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TRIBUTES TO HON. THOMAS A. DASCHLE

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Thomas A. Daschle

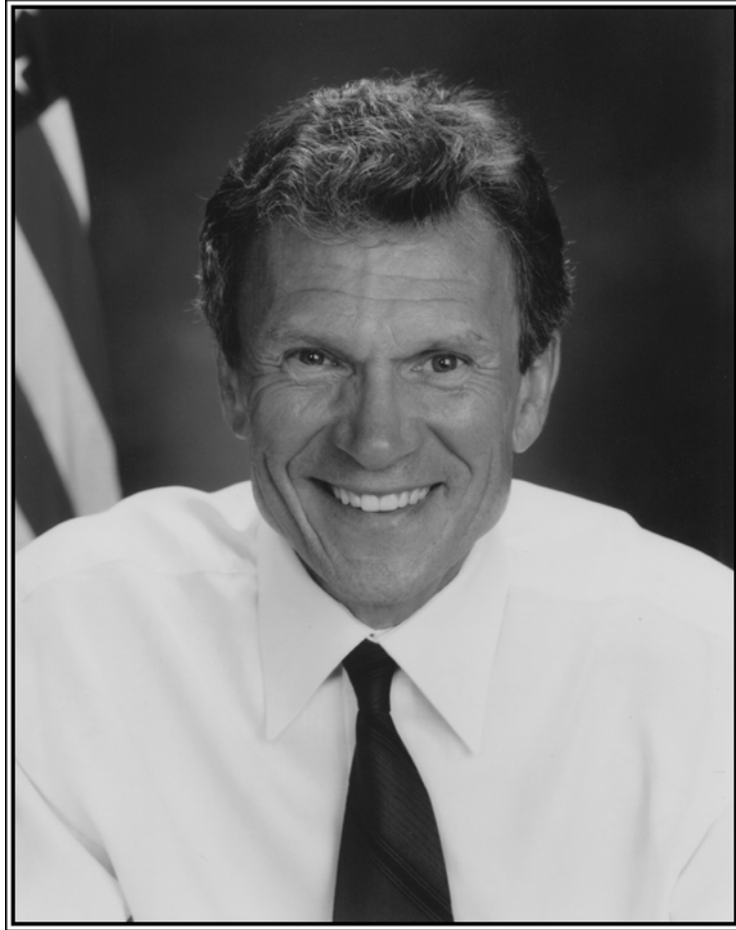
U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Thomas A. Daschle

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S. Doc. 108-22

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Thomas A. Daschle
United States Congressman
1979-1987

United States Senator
1987-2005



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*Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing
Trent Lott, Chairman*

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Biography

TOM DASCHLE was born on December 9, 1947, in Aberdeen, SD, where he grew up in a working family as the eldest of four brothers. He became the first person in his family to graduate from college when he earned a political science degree from South Dakota State University in 1969.

After serving 3 years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command, he spent 5 years as an aide to South Dakota Senator James Abourezk.

TOM DASCHLE is married to Linda Hall Daschle and is the father of three children: Kelly, Nathan and Lindsay.

CONGRESSIONAL CAREER

In 1978, DASCHLE returned to South Dakota to run for the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected and served until 1986 when he ran for the U.S. Senate. After a close race, DASCHLE became the junior Senator from South Dakota. He then moved on to become senior Senator and Democratic leader.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

Probably nothing better characterized TOM DASCHLE's Senate priorities than his annual "unscheduled driving" tour, when he traveled across his home State of South Dakota in his car with no staff and no schedule. He stopped at Elks clubs, cattle auctions, health clinics, schools, cafes, police stations or anywhere else that people gather, to hear what was on their minds. He made a point of traveling to each of the State's 66 counties every year.

The visits, he said, reminded him where he came from, and why he was in Washington—to put the priorities of America first. As a respected and accomplished leader in the Nation's Capital, DASCHLE put South Dakota values on the national agenda.

In 1978, DASCHLE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served four terms and was quickly made part of the Democratic leadership.

In 1986, DASCHLE won his first Senate race in a hard fought contest with incumbent James Abdnor. In his first

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year, he was appointed to the powerful Senate Finance Committee, an unusual honor for a freshman. In 1988, then-Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell named DASCHLE the first-ever co-chair of the Democratic Policy Committee, making him the first South Dakotan ever to hold a Senate leadership position.

To enhance his State's economy, DASCHLE also became the first U.S. Senator to hire a full-time economic development director. He was also one of the first Members of Congress to establish a toll-free telephone line that connected South Dakotans to his Washington, DC, office.

In 1992 and 1998, South Dakotans re-elected DASCHLE to the Senate by overwhelming margins. In 1994, he was chosen by his colleagues to succeed the retiring Senator George Mitchell as Democratic leader. In the history of the Senate, only Lyndon Johnson had served fewer years before being elected to lead his party. In addition to the leader's post, DASCHLE also served as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He also served on the Veterans', Indian Affairs, Finance, Ethics and Rules Committees.

Throughout his career, DASCHLE has been a tireless fighter for working families in South Dakota and across the country. At the same time, he has demanded fiscal discipline from Congress and the White House. He pressed to give family farmers and ranchers a fair chance to compete, and worked to ensure that rural communities had access to quality education and health care. A champion of veterans, DASCHLE led the fight for full funding of veterans' health care and enacted legislation to treat and compensate those affected by exposure to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation. He also enacted legislation to increase Indian housing funding and bring clean drinking water to Native Americans in South Dakota, and led the national effort to fully fund the Indian Health Service. In the telecommunications age, DASCHLE led efforts to ensure that rural America had access to the latest technology.

As Democratic leader, DASCHLE pressed his fellow lawmakers to cut taxes for working families, pay down the national debt, and shore up Social Security and Medicare for future generations. DASCHLE also introduced a comprehensive legislative plan, South Dakota First, which ensured that South Dakota's concerns would be at the forefront of the national agenda. DASCHLE's plan would help South Dakota expand economic opportunity, strengthen rural communities,

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promote lifelong learning, keep families healthy, and preserve the Black Hills.

Shortly after negotiating the historic 50–50 power sharing agreement in the 107th Congress, DASCHLE became the Senate majority leader. He steered the Senate, and helped steer the Nation, through some of the greatest challenges in recent history: the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the anthrax attack on his office. In the weeks that followed, DASCHLE worked with the bipartisan leadership to enact landmark legislation to respond to the terrorist threat and stabilize the Nation’s economy.

DASCHLE ON AGRICULTURE

- Wrote the 1985 Emergency Farm Credit Act to aid farmers during the depths of the farm crisis, and wrote major provisions of the Disaster Relief Act of 1988, 1989 and 1993 to help farmers rebound from the devastating effects of natural disaster.
- Authored key provisions of the Omnibus Trade Act to help increase overseas markets for agricultural products.
- Worked to ensure that future agricultural programs and policies improve farmers’ incomes; give farmers the flexibility to plant for the marketplace, not the government; minimize red tape; and increase the emphasis on value-added agriculture.
- Authored key provisions of the 2002 farm bill and ensured its enactment.

DASCHLE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Was one of the first Senators to create an economic development division in his Washington office.
- Authored and passed legislation creating the Northern Great Plains Rural Development Commission to expand development in the five Upper Great Plains States.
- Delivered clean water to rural communities throughout South Dakota, including three of the world’s four largest water projects.

DASCHLE ON HEALTH CARE

- Led a bipartisan effort to support meaningful, enforceable patient protections for millions of Americans under managed healthcare plans.
- Authored several important bills to expand health services in rural areas.

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- Authored and passed legislation to protect seniors' health security by regulating the sale and marketing of Medigap policies to guard against fraud.
- Introduced legislation to prevent companies from canceling retiree health benefits without notice.
- Enacted legislation to prevent and treat fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Fought to expand health coverage for pregnant women and children, and to allow those over 55 to buy Medicare coverage.

DASCHLE ON VETERANS

- Authored and passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Led the fight to secure health care and disability compensation for Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange. He also passed legislation addressing birth defects in children of veterans exposed to the defoliant.
- Was instrumental in passage of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1994, which guaranteed priority health care and authorized payment of disability compensation to Gulf War veterans suffering from undiagnosed war-related illnesses.
- Led the fight for full funding of veterans' health care.

DASCHLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Was the principal author of the reformulated gasoline provision of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. As a result of the provision, 30 percent of the gasoline sold in the United States is now reformulated with clean-burning oxygenates, thus reducing smog and various cancer-causing emissions.

DASCHLE ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

- Authored successful legislation to authorize housing and expand education and health facilities on Indian reservations.
- Brought clean drinking water to South Dakota reservations and other rural communities.
- Led the fight to guarantee health coverage to Native Americans through the Indian Health Service.
- Led the fight for reform of Indian trust account management.

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Farewell

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, like the distinguished Senator from Illinois [Mr. Fitzgerald], I take a couple of minutes this afternoon to come to the floor to express in the most heartfelt way, as he just has, my profound thanks for the opportunity I have had to serve in the Senate.

I congratulate him on his successful career and wish him well in all of his endeavors.

I would like to begin where he ended—by thanking my family: my wife Linda, my mother, my daughter Kelly, and Eric; our son Nathan, and Jill; and our daughter Lindsay.

I thank my staff. I actually believe—and I am sure each of our colleagues shares this view—that I have the finest staff the Senate has ever assembled. They have served me, they have served this institution, they have served the people of my State, and they have served this country with remarkable professionalism, dedication, loyalty, patriotism, and commitment in ways that nobody could possibly register.

I thank the people of South Dakota, most importantly, for the opportunities they have given me to live my passion for these past 26 years. No Senator has ever been more grateful, more fortunate than I.

I thank my colleagues for their friendship and their loyalty, their support, and the remarkable strength they have given me each and every day.

I congratulate the man on my left, Harry Reid. No Senate leader has ever had the good fortune I have had to have an assistant like the man from Searchlight. He is a profoundly decent man who loves his State, this institution, and his country. If friends are relatives that you choose for yourself, then he is my brother.

I thank Dick Durbin and congratulate him and Debbie Stabenow and Byron Dorgan and Hillary Clinton for their willingness to take on the leadership roles in the 109th Congress. I will say that this Senate and the caucus could not be served better.

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I congratulate especially Chuck Schumer for taking on what may be one of the most challenging of all leadership positions. I know that he will serve us well.

I can remember so vividly 10 years ago when I was elected leader by one vote. I came to the Senate very nervous and filled with trepidation, but I recognized that we had a job to do. I wanted to use the power I had been given wisely, recognizing that it was entrusted to me so we might make the lives of all people better.

Shortly after I was elected leader, I was asked to come to dinner with a good friend of mine, a man in his eighties, whose name was Reiners, from Worthing, SD. Dick was a farmer, had been one of my strongest supporters, most loyal and dedicated friends, one of those people we can all identify with. He asked me to come to dinner that night and I went out to his farmhouse. We had dinner. I asked him for advice. He paused and he looked at me and he said, "There are two things I will hope for you. One is that you never forget where you came from. Come home. Remember us."

And then he pointed to some pictures on the wall that I recognized very readily. They were pictures of his grandchildren. He said, "You have held each one of those grandkids, as have I. Give them hope. Every day you walk onto the Senate floor, give them hope."

We hugged each other and I left. Later on that night, I got a call in the middle of the night that Dick Reiners had passed away. I never, ever, have been given better advice in all the years before or since and I remember it now.

We come to this body with great goals, and our challenge is to stay focused on those goals, to never lose sight of them in the daily challenges and the battles we take on as we come to these desks.

Two touchstones, in particular, have helped me remember my goals.

The first touchstone is this desk, the leader's desk. You pull open this drawer and you see the names of all the leaders carved in it. It is a constant reminder that we are part of a continuum, a continuum that makes us the heirs and the guardians of a miracle. That miracle is democracy—a government founded on the ideal of freedom.

We have sworn to protect that ideal. We have a challenge, as we sit at these desks, to do what soldiers have done for 200 years. We either have to fight for this freedom or work at it. In more than 30 wars, 1 million men and women have given their lives for that freedom, and our job is to work at

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it as if we have given our lives, too—every day. We have to protect and defend that freedom and we must pass it on to future generations undiminished.

My second touchstone is a practice I acquired many years ago, making it a habit to get into my car and drive without a schedule to all the counties of South Dakota. There are 66 of them. I do it to be energized, to refresh, to touch the land, to watch the sunsets and the sunrises, the majestic beauty of my State. But more than anything else I do it to be inspired, and to remember how what we do here touches the lives of those I represent.

It is an amazing feeling to drive from one county to the other and to see the results of our work in this body. I am honored and very grateful that there is not one county in the State of South Dakota that has not been touched by our work and our efforts these years I have been here, touched in ways large and small.

We now are an energy-producing State, which means a lot to me. People said that would never be possible. We have little oil, very little natural gas, no coal—but we now produce 400,000 gallons of fuel a year that otherwise might be imported. We passed farm legislation that is truly giving our farmers and ranchers hope for a better future.

My State suffers from poorly distributed water. Our challenge has always been to find a way to take the good water and get it to those locations where they have none. One of the most emotional experiences I have ever had was to watch a family turn on a tap for the first time and cry and embrace each other and pass around a glass and look at it and say “thank you.”

I am honored to have been a part of creating a new future for Indian students who had long ago given up any hope of graduating in a traditional way, but who now can walk through the doors of tribal colleges with a true sense of fulfillment and optimism that they only dreamed of just a few years ago.

