr. HALVERSON's salary, which is set by the Senate, now has risen to \$61,887, and his House counterpart, the Reverend James D. Ford, is paid \$73,300 a year.)

The Supreme Court in 1983, however, upheld the "deeply embedded" practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer.

Mr. HALVERSON, the latest Senate chaplain, grew up among the 50 wheat farming families of Pingree, North Dakota, sang for nickels outside a pool hall, toured the West with a Canadian vaudeville troupe called the

Winneipeg Kiddies and sought glamour in the studios of Hollywood. But a dramatic religious awakening pushed him to the pulpit rather than the stage.

"I think of myself as a pastor to all of the Senate and their families, and all of the staffs and their families," he says. "I spend most of my time doing pastoral calls, the way other clergymen do."

Those calls take him to the Senate floor itself. He tries to sense, as he puts it, "where people are hurting and where there is hostility." A theme that runs through his prayers is the notion that Senators are people, too.

"I like to remind them," he says, "to be spouses and parents when they go home, not Senators."

In a prayer he gave a year ago, he offered a stern warning: "Pressure, tension, urgency build, and it is easy to justify neglecting spouses and children. Help us to realize that there is no adequate substitute for a husband and wife, no adequate substitute for a father and mother."

Senator Mark Hatfield, who has known Mr. HALVERSON for three decades, and who orchestrated his appointment, believes that the chaplain, for all his political acumen, is only marginally interested in politics. "He is interested in the people of politics, the Oregon Republican says. But each one of us has felt that he has captured an insight on the issue of the day, verbalizing it in a prayer."

Mr. HALVERSON believes his parish also includes the congressional press corps, and he often visits the press gallery. Sometimes his invocations even have journalistic themes.

"Help the press and the media not to be hardened when they suffer the wrath of opening legislative sessions with prayer."

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Mr. HALVERSON believes his parish also includes the congressional press corps, and he often visits the press gallery. Sometimes, his invocations even have journalistic themes.

“Help the press and the media not to be hardened when they suffer the wrath of those who resent it when truth is exposed—or by the hypocrisy, caprice and weakness of the human flesh, remembering that they also are human,” he said last year. “Save them from cynicism and help them not to impregnate the public mind with seeds of cynicism.”

To which we add, “Amen.”

## Letters of Condolence

W. DAVID GWALTNEY,  
502A WOODLAND TERRACE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302,  
*November 29, 1995*

Dear Mrs. Halverson,

I am one of the many Senate employees touched by your husband through his year here as our chaplain and wanted to express my love, support and sympathy during this time of loss.

It was in the early 1980's that I turned my life over to Christ and attended Dr. HALVERSON's lunch time Bible study. For the first time he made the Word of God come alive to me and have revelance.

So, I thank and praise God for his life. Dr. HALVERSON truly carried Christ's love to those around him.

May God's strength and peace sustain you and your family during this time.

Most Sincerely,

DAVID GWALTNEY.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC,  
*November 29, 1995*

Mrs. Richard C. Halverson,  
*1200 Crystal Drive, Apt. 413,*  
*Arlington, VA 22202*

Dear Doris:

I am very sorry about the passing of your husband, Dr. HALVERSON. He was a remarkable man who made a significant impact on people's lives.

I will remember Reverend HALVERSON as a wonderful friend, and as a respected United States Senate Chaplain. He will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Sheila and I extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family during this sad time.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. WELLSTONE,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Minnesota.*



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*November 29, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
*1200 Crystal Drive, Apt. 413,*  
*Arlington, VA 22202*

Dear Doris:

It was with great sadness that I learned the news of your husband's passing last evening. He was such a wonderful man and a devoted pastor.

Reverend HALVERSON will always be remembered by myself, my colleagues, and the many staff for his dedication to this institution, for his lack of partisanship, for his kindness and his great spirituality. We were so blessed to have him serve in the Senate for so many years even in failing

health. As I am sure you have heard from others, he was not just our chaplain, but he was our dear friend. He will be deeply missed by so many here in the Senate and all around the Washington area.

Please know that Mary Jo and I are keeping you and the entire Halverson family in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything we can do, please do not hesitate to let us know.

I miss him very much. He was always "there" for all of us.

God Bless You.

With sincere sympathy,

BOB SMITH,

*U.S. Senator, from the State of New Hampshire.*



BILLY GRAHAM,

MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA,

*November 29, 1995.*

The first time I met DICK HALVERSON was at a fireside dedication service on top of a mountain outside Los Angeles in 1949. We both had just laid a piece of wood on a fire indicating our rededication to the service of Christ. We became close friends.

His impact on our Nation as a pastor and as the Senate Chaplain cannot be calculated. He was probably the most loved and respected chaplain the United States Senate has ever known. He ministered not only to the Members, but to their families and to the people who worked in the Senate office buildings. Only the computers of Heaven will have a complete account of the lives he touched through his preaching, personal contacts, and many writings. His quiet, humble, effective ministry touched millions. He was a spiritual giant.

His involvement in the early days of the National Prayer Breakfasts with Dr. Abraham Vereide and Doug Coe helped make it what it is today.

If every clergyman in America patterned their life and ministry after RICHARD HALVERSON, we could have a different country.

I pray that God's grace will be sufficient for those that knew and loved him, especially his wife Doris and the family.



U.S. SENATE,

WASHINGTON, DC 20510,

*November 29, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
1200 Crystal Drive, Apt. 413,  
Arlington, VA 22202

I was saddened to hear Dr. RICHARD HALVERSON has passed away. There are not any words that could ever express my feelings but, at a time like this, I hope it is comforting to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dr. HALVERSON was very special. He touched all of our lives during his tenure as Chaplain of the United States Senate. He was always there to help in any way that he could. His death is a loss to us all and he will be missed very much.

Sincerely,

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,

*U.S. Senator from the State of Maryland.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, DC

*November 30, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
1200 Crystal Drive, Number 403,  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

Tipper and I were deeply saddened to learn of your husband's passing. We know that words are of little comfort, but we want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

During my tenure in the Senate, I was often inspired by his strong faith and distinguished service. I and countless others will greatly miss him.

Again, please accept my most sincere condolences.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

AL GORE.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*November 30, 1995*

Mrs. Doris C. Halverson,  
2220 North 24th Street,  
Arlington, VA 22207.

Dear Doris:

We just wanted you to know that we are thinking of you. A dear and magnificent man has passed from our midst. I was so saddened to learn of RICHARD's death. Certainly there is a most intimate form of grief brought on by the loss of one's spouse.

Indeed, I know personally some of the pain you are feeling for the Simpson family has felt with hammer blows of grief with the passing of my dear father in 1993 and, more recently, with the loss of my dear mother in January of this year. Their loss weighs heavily on the hearts and minds of all the Simpsons. There is a feeling of being left behind—I know it well.

RICHARD HALVERSON was a truly inspirational man. He was a friend, a confident and a wonderful counselor. I remember so well his love of music and entertainment—and how he loved a great story! I shall never forget how his eyes would twinkle as he listened to me spin a yarn—or told one himself! His humor, his patient sensitivity, his dedication and his faith made a tremendous impact upon us all. He was always a joy to be around.

RICHARD mastered the greatest of life's lessons—how to love and be loved. His was a life to be celebrated. He was indeed a wondrous man. A majestic tree has disappeared from our horizon but we shall see him again on some unknown day. He was truly one of nature's noblemen. My life is richer for having shared a portion of it with him. He will be deeply missed.

I know that with the passing of your dear husband part of the fabric of your life has been torn away. It is a harsh and difficult reality that we lose those we love before we are ready.

I just wanted you to know that we are thinking of you. I am certain that this is a most difficult time for you. I trust that time alone will serve to heal the pain of your loss. Please know that our thoughts and our prayers go

winging out to you. God bless you and sustain you. Ann joins in sending our love and our sympathy to you and to all your dear ones.

My fondest memory of Dr. HALVERSON is that smile. That love of others. That sparkle in the eyes. And that wonderful sense of humor—and a rare patience for our foibles.

He knew my dear Dad and Mother and loved them both—and he took Ann and me under his wing.

We knew some unknown day he would be taken from us—but we were not ready. We celebrate his life. He is gone—but he will live in our hearts forever. God bless you with his presence.

Most sincerely,

ALAN K. SIMPSON,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Wyoming.*



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*November 30, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
*1200 Crystal Drive, Apt. 413,  
Arlington, VA 22202*

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

I felt a deep sense of loss when I learned that our beloved DICK HALVERSON has passed away and want to express my heartfelt condolences to you and your family. As our spiritual leader in the Senate, I always looked forward to his words of faith and counsel as he opened our sessions with a prayer.

