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TRIBUTES TO HON. ZELL MILLER

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Zell Miller

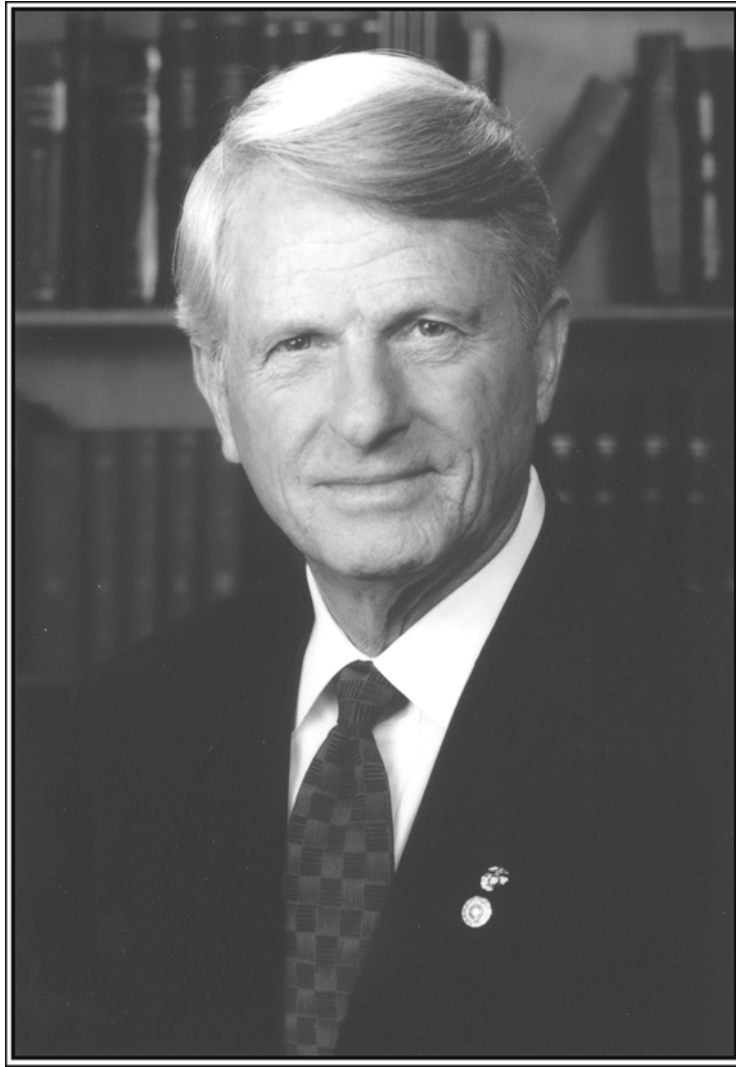
U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Zell Miller

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S. Doc. 108-27

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Zell Miller
United States Senator
2000-2005



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of the
Joint Committee on Printing
Trent Lott, Chairman*

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Biography

After serving two terms as one of the Nation's most popular Governors, ZELL MILLER was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and quickly established himself as a strong voice for the conservative, commonsense approach to issues. Though he is a lifelong Democrat, MILLER kept his pledge to serve all 8.5 million Georgians and no single party in the Senate. He chides the National Democratic Party for putting partisanship ahead of the people in his best-selling book, *A National Party No More: The Conscience of a Conservative Democrat*. In the Senate, MILLER regularly reached across the aisle to work with Republicans to cut taxes, improve education, confirm the President's nominees, and strengthen national security by giving the Commander in Chief his full support in Iraq and in the global war on terrorism.

MILLER also introduced legislation to crack down on illegal aliens, to strengthen the Montgomery GI Bill for soldiers, to demand more accountability from CEOs, to improve conditions in the Southern Black Belt and to significantly increase FCC fines for indecent broadcasts. MILLER also focused on Georgia's top industry—agriculture—through his membership on the Senate Agriculture Committee and through working with fellow Southeastern Senators to improve conditions for Georgia farmers. MILLER also served on the Banking and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

The native Georgian served in elective office in six different decades, beginning with mayor of his hometown of Young Harris, GA, in the late fifties. When he was elected to the U.S. Senate to serve the remaining 4 years of the late Senator Paul Coverdell's term, MILLER became only the third Georgian—following Richard B. Russell and Herman Talmadge—to be elected as both Governor and Senator. As Governor of Georgia from 1991 to 1999, MILLER gained national prominence for passing the Nation's first two-strikes-and-you're-out law against violent felons, for starting the Nation's only voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds and for creating the nationally acclaimed HOPE scholarship, which has transformed education in Georgia and which many other States have sought to duplicate.