The joy of walking into a town and talking to people and being embraced by total strangers who tell you that you saved their lives because of something your staff did, recognizing that if it had not been for you, perhaps there would be no life to save. What an honor. What a sense of gratitude.

As leader, I have been privileged to meet some of the greatest leaders of our time. I believe that Nelson Mandela would probably rank in a class by himself. Vaclav Havel, Lech Walesa, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, presidents and

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kings: I have been inspired by them—but not as inspired as I have been by people who are not well known:

Carolyn Downs, who runs the Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD, touching lives every day and giving them hope.

Louie and Melvina Winters on the Pine Ridge Reservation, who had absolutely nothing to their name and took a burned out trailer house, rebuilt it, and have literally saved the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of children who had no other place to go, whom they found on their doorstep when the word got out that somehow they were the ones to whom children could turn.

Chick Big Crow, who witnessed the death of her daughter, only to make the lives of young people on Pine Ridge richer with her steadfast determination to build a Boys and Girls Club.

And there are those like Elaine, who gets up at 4:30 in the morning to go to work. She's 77 years old, with \$900 a month in Social Security and \$900 a month in drug bills. She works at McDonald's to be able to pay for the rest of her living expenses, and says she is proud to do so.

And Mary Ann, who works three jobs, has a blood disease and no health insurance. She says: "I want you to know something, Senator DASCHLE. I'm going to make it. I'm going to make it, but I would like a little help along the way, if you can find a way to remember me."

They are the heart and soul of America, and they need us now maybe more than ever before.

We are each given a number when we come to the Senate. I think it is a wonderful tradition. And I have always been so proud of my number. My number is 1776, the year of our Revolution.

I think of that number not just because of its unique nature, but it reminds me every day that we are still part of an American revolution.

As a nation, we are making monumental decisions about what kind of country this will be.

Will we use our powerful might as a force just for vengeance and protection against those who would destroy us, or will we use it for progress the world around?

Will we recognize that power is not just our arms, but our wisdom, our compassion, our tolerance, our willingness to cooperate not just with ourselves but with the whole world?

Will we honor the uniquely American ideal that we are responsible for passing onto our children a future that is bet-

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ter, or will we forfeit the promise of the future for the reward of the moment?

These are questions that we will continue to face.

Several months ago, I came to the floor and gave a speech at this desk expressing the hope that regardless of how the election turned out, we could continue mightily to search for the politics of common ground.

I am proud of those times in this body when we showed our very best.

I am proud of that moment on the Capitol steps when we joined hands and sang.

I am proud of the effort we made after September 11 to come together to pass legislation that our country so desperately needed, not just for what it said, but for the message it sent.

I am proud of that moment, on October 15, when we were the target of the greatest biological attack in our Nation's history and again we came together.

I am proud of those moments when we found common ground on campaign finance reform and the farm bill and the Patients' Bill of Rights, highways, measures that in some cases have not yet become law but demonstrated that here, collectively, with common will, there is common good.

I know we can continue to find common ground because we have found it in the past, as those instances have demonstrated.

If I could leave this body with one wish, it would be that we never give up that search for common ground.

The politics of common ground will not be found on the far right or on the far left. That is not where most Americans live. We will only find it in the firm middle ground of common sense and shared values.

Ten years ago, my wise friend pointed to his grandchildren and asked me to give them hope. Linda and I now have two beautiful grandchildren. I implore my colleagues to give my grandchildren, Henry and Ava, hope; give all the children and grandchildren of this Nation hope.

Let us treasure and protect the great freedoms that we have inherited, and let us always promise and commit that we will pass them on undiminished.

I said a moment ago that one of my touchstones is my unscheduled driving. I make notes constantly on these trips. A couple of days ago I was telling my colleagues about how I had been looking through the notes of a trip I made a few years back. I noted I had met with some tribal leaders, and

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met with a businessman who was trying to find a way to provide childcare for his family as well as his employees. I met a couple who wanted to tour the White House. At the end of all my notes, I made the comment: “Everything was worth doing.”

The same could be said for my service here. It has had its challenges, its triumphs, its disappointments, but everything was worth doing. And I am grateful for every moment.

I love history, and there is wonderful history about the relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. They were rivals, but they respected each other. And that respect grew as they left office and began correspondence that today is some of our most treasured writing.

In one letter to John Adams, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “I like the dream of the future better than I like the history of the past.” So it is with me. I have loved these years in the Senate, but I like the dream of the future.

It is with heartfelt gratitude to the people of South Dakota, with great respect and admiration for my colleagues, and with love for this institution and the power it has to make this Nation even greater that I say farewell and look to the future with great optimism, with hope and anticipation.



Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, nearly 26 years ago, I arrived in Washington as a newly elected Congressman with an urgent desire to help the people of my State but not nearly as much knowledge as I wanted about exactly how to do that.

Having good ideas and getting those ideas enacted into law, as my old friend Paul Wellstone used to say, are often two very different matters. I decided to call on some of my heroes—men who were serving in Congress then who had contributed greatly to the life of our Nation and whom I admired. One of those men was Claude Pepper. Another was Mo Udall. Both shared their time and wisdom generously

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with me and gave me advice that has guided me all these years.

In 1988 Mo Udall wrote a wonderful book entitled *Too Funny to be President*. I recommend it to anyone, especially those who have the privilege of serving in elected office in our great democracy. The ability to see humor in one's own circumstances and to share a good-natured laugh with others is essential if you are going to last long in public office.

Mo Udall dedicated his book "to the 3,000 members of Congress living and dead with whom I served for nearly three decades." As I prepare to end my own nearly three decades in Congress, I, too, am deeply grateful to all of the Members of Congress living and dead with whom I have had the privilege of serving and from whom I have learned so much.

The list of such Members is long. In addition to my early mentors, Claude Pepper and Mo Udall, it includes Members who were gone long before I was born, but whose legacy is still felt today—giants like Webster, Clay, and Calhoun.

It includes Senators such as Margaret Chase Smith, who had the courage to take on the red-baiting and bullying Senator Joe McCarthy in 1954 in her famous "Appeal to Conscience" speech not far from where I stand now.

The list includes two Senators who first inspired me to pursue a life in public service—John and Robert Kennedy—and it includes their brother and my friend, Senator Edward Kennedy, one of the finest, most capable Senators America has ever produced.

The list also includes earlier Senate leaders—men such as Lyndon Johnson, the "master of the Senate"; Mike Mansfield, one of my personal heroes, who showed that progress and bipartisanship are not mutually exclusive; and Howard Baker, a master of the art of principled compromise.

The list of those who have inspired me includes George Mitchell and Bob Dole, the two leaders who taught me the most about this job.

It includes my fellow South Dakotan, George McGovern; Mark Hatfield, who offered to resign from the Senate rather than cast a vote he could not square with his own conscience; and Jim Jeffords, who showed the world that one person can change history. It also includes Paul Wellstone, the soul of the Senate; Robert Byrd, as eloquent and determined defender of our Constitution as has ever lived; and many others.

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Today, I would like to say a few words about eight additional Senators with whom I have served these last historic 6 years, all of whom will be leaving when this Congress ends.

Senator Nickles, Senator Campbell, Senator Fitzgerald, and Senator Miller, it has been a privilege to work with each of you. You have each sacrificed much to serve our Nation and I am sure you will continue to serve America well in the years to come.

Six Democratic Senators are leaving at the end of this Congress. Among them is our friend, the senior Senator from Louisiana.

I was joking with another friend recently that the good thing about John Breaux retiring is that maybe now he will finally be able to loosen up a little.

John's ability to make us laugh even in tough times is a gift we have all treasured. Another gift of John's is his ability to find workable compromises on even the most difficult issues. He really is a master of the art of the compromise.

A couple of years ago, I read a newspaper article in which John talked about what he might do if he ever left the Senate. He pointed out that Huey Long had actually served as Louisiana's Senator and Governor at the same time. I thought when I heard that that maybe John would never leave the Senate; he would just diversify. Regrettably, he is leaving now.

I know that serving as Ambassador to France has always been high on John's list of post-Senate dream jobs. I understand that a few years back, John asked President Clinton, "Do you think I could handle France?" to which President Clinton replied, "The question is whether France could handle you."

Whatever John Breaux decides to do next, I have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Louisiana and America. And I know he will have a heck of a good time in the process. John and Lois are special members of our Senate family, and we wish them all the best in the future.

We also say goodbye to John Edwards.

I think it is probably no coincidence that John Edwards holds Sam Ervin's old seat in the Senate. Like Sam Ervin, John has a brilliant legal mind and a deep love of justice.

In 2001, the first bill Democrats brought to the floor after we retook the majority was the Patients' Bill of Rights. I couldn't believe my luck: My first bill as majority leader—the

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Patients' Bill of Rights and I was able to tap as floor leaders Ted Kennedy and John Edwards. It was like looking down the bench and seeing Babe Ruth and Willie Mays. You just knew the Patients' Bill of Rights was finally going to pass the Senate. And it did—in large part because of John Edwards's remarkable skill and deep personal commitment.

I think one of the great lines in American literature is the line near the end of "Death of a Salesman" where Willie Loman's wife Linda says her husband wasn't famous or powerful, but he was a good man to whom respect must be paid. That same conviction is what has motivated John Edwards's whole life: The belief that there is dignity and worth in every person, including people who work hard every day in mills, and factories, and farms.

In his race for the Democratic Presidential nomination with John Kerry as our party's Vice Presidential nominee, John Edwards brought a sense of hope and optimism to millions and millions of Americans.

John and Elizabeth Edwards both won places in our hearts immediately, and our hearts and prayers are with them and their wonderful children today as Elizabeth continues her recovery from breast cancer. We look forward to spending many more happy years with them. We also look forward to the good work we know they will do for our Nation in the years ahead.

The best way I found to stay in touch with the people who elected me was to drive through every county in South Dakota every year and just talk to whomever I ran into about whatever was on their mind. Bob Graham found an equally effective way of staying in touch with average Floridians. He calls them workdays. He would spend a day working in another job.

This year, he worked his 400th workday. He spent that day the same way he spent his first workday 30 years ago: as a teacher. That is appropriate because, in fact, Bob's entire career has been a living lesson in public service.

A while back, I was looking over the list of Bob's workday jobs and I have to tell you, I am amazed! Think about all the things he has done: NASA payload specialist, firefighter, bagel maker, bulletproof vest maker, pea picker, phosphate miner, Air Force Special Operations gunner, circus worker elf!

Clearly, it wasn't lack of other career options that has kept Bob in the Senate for 18 years. What has kept him here is simple. It is his love of Florida, and of this country. It is a

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sense of responsibility that he inherited from his father and that has animated his whole life.

Bob Graham is a Moderate with a capital M. And he is one of the nicest people you could ever meet. But when it comes to the people of Florida, when it comes to doing right by America, strengthening America's economy, creating good jobs, investing in children, and standing up for America's veterans and military families, Bob Graham is a fierce fighter. And when it comes to protecting our Nation from terrorism, he is a heavyweight fighter. America is safer today because of his courage and tenacity.

I suspect the only people who could possibly be sadder about Bob's retirement than the members of our caucus are the people who make those Florida ties! We wish Bob and Adele the very best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Another remarkable Senator who is retiring this year is Fritz Hollings.

I used to joke with Fritz Hollings that he is the real reason C-SPAN first started its closed-caption broadcasts. Fritz's deep Charleston accent, like the man himself, is an American classic.

When you look inside Fritz Hollings's desk on the Senate floor, you see the names of giants: John Calhoun, Huey Long, Russell Long, Wayne Morse—courageous men who never hesitated to speak their minds. Fritz has earned the right to stand with those legends.

He was 36 years old when he was elected Governor of South Carolina. As Governor, he wrote the book on governing in the New South. He raised teacher salaries, invested in education and training, and laid the foundation for South Carolina's economic transformation from an agrarian State to a high-tech, high-wage State.

One of the amazing things about Fritz Hollings is how often he has been able to see the future before others—not just on matters of race, but on issue after issue.

He was the first Deep South Governor to acknowledge the existence of widespread hunger in his State. He was also the first southern Governor to understand that you can't create a modern economy simply by cutting taxes, you have to invest in education and training.

He has been a relentless advocate of balanced budgets and fiscal discipline since long before they became political buzzwords. In 1984—years before Ross Perot uttered the words, Fritz Hollings made deficit reduction a central plank in his Presidential bid.

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He has been fighting for fair trade, and against the export of American jobs, his entire career. He has been calling for a long-term, comprehensive energy plan since before the first OPEC oil crisis in 1973. He wrote America's first fuel-efficiency standards—in 1975.

He was in the forefront of the movement to protect America's oceans in the early seventies. He saw the future of telecommunications before a lot of Americans knew what "surfing the Internet" meant. He was pushing for increased port and air security before September 11.

If some people have occasionally found Fritz a little difficult to understand, I suspect it was not so much because of his wonderful Charleston accent but because he was so often ahead of his time.

Now Fritz and Peatsy are moving home to live full time in their beloved South Carolina, but they will always have a special place in the Senate family. We wish them the very best.

I have to be honest, Mr. President, it was not my wish to depart with these fine Senators. But it has been my honor and a joy to serve with them, and one that I will remember all the days of my life.