As a Member of the Senate, I got to know DICK not only as our chaplain, but as a warm human being who took a personal interest in us. I enjoyed participating with him in our Weekly Prayer Breakfast sessions and the National Prayer Breakfasts, and appreciated his notes of encouragement which he sent to me from time to time. I shall miss his constant care and presence.

Thank you, Doris, for sharing DICK with us. As a brother of a reverend who spent his life as a “kahu,” or “shepherd of the flock,” I know that DICK’s efficacy and dedication to his ministry was possible because you and your family shared fully his values and commitment to our Lord.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Aloha pumehana,

DANIEL K. AKAKA,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Hawaii.*



*November 30, 1995*

Gayle joins me in sending our deepest sympathies. DICK was not only special to us because he married us but because he was such a wonderful and generous friend. He was truly one of the finest men I have ever known, and we both feel we were blessed by having our lives touched by DICK.

Thanks, Doris, for sharing him and giving him so much happiness. Accept our love and know that we will always honor DICK’s memory.

Sincerely,

PETE WILSON,  
*Governor of California.*

U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*December 1, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
1200 Crystal Drive, #413,  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

It was with great shock and sadness that I learned about DICK's passing, and I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in this time of your tremendous personal loss.

During his tenure as Chaplain of the Senate, DICK HALVERSON made a real difference. His inspirational prayers and his spiritual guidance kept us focused on what is really important in our lives. He gave his heart and soul to the office of the Senate Chaplain, and we are all better people because of his service.

I will always remember DICK with great affection and admiration. It was my great pleasure to know him, and my privilege to call him my friend. I share your loss and send my deepest condolences to your children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

EDWARD M. KENNEDY,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Massachusetts.*



*December 1, 1995*

Dear Doris:

Barbara and I send you our most sincere condolences. We loved your husband very much. He was a friend, an inspiration.

To you and your wonderful family we send our family's respects. May God bless DICK HALVERSON.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH.



*December 4, 1995*

Dear Doris:

Ronnie and I were so sorry to learn of RICHARD's passing. He will surely be missed by countless friends, including us, but I know his absence will be felt most by your and your family.

Although there are no words that can ease the pain at a time like this, we find comfort in knowing you are surrounded by loved ones, like your children and grandchildren, who will help in the grieving process during the days and weeks ahead.

Please know that our thoughts and our prayers are with you and your entire family at this difficult time.

Fondly,

NANCY REAGAN.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*December 4, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Seaton Halverson & Family,  
*c/o Concern Ministries Inc.,*  
*P.O. Box 7800,*  
*McLean, VA 22106*

Dear Doris:

Nancy and I are sorry to learn of the death of your husband and wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to your family. Reverend HALVERSON was one of the finest gentlemen I had ever known. His devotion to God and to helping others, will always be remembered.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. COVERDELL,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Georgia.*



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*December 4, 1995*

Dear Mrs. Halverson.

It was with real sorrow that we learned of your great loss. Pastor HALVERSON was a dear friend and real leader for all of us in his senatorial flock. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Missouri.*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, DC

*December 5, 1995*

Dear Doris:

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of your husband. As the 60th Chaplain of the United States Senate, Dr. HALVERSON generously gave of his time and talents in service to his fellow Americans. The Nation shares in your grief.

Your husband led a life and ministry that exuded his love for God, compassion for humankind, and patriotism for our Nation. Our hearts go out to you at this difficult time, and we hope that your sorrow will be eased by the love of your family and friends.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*December 7, 1995*

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of our friend and chaplain, RICHARD HALVERSON. We will all miss his quiet guidance and friendship.

Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

PATTY MURRAY,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Washington.*



THE CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL,  
12141 LEWIS STREET, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92640,  
*December 7, 1995*

Mrs. Richard Halverson and Family  
*c/o The Waterford House #413,*  
*1200 Crystal,*  
*Arlington, VA 22202*

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

How very saddened I was to learn of the death of my dear friend, RICHARD.

He will long be remembered for his distinguished record of service for 14 years, as the finest chaplain who has ever served the U.S. Senate.

RICHARD was everything, and more, that we could ever hope for in a true Christian brother. He exemplified the meaning of a true "spiritual shepherd" . . . who responded to the high calling of devotion to God's work—strengthening faith, kindling hope, and manifesting the charity of God toward His children. How profoundly grateful we are for RICHARD HALVERSON's life.

We pray that God will be very near to your family at this difficult time, and help you move on through life, remembering the joyful, happy times spent together.

May God now give you His blessing of comforting peace and touch your hearts with His healing hand.

In Christ's care and keeping,

ROBERT H. SCHULLER.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*December 8, 1995*

Mrs. Richard C. Halverson,  
*#413, 1200 Crystal Drive,*  
*Arlington, VA 22202*

Dear Mrs. Halverson:

Just a note to join the many others who have extended their sympathy on DICK's death.

His work as Chaplain of the Senate was superb.

All of us benefited by his counsel, advice and warmth.

Please extend my sympathy to your children, and tell them they have a heritage to be proud of.

Sincerely,

PAUL SIMON,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois.*

*December 8, 1995*

Mrs. Doris Halverson,  
Waterford House,  
1200 Crystal Drive, #413,  
Arlington, VA 22202

To Doris Halverson:

Rosalynn and I were saddened to learn of your husband's death. Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

We hope that your warm memories and the love and prayers of your family and friends will be of comfort to you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

JIMMY CARTER.



CHARLES W. COLSON,  
P.O. Box 17500, WASHINGTON, DC 20041,  
*December 13, 1995*

Dear Doris:

Patty and I were so glad we could be with you for ceremony and tribute to DICK. You must have been very proud and bursting with pride for your kids. They are yours and DICK's greatest legacy.

Still as things quiet down, you will feel the loneliness and the grief. It is normal as C.S. Lewis wrote in *Grief Observed*. Let it go and in due course the great Comforter will turn tears of grief to tears of joy at the memories of a great yet humble man who was caring husband, father and servant to so many. DICK was a truly remarkable man and a great friend to love.

Love,

PATTY AND ME.



U.S. SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510,  
*January 4, 1995*

Doris Halverson,  
1200 Crystal Drive, #413,  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Doris:

Lucy and I want to express our sympathy at the loss of your husband DICK. We will miss him greatly. He was filled with warmth and always ready to listen. He had a twinkle in his eye and was excited about life. The U.S. Senate has suffered a great loss.

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. And let us know if there is anything we can do.

Sincerely,

KENT CONRAD,  
*U.S. Senator from the State of North Dakota.*



OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*January 8, 1996*

Dear Mrs. Halverson.

Mrs. Ford and I express to you and your family our deep sorrow at the death of your husband.

He faithfully served people of all backgrounds and in as many different places and we have all felt his blessing.

May the peace of God that passes all human understanding be with you now and evermore.

Sincerely,

JAMES DAVID FORD,  
*Chaplain, House of Representatives.*



Dear Debbie:

My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Your father was so special and so loving and kind to me. It was like a beam of sunshine every time I saw Dr. HALVERSON.

I know you will miss him very much. However, we can thank God for his life here, and you and your family have so many wonderful memories of him.

I will miss him too. I will keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely,

SANDY MASON,  
*Senate Foreign Relations.*



SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7108,

Dear Deborah:

May this help express the sympathy that words cannot convey. I miss his warm smile, his gentle manner, and his friendly "God bless you, brother."

With sincerest condolences,

DICK BAKER,  
*Senate Historian.*



#### MY FONDEST MEMORY OF DR. HALVERSON IS

*February 27, 1996*

As a former supervisor of the Senate Chamber Detail, both for uniformed officers and for plain clothes personnel on the U.S. Capitol Police, I have many fond memories of this wonderfully kind man. His demeanor was consistent, that of a saint, and he was a great friend and a staunch ally of the Force. His coffee and doughnut breakfast meetings and his Senate opening prayers which praised the U.S. Capitol Police were acts of pure love and his way of letting the world know through the Congressional Record that there was a very special police force at work and he wanted all to know about it. Upon his passing we truly lost a dedicated member of the force, as anyone who looked to him for advice and guidance will quickly proclaim he was considered to be a member of the Department. I will never forget this great humanitarian.

SGT. KENNETH M. ALLEN.



## **Newspaper Articles and Editorials**

[From the Grand Forks Herald, November 30, 1995]

FORMER SENATE CHAPLAIN RICHARD HALVERSON DIES

(Associated Press)

NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE SPENT 14 YEARS IN WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON.—The Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the U.S. Senate, died Tuesday. The North Dakota native was 79.