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The *Washington Post* in 1998 called MILLER the most popular Governor in America, and *Governing Magazine* named him Governor of the Year in 1998. His program was dubbed by the *Los Angeles Times* as “the most far-reaching scholarship program in the nation,” and his pre-kindergarten program won an award for innovation from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Throughout his career, Senator MILLER has credited two major influences for his success: his strong mother and the U.S. Marine Corps. Born February 24, 1932, in Young Harris, GA, MILLER followed his parents’ footsteps into the teaching profession and into politics. He was raised by his single mother after his father died when MILLER was only 17 days old. MILLER gets his work ethic and his appreciation for the arts from his mother, Birdie Miller, an art teacher and one of Georgia’s first female mayors. She hauled stones from a mountain creek to build the family home that MILLER still lives in today. Though he never knew his father, Stephen Grady Miller, Senator MILLER followed in his father’s footsteps by becoming a University of Georgia graduate, a history professor at Young Harris College and a State senator.

MILLER’s passions are history, baseball and music. He is a walking baseball encyclopedia who is equally at home at the Grand Ole Opry or Symphony Hall. He has written six books, including *Corps Values: Everything You Need To Know I Learned in the Marines*. MILLER has been married to Shirley Carver Miller since 1954. They have two sons, Murphy and Matthew, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He also has two yellow Labs, Gus and Woodrow, named after characters in one of his favorite books, *Lonesome Dove*.

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Farewell

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I have listened with a grateful heart to the generous words of my colleagues, the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McConnell] and earlier this morning the Senator from Alabama [Mr. Sessions]. I will remember and cherish those words as long as I am on this Earth. I thank each of them for their friendship.

I see my good friend from Montana [Mr. Burns] on the floor. I thank him, a fellow marine, for his friendship.

This means more to me than I have words to express. I did not come to this Senate expecting events to unfold as they have. I guess I am living proof that politics is not an exact science.

In Shakespeare's "Hamlet," his friend Laertes went off to college and his father Polonius gave him the usual advice that you give when your sons go off to college. After all the words of caution that I hope fathers still give their sons, Polonius ended with these words:

This above all: to thine ownself be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

I have always believed that and I have tried to live that.

I have had a most blessed personal life—personal and political. Since 1959, voters in Georgia have been putting me in one office or another, and I am deeply grateful to them.

God has richly blessed my personal life. My wife Shirley has been the perfect partner for over 50 years. She has been my companion, my critic, my crutch. We have two wonderful sons, Murphy and Matthew, and our daughters-in-law and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. We are very blessed.

If he had lived, Paul Coverdell would be ending his second 6-year term. As I told some of my colleagues last night, not a day has gone by since I have been here that I have not thought of this good man who left us so suddenly and so tragically.

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My most fervent hope during these 4½ years has been that Paul would be pleased with the way I have served and finished out his term. I know Paul is pleased, as I am, that our mutual friend Johnny Isakson, one of the finest public servants I have ever known, will soon be our successor in this great body.

I also wish to say what an honor it has been to serve the last 2 years with my colleague from Georgia, Senator Saxby Chambliss.

Now as this page turns on the final chapter of my career as a public servant, I cannot help but remember how it was in that first chapter of my life. Growing up in a remote Appalachian valley, we lived in a house made of rocks my mother gathered from a nearby creek with only an open fireplace for heat, no indoor plumbing, no car, no phone, and no father.

On summer nights before the TVA dammed up the Hiwassee River and brought electricity to that Appalachian valley, after the Moon had come up over the mountain, the lightning bugs were blinking, while the frogs croaked down at the creek and the katydids sang, every once in a while a whippoorwill's lonesome cry could be heard.

I remember after my mother had finally quit working and was getting us quiet and ready to go to bed, we would play a game. The game would start when the headlights of that rare car would penetrate the darkness, maybe once every half hour or so on that narrow strip of asphalt across a big ditch in front of our house. We would stare at the headlights of the car as it made its way around the steep curves and finally over Brasstown Mountain. We would count and see how long it took from the time it went by our house until its taillights would disappear through that distant gap and was no longer a part of that one and only world I knew.

It was often at this time my mother would laugh and say, "You know what's so great about this place? You can get anywhere in the world from here."

That world has turned many times since I first traveled that narrow road through that gap and out of that valley. It has been a long road with many twists and turns, ups and downs, bumps, and, yes, a few wrecks, a road that twice carried me to the highest office of the ninth largest State in this Nation, to all the continents and famous cities of the world and, finally, to the Senate.