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TRIBUTES
TO
THOMAS A. DASCHLE

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Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *November 18, 2004*

Mr. BURNS. * * * In 1986 TOM DASCHLE came to the Senate. My neighbor from Aberdeen, SD, and I both learned a little bit here. He was much more successful than I, reaching into leadership of his party. We had a lot of common friends in South Dakota. I will be sorry to see TOM DASCHLE leave the Senate. But he has left big tracks here. There are fond memories on issues that we agreed on and issues that we did not agree, but we did not do it being disagreeable.
* * *

As to all of these men, I want to say you do form relationships here, and there is a certain bond that attracts us all, as we learn that even though you may be on the same side of the aisle or the opposite side of the aisle, one could always agree or disagree without being disagreeable. That is what makes the Senate a special place.

We will miss all of these men, but I am looking forward to those who take their place as, there again, new relationships will be developed, a new bond dealing with the old challenges of a free society, with those who love the Constitution and love this country who were prepared to die for it and would if asked to do so today. No one doubts the depth of their patriotism nor their service to their country. We welcome them as we say goodbye to old friends, old relationships that will never be forgotten.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to bid official farewell to one of my best friends and to one of the greatest Senators ever to grace this body, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota.

Not surprisingly, I am sure I have known TOM longer than anyone here. I vividly remember his first campaign for Congress in 1978, the same year I ran for the South Dakota House of Representatives for the first time. We were two young candidates, almost the same age, recent graduates, the same year, of South Dakota colleges. While we were run-

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ning for very different offices, I felt an immediate bond with him at that time.

TOM's first race for Congress was in many ways predictive of the career that would follow. He was then, and still is, the hardest working, most focused person I have ever met in any sphere of my life. That year he knocked on more than 40,000 doors, personally asking South Dakotans for their vote. I can tell you, knocking on 40,000 doors in the middle of a South Dakota winter is a real challenge.

TOM looked so young he was once mistaken as the paper-boy at one of those doors—a woman asked how much money she owed him. I have a photo I cherish to this day of TOM and me together during that first campaign, both of us looking like we were 14 years old. It makes you wonder how anyone voted for either of us at that time.

I remember watching the election returns coming in for TOM's campaign that evening and it didn't look very good, frankly. In fact, when I went to bed that night I was almost certain he had lost. It was only when I woke up that I found TOM was only behind by 50 votes with a recount certain, and as it turned out, he was certified the winner officially by 14 votes out of 130,000 votes cast. Who would have dreamed that such a close victory in South Dakota would have been the beginning of such a distinguished career?

In the intervening years, I watched with admiration while TOM's career advanced in the House of Representatives. He was a natural leader, and I do not believe that many who knew him were surprised, in 1986, when he decided to run for the Senate, taking on the same man who, 6 years previously, defeated Senator George McGovern, an institution in our State.

It was far from an easy race, but TOM prevailed in the end, and his leaving his House seat opened it for my election that year as well. It was the culmination of those two elections which led to an extremely close working relationship but also to a very close friendship.

I have spent the last 18 years working side by side with TOM DASCHLE. I cannot imagine a better partner with whom to work. He is, as I mentioned earlier, the hardest working person I have ever known. He is also the most patient person I have ever known, as well as unfailingly generous—qualities that served him very well as Senate Democratic leader, an extremely demanding job.

There have been fewer than 2,000 Senators who have served our Nation in this body, but there never has been one

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who cared as much or worked as hard for his home State as TOM DASCHLE. I can list his many and varied accomplishments but I would be here for hours and that would not serve the purpose of this farewell. It was the Greek philosopher Plato who said, "The measure of a man is what he does with power." And it is that test that so clearly shows the character and the humanity and the values of TOM DASCHLE. TOM never used the power that he had attained for self-aggrandizement. He used it to build a better South Dakota, and a stronger America.

He has always realized that our country works best when people have an opportunity to live up to their own potential, when our children are not shackled by poverty and lack of education, when our people who need a helping hand are given one, and when our older Americans are able to live out the balance of their lives with dignity. The truth is, if it weren't for TOM DASCHLE and his untiring work, there are children who would not be educated and families who would not be housed and vulnerable people who would be uncared for.

TOM DASCHLE's priorities and values have been the priorities and values of his strong family and his devout faith.

It was Jesus Christ who said:

Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

And no matter what level of accomplishment and power TOM DASCHLE attained, he never forgot the "least of the people" who Christ referenced.

While we will no longer have TOM DASCHLE to lead us in this body, we are both instructed and warmed by the example he gave us during his 26 years in his congressional career. He and his wife Linda have made an extraordinary team and will always be among the closest of friends to my wife Barbara and me. I will never serve with a man I admire more than TOM DASCHLE, and it is with very great sadness that I say goodbye to his presence in this body. But more than anyone I have ever served with, or ever will serve with, he has given glory and meaning to the term "U.S. Senator."

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, there is an old Chinese curse that says, "May you live in interesting times." A Senate equivalent of that saying could very well be: May you lead the Senate in interesting times. If so, the Senate leadership of Senator TOM DASCHLE would certainly qualify. He led the

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Senate with a very quiet integrity during some of the most difficult times in American history.

In 1994, Senator DASCHLE became Senate Democratic leader by a single vote. No sooner had he become Democratic leader than he was forced to deal with the Republican revolution of 1994, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his short-lived “Contract With America.” I never read it, never signed it, and was not a disciple of it.

While he served as the Democratic leader for nearly a decade, there was a period of 17 months in which he went from minority leader to majority leader and back to minority leader.

He was the Senate Democratic leader during the first impeachment of an American President in 131 years. He was the Senate Democratic leader on September 11, 2001, when America experienced the worst terrorist attack in the history of this great land. One month later, a bioterrorist attack on his Senate office in the Hart Building exposed 20 of TOM DASCHLE’s staffers to deadly anthrax spores.

As the Senate Democratic leader, Mr. DASCHLE has had to deal with three different Republican leaders. During these turbulent circumstances, he remained reassuring and inspiring. TOM DASCHLE’s soothing personality and his mild-mannered demeanor were comforting under very trying circumstances.

Looking back, it seems strange that many people once considered this likable, soft-spoken young man to be too likable and too soft spoken to be an effective Senate leader. I am pleased and proud to say that we were wrong. I say “we” because many people will recall that I initially opposed his candidacy for Senate Democratic leadership. But after TOM DASCHLE was elected leader, I was impressed as I found him to be an engaging man with whom to work, a most interesting man, a leader who has a way of putting other people at ease, even in troubled as well as in pleasant times.

He was always working to seek a consensus. He was always listening. He was one of the best listeners I have ever met during my 46 years in this body.

Even in the Senate’s darkest moments, he retained his sense of optimism, always preferring to see the glass as half full rather than half empty. And that optimism was infectious. Therefore, 2 years later, it was my pleasure to nominate TOM DASCHLE for reelection as Senate Democratic leader. In nominating him, I announced: I was totally wrong

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about this young man. He has steel in his spine, despite his reasonable and modest demeanor.

As a former Senate leader myself, I can say that a Senate leader who can bring together and develop a consensus on tough controversial measures must have the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon.

As a former Senate Democratic leader, I want to express my gratitude to Mr. DASCHLE for the service that he rendered to this Chamber, to our Nation, and to our political party.

During the interesting times in which he led the Senate, Senator DASCHLE was always working for the common good. Because of his principled—let me say that again—because of his principled opposition to the Bush administration, critics denounced and demonized him as an obstructionist. If placing the national good over blind obedience to any President makes a Senator an obstructionist, then let me say that our democracy—indeed, all democracies—need more TOM DASCHLES.

Senator DASCHLE stayed above it all, as he refused to engage in the gutter politics of his opponents. He always retained and maintained the dignity that has characterized him as a man and as a Senator. But then this mild-mannered South Dakota Democrat, the only South Dakotan ever to be elected to the Senate leadership, has always served the people of his State and the people of our Nation proudly and honorably, with diligence, sincerity, and distinction.

His entire career in public service has been based on standing up for the common good. He has been a true friend of rural America, especially America's farmers. Among the many measures he promoted to benefit American farmers, Senator DASCHLE pushed the development and the commercialization of alternative agricultural products.

He was an aggressive advocate of health issues, having authored legislation that expanded health services in rural areas.

As a veteran himself, having served as an intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force, TOM DASCHLE was a powerful advocate for American veterans. In 1991, he won his 11-year struggle for legislation to assist Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

I am sorry that I must now say goodbye to this decent man and this outstanding Senator, especially in such circumstances. And he is a decent man. He was always good to

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me. He was always listening. He always listened to whatever I had to suggest to him—always listened and always tried to be helpful. So many times he spoke good words concerning me. He was always asking about my wife Erma: How is your wife? How is your wife Erma?

But as anyone involved in politics knows, political life has its defeats as well as its victories, its sorrows as well as its joys, and we must accept them as they come, always looking forward, not backward, and knowing that the future will present other opportunities to serve our Nation.

I hope that Senator DASCHLE will continue a life of public service because our Nation will always need men of his background and experiences but, most important, his wisdom, his integrity, and his optimism.

Let me say on behalf of Erma and myself that we are so grateful to Senator DASCHLE and his lovely wife for their many courtesies extended to us, their many kindnesses which we will never forget. I am confident that despite the happenings of November 2, Senator DASCHLE still sees the glass as half full rather than half empty.

And so my wife Erma and I extend our best wishes to Senator DASCHLE and his wife Linda in all of their future endeavors.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, that is not why I came to the floor, although it relates to why I came to the floor this afternoon because I came here to pay tribute to a dear friend, our Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota. This sadness is only tempered by the belief that TOM DASCHLE will continue to play a vital role in our Nation's public life in the future.

TOM DASCHLE has had a distinguished career as a legislator on behalf of the interests of the people of South Dakota and all of the people of our Nation. He has fought for a fair share for the farmers of his State and for farmers around the country. He has been in the forefront of rural health, veterans' health, a fair tax system, and a very broad range of other issues.

He has been as a leader of the Democrats in the Senate, both as majority leader and minority leader, through one of the most difficult periods of the Senate's history where TOM DASCHLE has made his mark. He has been a remarkable leader. As a principled and tireless advocate for the issues he believes in, he has led by example. On countless difficult and contentious issues, he has led by carefully listening to all sides. Time and time again, on complex and challenging leg-

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islation, he has led by tireless negotiation and by building consensus. And, where appropriate, he has been able to organize Democrats to insist on our rights as a minority in the Senate.

It is, indeed, a bitter irony of the most recent election that TOM DASCHLE, who is a legislator to the core, and a man of compromise and soft-spoken wisdom, a seeker of dialog, solutions, and consensus, was caricatured as an obstructionist. In the time-honored tradition of Senate leaders of both parties, he stood tall when principle required it. In reality, though, it was TOM DASCHLE's style to reach across the aisle, time and time again, in an effort to legislate in the Nation's best interest. Often he worked closely with the Republican leader in some of the Senate's finest and most difficult hours.

In the face of a very difficult impeachment trial that tested this Senate, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, and when he himself was targeted in the anthrax attack, as in countless other instances, TOM DASCHLE demonstrated his talent for calm, inclusive, and wise leadership.

As this session of Congress ends in the next few days, the people of South Dakota will be losing a vigorous, effective, and committed Senator. Democrats in this body, indeed, all Senators, will be losing a great leader. And all Americans will be losing a voice of reason, judgment, and wisdom. I will be losing a friend and a confidante. TOM DASCHLE is a beautiful human being and a nonpareil leader. His good nature will enable him to overcome this momentary defeat so that the contributions he makes to public life will soon flower in a different place.

Mr. SHELBY. TOM DASCHLE will be leaving us. He served this Nation well. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence officer. He served as a staffer, and then he was in my class in 1978 as a Member of the House of Representatives. That is where I first met TOM and worked with him and respected him. Sometimes we would be on other sides of the issues, but nevertheless, I always thought in his dealings with me and others he was a very honorable, decent person.

He is a relatively young man. He served us well, I thought, as majority leader. He was always fair and upfront with us. He will go on to good things, I am sure. I wish TOM and his wife Linda the best.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take some time today to pay tribute to one of my closest and best friends in the U.S. Senate, our Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE.

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It is hard to put into words how much I will miss Senator DASCHLE when he leaves the Senate at the end of this session. Senator DASCHLE and I were both first elected to the Senate in 1986. He immediately became a friend, and that friendship has only grown stronger over the years. Senator DASCHLE had already served South Dakota in the House of Representatives for many years when he came to the Senate, so he was able to help show me the ropes when I first arrived in Washington in 1987. His advice and counsel were given freely. But what really drew me to TOM were his genuine delight in seeing and greeting friends, staff and colleagues; his selfless passion for serving the people of South Dakota; and above all, his wonderful, self-effacing sense of humor. Put simply, Senator DASCHLE was able to take on issues very seriously without taking himself too seriously.

Over the years, we have served together on the Agriculture, Finance and Indian Affairs Committees. We have fought side by side in numerous battles to serve the interests of the people of the Dakotas.

On the Agriculture Committee, Senator DASCHLE was a tireless advocate for the interests of the Northern Plains producers we both represent. We fought together for targeted farm assistance to ensure that scarce Federal dollars for commodity programs would most benefit average size family farms. We fought together against concentration in the agriculture industry. We fought together against unfairly traded imports of Canadian grain. We fought for disaster aid time and time again. And we joined to make sure a new farm bill was enacted in 2002.

It is safe to say that without the active leadership and support of Senator DASCHLE, we would not have had a new farm bill in 2002. And if we had not written the bill in 2002, I firmly believe that mounting budget pressures would have made it virtually impossible to write good legislation in 2003 or 2004. So family farmers all across this country, many of whom might not ever have heard of TOM DASCHLE, have lost a champion.