HALVERSON, who was born in Pingree, was the 60th Senate chaplain. He died Tuesday. His successor, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, issued a statement giving the cause of death as “declining health.”

HALVERSON was awarded North Dakota’s highest honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, in March 1994. Governor Ed Schafer, who presented HALVERSON with the award, said at the time that HALVERSON was a man with the skill of “reaching down inside and understanding what is happening with another person.”

The Senate passed a resolution Wednesday night honoring HALVERSON.

Earlier, in a tribute on the Senate floor, Senator Mark Hatfield, (R-OR), said the chamber had lost “one of its greatest servants.”

“Dr. HALVERSON left us in bodily presence but his spiritual legacy will remain eternal,” Hatfield said. “He reminded us each and every day, as he strolled these halls, of what it means to serve the people around you.”

Evangelist Billy Graham, who first met HALVERSON in 1949, called him “probably the most loved and respected chaplain the United States Senate has ever known.

He had the “kindest, most loving words . . . for everyone of anyone I have ever known,” said Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM).

Others praised the guidance HALVERSON gave not only to them, but to the police officers, janitors, food service and other workers in the Senate.



[From the Washington Times, November 30, 1995]

SENATE CHAPLAIN WHO RETIRED FEBRUARY 5, IS DEAD AT 79; RICHARD C.  
HALVERSON SERVED 14 YEARS

(By Larry Witham)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who recently retired from a 14-year Senate chaplaincy praised for warmth and fairness in a raucous political era, died Tuesday night at Arlington Hospital of congestive heart failure. He was 79.

He first visited Washington as a Los Angeles pastor with the prayer breakfast movement and returned in 1958 to lead the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, now one of the area’s largest congregations.

Elected by the Republican Senate in 1981, Mr. HALVERSON was asked to stay in 1986 when Democrats regained control.

Facing illness in 1992, he stated an interest in retiring but again heeded a call to minister until a new Senate chaplain was found.

“I think it is the greatest opportunity a pastor can have,” Mr. HALVERSON told the Washington Times a few weeks before his retirement on February 5—the day after he turned 79.

One of his last morning prayers in the week before retirement was: "Our Father in heaven . . . we thank Thee for Democrats and Republicans and independents. We thank Thee for liberals and conservatives, for moderates and radicals."

Considering himself on the side of every incumbent Senator, he wished each one success in re-election bids.

A native of North Dakota, Mr. HALVERSON graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1942 and after ordination served his first church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Two years later he went to California, serving a small congregation and then becoming minister of leadership education at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood from 1947 to 1956.

It was there that he joined what became the International Prayer Break-fast movement. He was called to Fourth Presbyterian in Bethesda in 1958, and served there 23 years.

Beginning the Senate chaplaincy at age 65, Mr. HALVERSON was known for driving to work in his old car and roaming the buildings and Press Gallery to greet everyone from Senators to janitors.

He prayed across the spectrum, on occasion raising a small controversy over those for whom he prayed. At times, his prayers became a minisermone to lawmakers.

"If you are going to pray aloud, you want your prayer to be meaningful to the people there," he once said. "But I have really struggled to feel I am not preaching to the listeners."

An author of 21 books on the Christian life, for decades he also wrote a biweekly devotional letter called "Perspective" and as chaplain was a frequent speaker at church conferences.

"He was uniquely qualified for the position," said the Reverend James Ford, House chaplain. "He spent many years in a church situation working with people, and he just carried that on here. He was respected among Senate members and among staffers."

In his final days at the Senate, Mr. HALVERSON was not pleased by the pressures lawmakers face.

"I have sensed a growing frustration in the Senate and a kind of futility about the law never accomplishing what it is intended to accomplish," he said.

Lawmakers, he said, also faced an angry, cynical public and hostile "self-appointed vacuum-cleaner journalists"—the name he gave reporters, even as he prayed for them.

"Gracious Father," he said in 1992, "seeking their own reputation, they destroy another's as they search relentlessly, microscopically for some ancient skeleton in a person's life."

A 1993 prayer was more typical.

"If we separate morality from politics, we imperil our Nation and threaten self-destruction," he prayed. "Imperial Rome was not defeated by an enemy from without; it was destroyed by moral decay from within."

Mr. HALVERSON is survived by his wife, Doris Seaton Halverson; two sons, Richard Jr., and Stephen; a daughter, Deborah; and nine grandchildren.

Viewing will be held at Joseph Gawler's Sons, 5130 Wisconsin Avenue, on Monday from 5 to 9 p.m. A memorial service will be held December 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda.

In lieu of flowers, contributions supporting Mr. HALVERSON's ministries may be sent to Concern Ministries Inc., P.O. Box 7800, McLean, VA 22106.



[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, November 30, 1995]

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

(Editorial)

RICHARD C. HALVERSON, 79, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the U.S. Senate, died Tuesday (November 28, 1995) in Washington. His successor, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, issued a statement giving the cause of death as “declining health.”

A native of North Dakota, the Reverend HALVERSON held degrees from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Before his appointment as the 60th Senate chaplain, he had pulpits at Presbyterian churches in Kansas City, Missouri; Coalinga and Los Angeles, California; and Bethesda, Maryland.

He is survived by his wife, Doris Grace Seaton; three children; and nine grandchildren.



[From the Boston Globe, November 30, 1995]

REVEREND RICHARD HALVERSON WAS U.S. SENATE CHAPLAIN; AT 79

(Associated Press)

WASHINGTON.—Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the Senate, died Tuesday at age 79.

His successor, Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, said Reverend HALVERSON “expressed deep care and encouragement to Senators, their families and staffs, and Senate employees.”

The North Dakota native held degrees from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He had positions at Presbyterian churches in Kansas City, Missouri; Los Angeles and Coalinga, California; and Bethesda, Maryland.

Reverend HALVERSON was chairman of World Vision-U.S. from 1966 to 1983, and participated in pastors’ conferences around the world.

On his last day as chaplain, Senators applauded him after his final session-opening prayer and then lined up to shake his hand.

Senator Howell Heflin (D-AL), called him “a wonderful friend and adviser to the entire Senate family.”

He had the “kindest, most loving words . . . for everyone of anyone I have ever known,” said Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM).

Others praised the guidance Reverend HALVERSON gave not only to them, but to the police officers, janitors, food service and other workers in the Senate.



[From the Los Angeles Times, December 1, 1995]

RICHARD HALVERSON; FORMER SENATE CHAPLAIN

(By the Times Staff and Wire Reports)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the U.S. Senate, has died. He was 79.

HALVERSON, who was the 60th Senate chaplain, died Tuesday, his successor, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, announced Wednesday.

The Senate passed a resolution Wednesday night honoring HALVERSON and expressing its "profound sorrow and deep regret" at his death.

Evangelist Billy Graham, who met HALVERSON in 1949, called him "probably the most loved and respected chaplain the United States Senate has ever known."

The North Dakota native held degrees from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, and worked in churches in Kansas City, Missouri, Bethesda, Maryland, and Coalinga, California.

In Los Angeles, he was minister of leadership education at Hollywood First Presbyterian Church from 1947 to 1956 and served periodically as manager of the Forest Home Christian Grounds in the San Bernadino Mountains.

Discussing his California years at a San Diego prayer breakfast last year, HALVERSON said he originally moved to Hollywood in the 1930s intending to seek his fame and fortune in the entertainment industry.

But six months after arriving, he said, "I signed my life over to Jesus Christ."

HALVERSON was chairman of World Vision-U.S. from 1966 to 1983, and participated in pastors conferences around the world.

On his last day as chaplain, Senators applauded him after his final session-opening prayer and then lined up to shake his hand.

He is survived by his wife, Doris Grace Seaton, three children and nine grandchildren.



[From the Washington Post, December 1, 1995]

R.C. HALVERSON DIES; 14-YEAR SENATE CHAPLAIN

(By Bart Barnes)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, 79, a Presbyterian clergyman who served 14 years as chaplain of the U.S. Senate and 23 years as minister of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, died of congestive heart failure November 28, at Arlington Hospital.

Mr. HALVERSON also was a leader in the Prayer Breakfast Movement, which has drawn the support and participation of hundreds of men and women in positions of influence in Washington, and he was a former chairman of the board of World Vision-U.S., an international Christian relief and development agency with programs in almost 100 countries.

Mr. HALVERSON, of Arlington, was the author of 10 books and a regular weekly devotional newsletter, and he preached, gave speeches and participated in conferences around the world.

As the Senate chaplain, Mr. HALVERSON's only official duty was to open each session with a prayer, a task that seldom took more than a minute or two. On many occasions, there were no more than a half-dozen Senators in attendance, but the low turnout did not upset him.