On the Finance Committee, Senator DASCHLE fought passionately for better health care for all Americans. We fought together to strengthen the Medicare Program and improve payment rates for rural health care providers. We fought to preserve the Medicaid Program, which provides a health care safety net for the most vulnerable among us. We fought to create the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which expanded health coverage for children who otherwise would

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have no insurance. And Senator DASCHLE again and again took the lead on trying to reform our health care system to make health care affordable and accessible. So average workers all across the country who worry about losing their health coverage or skyrocketing health costs have lost a champion.

And Senator DASCHLE took a special interest in working on behalf of Native Americans. He has fought to bring attention to the terrible epidemic of fetal alcohol syndrome among Native Americans. And he has led the fight to secure increased resources for the Indian Health Service to help end the health care rationing that occurs on too many reservations. He also has been a strong proponent of the tribal colleges. His efforts have helped put a college education within reach of many Native Americans who might not otherwise get the opportunity. Finally, Senator DASCHLE stood up and gave a voice to the thousands and thousands of individual Indians seeking a full accounting of their trust assets and fought to make sure that the Federal Government fulfilled its trust obligation. So Native Americans all across the country have lost a champion.

As Democratic leader, he continued to work on all these issues. And because he was leader, he delivered real results for real people, time and again. That was especially the case when it came to causes important to South Dakota. Senator DASCHLE tirelessly used his clout to ensure that South Dakota's interests were protected.

But Senator DASCHLE's role as a Senator and as a leader cannot be summed up in a simple listing of the causes and issues he championed, often without fanfare or great recognition. The job of leader has often been compared to herding cats. It is not easy, but Senator DASCHLE did an outstanding job. Senator DASCHLE was a strong leader—and a great Senator—because he didn't just listen to people, he heard their concerns. He didn't just propose compromises, he built consensus. It took enormous patience, great flexibility, strong persuasive skills—and a liberal dose of good humor and humbleness. It also meant that much of what Senator DASCHLE accomplished was done quietly behind the scenes. Too often, he did not get the public credit he deserved for the painstaking hours he spent building consensus and moving issues forward to benefit the American people. Instead, he quietly stepped back and let others take credit.

You cannot be successful as a Senator, and especially as a leader, if other Senators cannot trust you. Senator

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DASCHLE may at times have left our colleagues on the other side of the aisle frustrated by his mastery of Senate rules and political tactics. But they always knew he was someone they could deal with in good faith. They always knew they could trust his word. And they always knew he would work hard to achieve the result he had committed to.

At the end of the day, that is the ultimate measure of Senator DASCHLE's values—the values he and I learned growing up in the Dakotas. He was honest, fair and hard-working. He gave credit to others. And he genuinely respected his colleagues and enjoyed their company. South Dakota, the Senate, and the Nation are losing a true champion, in every sense of the word.

As Senator DASCHLE goes on to other things, my wife Lucy and I wish all the best to TOM and his wife, Linda.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about the man from whom I have stood across this aisle the past 2 years—TOM DASCHLE.

TOM, as we all know, is a good and decent man. He has a big heart for the people of South Dakota, for every Member of this body, and for all of the American people.

He has devoted his life to public service—from serving as an intelligence officer in the Air Force to serving four terms in the House to serving three terms in the U.S. Senate.

That is seven times TOM DASCHLE has been reelected statewide in South Dakota.

TOM has been such a successful leader because he has always put others first. This selflessness, this sacrifice, is the quality that I admire most about TOM.

Every year TOM returned to South Dakota for an “unscheduled driving” tour. He would travel without staff or a schedule—going wherever the road and the people of South Dakota would take him.

This driving tour helped him travel to each of South Dakota's 66 counties—which he did every year.

But, most important, it was his way of staying in touch with the people who sent him time and time again to Washington to represent them.

TOM has served as the Democratic leader for 10 years now. And those have been no easy 10 years for the Senate or for America.

The Senate itself has switched hands and back again. And we have helped lead the Nation through wars and recession and the horrific September 11 attacks.

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But throughout this Congress and throughout his career, TOM DASCHLE has handled his job with grace and dignity. And I have always seen in him a gentle, yet stirring passion.

I wish TOM and Linda and their family all the best in the many years to come.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE in the State of South Dakota. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the work of his South Dakota staff.

The people of South Dakota have benefited greatly over the years from the work of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of South Dakota constituents. They served as the eyes and ears for Senator DASCHLE, maintaining contacts in South Dakota communities, attending meetings on projects and sitting down with individual constituents to discuss matters of importance.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota. Their long hours of service, many of them spent driving on country roads, sitting in coffee shops or walking through drought-stricken corn and wheat fields, underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to serve the people of South Dakota.

Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our State. Whether attending economic development outreach meetings, sacrificing holidays and weekends to travel with Senator DASCHLE across South Dakota, or tending to the many casework issues facing our constituents, Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff has done a superb job.

It is my hope that these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current South Dakota staff includes:

Beth Smith, Betty Daschle, Jody Jordan, Maeve King, and Virginia Newquist in the Aberdeen office; Ace Crawford, Armon Gaddy, Dorothy Christensen, Jackie Heier, Georgeann Johnson, Rose Larson, and Sheila Lane in the Rapid City office; Bill Idema, Gene Dwyer, Jeff Wilka, Jenn Dolan, Mark Gerhardt, Mary Peters, Michele Seaton, Nicole Deak, Steph-

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anie Devitt, Stephanie Koster Hoyme, Steve Dick, and Steve Erpenbach, Senator DASCHLE's State director, in the Sioux Falls office.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE here in Washington, both in his personal office and those who served him as Democratic leader in the Senate for the past 10 years. Every Member of the Senate understands that our success rests, in part, with the men and women we choose to work with us on a daily basis in our offices. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the extraordinary work of his staff here in Washington.

The people of South Dakota, members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and the institution of the Senate have benefited greatly over the years from the hard work and dedication of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Whether it be his personal staff or his leadership staff, every single person has been dedicated to making our State a better place to live, and to making our Nation safe and secure.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota and came with him to join his leadership staff. Their long hours of service underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to lead our caucus and to serve the people of South Dakota and this Nation unselfishly. Senator DASCHLE's staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our State.

While each and every member of Senator DASCHLE's staff is dedicated, committed, and hard-working, I think three long-serving members of his Washington staff should be recognized separately. Those senior staff members are Pete Rouse, who served in Senator DASCHLE's leadership office as chief of staff, Nancy Erickson, his deputy chief of staff in the Capitol, and Laura Petrou, the chief of staff in his personal office. All three of these dedicated individuals served the State of South Dakota and the Senate Democratic Caucus unselfishly and with distinction.

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It is my hope that all of these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current personal and leadership staff in Washington includes:

Aaron Fischbach, Amber Danter, Bart Chilton, Brad Wolters, Brendan Hilley, Brian Hanafin, Chris Bois, Chris VandeVenter, Chris Wagner, Christiana Gallagher, Chuck Marr, Cindy Harris, Clint Highfill, Danny Franklin, Darcell Savage, Denis McDonough, Grant Leslie, Jane Loewenson, Jeff Nussbaum, Jennifer Duck, Jeri Thomson, Jessica Leonard, Jessica Scheufele, Jim Oleske, Joan Huffer, Jody Bennett, Jonathon Lehman, Kate Knudson, Kate Leone, Kelly Fado, Lara Birkes, Larkin Barker, Laura Petrou, Lisa Thimjon, Liz Dahan, Mark Childress, Matthew Varilek, Michelle Singer, Molly Rowley, Nancy Erickson, Nancy Hogan, Nick Bauer, Nick Papas, Pat Griffin, Pat Sarcone, Pete Rouse, Phil Schiliro, Phillip Assmus, Randy DeValk, Reid Cherlin, Sam Mitchell, Sarah Feinberg, Ted Miller, Tim Mitrovich, Todd Webster, Tom McIntyre, and Wizipan Garriott.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans, and all the Senators and staff who have served with them, for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to submit the text of the attached resolution by the South Dakota Farmers Union commemorating 26 years of service by U.S. Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE BY UNITED STATES
SENATOR THOMAS A. DASCHLE

Whereas, Senator TOM DASCHLE has distinguished himself as more than a reliable friend to South Dakota Farmers Union and the cause of family-based agriculture, but more so as a true hero to our cause; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE performed his duties faithfully to better the lives and opportunities of all South Dakotans, and conducted exemplary public service to South Dakotans with the assistance of his highly resourceful, talented and dedicated staff in his offices in Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE championed the cause of ethanol since his first campaign for the U.S. Congress, and is chiefly responsible for its emergence as America's answer to energy independence because of his relentless pursuit of government support for its production and marketing; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE earned his reputation as America's most important Member of Congress for the advancement of legislation important to South Dakota Farmers Union, the National Farmers Union and family-based agriculture because of his sincere interest in promoting America's

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rural economy and because of his generous nature and approachability to all citizens seeking his assistance in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE wisely used his influence and leadership powers to the benefit of South Dakota, resulting in unprecedented cooperation from urban states to help advance the causes and unique, critical needs of rural states and agriculture in the form of federal funds and programs for agriculture, disaster aid, health care, education, energy needs, air transportation, highway maintenance, railways and water development; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's powerful resources and status as Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader gave South Dakota unprecedented influence to pass legislation which was of the greatest benefit to all South Dakotans, especially to rural communities, farms and ranches; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE was responsible for the allocation of unprecedented federal funds to South Dakota throughout his tenure in the United States Congress, and that Senator DASCHLE's last term ended with victories for South Dakota, including his quest to produce \$2.9 billion in disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers, against the longstanding resistance and indifference of the majority party in Congress and the White House; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's great influence and power on behalf of South Dakota and rural America will be missed in the unfinished battles for a Renewable Fuels Standard, a mandatory Country of Origin Labeling law, fair trade policies which are not predatory to South Dakota agriculture, sufficient drought relief, rural water development and a progressive agricultural agenda which supports a strong rural economy, as well as the fights to preserve social security and Medicare, lower prescription drug costs, and make health care coverage affordable and available to all Americans;

Now, therefore, we resolve that the Delegates of the 89th Convention of South Dakota Farmers Union commends and highly appreciates the lifetime dedication and service of Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE to improve the economy and the quality of life in South Dakota and throughout the United States.

FRIDAY, *November 19, 2004*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when the Senate concludes its business in the coming days, the congressional career of a remarkable man will come to an end. After 26 years of representing South Dakotans as their voice in Washington, Senator DASCHLE will be leaving the Senate.

His story is a classic one. As a young man from Aberdeen, SD, TOM DASCHLE graduated from South Dakota State University and immediately began 3 years of service in the Air Force of the United States. After his service, he got an early introduction to Washington as he went to work for Senator Abourezk, eventually returning to South Dakota to work out of the Senator's State offices.

TOM was elected to Congress in 1978 and went on to serve four terms in the House of Representatives before being elected in 1986 to the Senate.

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After the resignation of George Mitchell in 1994, Senator DASCHLE won a very tight race for minority leader. I was proud to have supported him at that time. Nineteen-ninety-four was a difficult year for our party and we had some serious soul searching to do. TOM displayed the strong leadership that was necessary to take Democrats in the Senate forward. That is why, after that first tight election for leader, he was reelected unanimously as leader each time thereafter. He has always been a man who radiates optimism and hope, making him an excellent face for our party.

I have known TOM since he first came to this body in 1986. I closely followed his Senate race against James Abdnor, and I was impressed by him. A few days after TOM won that race, he and his wife Linda joined my family in Vermont for Thanksgiving dinner. When they came to the farm, my mother said to me, "That is the nicest young man I ever met." Well, she was right. TOM is a man of deep resolve and strong character.

The Nation saw that character exhibited in the days following September 11. Senator DASCHLE showed the country the importance of setting labels aside when he publicly embraced President Bush. In the face of that terrible tragedy, America united behind our leadership.

Only a few short weeks later, Senator DASCHLE and I were both targets of anthrax attacks—some of which killed several people—in letters addressed to the two of us. I know that the attacks brought home the reality of terrorism to both of us, but also to the Senate community as a whole.

In the ensuing years, Senator DASCHLE continued to show resolute leadership in the Senate, routinely reaching across the aisle even when those on the other side of the aisle were at their most partisan.

On more than a few occasions, Senator DASCHLE and I have joined together to work on a variety of national legislative efforts. Together, we advocated for expanded benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve. Senator DASCHLE has shown courage and resolve in holding the line against the President's most objectionable judicial nominations. We worked together on tort reform, combating corporate crime, and efforts to help off-duty police protect Americans. Those are just a few of the initiatives on which we collaborated.

But during that time, he has also been a strong voice for South Dakota on those issues important to his constituents. He has fought for improved health and education for Indi-

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ans. He has led efforts to expand health services in rural areas and to prevent companies from canceling retiree benefits without notice. He is well known as a champion for ranchers and farmers in South Dakota. In fact, he made sure their voices were always heard. He worked to ensure they had drought aid, but also he worked to do what a true South Dakotan would do: He wanted to make sure they could compete on a level playingfield.

Despite a well-run campaign and putting forth his best effort, Senator DASCHLE was not reelected to the Senate this fall. The morning after election day, he gave a speech before his supporters in Sioux Falls. He finished that speech by recalling two memories. The first was of a magnificent Washington skyline sunset he witnessed one fall afternoon leaving his office in the Capitol. The second was watching the Sun rise at Mount Rushmore with his family, and the warm, sweet optimistic feeling inspired by that sunrise. TOM said that, seeing both, he likes sunrises better. I agree. For the past 18 years with each daily sunrise, he sought to bring hope and optimism to this body. He has worked to better his State and his country, to ensure our children and grandchildren have a brighter world in which to live. He is a remarkable friend and colleague, and I thank him for his service to this institution.

If I can be very personal, in my 30 years in the Senate, I have not known a more honest and more decent Senator than TOM DASCHLE. I believe that part of our Senate fabric and our Senate conscience leaves with this special person.

Mr. FITZGERALD. I will miss people like Senator Byrd and Senator Thurmond and all the others, the leaders with whom I have had the privilege to serve.

Senator Trent Lott was the majority leader when I entered. For a period of time, TOM DASCHLE was the majority leader. Now Senator Frist is the majority leader, and soon Senator Harry Reid will be the minority leader. Each one of those individuals is remarkable, in my judgment. They have always been gentlemen of the highest order, and they work very hard. They are very good at what they do in representing their perspectives. They are good and honorable people whom our country is lucky to have.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, what we just heard on the floor of the Senate captures the essence of this remarkable body, the leadership, which dictates the character, which dictates

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the fabric of the body that all of us have the real privilege of participating in.

I know several Members want to speak, so I will be very brief. I take a moment to pay tribute to a truly exceptional leader with whom I have had the honor to serve alongside, and whom I have had the opportunity to serve with over the last year. We first began working together 2 years ago, when I suddenly became majority leader of the Senate. Oftentimes, we have been on the opposite side of issues. But I want to say how much I deeply respect his abilities and his judgment as a Senator, as Democratic leader, and as a person.

This environment is fiercely competitive, and as leaders, both he and I are thrust into that competitive environment. Yet Senator DASCHLE has always, without exception, handled each and every situation in that competition with class and with honesty, with integrity, with forthrightness, and with true grace.

Clearly, I have had the opportunity to learn from him much more than I could have ever possibly given him in any way. I was the beneficiary of that each and every day. From that very first day that I became majority leader, he has treated me in that position with respect and with that very same grace. For that, I will forever be grateful.

I wanted to pay tribute to Senator DASCHLE and close with one reference. The great Daniel Webster once remarked that the Senate is a community of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character. Indeed, Senator TOM DASCHLE is no exception. He is the epitome of that and a great credit to this venerable institution. On behalf of all of our colleagues, I wish all the best for TOM and Linda and their entire family in the years ahead.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, all of us in the Senate have just had an opportunity to hear an extraordinary speech by the outgoing Democratic leader. We are indeed in a very tough and competitive business. On the other hand, when we enter this Chamber, we take on public responsibility and have the obligation to deal with each other in a civil and forthright manner. I think Senator DASCHLE has always met that standard. We all admire his work here. He is one of the longest serving leaders in the history of the Senate. We wish him well in the coming years. He can look back on his extraordinary career here with great pride.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, you can learn a lot about a person by the way he handles winning, and you can learn

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even more about someone by the way he handles and accepts defeat. TOM DASCHLE does not know that I know this, but I saw an e-mail he sent recently to someone on his staff.

TOM DASCHLE was concerned about a man with whom he talked one day late in the campaign when he was calling undecided voters in his home State of South Dakota. The man was not rich or powerful. He was just an average South Dakota citizen.

This man used to work for the government. He received many awards at his work. This is what TOM DASCHLE wrote in that e-mail:

One day, the man started to suffer extreme stress and even depression. The psychiatrist told him he had to retire from his work . . . under a medical discharge. Afterward, (the government) denied him a medical retirement. They said it can only be for physical reasons.

He was denied medical access and retirement pay. He has since also had a heart attack. He asked me for help in getting a medical retirement. I told him we would be happy to try and would follow up.

TOM DASCHLE in his e-mail went on to say:

Could you have someone contact him and look into this? It just doesn't seem right.

The date on that e-mail was November 8, 6 days after the election, 6 days after what had to be one of the most heart-breaking losses in his life.

The reason TOM DASCHLE got into politics in the first place, the reason he ran for leadership positions in the Senate, and the reason he worked his heart out for this job was never to get rich or to get attention. He tried to bring power to help the powerless, the average person, the people to whom life had given some unfair breaks.

Even now, until the minute he has to relinquish his power, TOM DASCHLE is using his power to help people who still look to him as their last best hope.

Golda Meir once famously told a political rival: "Don't be humble. You're not that great."

But TOM DASCHLE is great enough and good enough to be truly humble. He will never talk about all the people he helped, all the people to whom he has given hope, but I can tell you there are people all across South Dakota and all across America whose lives are better because TOM DASCHLE was in the Senate.

"It just doesn't seem right"—that is what TOM DASCHLE wrote in that e-mail, and it just doesn't seem right that we are going to have a Senate without TOM DASCHLE to keep fighting for what is all good and decent about America.

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My consolation is that I know TOM and Linda and their family will find another noble way to continue serving this Nation, defending the values we cherish and making life better for people who need a champion.

Someone noted that this is a cruel business, and it is. There are three ways to leave the Senate. Two of them are not very good. In this situation, we have seen a man who has given 26 years of his personal life to South Dakota and to the Nation, and he made a decision a year ago to retire. In the past year, I am sure there would have been a succession of tributes, dinners, schools, and highways and bridges being named after him and maybe statues and plaques commissioned. But instead, he stood for election. He had the courage to stand again. Although he did not succeed, I hope the people of South Dakota realize that he was a man who loved them throughout his political life and those of us who were honored to call him a friend and a colleague love him and will miss him.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, when the 109th Congress convenes this coming January, the Senate will be a poorer place for not having TOM DASCHLE among its Members.

By nature, TOM DASCHLE is a South Dakotan to the core, born and raised and regularly returning to his hometown of Aberdeen, with a population today of not quite 25,000. He was the eldest of four children in a family who knew the meaning of hard work and family. He went to college, the first in his family to do so, at South Dakota State University, some 150 miles from his home. When his colleagues elected him Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE asked an old friend back in South Dakota, as he told us on the floor only a few moments ago, for advice, and was promptly told: Never forget where you came from.

That was something TOM DASCHLE knew without being told. If he had set out to forget where he came from, he could not have done it. The unscheduled driving tour that he made every year around South Dakota was a kind of pilgrimage. It did not create his close ties to South Dakota and its people; rather, it reflected them. As an editorial published on November 6 in TOM's hometown newspaper, the *Aberdeen American News*, noted, "Personal stories abound of how DASCHLE and his staff have been able to get things done for the average South Dakotan."

The editorial concluded with a tribute worth quoting:

On behalf of all the thousands of people you have helped, we would like to offer you our deep gratitude and respect. With quiet dignity, you fought

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for the State that raised you and which still so obviously holds a special place in your heart. Thanks, TOM, and good luck.

If by nature TOM is a South Dakotan, by choice he is a public servant. After receiving his college degree in 1969, he served 3 years in the Air Force Strategic Air Command, one of the relatively small number of Members now serving in the Congress who served in the military in that period. And he has remained a forceful advocate for veterans throughout all his years in public office.

He entered the House of Representatives after a vote so close that it took a recount almost a full year, and TOM became known as “Landslide” DASCHLE.

Following his service in the House in 1986, he was elected to the Senate. In his 18 years in this body, TOM’s agenda for action on behalf of the people of South Dakota has focused on health care, education, the outdoors, security and safety, economic opportunity, and rural life. Any State would be doubly fortunate to have an agenda and an advocate as dedicated and skillful as TOM DASCHLE.

By temperament, TOM DASCHLE is a Democrat in the fundamental meaning of that word—respectful of others, a scrupulous listener, seeking consensus in the middle ground on complex and controversial issues.

Time magazine has accurately described his instinct for courtesy, reputation for humility, a willingness to compromise, and a sense of Midwestern civility.

TOM DASCHLE’s steadiness and reasonableness made him especially well-suited to assume the responsibilities of majority leader in that painful period when the country was dealt successive hammerblows by a recession, the crisis in the capital markets, and, above all, the tragic attacks of 9/11 and their aftermath.

While others shouted at fever pitch, TOM DASCHLE never raised his voice because it is not in his temperament to do so. His calm manner was profoundly reassuring to worried Americans, as was the strength of his resolve.

In the end, it is TOM DASCHLE’s own words that tell us all we need to know about him.

They explain why he is so respected around his State and here in the Senate. His November 3 statement to the people of South Dakota who support and love him speaks again and again of gratitude—gratitude for the opportunity to serve, gratitude to his family, gratitude to his devoted staff, gratitude to the State that is his extended family. It speaks of belief—in our people, in the future, in what can be accom-

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plished by people working together. It speaks of work—of work yet to be done. And it speaks of hope.

On November 3, TOM compared the sunset over the Mall with the sunrise over Mount Rushmore and concluded, “Having seen sunsets and sunrises, I like sunrises better.”

There is no question of TOM’s public service having ended; the only question is the direction it will now take. TOM DASCHLE has honored Teddy Roosevelt’s dictum that “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

It has been my privilege to work with so dedicated and honorable a public servant, a dear friend. I like to think that our work together on behalf of the people of this great country will continue as we move on into the future.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in complimenting Senator DASCHLE for his years of service. I did not really know TOM DASCHLE when he served in the House. I have had the pleasure of serving with him for the last 18 years in the Senate. Many of those years we were both in leadership, and I will just say our relationship has always been very good.

Having the pleasure of working with TOM DASCHLE and Harry Reid, both for whom I have great respect, many times we were political adversaries, but we were always friends. We never had a heated exchange, maybe elevated on occasion, but we always were friends and we could always shake hands at the time we might have somewhat of a heated discussion. We would always remain friends, and he continues to be my friend to this day.

I compliment him for his many years of public service to his State of South Dakota, for his service in the House of Representatives, his service to the Senate, and his service as the Democrat leader. He is a very competent individual, speaker, and representative of his viewpoint, and he happens to be my friend. I wish TOM DASCHLE and his wife Linda all the best for the future.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief. For many of us who knew TOM DASCHLE and know TOM DASCHLE, we never thought this day would come. We never thought TOM would really be defeated in an election. I thought a lot about that. Why? I mean, this man is such a good man. He is such a good friend. He is a good leader. I do not know anyone who cares more about their State and who has worked harder.

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He talked about the State's energy sufficiency, and it was TOM DASCHLE's sheer will of support to develop an ethanol industry for the State. I know because I tangled with him year after year because from a California perspective this was not such a good idea; from a South Dakota perspective, it was. For TOM, his State always came first.

I thought he was unbeatable. He is for the little people. I remember being in the State. I remember hearing him talk about the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the state of the people in Pine Ridge and how deeply he felt. When he feels very deeply, his voice gets that quaver and it drops low.

This is a very hard day for many of us. As I went down the aisle to embrace TOM, two people said this really is a tough business. And, in fact, it is a tough business.

I also want to say that TOM DASCHLE was a great leader for our caucus. Many of us on many days watched him convince, cajole, push, and bring us together when we had to be together. We watched him on the Senate floor in the middle of the night, early in the morning, late in the day, always gracious, always patient, always articulate. We never had to worry about TOM DASCHLE's integrity or his credibility.

I still wonder, how could he be beat? This is such a good man, such a good leader, such a good State representative. For me and my husband he was a personal friend. When Dick was in Washington, early in the morning he would run with TOM and they would talk about all kinds of things. The run was always a good one and my husband would come home and always say what a great guy TOM DASCHLE is.

I think for all of us we wish him all the best. For me, I do not believe this man has reached his potential yet. I think he still has enormous gifts to give to this Nation, to his State, and I believe he will, perhaps in a different way. Perhaps we will see him come back in a different form. For TOM DASCHLE, these 10 years were very special years and for us we were so privileged because we had an opportunity to be led by a good man, by a great friend, and by a great leader.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I first join the voices of my friends and my colleagues in talking about our dear and great friend, TOM DASCHLE, with whom I had the privilege to serve for the last 6 years, and to be led by for the last 6 years. I have never known a better human being or a better public servant than TOM DASCHLE. He is a good, honest, decent, and honorable man. The Senate will miss him. The country has benefited from his long and extraordinary service.

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My thanks to my leader, to our leader, Senator DASCHLE, for the work he has done and the leadership he has shown and the grace and strength and courage he has shown in leading in very difficult times, as others have said. He is a good and decent man and we all look up to him and respect him.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to make some comments about our friends who are departing the Senate. * * *

I want to finish my remarks by saying TOM DASCHLE is a man of great courage and compassion and wisdom, quiet leadership. I think today as we listened to his remarks, his farewell to the Senate, we saw his goodness, we saw his intelligence, and as my senior Senator said, it is tough to imagine people wanting something different than what TOM DASCHLE offered them. But that is what it is about. It is about elections.

I say that TOM DASCHLE will go down as a great leader of this Senate, as a man who put issues ahead of his own personal gain. I think he is a role model for each and every one of us. He is a class act.

I say to him and Linda, Godspeed. I know that in future years you will be very much on the scene because you have so much to offer. You have such a sense of history and such a sense of the future. It is bittersweet. But it is an honor to have known TOM.

Thank you very much.

Mr. DAYTON. * * * I want to join my colleagues in expressing my highest personal regard for Senator DASCHLE. It is, like others, a hard time for me. It was very hard in the next day after the election to hear the results in South Dakota. I have always had and will continue to have the greatest respect for the democratic process in this country. It is the ultimate and appropriate judgment of the people. I felt that way even when I disagreed with the verdicts they rendered.