"I pray to God for the Senate," he once said.

"I feel, as the chaplain, I must be like a pastor to the Senators, their families and staffs, to just be a faithful servant to all these people, to the Capitol Police, to the people who work in the cafeteria, to the women who clean."

In March of this year, Mr. HALVERSON retired from the position he had held since February 1981, when the Senate, then under a new Republican leadership, picked him as its spiritual leader.

In taking the job, Mr. HALVERSON left his position as senior Senator at Bethesda's Fourth Presbyterian Church, which he had served for 23 years and built into a social and evangelical force in the Washington area, increasing its membership from about 600 to 2,100.

His appointment as Senate chaplain came as no surprise, newspapers said at the time, observing that the Presbyterian Church often has been called "the Republican Party at prayer." In subsequent years, the Senate, under Democratic control, reappointed Mr. HALVERSON as its chaplain. As a pastor and preacher, Mr. HALVERSON was known for a warm and easy rapport with his congregation, both on Capitol Hill and in Bethesda, and for a flair for showmanship that emerged during his boyhood in his native Pingree, North Dakota. Driven by what he would later call a "penchant for entertaining," the young Mr. HALVERSON used to stand outside a pool hall in his home town and sing for nickels. Later, he toured Canada with a vaudeville troupe, but his show business career was cut short after 6 months because his voice changed.

As a young man, he held a variety of jobs in California while still dreaming of a career in show business. Feeling lonely and ill at ease one New Year's Eve, he decided to attend a service at a small Presbyterian church.

"I had a very dim view of churches and pastors at the time," he said in a 1981 interview with The Washington Post. "In my view then, a minister was a man who had failed at everything else."

But he accepted an invitation to join the choir at the small church, and later, after a heart-to-heart talk with its young pastor, who had just completed seminary training, Mr. HALVERSON "gave my life to Christ."

He graduated from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, then served in ministerial positions at churches in California and in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1956, he came to Washington to work with the Prayer Breakfast Movement, and 2 years later, he was named minister at Fourth Presbyterian Church, which had just moved from 13th and Fairmont Streets in Northwest Washington to River Road in Bethesda.

Under Mr. HALVERSON's leadership, the congregation tripled, drawing new members not only from Montgomery County but also from points as distant as Manassas and the suburbs of Baltimore. The two Sunday morning services became so crowded that an 11 a.m. Bible study class was begun at Kenwood Country Club, just across the street, that often drew as many as 300 participants.

During this period, Mr. HALVERSON maintained his ties with the Prayer Breakfast Movement, attending several prayer group meetings each week at which men and women who often operated in the public spotlight got together to pray and discuss their spiritual needs. From 1956 until 1983, he served on the board of World Vision, and he was its chairman from 1966 to 1983.

With the backing of Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR), a onetime member of Fourth Presbyterian Church, and others, Mr. HALVERSON was appointed Senate chaplain, replacing Reverend Edward L.R. Elson, also a Presbyterian, who had served there for 12 years.

He was the 60th person to hold the position and one of the more outspoken. In a 1985 profile, the Wall Street Journal said he had "transformed the normally invisible chaplain's post into one of Washington's bully pul-

pits. . . . He addresses his prayers to God, but they often seem to be sermons on the Hill, directed at his parishioners.”

According to the Journal, Mr. HALVERSON said at the opening of an election year session: “Dear God, surprise even Senators by leading them through a productive legislative session.”

Mr. HALVERSON was very nearly the last Senate chaplain. In the enthusiasm for budget cutting after the election last fall of Republican majorities in the House and Senate, there was talk of eliminating the House and Senate chaplaincies, thereby saving the treasury Mr. HALVERSON’s \$115,700 salary and the \$123,000 paid his House counterpart. But Congress eventually decided to retain the positions.

Mr. HALVERSON’s survivors include his wife, Doris of Arlington; three children; and nine grandchildren.



[From the St. Petersburg Times, December 1, 1995]

REVEREND RICHARD C. HALVERSON

(Editorial)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, 79, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the U.S. Senate, died Tuesday in Washington. As the Senate’s 60th chaplain, his duties included opening each workday with a prayer. He also provided pastoral care to Senators and staff members as well as to other Senate workers from cooks to committee chairpersons. The Senate passed a resolution Wednesday honoring the Presbyterian minister.



[From the Rocky Mountain News, December 1, 1995]

R. HALVERSON, EX-CHAPLAIN OF SENATE

(Associated Press)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the Senate, died Tuesday in Washington. He was 79.

His successor, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, said the cause of death as “declining health.”

The North Dakota native held degrees from Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary.

On his last day as chaplain, Senators applauded him after his final session-opening prayer and then lined up to shake his hand.

Senator Howell Heflin (D-AL), called him “a wonderful friend and adviser to the Senate family.”



[From the New York Times, December 1, 1995]

RICHARD HALVERSON, 79, A SENATE CHAPLAIN

(Associated Press)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as chaplain of the United States Senate, died on Tuesday at Arlington Hospital in Virginia. He was 79 and lived in Arlington.

Mr. HALVERSON's successor, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie, said Mr. HALVERSON had been in "declining health."

The Senate passed a resolution on Wednesday honoring Mr. HALVERSON and expressing its "profound sorrow and deep regret" at his death. A number of Senators and religious figures, including the Reverend Billy Graham, issued statements praising Mr. HALVERSON's work.

He was chairman of the charity World Vision-U.S. from 1966 to 1983 and participated in pastors' conferences in the United States and around the world. He was sworn in as Chaplain of the Senate in 1981.

A native of Pingree, North Dakota, he held degrees from Wheaton College, earned in 1939, and Princeton Theological Seminary, earned in 1942. He had held positions at Presbyterian churches in Kansas City, Missouri; Coalinga and Los Angeles, California; and Bethesda, Maryland.

He is survived by his wife, Doris Grace Seaton Halverson of Arlington; three children, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., of Arlington, Stephen S. of Vista, California, and Deborah Halverson Markey of Laurel, Maryland, and nine grandchildren.



[From the Arizona Republic, December 3, 1995]

RICHARD C. HALVERSON, RETIRED SENATE CHAPLAIN

(Editorial)

The Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON, who retired in March after 14 years as Senate chaplain, has died. He was 79.

The Reverend HALVERSON, who died Tuesday, was the 60th Senate chaplain. He had held positions at Presbyterian churches in Kansas City, Missouri; Coalinga and Los Angeles, California; and Bethesda, Maryland.

He was chairman of World Vision-United States from 1966 to 1983 and participated in pastors' conferences around the world.



[From the Indianapolis News, December 8, 1995]

THE REVEREND RICHARD HALVERSON

(Editorial)

RICHARD HALVERSON had a way of rising above the political battles he witnessed as chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

He certainly saw his share of those skirmishes, both as Senate chaplain for 14 years and as a Washington, DC-area pastor before then. He died last week, a few months after retiring as Senate chaplain.

It was his personal faith in Jesus Christ that enabled him to rise above partisan politics and be a friend and pastoral counselor to Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, as well as officials in other offices, in the Nation's capital.

He was not one to seek publicity for himself, and Members of Congress felt free to come to him for wise counsel. His most visible contribution was to open the Senate in prayer on a regular basis. He brought a sense of humor to that aspect of Congress, as well as a grasp of the tensions and challenges of the political process.

But his most important work was of a pastoral nature, helping Members of Congress and their staffs with such matters as marriage counseling or their own responsibilities in terms of personal faith.

He had the "kindest, most loving words . . . for everyone of anyone I have ever known," said Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM).

HALVERSON assumed the Senate chaplain post in 1981, at the invitation of Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR), when Republicans were taking over the Senate and Ronald Reagan was taking over the Presidency. When Democrats took back the Senate in 1987, they apparently gave no thought to a new chaplain.

Upon his retirement earlier this year, he drew praise from people at different ends of the political spectrum.

"Since we have been in Washington, it has greatly encouraged me to think of the powerful ministry DICK HALVERSON has had at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue," said Bill Clinton. "I only wish we had more men and women like him—people who truly live out their faith and strive to live their lives the way Jesus lived His."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, certainly of a different persuasion than the President, offered this compliment: "Dr. HALVERSON's crowning glory is that he showed us how to walk in Christ's steps for this day. He never said, 'Put the Bible in your judicial ruling.' He was ministering to us as human beings who happened to be in the judiciary."

HALVERSON once explained the key to any success he enjoyed this way: "I have to be sure every morning before I leave home that I have had some time with the Lord, time in his Word. I want to be very sure that God knows that, as far as I am concerned, I have nothing to offer except what He does in and through me.