I must say to the very slightest of majority, the voters of my neighboring State in South Dakota, with all due respect to them and their rightful judgment, that in my humble opinion you were wrong. You cannot fully understand the extraordinary leader, the superb public servant, and the phenomenal human being you had in TOM DASCHLE as your Senator, and as all of us in his caucus knew we had in our Democratic leader.

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What makes it so hard is he has been taken away from us despite our wishes, and taken away from the country. And it is very hard. It is hard, frankly, to hear all the false praise of someone who went beyond the boundaries of comity, of bipartisanship, of deserved respect for a leader, who campaigned against TOM, who violated the boundaries of his own State and disparaged him; and, most recently, the comments of the incoming chairwoman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee which were untrue, unwarranted, and just plain foul. TOM DASCHLE has too much decency to say so.

That was the irony in and the indecency of those remarks. They were directed after the election, after the victory against the most decent man I have ever met in politics, TOM DASCHLE. He is a gentleman in the very best sense of that word: strong in his principles, firm in his convictions, fierce in his dedication to serving the people of South Dakota and their best interests, but a gentleman in his decency, his personal respect and the senatorial courtesies he extended to every one of his colleagues.

But TOM, being the man he is, would not want me to end on such a note. So I will not. I end by thanking him, thanking him for his leadership over the last 4 years, from the time during which I have been privileged to serve under his leadership, for mentoring me, giving me the opportunities I have had in committee assignments, to listening to me and offering his astute guidance and experience and wisdom. I thank him for showing me by his living example every day and every night in the Senate what it means to be a great Senator, what it entails, the dedication, the hard work, the hours, the travel; what it means when you can do what TOM DASCHLE has done for his State to save people's lives, to improve people's lives, create new opportunities for young and old, what he has done for his country, what he has done for people who are not his constituents who cannot even thank him and won't be able to vote for him. But that did not matter because he had the opportunity and he seized the opportunity to do things that benefited their lives.

Thank you, TOM DASCHLE. Thank you for being a superb leader. Thank you for being a great Senator. Thank you for being a phenomenal human being. I wish you well.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we could not help but note the sadness we all experienced as our friend and leader, TOM DASCHLE, made his goodbye speech. As usual, when TOM DASCHLE spoke, it had meaning, substance. He cer-

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tainly had that as he closed his chapter here—I hope not his book, just his chapter.

He talked about things he cared about and people he cared about and what it is that drove him to take this job. Everyone knows how difficult a task being a leader in the Senate is. It is not always realized outside this Chamber how hard one has to work to please so many, to sacrifice so much in terms of personal life.

TOM DASCHLE, our leader, distinguished Senator from South Dakota, outstanding leader—not just for this side of the aisle but the entire country. He lost an extremely tough, close race a couple of weeks ago.

TOM DASCHLE is the stuff of which so many of our lives in the Senate are made.

It is a sad day. It is not just a sad day for me, who treasured the friendship I had with TOM DASCHLE, listened carefully to his words and followed, for the most part, the directions he portrayed for all Members here, it is a sad day, obviously, for TOM DASCHLE's family; it is a sad day for the Senate and a sad day for everyone in this great country of ours.

I said TOM is the stuff of which so many of our lives are made. It is quite hard to see in this place of splendor the route so many Members took to get here. There is a substantial difference in age between TOM DASCHLE and me but I had a similar experience. I was the first in my family to go to college. My parents were hard-working people. They did not work on a farm but they worked in the store. They worked in the mills. My father worked in the silk mills of Patterson, NJ, a factory town.

What was the legacy they imparted? It was to work hard, to believe in America, to believe in yourself. Try to achieve a degree of respect and dignity. That is what my father did for me, even after I had enlisted in the Army and he was on his deathbed from cancer. The messages were all profound: work, study, learn.

He took me into his factory one time and said: You must never work like this, so dirty, so dusty, so noisy, so dangerous. He knew it was dangerous, that there were chemicals in the weaving of that silk fabric to keep it from growing too brittle, to keep the machinery oiled. It took my father, his brother, their father, at very young ages.

When we hear TOM DASCHLE talk about his background, how his parents worked to provide him with not the funds but the incentive to make something of his life, to give something back to America, we know TOM DASCHLE is a model for

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so many to follow, with that commitment to decency and honor.

It is a sad day when we reflect on what happened in TOM DASCHLE's last race. He wanted to be here. We wanted him to be here. TOM has been an effective leader for us for 10 years. The Republicans threw everything they could at him, including some \$20 million in that race, including some insults in recent days. And then to not permit the man to leave with grace and hold his head high—no, called him an obstructionist.

I know when the shoe is on the other foot what happens, when the minority has to fight like the devil to keep from being rolled over by the majority. We saw it when we were in charge. How I miss those days when we were in charge. The Republican Party, the minority party, they did their filibustering. They did their obstruction. They did the things needed to protect the interests they thought served their constituents, their States, and their country.

It was ungracious when the Republican side could not find enough of their Members to sit here out of respect. I remember being here when Bob Dole left and I could not wait to sit in my chair and salute his contribution to America and to this body, because, although Bob Dole could disagree with you, he was always interested in the well-being of the country. You saw it from the result of his service to country and the military.

I do not know why, in the closing days, some element of comity, some element of grace, some element of respect for a human being could not have gotten some of our friends out of their offices to come down to the floor. You saw the applause. The applause that I paid most of the attention to was from the people who work back here, the people who saw TOM DASCHLE at work every day. They know what he meant to them personally, to this country, to this institution. That is why they stood and applauded so vigorously. You saw TOM's colleagues standing here, hating to let go, hating to let him leave the room. They did it with their applause and their hugs, their glances, and their tears.

So we are sorry that the TOM DASCHLE segment of service to this country and to this body is over. As usual, as always, there was a characteristic graciousness in his departure, in acknowledging that he had lost the race. Everyone here has some sense of how painful it could be, especially being leader of the party, especially when they threw everything in the book at him that they could pick up.

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It is not going to be easy to forget TOM DASCHLE. We are going to miss him. He had wonderful service to country. He served as an intelligence officer in the Air Force for 3 years. He won his first race. Many cited the chronology of his climb to leader of the Democratic Senate. He carved out a national reputation. People knew who he was, but he never forgot his South Dakota constituents.

We heard him talk about them. He talked about traveling to each of the State's counties every year as an unscheduled driving tour, where he stopped at the local clubs, the Elks Club, the cattle auctions, the health clinics, schools, cafes, police stations, or any other place where people could gather to hear him talk about what was on his mind, and to listen to them talk about what was on their mind.

TOM has been an effective legislator. His aim: to help his constituents, help his country, help those who were less fortunate across America. He fought hard for small farmers in his State.

We did not always agree. Those of us who come from an urban environment disagreed with some of the votes he took. But he always remembered from whence he came. He fought hard for the people that he believed in, for Native Americans from his State, veterans exposed to Agent Orange. I joined him in that fight because I always believed anyone who had any remote contact, no matter how remote or how short a period of time, with Agent Orange should be treated as any other veteran or any other soldier who had a wound because we know what Agent Orange has done to so many who have served so well, so loyally in a war we could not agree on, much like what we are seeing now in our country. And we had to respect his insistence that we remember these people, the seniors, and the people in the rural parts of the country where the economy has never really been robust.

Nature always takes its toll. But TOM insisted we fight back, that we make sure the farm community continued to exist in this country so we could produce the nutrition that is so vital—the products we all use so regularly.

And TOM is so young looking, soft spoken, self-effacing, and fundamentally decent. He was actually mistaken for a paperboy one time. But beneath that wonderful exterior, that almost placid view of things, there was a spine of steel. He could get up and fight hard and fight for the issues. His leadership for us—and, believe me, it was not easy. It is not easy on the Democratic side, it is not easy on the Republican side, I am sure, to pull everybody together because each of

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us has differences that come from our geography, from our State, from the culture within our States. But the fact is, TOM could get us together on the most difficult issues, not always 100 percent, not always in victory, but always with vigor and always with commitment.

TOM has devoted practically all his entire life to public service. We are going to miss his leadership, his counsel, and his friendship.

In my closing comments to him I said: We are saying kind of so long but hopefully not really goodbye. We want to hear from TOM DASCHLE. I have made a plea to him that he stays involved with the public interest. I hope he is going to do that. TOM will have many offers for commercial development and to make lots more money, but he feels an obligation down deep, as I would think most of us or all of us do here, to try to do something that counts.

I encourage him and his great wife Linda to get through this difficult period. It is not easy when you are the leader to lose a race. It is never easy, but it is particularly difficult when you have had leadership responsibilities.

So my message to TOM is: TOM, keep that spine of steel. Keep that interest that you have in the well-being of our society, in the belief that America can recover from all kinds of difficulties, some of the worst that we are facing right now. It is not just the war, as painful as that is.

I have a display in front of my office of young faces, of people, many of whom are in their teens, late teens, 18, 19. I enlisted in the Army when I was 18. I did not realize then I was such a baby. I realize now that 18 is so, so young. But I have those photographs there as reminders about what the price of this war really is. It is not just the financial side, which is enormous. It is not just the humiliation side, which is enormous, the humiliation because we failed to have the appropriate intelligence, intelligence to tell us even most recently how difficult Fallujah was going to be. We underestimated, and as a consequence the costs are heavy. In the last week, we lost two people from New Jersey. There are now over 1,200 who have died in the course of that fight.

But again, TOM DASCHLE, and I think all of us here, have to continue to fight for what is right. We can endure our differences here. I will tell you what we cannot endure. We cannot endure the bitterness that exists across the dividing line here. We cannot endure the vitriol that is constant in this room of ours. We cannot endure the anger that exists. We have a cause that is greater than all of us.

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I am not saying it all comes flowing this way, but I am saying it is unpleasant. It is now 22 years since I arrived in the Senate. I remember different days. I remember days when you could disagree and still be able to say hello without grimacing when you saw one of your colleagues. Lord willing, I hope TOM DASCHLE taught us some of that, with his graciousness, his characteristic willingness to listen and to understand and get back to you when a problem existed.

So, Mr. President, I am going to yield the floor, but I do want to talk about our other colleagues who are retiring in a few minutes. There are a lot of good people here on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, while the Senate is holding in abeyance for the final omnibus appropriations bill that the House is getting ready to file sometime tonight, I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to our retiring Senators: TOM DASCHLE, Fritz Hollings, Don Nickles, John Breaux, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, John Edwards, Peter Fitzgerald, Zell Miller, and Bob Graham.

I wish to make a speech about each one of these Senators who has become a dear friend, in some cases, over the years, such as Fritz and Peatsy Hollings, who took special interest in me as I came to the Senate and made sure I got on his Commerce Committee, which has been just an extraordinary experience with him as chairman, as well as with the present chairman, John McCain. * * *

There is a special part in my heart for TOM DASCHLE. We came to the Congress together in 1978. Among the freshman class in the House of Representatives that year, we knew TOM as "Landslide" DASCHLE. He won his race for Congress by 14 votes. Of course, he says that was a big percentage of the total vote in South Dakota at that time.

We saw him grow over the years into a great Democratic leader, both minority and majority leader of the Senate, and we saw the pressure that TOM was under.

Who here would not remember exactly where you were and what you were doing on September 11, 2001. We were in a leadership meeting only a few feet from here on the West Front of the Capitol watching the television of the World Trade Center, and had tried to resume our meeting when someone burst through the door and said: The Pentagon's been hit.

We leapt to the window looking west across the Mall in the southwest direction of the Pentagon and saw the black smoke rising.

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People went their separate ways. I leapt to a telephone to try to get word to my wife because we had just moved into an apartment overlooking the southwest corner of the Pentagon.

That day I remember so vividly seeing the Constitution at work, because as I came back into the room and saw the people pouring out of the majority leader's office, under the orders of the Capitol Police to get out of the building, evacuate immediately, I saw the security people of the Capitol Police take TOM in a different direction to an undisclosed location where he, along with the rest of the congressional leadership, was to be sequestered as a protection of this constitutional government and its continuity.

TOM grew a lot in those ensuing days. That was in the morning, sometime right after 10 on September 11. I remember that evening, as dark fell, Members of the House and the Senate of all parties on the East Front steps of the U.S. Capitol holding hands and singing "God Bless America" to demonstrate in what little way we could that those who sought to strike us down were going to see the resolve and the unity of the Government of the United States.

I could keep going on about TOM, but we heard his comments today. Of course it is with a heavy heart that we see TOM leave this Chamber. It is under circumstances that I hope we never see replicated.

There has to be civility in this body. There has to be a mutual respect. There has to be a respect for the truth. There has to be respect for the dignity of individuals and their families. Have we lost our compass? Have we lost our anchor? Have we lost our sense of human beings?

This Senator can do something about that, as I have tried in the past, by the way I conduct myself with regard to my relationship to other Senators in wanting to treat others as I would like to be treated. Now that the fractiousness and the divisiveness of this highly partisan, highly ideological, rigid time of debate is behind us, it is my hope this Senate can start to come together for the good of the people, even as we approach another election time. It is for the sake of the Nation that we must do this. * * *

So for all of these names I have mentioned, in the great poem "Ulysses," he says, "I am a part of all that I have met," and I am a part of all these great Senators. I am much richer for it and for having been their friend.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in these final working days of the 108th Congress, as so many speakers before me have

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said, we are saying farewell to a number of our retiring colleagues. I intend to speak about a couple of them this evening and will have more to say about some of the others tomorrow.