"That is a tremendously important part of this job." That is a worthwhile legacy and lesson for anyone in any job.

Meanwhile, the Nation can be thankful for a Senate chaplain who practiced that challenging principle on a daily basis as he fulfilled his important duties.



[From Christianity Today, January 9, 1995]

#### THE SOUL OF THE SENATE

(By Karen M. Feaver)

With the retirement of U.S. Senate Chaplain RICHARD C. HALVERSON, many in Washington are adjusting to the departure of a devoted Christian servant. Before HALVERSON's retirement, Karen Feaver, a former congressional aide, returned to her old stomping grounds to survey the legacy of the chaplain's tenure.

Dr. HALVERSON would often walk into our Friday lunch-break Bible study with a bounce in his step, singing an old Cole Porter tune. His ruddy complexion, snow-white hair, twinkling eyes, and vaudevillian manner sometimes seemed humorously at odds with his role as the chaplain of the United States Senate. But congressional staffers like me, eager for a sweet hour of spiritual encouragement in the midst of the commotion of Capitol Hill politics, saw Christ's peace enter the room with the chaplain's welcome.

That was 5 years ago. These days Chaplain HALVERSON walks to the Senate floor a bit more slowly, but his eyes still twinkle with the same joyful presence that used to make me look forward to Friday lunches. Those he

greet throughout the Senate respond to his “God bless you” during the closing days of this congressional session with a deep sense of gratitude tinged with sadness. After 14 years of service, the man Florida governor Lawton Chiles calls the “soul of the Senate” is retiring.

In a city where it is all too easy for the political mission to eclipse the spiritual, Chaplain HALVERSON has been a beacon, quietly calling us back to first things. His witness reminded us not to allow our zeal in the political to “shut the door to dialogue” on the eternal. Following prayer each Friday, his benediction sent us out in the knowledge that the greater opener of hearts is the Spirit of Christ cloaked in our bodies wherever we worked and went. No one lived out that example better than he.

The humble heart he brought to the Senate in 1981 was characteristic of his pastoral ministry, which began with a life-changing decision in 1935. After an early stage career as a 10-year-old member of a vaudeville troop called the Winnipeg Kiddies and a later stint as a teenage vocalist for a barnstorming dance band, DICK HALVERSON left his native North Dakota to make his mark in Hollywood. Lonesome and a bit fearful of the lifestyle patterns he was developing, after spending a year in the glitter of “Tinsel Town,” he decided on New Year’s Eve, 1934, to visit a church in southwest Los Angeles. Two months later, a young preacher—whose stage presence and command of the audience struck HALVERSON as better suited to acting than the pulpit—asked if he would like to know God’s plan for his life. HALVERSON, who had not been sure there was a God, let alone that he might have a plan for his life, accepted the pastor’s invitation to make a commitment to Christ. By 1937 he was in Henrietta Mear’s college department at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, one of a great number of young men upon whom she exercised an enormous influence.

Wheaton College and Princeton Seminary followed before several pastorates, ending in a 23-year tenure as senior pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. It was one of his Fourth Presbyterian parishioners, Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, who asked him in 1980 if he would be interested in serving as Senate chaplain. The Republicans had just won the Senate majority, and with the retirement of Edward L.R. Elson, the previous chaplain, the Republican leadership had the important task of selecting a shepherd for this most singular flock. After a great deal of prayer, HALVERSON decided it was God’s calling.

#### A SERVANT’S SERVANT

His first task as Senate chaplain, says HALVERSON, was to figure out what the job was really all about. The job description merely states that the chaplain must open the Senate with prayer each day the Senate is in session. Beyond the invocation, the chaplain’s job had traditionally been thought of as a ministry to the Senators alone. But HALVERSON felt God directing him to be a servant-pastor to everybody on the Senate side of Capitol Hill. His secretary and assistant in ministry, Martie Kinsell, has a sign above her desk that beautifully says it all: “Servant to the servants of the Servant.”

When one might expect to see the chaplain only on the Senate floor for the morning prayer, his “presence is everywhere,” states Senator Hatfield. He brought with him a lesson he had learned years earlier about the importance of simply being available to people at their convenience and in their time of need. In his book *The Living Body*, HALVERSON recalls that as a young minister he asked God to direct him to people in the congregation whom he should make a concerted effort to befriend. He felt God’s Spirit lead him to contact a dentist he had seen in the pews. The dentist invited

him to lunch but, at the end of their time together, was shocked to find that the pastor had no agenda, wanted no money for the church, but simply wanted to get to know him.

Governor Chiles pinpoints this emphasis on one-on-one relationships as the chaplain's "greatest of all gifts," noting, "he always took the time."

A Senator told me of waking with HALVERSON when they were stopped by a policeman who asked the chaplain to pray for his sick wife. The chaplain prayed on the spot, leaving the officer both surprised and comforted by HALVERSON's quick response.

Capitol police officer Robert Ellis reflected on the chaplain's special friendship with the Senate police, recalling how HALVERSON regularly reserved a room in the Capitol, providing coffee and donuts for the officers so that he could listen to their concerns. "He never brushes anyone off," said Ellis. "Of any minister I have ever known, he has touched me the most."

And one does not have to spend long in the Senate dining room to discover how much the chaplain's care has meant there. During my visit there, one after another, servers and cooks spoke of his greeting them each morning with an "I love you" or "God bless you, sister." He sometimes gathered the workers in a circle for morning prayer, asking God to bless their day. Leila Dais, who has served in the dining room for 30 years, told how HALVERSON once opened the Senate with a special prayer for her after her father passed away. Dorothy Taylor, another waitress, said it "seemed like he always knew when we needed prayer."

Chaplain HALVERSON also makes it a point to stay in communication with the White House. As he has done with previous President, from time to time, HALVERSON sends notes to President Clinton containing Scriptures that God has laid on his heart for the man. "I always get a personal response from President Clinton when I do that," he says.

The chaplain has carefully stayed the pastoral course God set for him, rising above the political din to meet the primary need for God's love on all sides. Though he holds deep Christian convictions about the great moral issues of our day that surface in the political arena, a group of Democratic and Republican Senators who meet weekly with the chaplain for lunch and prayer say he has responded to their political and moral questions without showing partiality, always answering with scriptures that he thinks will help shed God's wisdom on the subject. He has often listened to their floor speeches, complimenting them on the thoughtfulness of their presentations, never offering criticism, only encouragement in Christ.

And many Senators express deep gratitude that he bore their burdens in times of both individual and corporate need. They remember HALVERSON's willingness to answer Senator Byrd's request for him to conduct his grandson's funeral in West Virginia shortly after the chaplain came to the Senate and how he gathered one former Senator's staff together for prayer after one of their coworkers was killed. And I personally remember the chaplain asking our Friday group to uphold then-Tennessee Senator Al Gore's son in prayer when he was seriously injured by a car in 1989.

The Senators have also appreciated Chaplain HALVERSON's constant care for their staffs, who face daily Senate pressures in addition to the natural anxiety of election years. Chaplain HALVERSON was looking forward to his last opportunity to make the rounds after the November election to encourage those working in the offices of Senators who lost their races for re-election.



#### A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

The Senate's opening invocation remains a major responsibility, and many attest to the great spiritual sensitivity with which the chaplain carries out this function. Indiana Senator Daniel Coats says the chaplain's morning invocations have usually reflected the undercurrents he detects beneath the surface of the Senate's tension-filled debates. "He always had a sense of the kind of admonition or encouragement or soothing balm that the Senate needed. The next day's prayer was always the right word to put some healing into the Senate's contentious process."

Above all, Senators have felt Chaplain HALVERSON's deep love for them personally. According to Hatfield, HALVERSON is the "greatest defender of the Senate," who does not hesitate to take Christians to task for unfairly criticizing those he knows and cares for as friends. He sees the Senators' frustrations as they seek to address the great problems of our day, encouraging them with the reminder that, according to the Book of Romans, even God's perfect law could not produce a perfect society. Observes HALVERSON: "I am there as the Senators share their frustrations, share their love for Christ, and share their weakness and their vulnerability. I see them in an entirely different way. I see them as human beings, as sinful and as needy as anyone else—but, generally speaking, trying to make a difference in the Nation."

In spite of the sensitive nature of the job, the Senators have placed no restrictions on the office of the chaplain. HALVERSON recalls that early in his tenure a few Jewish Senators gently reminded him that they felt excluded when he prayed "in the name of Jesus." Not wanting to offend them—but also not wanting to compromise his calling—the chaplain has sometimes closed his prayers in the name of Jesus and, at other times, in an analogous title like "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." And he has often said to his Jewish friends in the Senate, "You know everything about my faith is Jewish, and my best friend (Jesus) is Jewish."