A most painful farewell will be to my good friend Senator TOM DASCHLE. I do not know that I have heard a more heartfelt, soul-searching, and inspirational speech about what a Senator should be, ought to be, and must be than the speech given by our great leader Senator DASCHLE earlier this evening.

As I sat and listened to that speech, especially when he talked about Dick Reiners, my mind went back to 1978 when I was just a second-term Congressman from the State of Iowa and I was asked to go campaign in South Dakota for this young guy running for the House whose name was TOM DASCHLE. His former employer, Senator Jim Abourezk, came to Iowa to campaign for me and asked me to reciprocate. Because I had been active in some farm issues and agricultural issues, he asked me to campaign in South Dakota, and I did.

I struck up a friendship with TOM DASCHLE at that point that endures to this day and will endure forever. So I would go out and campaign for him and then he would come and campaign for me and I would campaign and we would go back and forth from Iowa to South Dakota. Of course, we shared a common border up at Sioux City. Much of Sioux Falls's television comes into Iowa. Much of Sioux City's goes into South Dakota. So we have shared kind of a common area there of constituents, constituencies over all these years.

So it is a painful farewell to my good friend TOM DASCHLE. These days, there are fewer and fewer bipartisan agreements in this body. But I sense today that there was bipartisan agreement about TOM DASCHLE. We respect his decency, his fairness, his courage and leadership, his extraordinary capacity for hard work. I cannot imagine a more difficult job in the Senate than being leader of the Democratic caucus. We have all heard Will Rogers's quip that he belonged to no organized party, he was a Democrat.

Those independent, hard-headed habits flourish within our caucus. For the last decade, TOM DASCHLE's amazing skills and unlimited patience have brought us together as a team. That is an accomplishment of which he can be very proud.

The President of the United States, it is said, has the persuasion of power. But the leader of our Senate Democratic caucus has only the power of persuasion. I cannot imagine

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anyone more persuasive than Senator TOM DASCHLE. He has always been willing to talk with us, accommodate us whenever possible, to do whatever it takes, however long it takes, to forge a consensus and move us ahead. We are grateful. I am grateful for his leadership, his diligence, for his grace that he has unfailingly brought to this job as our leader. I cannot emphasize enough this fairness and this underlying grace of this wonderful human being. Unfailingly fair to all.

When Democrats were in the majority, Majority Leader DASCHLE was respectful of the rights and the prerogatives of our Republican minority. Conversely, as our minority leader, he has steadfastly defended the rights and the prerogatives of the Democratic minority. In the heat of a partisan campaign, some have labeled this “obstructionism,” but that characterization is incorrect. The duty of the opposition party is to present compelling alternatives, and to do so fairly, forthrightly, and within the rules of the Senate. The duty of the leader of our opposition is to protect the rights of the minority so that our voice and our votes can be heard; so that we can speak out and offer a different way, a different path. That is our duty as opposition. Senator DASCHLE protected the rights of the minority, so important in our country, not just in the Senate, but important for us as a country.

If there is one thing that is pervasive in our Constitution and our Bill of Rights, it is just that; it is the protection of the minority so the minority can be heard. That is so the minority’s voice and votes will be counted. That is exactly what Senator DASCHLE has done. There is not one hint of obstructionism. What he has done is to protect and enhance the rights of the minority, and he did it with skill and persistence, with fairness and with grace.

Over all these years of service with TOM DASCHLE in the House and in the Senate, I have always respected how he fought and advocated for his constituents in South Dakota. No one has fought harder in the House and in the Senate for the revitalization of rural America than TOM DASCHLE. No one has fought harder to bring health care and good schools and economic opportunity to Indian country. No one has fought harder to increase the income of family farmers and give them a fair shake in the marketplace.

Another jewel in the crown of TOM DASCHLE’s legacy is the emerging ethanol industry in the United States. Since TOM arrived in Congress in 1978, he has been a relentless champion of ethanol. He mentioned that in his farewell speech today. I know he was a relentless champion because I was

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there, too, during those early years. People said those of us who were advocating the expanded use of ethanol didn't have a chance against big oil. But Senator DASCHLE persevered. He used the 1990 Clean Air Act to put in place policies that gave birth to the ethanol industry in our country. He continued to promote tax incentives and a renewable fuel standard to advance ethanol and to move our country toward energy independence.

No doubt about it, Senator DASCHLE's leadership on ethanol brought us to where we are today in the production of this renewable and clean fuel in America. His leadership on ethanol will be greatly missed in the future.

It has been a privilege to serve in this body with TOM DASCHLE. I will miss him as a colleague. I will miss his leadership, that fairness, that gentleness of nature, but that steely determination to make sure that our views and our votes were counted; that steely determination to make sure that people who live in small towns in rural America are not forgotten, that their interests are protected here. I will miss him as a friend. Oh, I am not going to lose contact with TOM and Linda. My wife and I will continue to count them as good friends. But I will miss him as a friend here in the Senate.

As TOM DASCHLE said today, he has always been an optimist. I have never known TOM DASCHLE to ever utter a pessimistic word. For him the sunrise was always better than the sunset. So the Sun rises on a new chapter in TOM DASCHLE's life. That Sun is going to be bright. It is going to be bright because of who TOM DASCHLE is, what he is. So there are going to be some new days and important chapters ahead written in the life of TOM DASCHLE. Both Ruth and I wish TOM and Linda and his family the very best in the years ahead.

We will continue to look forward to his input into the political life of America and into the common wheel that binds us as a country.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in saying thank you to a great Senator, a great American, a wonderful leader, and a dear friend, Senator TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota. In Hawaiian we say, *mahalo nui loa*. "Mahalo" means thank you; "nui" means large; and "loa" means wide. It is used to convey profound and deep gratitude. I want to say *mahalo nui loa* to TOM DASCHLE for his

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great service to our country and to the Senate as an institution.

During his 26 years in the House and Senate, TOM DASCHLE has epitomized the ideal that we can disagree without being disagreeable. His prairie optimism and can-do attitude served his constituents well and served our Democratic caucus well.

I have always marveled at the fact that despite his responsibilities as majority leader and Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE always kept the needs and interests of South Dakotans as his top priority. He never lost sight of the people back home. Perhaps that is best reflected by his annual “unscheduled driving” tour, when he drives across his home State, visiting every county, with no staff and no schedule, just TOM, stopping to visit his constituents and hear what is on their minds.

As Senator DASCHLE has said, these visits remind him of where he came from, and why he came to Washington—to put the priorities of America first. For that, and for so much more, I say *mahalo nui loa*, TOM DASCHLE. Godspeed. God bless TOM and his wife Linda.

This comes from me and my wife Millie. *Aloha*.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I know the hour is getting late and others want to be heard, but I briefly want to express some thoughts about our colleagues who are leaving this wonderful body. Today we have heard some very compelling speeches, particularly the one given by my good friend, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota, our Democratic leader.

I was pleased to see so many of our colleagues remain on the floor to listen to the departing Democratic leader. The words he expressed about his State, his staff, his colleagues, his feelings about the country, and the future, are instructive. I know it can sound repetitive when people hear us talk about our colleagues this way, but I think it is important for the public to note that while they might hear only about the bickering, the part that you do not often see is the deep respect, affection, and caring that goes on among the Members of this body. This affection comes despite the differences that exist in red States and blue States, or being strongly conservative or strongly liberal.

There is this weaving of a common denominator through each and every one of us, particularly after years of common service in this remarkable institution we call the Senate. There is a deep and abiding respect for those who have come

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here, those who have served here, those who have tried to make a difference for our country.

It may seem like it is inside discussion, but I hope the public understands how deeply felt these comments are about colleagues who will no longer have the pleasure of spending each and every day in this Chamber, but whose friendship and collegiality will continue in the years ahead as we encounter each other in different walks of life. * * *

Mr. President, I want to share a few thoughts about our Democratic leader.

I mentioned at the outset of these remarks that I was so deeply moved and impressed today by the words of TOM DASCHLE. I hope all of our colleagues, if they were not here, will read his remarks. It was about as good a speech as I have heard given in this body in a long time. It laid out some pretty important standards for all of us to keep in mind, particularly those of us serving here—the notion of hope that he talked about; the notion of not forgetting where you come from no matter how important you think you are at any given moment; to remember your staff; to remember the people who helped make us successful and who deserve great credit for their tireless contributions; remembering people who work in the Senate, arrive here in the wee hours of the morning to make these buildings operate; and remembering his constituents and his family. It was as eloquent a farewell address as you are ever going to hear in the Senate.

TOM DASCHLE, of course, has served with me in the Senate since 1987. He has served as Democratic leader for the past decade. He has been a very able leader and spokesman for our party and our beliefs on the Senate floor or on national news programs.

Anyone who has observed TOM DASCHLE over these past 18 years knows he is generally not one to raise his voice. But beneath his gentle demeanor and soft tone and human decency is a fierce determination to do what is right for both his constituents in South Dakota and the American people. His service to the people of South Dakota has been outstanding.

I noted earlier that Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland quoted some editorials from newspapers of South Dakota talking about his service to their State over these past 26 years in the House and the Senate.

As a Senator from our Nation's third smallest State in terms of area, I am somewhat spoiled by the ease with which I am able to meet with my constituents. TOM, on the other

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hand, has represented a State of over 77,000 square miles, smaller I might add than the State of the Presiding Officer of Montana, but nonetheless daunting if you come from a State such as Connecticut which is so much smaller. You have counties in your State of Montana which are larger, I think, than the State of Connecticut.

Each year TOM set aside time to drive to each of the 66 counties in the State alone in his car with no staff, just arriving in town, seeing people and talking to them regardless of the lofty position he held here on the Democrat side of the aisle. He always took that time out each year to go back to reconnect with the roots of South Dakota and to meet with his people at home. That is one of the reasons why he never was confused by the title of "leader." He was always very firmly planted on the ground and why he would fight as leader not only for our national issues but for State issues.

He was completely understanding of other Senators who would come to him and talk about the needs in their own States. Because he was so rooted in understanding of his own constituent needs, he was deeply sympathetic to other Senators as they lobbied on behalf of matters that were important to their constituencies.

He championed legislation to provide disaster relief for farmers, expand health care services in rural areas, expand health care to Native Americans, and the list goes on.

In his role as Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE has stood for the values that are the bedrock of our Nation, such as a strong middle class, a foreign policy that keeps America strong by working with our allies, fiscally responsible economic policies that invest in critical national priorities such as jobs, education, and health care.

During President Clinton's term he helped advance the agenda that created over 22 million new jobs in our Nation, the longest period of economic expansion in American history.

Over the past 4 years, he has led our party's efforts to return to more responsible policies that can make our Nation stronger both at home and abroad.

On a personal level, I will miss TOM DASCHLE very much. I am the individual who lost to him by one vote 10 years ago. I remember that day very well as we competed to become Democratic leader. Many people assume when anyone goes through a battle like that, an intense battle of some 24 days, that it may cause a permanent divide in a relationship. We quickly got over that. I certainly did, and TOM did. He

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reached out to me directly, invited me to be part of a circle that would help shape positions within our party. He is a gracious human being. We have become very good friends, and we will retain that friendship.

I would be far less than candid with my colleagues or my constituents if I didn't tell you I will miss this man very much. He is as decent a human being as I have ever known in my life, in public or in private life. He is a good, good man. Whatever he does, he will bring great integrity, great honor, and great decency to any endeavor that he becomes involved in.

I look forward to many years of good friendship with him and Linda. I wish he and his family the very best in the years to come.

I apologize for taking this extra time. It is important that the public hear Members talk about each other, even those who disagreed on matters, that they understand why this institution works more than 230 years after the Founders created it.

I, as a Senator from Connecticut, take unique pride in the Senate because it was Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, both of Connecticut, who offered at the Constitutional Convention the idea of the Senate representing small and large States. Arguing over a unicameral system, Sherman and Ellsworth said, how about having a second body with equal representation, regardless of the size or the population of the State. As a result, this institution was created. It has been a great place that has served our Nation for so long and I am confident it will in the future.

We have been blessed by the participation of those who are leaving. All of us wish each and every one of them the very best in the years to come.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator Dodd for his comments. My relationship and experience with TOM DASCHLE was a man who was a straight shooter. Every time I asked him something, I got a legitimate answer. If he committed to do something to help me, he did it. He was a gentleman at all times. We never had a harsh word. We may disagree—and we did disagree over policies, we all did—and debated and argued and fussed, as we do in this Senate, but there is something special about this body.

Senator Dodd, a son of a Senator himself, has deep connections and many years here and understands it better than most. It is important that we recognize the humanity, the skill, the dedication of each Member of the body, whether we

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agree politically, whether we are in the same party, and we recognize that.

Senator Dodd, thank you for the comments. It means a lot to the body, as does your leadership.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I congratulate the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, Mr. DASCHLE, on his remarkable career in the U.S. Senate.

Soon after he was elected to the Senate, in 1986, my wife, Rose, and I had the pleasure of taking a trip to Russia with TOM and his wife, Linda. We thoroughly enjoyed their company; and, in spite of the difference in party affiliation, I have had a feeling of respect and appreciation for the Democratic leader ever since.

We have served together on the Agriculture Committee and worked to help farmers solve their problems. I have admired his dedication to the Senate and his intensity of motivation as the opposition leader. He has been a very effective leader, and I wish him and Linda much happiness and satisfaction in the years ahead.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Senator TOM DASCHLE, who has served South Dakota, and the Senate, with dignity and devotion during his tenure in this body.