In a day when increasing scrutiny is being given to taxpayer support of any religious activity, the announcement of Chaplain HALVERSON's retirement has raised serious questions about the constitutionality of the position of Senate chaplain. Nevertheless, no doubt because of HALVERSON's heartfelt management of the role, a clear consensus emerged in the Senate that his position should be filled when he steps down, although a replacement has yet to be named.

When asked what qualities or disciplines were necessary for the job, HALVERSON told me: "I have to be sure every morning before I leave home that I have had some time with the Lord, time in his Word. I want to be very sure that God knows that, as far as I am concerned, I have nothing to offer except what he does in and through me. That is a tremendously important part of this job."

Herein lies the true legacy of HALVERSON's chaplaincy to the Senate and, indeed, to the Nation: the witness of the power of Christ through a man who took seriously the call to serve—without regard to station or party. A man who followed his Savior's example and showed us how by becoming our servant.

#### CHAPLAIN HALVERSON ON THE AMERICAN CHURCH

Attempting to gauge the impact of the church on leadership and society is as effective as dropping a saltshaker on food. When the salt is doing its work, it is scattered and unseen. Likewise, when the church is doing its

work, it is not visible. When the church is visible, it is doing “church work,” not the real ministry in the world. When you can see and measure what it is doing, you are seeing and measuring something other than its real impact.

The invasion of secularism into the church has caused it to embrace secular criteria for “success”—number and size and influence and visible impact. Paul said, “That which is seen is temporal. That which is not seen is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18). But we have the churches today measuring their effectiveness by that which is seen, the temporal. The most important thing is taking seriously Christ’s call to serve. It is the greatest force in the world.

#### COMMENTS

“Since we have been in Washington it has greatly encouraged me to think of the powerful ministry DICK HALVERSON has had at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. I only wish we had more men and women like him—people who truly live out their faith and strive to live their lives the way Jesus lived his.”

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON.



“He is a wonderful preacher and, more importantly, he is a wonderful pastor who has adopted the whole Senate family.”

Georgia SENATOR SAM NUNN.



“Even though we are the low man on the totem pole, he always remembers at the end of the year to make a statement for the Congressional Record, thanking us for our good service.”

MELVIN JORDAN, employee at the Senate dining room.



“Chaplain HALVERSON’s obvious humility and compassion is a tremendous—and needed—contrast to the culture of the Senate, which is power and the exercise of power.”

Oregon Senator MARK HATFIELD.



“Dr. HALVERSON’s crowning glory is that he showed us how to walk in Christ’s steps for this day. He never said, ‘Put the Bible in your judicial ruling.’ He was ministering to us as human beings who happened to be in the judiciary.”

Supreme Court Justice CLARENCE THOMAS.



[From the National Christian Choir News, Winter, 1995]

DR. RICHARD C. HALVERSON—AT HOME WITH OUR LORD

Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON has gone to be with the Lord. If there are men of greatness in this life, DICK HALVERSON was certainly one of them. He was a man of God who influenced the lives of untold numbers to live more productively for Jesus Christ. He was pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda for more than 20 years before he became the Chaplain of the United States Senate.

Dr. HALVERSON was instrumental in the founding of The National Christian Choir. In 1980, he invited Harry Causey to come to Fourth Presbyterian to serve as Minister of Music. During Harry's first week in the city, he shared with Dr. HALVERSON his dream of a national Christian choir. Dr. HALVERSON enthusiastically supported the idea and offered his help. When that opportunity arose in January of 1984 for Harry to form and conduct a choir and orchestra in Constitution Hall—the first concert of The National Christian Choir—Dr. HALVERSON served as narrator. Following that occasion, he said: "I have learned for the first time what it means to truly worship the Lord. This choir must continue!" And it did. Dr. HALVERSON served as a member of our founding Board of Directors, offering much advice and encouragement.

On December 11, 1995, thousands of friends and colleagues gathered at Fourth Presbyterian Church to remember the incredibly positive life of this Christian leader. The sanctuary filled to capacity an hour before the announced time, and many people were led to an overflow area to watch on closed-circuit television. There was a wonderfully satisfying moment just as the service began when Dr. Billy Graham surprised those in attendance by walking in and sitting with the Halverson family. Many had come far for this tribute, but Billy Graham's presence said it all.

In the midst of our sense of loss, there were light moments and laughter as we celebrated the life of this wonderful man. It was a special moment when his daughter, Debbie, reminded us of her father's love of music. Debbie's husband, organist of the church, had asked her, "Do you suppose Pops has met Bach in heaven yet?" Debbie's answer: "No, I doubt he's had time. He's too busy jamming—with Glenn Miller!" It was a joyful moment as we imagined this man of dignity enjoying some of his pleasures eternally.

One person told us how they had asked DICK, "Dr. HALVERSON, what is your secret for such success in the ministry?" He answered, "I have an advantage." The person leaned forward to grasp the wisdom about to be shared. DICK continued: "My advantage is that I have a low self image. I have discovered that in my weakness, He is strong." DICK, we are still learning from you, dear brother.

Two days later, The National Christian Choir joined with the Members of the United States Senate on Capitol Hill for a private memorial service led by the new Senate Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie. It was a very similar event, but the audience consisted of names from the headlines—Dole, Kennedy, Hatfield, and many others. Just as important, the service staff of the Senate was present. Of all the speeches, in fact, the most moving was from a diminutive black lady who had served in the Senate cafeteria for 20 years. It was gratifying to see how the famous leaders of our Nation and the support staff all came together on one level of humility and love. DICK HALVERSON had a wonderful way of helping to bridge such gaps.

One of the Senators made a statement that went something like this: "DICK HALVERSON is now in heaven. This occasion is a reminder to all of us that entrance into heaven is not accomplished by majority vote!" Well said.

DICK HALVERSON would have been embarrassed by the attention afforded him at those services. He would have wanted us all to focus more on the Lord Jesus Christ—and he would have said so. As we step into yet another new year, may we all do just that.

Thank you, DICK, for helping us see Jesus.

[From the Kansas City Star, January 10, 1996]

CHAPLAIN

(By Bill Tammeus)

When the Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON was on the ministerial staff of the old Linwood Presbyterian Church in Kansas City in the mid-1940's, no one could have predicted that for 14 years—from 1981 until his retirement last year—he would be the effective and respected chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

HALVERSON, who died recently at age 79, became a trusted source of spiritual guidance on Capitol Hill and a voice for ecumenical cooperation. He traveled the world for many years on behalf of the relief efforts of World Vision and he helped to make the prayer breakfast movement a popular institution among politicians.

In Washington, he helped make the halls of Congress a more caring place for people who worked there.



[From The Hill, October 19, 1994]

REFLECTIONS OF A RETIRING SENATE CHAPLAIN

(By Deborah Kalb)

For the past 14 years, the Reverend RICHARD HALVERSON has been privy to some of the most intimate details of the private lives of Members of the Senate, staffers and employees. But at a time when such information would fetch astronomical sums from the purveyors of tabloid journalism, he has remained totally discreet.

As the Senate chaplain serving all 100 Senators plus thousands of Senate staffers and workers, the 78-year-old Presbyterian minister not only delivers the opening prayer for Senate sessions, but is responsible for spiritually counseling the entire Senate populace. Naturally he is sensitive to the problems of people in public life.

"I feel a great deal of frustration in the Senate," the white-haired, bespectacled native of North Dakota said last week as he prepared to retire from his \$117,000-a-year job. "My conviction after 14 years is that people who come to the Senate really want to do something about the problems of the Nation. They are not here for political purposes. Some are seduced by that, but they are the grand exception. Most are here to serve the Nation."

As one of five officers of the Senate, the chaplain is chosen by the majority party. Although HALVERSON was appointed by a Republican-controlled Senate, he has been reappointed for successive two-year terms by Democratic-controlled Senates as well. His House counterpart, Reverend James David Ford, who has served since 1979, is not planning to retire.

In an interview in his small but comfortable Hart building office, HALVERSON was asked about the many people who are reported to be interested in succeeding him. "I would mistrust the motivation of anyone who seeks the job of chaplain," he replied in a smoothing cadence. Noting that he told the leadership not to consider anyone who is actively lobbying for the position, he added, "It is a comfortable salary, compared to most ministers."