I am proud to have worked with him on a wide range of issues over the years, but perhaps most of all I thank him for his work and leadership to reform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This is a fight that will go forward in the next Congress, where we will build on Senator DASCHLE's hard work and commitment to this important issue.

I also want to take a moment to recognize Senator DASCHLE's leadership, as both majority and minority leader here in the Senate. He has led the Democratic caucus, and the Senate as a whole, through a time of great change and many difficult challenges: through a closely divided Senate, through the tragedy of 9/11, and through the anthrax attack on the Senate, which so personally affected both of our offices. Through all of this, Senator DASCHLE has inspired us with his dedication and ability to work through tough problems, to guide the policies of our party, and to provide steady leadership when we needed it most.

Finally, I also want to extend my thanks to many of Senator DASCHLE's staff, who were especially helpful to my office over the past 12 years, and in particular, were so thoughtful and generous with their time in the wake of the anthrax at-

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tack on our offices. It is often the case that a Senator's staff reflects the personality of the Senator for whom they work, and I believe that is certainly the case with Senator DASCHLE and his staff.

I thank TOM DASCHLE for his leadership and his service to South Dakota and our country, and I wish him all the best as he moves on to begin a new chapter in his distinguished career.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I honor the long and dedicated service that TOM DASCHLE has given to our country. He has been a true leader throughout his life in public service, and South Dakota and the entire Nation are better off because of his efforts.

For 29 years, South Dakota has been fortunate to have TOM DASCHLE represent their interests—first as a Senate staffer, then as a Member of the House of Representatives, and finally as a U.S. Senator. He has worked tirelessly to make sure that the people of South Dakota have a strong economy, access to quality, affordable health care, and the highest quality education system. He has worked with unflinching determination to enhance the quality of life in rural communities across South Dakota and the Nation. Throughout his service, TOM has always kept the interests of his State and his constituents as his top priority.

TOM DASCHLE has been a wonderful leader for South Dakota, for the Democratic Party, and for all Americans. I deeply respect and applaud his lifelong commitment to public service, and his leadership and his friendship will be missed by many in the Senate. I know he moves on to the next phase of his career as a happy and wise man who will continue to make important contributions to our country long after he leaves the Senate. He is a true patriot who has always served and will always serve his country. I want to thank TOM for his dedication and his service, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to some of my colleagues who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

I particularly want to pay tribute to a great Senator, someone whom I am proud to call a friend, our leader, TOM DASCHLE.

Senator DASCHLE is truly one of the giants in the history of the U.S. Senate and it has been a privilege to serve with him for the last 4 years.

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TOM DASCHLE has given his entire life to public service. After serving in the Air Force, he came to Washington to work for South Dakota Senator James Abourezk. A few years later, he won election to the House and later won three terms in the Senate.

Senator DASCHLE has been through some tough elections and tough battles on the floor of this Senate. But he has always conducted himself with grace, integrity and respect for his opponents. He has been a leader in the Senate on health care, veterans benefits, ethanol, agriculture and rural development and has fought hard for the people of South Dakota.

He is known all over South Dakota for his down-to-earth manner and the personal relationships he has with his constituents.

Every year, TOM DASCHLE would go on a driving tour of all 66 counties in South Dakota, stopping in at diners, bowling alleys, Elks clubs and feed stores. He would talk to his constituents on a one-on-one basis and really feel the pulse of different communities.

Therefore, when he debated an issue here on the Senate floor, he knew first-hand what his constituents thought. He represented them well, the way our Founding Fathers would have envisioned a model Senator.

He was also a great leader. He worked with all members of our caucus and did the hard work to develop a consensus on many difficult issues. And he was always willing to listen.

TOM DASCHLE would work across the aisle to get things done for his State and the country. I remember how he rose to the occasion after September 11 and worked hand in hand with President Bush to protect our country, rebuild New York and keep the airlines from going bankrupt.

If you were trying to get something done here in the Senate, you always wanted TOM DASCHLE on your side.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor our departing colleagues who are leaving the Senate. At almost each new Congress a different group of 100 men and women comes together from different backgrounds and political philosophies, representing different interests and constituencies, but through all our differences, we develop respect and admiration for each other. Many times we step across the aisle and work together on legislation and oftentimes genuine friendships are created. As I pay tribute to these departing Senators, whether they have been here one term or seven, they are a remarkable group and we thank them for their honorable service. * * *

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I would like to pay tribute to a respected colleague who is leaving the Senate after a long and distinguished career. Senator TOM DASCHLE worked hard for 8 years as a Member of the House of Representatives and for 18 years as a U.S. Senator, to represent the interests of voters across the State of South Dakota.

As the leader of his party for the past 10 years, Senator DASCHLE has proven himself to be a capable legislator and moreover, an advocate for his State's and party's interests. During the 108th Congress, Senator DASCHLE served on three committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Finance; and Rules and Administration; and today he serves as the senior Senator and the Democratic leader of the Senate.

Influenced by his formative experiences during the Vietnam war as an intelligence officer in the Air Force, Senator DASCHLE worked hard to serve the interests of veterans across this great country. His most notable achievement in this field was the enactment of legislation securing benefits for those soldiers exposed to Agent Orange.

During his tenure, Senator DASCHLE also developed a reputation for being a shrewd legislator on issues related to agriculture and South Dakota's farming community. He was always apprised of even the most minute issues at stake and thus ensured that all of his constituents were represented at the negotiating table.

Senator DASCHLE fought tirelessly for his beliefs throughout his time in the Senate. I wish Senator DASCHLE and his family the very best in the years ahead.

SATURDAY, *November 20, 2004*

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise to say good-bye to several of my colleagues, dear friends and colleagues with whom I have had the pleasure to work in the Senate. * * *

I wish Senator TOM DASCHLE well as he moves on to new challenges. As his party's leader in the Senate he was smart and determined. TOM is an exemplar of the American story. He grew up as the eldest of four brothers and became the first in his family to graduate from college, with a political science degree from South Dakota State University.

He then served 3 years as an intelligence officer for the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command.

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He secured a job as an aide to South Dakota Senator James Abourezk. From there, he rose to the highest job in the Senate, Senate majority leader.

TOM DASCHLE married Linda Hall and they are the parents of three children. He is proof that hard-working Americans can make a difference.

Madam President, I will miss all of my colleagues. As we take the opportunity to go forward in a new Congress, we will make new friends, but we will never forget the old ones.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I want to share my views, as did Senator Hutchison and others, about our colleagues who are leaving for new adventures in life.

I wish all the best to Senator Hollings. We will miss his booming voice. We will miss Senator Edwards, Senator Graham of Florida, and Senator DASCHLE. We will also miss John Breaux, a man we know will enjoy life with his good common sense and sense of humor. He is a good friend.

Mr. REID. There is no way I can, on the Senate floor in the few minutes I am going to take, convey to my colleagues and the people within the sound of my voice the feelings I have about TOM DASCHLE. He and I came to the Senate together 18 years ago. We served in the House of Representatives before that. The last 6 years we have worked together daily. There may be a day or two that went by without our talking but they were rare. We spoke even during the time we were on break. We have virtually been together every day. The only time we really did not spend a lot of time communicating is when he was in South Dakota and I was in Searchlight. Our BlackBerrys would not work. My BlackBerry now works in Searchlight. His still does not work in South Dakota.

TOM's legislative record is certainly there. It is apparent. He has done wonderful things for the State of South Dakota and this country. I could, but it is really unnecessary, explain what he has done for the farmers, the environment, the military, including the veterans, but what I can try in a very inadequate way is to express to him, through this manner, the things I have tried to say personally to him in the last couple of weeks, and that is express my appreciation to him for the opportunities he has given me.

TOM DASCHLE is a totally unselfish person. I can remember about 6 years ago when I was selected by my peers to be assistant leader I went to Senator DASCHLE and said:

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What is this job going to be? He said: Whatever you make it.

I took him at his word, and this job is what I thought the assistant leader or the whip should be. I could never have done what I have done and had the good fortune of being in the places I have been and had the freedom to do things on this Senate floor but for the support and authorization of Senator DASCHLE.

I do not think I have ever raised my voice to Senator DASCHLE. We both grew up with three brothers. We are the first to really go to school of any depth in our families. I have learned a lot from Senator DASCHLE.

As I have told everyone, I am not TOM DASCHLE and I am going to be a different kind of person in the new duties I have beginning at the first of the year.

I told TOM DASCHLE earlier this week that earlier this year I lost my best friend. His name was Mike O'Callaghan. He was someone who taught me in high school. He taught me how to fight in the ring and in other places. When I went to law school, he helped me. He was a disabled Korean veteran but he gave me part of his pension money to help me through tough times in school. I was allowed to take the bar before I graduated from law school. I was married and had two children, was desperate for money. I came back to Reno and there was Michael O'Callaghan. That was in the fall of 1963. He gave me a \$50 bill. I had never seen one before but he gave that to me. He knew I was desperate for money.

Then I held a few offices, and as a very young man I ran for Lieutenant Governor. People kind of thought I was going to win that. He moved back from California to Nevada to run for Governor because there was no Democrat to run sitting for Lieutenant Governor. They knew O'Callaghan had no chance, but he did. He became the Governor of the State of Nevada.

I am trying to paint a picture for this man and how close he was to me. He was so good to me, able to give me advice and counsel. He told me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear, and I did not make a decision important in nature unless I discussed it with my friend Mike O'Callaghan.

He went to church early one morning this summer and died. It was a very painless death. He went to church every day. He was a devoutly religious man, and somebody whom I have missed more than words can describe.

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I told my friend TOM in his office a day or two ago that he was now my Mike O'Callaghan, that I have somebody I will call just as I did my friend Mike, that I will call him often. He said: That is fine. You could not call me too many times.

So TOM DASCHLE and I have developed a relationship that can best be described as two brothers. I have three brothers, one of whom is dead. So TOM replaces my brother Dale. I will call TOM and I will talk to him when I feel it necessary, knowing he will continue to give the advice and counsel to me that he has for the last 6 years.

There are additional things I would like to say, but I will suffice to say that for the 22 years I have known TOM DASCHLE, which has culminated in the 6 years of intense personal contact where we have dealt with the problems of the country and the world in great depth, that there will never be an opportunity and an experience like that again. I am grateful to TOM and to his wonderful wife Linda for their friendship and TOM's service to our country.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful for this opportunity to say a few words about our friend and colleague, the distinguished minority leader, Senator TOM DASCHLE.

TOM's commitment to public service, on behalf of the people of South Dakota and America, is an example I hope more citizens will follow. He served here as a Senate staff member before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1978. South Dakota is one of just seven States with a single House member, which required TOM to run a statewide race. That was familiar territory for him when he ran for and won his Senate seat in 1986. TOM is one of 49 Senators who previously served in the other body, experience which I believe enhances their service here and makes the Senate more effective in serving all Americans.

Yesterday, our colleague Senator Durbin said that it is hard to imagine the Senate without TOM DASCHLE. Some might merit that compliment because of the sheer length of their tenure. TOM merits it because of the presence he quickly established, both as a Member and as a leader in this body. He was only 2 years into a second term when his fellow Democrats elected him their leader by just one vote. Only Lyndon Johnson became his party's leader more quickly.

TOM's 10 years as Democratic leader included periods as both majority and minority leader. Those positions, especially in a narrowly divided Chamber, are each very chal-

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lenging and each very different. TOM served in each post with class and determination, unifying his caucus and working to achieve their agenda. Needless to say, we have not agreed on every element of that agenda. But in this political world, it is really a compliment to say that TOM effectively and skillfully used whatever tools were available to fight for what he believed and for what his caucus wanted to achieve. Even when we were at loggerheads, when it seemed like the irresistible force was meeting the immovable object, civility has always marked TOM DASCHLE's presence in this body, as a Senator and as a leader.

I was gratified to hear Senator DASCHLE's comments on this floor yesterday and a few things really stood out. First, I was struck by the fact that his number in the chronological list of U.S. Senators is 1776. TOM offered the valuable reflection that he is, as we all are, part of the broad sweep of American history, from the American revolution to the 108th Congress and into the future.

Second, TOM asked a very important question, whether our power comes just from military might or also from wisdom, compassion, tolerance, and willingness to cooperate. Everyone who serves in this body should maintain that perspective.

Third, TOM spoke of what he called the politics of the common ground. Individual Senators, as well as the two political parties, have certain bottom-line issues, certain fundamental principles or positions on which they just find little room to give. But on others, and I sometimes wonder whether this list is longer than we might think, we must practice the politics of common ground. Reminding us of that was, by itself, an act of leadership by the minority leader.

And finally, he told us of a note he wrote on one of his famous unscheduled driving trips across his State. He wrote, "Everything was worth doing." Each of us who has worked alongside TOM DASCHLE, whether on the same or opposing sides, knows that this is his approach to, and attitude about, public service. That sets a good example for us all.

Mr. McCONNELL. We cannot conclude the 108th Congress without a sense of sadness. There are many—in fact there are too many—great Senators who are leaving this institution. I have already had an opportunity to express my goodbyes to Senator Nickles, Senator Campbell, and Senator Fitzgerald.

I also wish a happy and healthy future to our colleagues across the aisle, Senator DASCHLE, Senator Breaux, Senator

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Hollings, Senator Bob Graham, Senator John Edwards, and Senator Zell Miller. Each of these men has made a lasting contribution to this marvelous institution.

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