HALVERSON did not actively seek the position himself, he recalls. In 1981, he had been serving as minister at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda for over 20 years. Several Members of Congress belonged to the con-

gregation, including Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR), who suggested he apply for the job as Senate chaplain. HALVERSON was turning 65 at the time, and he and his family “felt it was a good move.”

HALVERSON has seen an increase in pressures on his Senate flock. “There is a lot of cynicism in the Nation today,” he says, noting increased media negativity and constituent pressures. During Senate debate on the crime bill, he says, “I felt I could feel the frustration.” He sensed that while Senators were trying to pass a strong bill, they felt unable to make a real difference.

“It has gotten worse, more intensified,” he said, adding that Senate staffers are under even more strain than their bosses because they are caught between the Senators and the constituents.

But HALVERSON said he finds one trend “very encouraging:” that there is a “growing, deepening awareness of the fundamental need” for an American spiritual and moral revolution. He said he welcomes indications that the country is “suddenly waking up” to “the moral value vacuum in America and the necessity of returning to (values).”

President Clinton, among other politicians, has addressed this issue. But HALVERSON said he finds it “troubling” that many religious Americans are cynical about politicians who express their faith. “When a politician is very vocal and upfront about his faith, often people of faith become cynical about that. They feel he is using it as a political device. That is not true, but the result is a great reticence on the part of leaders to be upfront” about their religion.

He recalls one Senator who had been a governor and held a retreat each year, led by HALVERSON. When the former governor came to the Senate, he did not attend the weekly Senate prayer breakfast. When HALVERSON asked him about it, he was told, “I was so upfront with my faith when I was governor, and it really cost me politically.” Such views are common, HALVERSON said.

HALVERSON believes that people of faith should become active in politics. “Believers ought to be involved in politics, or at least vote and be intelligent about voting,” he commented. He thinks one of the benefits of the Christian right movements is that it gets people to think about politics. He also welcomes the growth of religious groups taking positions contrary to that of the religious right. “It is good, it gives some balance,” he said.

While HALVERSON said he tries to keep out of politics, he did get into a controversy earlier this year by offering a prayer for O.J. Simpson. “I got hundreds of letters,” he recalls, adding that letters are still trickling in.

Ministering to the Senate has kept HALVERSON busy. He visits Senators, staffers, and other workers in the hospital. He counsels staffers and workers in his office, and visits Senators in their offices. And even on his walks between his office and the Capitol, he says he is often stopped by people asking him to pray for their relatives or themselves. “I try never to be in a hurry,” he said.

After spending a month in the hospital in 1992 for treatment of a digestive problem, HALVERSON has slowed down. “I must retire,” he said. “I cannot do the job the way I feel I should. I am 78, I am hardly a teenager.”

News of his retirement has resulted in tributes to HALVERSON in person and on the Senate floor. He hopes to leave his post by the end of December, but wants to stay to orient the new chaplain who will replace him.

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), paid tribute to HALVERSON in a recent Senate speech: “He has visited with us in the hospitals. He has visited with our wives and our families in their sick rooms. He has attended memorial serv-

ices for our friends and our loved ones, and we shall never forget these good deeds.” HALVERSON in turn speaks warmly of Byrd, calling him “an old-fashioned righteous man.” He also has a signed portrait of the Senator on his office wall.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), also commended HALVERSON on the Senate floor, discussing his participation in an ongoing Senate Bible study group conducted by scholar Naomi Rosenblatt.

What next for the ex-chaplain? Perhaps a book. “I am getting pressure to write a book,” he said. “If I would write it the way I see the Senate, nobody would believe it. I am an outside-insider, or an inside-outsider. I serve all Senators, and I love all of them.”



[From the York Daily Record, November 9, 1994]

#### MOST POWERFUL MAN IN WASHINGTON RETIRES

(By Cal Thomas)

Among those leaving office at the end of this Congress is a man who lived and worked among Senators for the past 14 years—but never played the power “game.” He did not have many of the perks of Senators. He drove himself to work in an unspectacular older car. His office was smaller than all the others and, like the man who occupied it, lacked pretension. And yet, according to some who know him best, he has been the most powerful man in Washington.

RICHARD CHRISTIAN HALVERSON, a native of North Dakota, a former chauffeur who went to Hollywood as a young man to become an actor, is retiring as chaplain of the U.S. Senate. A rare man in Washington, he has been beloved by Democrats and Republicans, from Ted Kennedy to Jesse Helms. His job description required nothing more of him than to open the Senate each day with prayer, as the Senate has every session since Benjamin Franklin offered the first prayer at the dawn of the new nation. Some of HALVERSON’s prayers were so meaningful and relevant that portions of a few of them made the evening network newscasts.

HALVERSON’s prayers were mini-sermons, imploring not only God’s blessing on the Senate and its Members, but imparting words of wisdom that could facilitate reasoned debate and enlightened legislative decisionmaking.

A prayer he delivered on June 23, 1993, was typical: “God of our fathers, during the presidential campaign last year, Jesse Jackson reminded us that what is morally wrong cannot be politically right. If we separate morality from politics, we imperil our Nation and threaten self-destruction. Imperial Rome was not defeated by an enemy from without; it was destroyed by moral decay from within. Mighty God, over and over again You warned Your people, Israel, that righteousness is essential to national health.”

A frequent visitor to the Senate Press Gallery, HALVERSON prayed this prayer on February 26, 1992: “Gracious Father, investigative reporting seems epidemic in an election year—its primary objective to defame political candidates. Seeking their own reputation, they destroy another’s as they search relentlessly, microscopically for some ancient skeleton in a person’s life. Eternal God, help these self-appointed ‘vacuum-cleaner journalists’ to discover how unproductive and divisive their efforts are.”

From the mundane to the profound, RICHARD HALVERSON could speak (and pray) about things in meaningful and effective ways. For several decades he has written a bi-weekly devotional letter called “Perspective” that

has affected the thousands who have received it. I once met a man in a coffee shop in Amarillo, Texas, who told me he had never met HALVERSON but had read "Perspective" for years, "and it changed my life." That is real power, the power to change the life of a person you have never met.

DICK HALVERSON has not been a closet chaplain, sitting in his office in the Hart Senate Office Building, waiting for Senators to come to him. He has roamed the halls and knows the names of waitresses and custodians as well as those of Senators. The countenances of the small and the great (a distinction lost on HALVERSON) light up in his presence.

Like his famous predecessor, Chaplain Peter Marshall, RICHARD HALVERSON has been a true servant of God in a place where His influence is sorely needed. Of Peter Marshall, the late Senator Arthur Vandenburg wrote his widow Catherine, on hearing of Marshall's death, "To me he was the embodiment of 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' To me he was the personification of purposeful religion. His prayers were eloquent and real. He lived his faith."

The same could be said of DICK HALVERSON, whose power came not from the electorate, or status, or position, but from God. The new Senate will fill no office of greater or more profound importance.



[From the Washington Post, April 10, 1981]

#### FROM YOUTH IN SHOW BUSINESS TO CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE

(By Marjorie Hyer)

He learned to love the spotlight as a boy soprano, on the vaudeville circuit when he was 10; he went on to become internationally known as a pastor and evangelical opinion maker.

Now, at the climax of his career, he operates out of a bleak, one-window cubbyhole of an office that he shares with a secretary. But as chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend RICHARD C. HALVERSON has one of the most exclusive congregations in the world.

At Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, where HALVERSON, 65, will wind up 23 years of ministry at the end of this month, he preaches to upwards of 1,500 people every Sunday and directs a complex seven-day-a-week program that reaches around the world.

As the 50th chaplain of the Senate, he completes in a minute or two the only task that is specifically assigned him—opening each session of the Senate with a prayer; often he is lucky if half a dozen of his distinguished parishioners are in the chamber to hear it. That does not worry him. "I pray to God for the Senate," he reminded a visitor.

Though still feeling his way through what his new job entails, HALVERSON sees it in much broader terms than the daily prayer, and his new parish as extending well beyond the 100 elected officials. "I feel, as the chaplain, I must be like a pastor to the Senators, their families and staffs, to just be a faithful servant to all these people, to the (Capitol) police, to the people who work in the cafeteria, to the women who clean."

Most of them, he recognizes, have their own pastors, their own church connections—at least those who want them. "So my role is just be here, to be available to them, to be a servant of the public servants, to love them," he says after two months on the job as the successor to the Reverend Edward L.R. Elson, a Presbyterian who served for 12 years.

Throughout the Nation's history, men from eight Christian denominations, including one Roman Catholic, have served as official Senate chap-

lains. Apart from the required opening prayer, the job has been pretty much what each man has made of it.

John Brackenridge, a Presbyterian, used the position in 1814 to thunder against the Senators for legislation that he felt would lead to desecrating the Sabbath, such as transporting the mail. He warned that God would punish them, that "your temple and your palaces will be burned to the ground."

Two weeks later when British troops torched the White House, Brackenridge declared it to be "the chastening of the Lord."

For others it has been a grateful way to close out a career, as it was for Unitarian Edward Everett Hale, who had written "The Man Without a Country" 40 years before he assumed the chaplaincy.

In HALVERSON's case, his career in the public eye began early in Pingree, North Dakota, where he grew up. Possessed then by what he calls "a penchant for entertaining," he used to stand outside the pool hall and sing for nickels. His parents were divorced, but his mother "was very ambitious for me and she got me a contract with a vaudeville troupe that was touring Canada.

His show business career lasted only six months, because his voice changed. But from then on, the only thing he could think of was Hollywood. He got his chance the summer he was 19, when his mother let him stay on and seek his fortune there after a family vacation in California. He lived on the 50 cents a day he earned working in a tiny auto-polish factory, and entered every amateur contest he could find.

Then came Christmas, his first away from home and family, and a deep loneliness compounded by an uneasy conscience. Even though his family had never had anything to do with churches, the life style he was drifting into in his pursuit of a show business career began to conflict with the strict moral code his mother had imparted.

With some qualms, he decided to attend a New Year's Eve service at a little Presbyterian church. "I had a very dim view of churches and pastors," he says. "In my view then, a minister was a man who had failed at everything else."

That service only reinforced his low opinion, and the minute the service was over, HALVERSON fled. But he was met at the bottom of the steps by a layman who welcomed him, introduced him to some other young men in the church and invited him to a breakfast the young people were having. When they discovered he loved to sing, they signed him up for the choir.

Bit by bit, the youth got drawn into the activities of that congregation, although he still had not changed his opinion of churches or pastors. But then came a young pastor fresh out of the seminary. To HALVERSON's amazement, the young minister, the Reverend David L. Cowie, was everything HALVERSON thought a man ought to be, shattering many of his prejudices about the church. "There was something about him that I wanted," HALVERSON recalled.

So on a Sunday night 45 years ago—HALVERSON still marks the anniversary—he had a serious talk with Cowie and concluded that the "something" he lacked was a commitment to Christ. "I gave my life to Christ. . . . I actually signed my life over to Him in a kind of deed. I still carry it around in the back of my Bible.

After finishing Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, HALVERSON served churches in California for a dozen years. He came to Washington in 1956 to work with the international prayer breakfast movement, a tie that he retained when, two years later, he was called to Fourth



Presbyterian Church, which had just moved out from 13th and Fairmont Streets NW., to a new suburban site on River Road in Bethesda.

There were about 500 members when he arrived; now the church has 2,100 members, coming from as far away as Manassas and the suburbs of Baltimore, and three full-time pastors. The two Sunday morning services became so crowded last fall that the pastors launched an 11 o'clock Bible study class in the Kenwood Country Club across the street that draws about 300 each Sunday.

Though Fourth Presbyterian has become a shining light in worldwide evangelical Protestantism under HALVERSON's leadership, he has put down even deeper roots in the prayer breakfast movement that commands the loyalties of hundreds of men and women on Capitol Hill. The movement shuns publicity; one of its strengths is that the prayer groups have been one of the few places in Washington where men and women normally in the spotlight can admit their human and spiritual needs without fear for their public image.

Because of his association with the movement throughout his 25 years in Washington, as well as his friendship with the large numbers of men and women from Capitol Hill who attend his church, HALVERSON already has a wide circle of friends in his new parish.

In welcoming HALVERSON to the Senate on his first day, Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR), who was once a member of his congregation, called him "supremely suited to be our pastor and friend for the challenges ahead."

For all his youthful fascination with show biz, clergyman HALVERSON today functions more typically in quiet conversations, encouraging and motivating others to take the lead. "He has a style of leadership which evokes leadership in others," said the Reverend Dr. Edward White, head of the National Capital Union Presbytery.

White, who uses words such as "authentic," "unassuming" and "loyal" in characterizing HALVERSON's ministry, remarked that very often among clergy, "big-steeple preachers have big-steeple egos. DICK is uncharacteristic in that respect. . . .

"There is one thing I have noticed when I have been with DICK in informal gatherings. . . . He will get to talking about other people and he talks about them in such a way that you would think they had hung the moon. He has such a tremendous appreciation for other people."

HALVERSON does not see his new parish as a recruiting ground for his own brand of Christianity. "I am here as a servant of public servants. My role is to love them, to be available to them, to try to stay out of their way and to minister privately to them as they come to me in need of my services.

"Of course, I believe that the ultimate answer to their needs is Jesus Christ, but I am not going to hit them over the head with it," he said.

HALVERSON has promised he will reject any temptation to use his position to bring pressure for a particular piece of legislation. "I would not take any initiative to lobby," he said.

All of this fits with the more recent tradition of the post, which is supposed to be free from political influence. Under present rules, the chaplain is nominated by the majority party and elected for an indefinite term by vote of the full Senate.

The chaplain's office is a former storage room, about 9 feet by 15 feet, just inside the door of the Russell Office Building. Sharing the cramped space with his secretary scarcely offers HALVERSON a setting for the counseling he sees as part of his job, a visitor reminds him. "Well, I can always go where they are," he says with a laugh.

And the job does have its compensations. The chaplain's prayer leads off each day's issue of the Congressional Record. HALVERSON prays, in fairly workaday speech, for God to give his flock attributes such as strength, wisdom, humility, courage and divine protection from "the forces which would exploit . . . as pressure from interest groups builds. He is not given to flights of ornate language or great literary display.

HALVERSON writes his prayers a day ahead, and while he tries to keep them nonpartisan, he also strives for relevance. "I pray over my prayers," he said. "I read the papers to see what is going on."

With the fast movement of events, he writes a goodly number of prayers, that may never get used before the Senate. "But," he says, "they may be more important than the ones that are used."



[From International Ministries Fellowship]

IN MEMORIAM

(By Hal W. Guffey)

Dr. RICHARD C. HALVERSON—With the Lord as of November 28, 1995.

One of a kind. Of Norwegian "Viking" stock. Indescribable. He loved God. He loved people. It showed!

Not a great orator. Yet, he could say more—say it better—in fewer words than any one else.

(Exhibit A—the bi-weekly Perspective letter from which SPICE has often quoted.)

He prayed for more people than most people know—carrying cards with names of hundreds—thousands?

When as Chaplain he prayed in the U.S. Senate—"Someone besides God listened" a Senator remarked.

(Everyone should possess—and use—"No Greater Power"—a collection of some of his Senate prayers and an application of God's power for living—Multnomah Press.)

Always disappointed if he did not hear prayer for government leaders in church.

From the pulpit he consistently prayed for the trash collectors—the maids—the firemen—the police—yes, all the people who serve the community as well as leaders.

Musically inclined, he ended the extremely well attended Sunday evening services at Fourth Presbyterian Church (Bethesda, MD) with a solo rendition:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace  
Whose mind is stayed on Thee  
When the shadows come and darkness falls  
He giveth inward peace  
O He is the only perfect resting place  
He giveth perfect peace  
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace  
Whose mind is stayed on thee"

(Even our very young children enjoyed those Sunday evening services!)

Hollywood's "call" beckoned him to try his youthful talent there. Hired on as a chauffeur/butler to a prestigious "star" while awaiting discovery, he learned about "servanthood".

Converted at a Presbyterian church because an usher befriended him—and got him in the choir where he heard the gospel regularly.

With a new “call” upon his life he studied at Wheaton College in Illinois.

Later at seminary he faced a decision—believe the doubts of some professors and higher critics, or the Bible. He chose the Bible.

As an Associate Minister at Hollywood Presbyterian, God gave him a fruitful ministry to men.

Early 1958 found him in Washington, DC, with the “fellowship”—there to touch the “movers and shakers” and the “moved and shaken” in and beyond this “world” capital.

But a true pastor, he soon added to that task the Pastorate of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD.

Mid-week he might be in Indonesia, speaker at a World Vision sponsored pastor’s conference. (He chaired the W.V. board.)

But come Sunday morning—back in the pulpit with a fresh message and new stories of what God was doing in the life of His people “over there”.

He drilled into the minds and hearts of his congregation and audiences—the work of the Church starts when the believers disperse into Monday’s market place.

When one of his elders at Fourth became president of a missions organization, he made a point of promising him, “If you ever need me, just let me know and I’ll be there.”

You always were, DICK—without fail! Thanks. When I see you again, I’ll be able to sing that chorus almost as well as you!!