So I leave this Senate, knowing that once again my mother has been proved right. One could get anywhere in the world

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from that little mountain valley and back again. Everywhere I have ever been really was on my way back home.

I thank all of you. I thank my family. I thank my very special staff that has stayed with me through thick and thin. I thank my friends and especially my God. It has been one heck of a ride.

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TRIBUTES
TO
ZELL MILLER

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Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *November 18, 2004*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a very special friend of mine and a friend of Georgia's and a friend of the United States of America. We are in what we think are our last couple of days of the 108th session. That being the case, this will be the last few days that Senator ZELL MILLER will be in Washington in his capacity as the senior Senator from our great State of Georgia. I want to take a minute just to talk about this man who has been such an inspiration to any number of politicians and others in my State relative to his public service to our State and to our country.

ZELL MILLER was born in a little town called Young Harris, GA, which is in the mountains of north Georgia, one of the most beautiful parts of our State. His father, unfortunately, died when he was 17 days old, so he was raised by his mother, whom he has repeatedly talked about in the books he has written as well as in his speeches. His mother Birdie was the most influential person in his life. She did a heck of a job with ZELL MILLER as a young man and remained an inspiration to him throughout his adult life, and particularly in his life as a public servant to our State.

ZELL did one of the best things any man can do; and that is, he married way over his head early in his life. He married his sweetheart, Shirley. Before he went into the Marine Corps, he tells the story about leaving for boot camp and he was afraid when he got back she might not marry him, so while they were in the mood they ran over to South Carolina, which is not far away from his hometown of Young Harris, and got married; and they have had decades of glorious years together. They have two wonderful sons and four grandchildren and now four great-grandchildren whom the two of them have enjoyed. Now he will have even more of an opportunity to spend time with them and enjoy them even more.

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ZELL entered the Marine Corps at an early age. Again, as he has repeatedly said in his books, as well as in his speeches, it is the best thing he ever did in his life from the standpoint of straightening him out. All of us go through difficult times in our early years, and there are specific instances that make us what we are and sort of chart the course for where we are going to be in future years. ZELL has been very open about the fact that the Marine Corps is the institution that really put his mind in the right frame that it needed to be for his adult years.

ZELL began his educational career at Young Harris College following his tenure in the Marine Corps, and then ultimately graduated from the University of Georgia, which happens to be the same institution of which I graduated. Again, having a colleague such as ZELL to look to as a fellow alumnus is a great privilege.

ZELL then began a teaching career, and also very shortly entered a public service career. He served two terms as a State senator from his home county area of Young Harris. I think that was the foundation for what was going to ultimately become an outstanding career for him in public service. Like all of us, he suffered defeat as well as victory. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives twice. Having run for Congress myself, and lost the first time, I know it is not much fun, but you also find out it is the greatest experience of your life. You meet the nicest people in the world, and you get a real sense of the fact that there are just literally thousands and thousands of people in that congressional district who have the same beliefs and philosophy that you do, so you want to continue to make a difference.

Even though ZELL lost those races when he ran twice, that did not deter him from continuing in public service. He served as our Lieutenant Governor for four terms, 16 years. He just did a masterful job. The Lieutenant Governor in Georgia has a little more power than some of the Lieutenant Governors in other States around the country. He presided over the State senate, and in that capacity had the obligation and the power to appoint committee chairmen and to be involved in legislation from a direct standpoint. He did an outstanding job as Lieutenant Governor.

Following those four terms, he ran for Governor and, in 1990, was elected Governor of our State for the first of his two terms. In 1990, he campaigned on the fact that if we were going to have a State lottery, he wanted to make sure

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the funds that were generated by that lottery were used for one purpose, and one purpose only, and that was to improve the quality of education in our State.

I have to say if there is any one man who is responsible for the improvement of the quality of education in my State of Georgia, it is ZELL MILLER because he not only campaigned on doing that, he made absolutely certain all the funds generated from that State lottery went to improve the quality of education.

He is the father of the HOPE scholarship. It is kind of interesting, in every campaign now, every statehouse campaign and gubernatorial and lieutenant gubernatorial race now, those folks who have been involved in State politics for a while who are running for those races all claim responsibility for the HOPE scholarship. But everybody knows that the father of the HOPE scholarship, the person who was responsible for its passage and implementation, is ZELL MILLER.

The HOPE scholarship is a provision in our law which says if you graduate from a high school in Georgia and you have a B average, you can go to any State institution that you are successful in applying to and getting into, and your tuition will be paid for. As long as you maintain a B average, that tuition will be paid for throughout your college career. It has been one of the best things we have ever had happen in our State.

We have been successful keeping our top students at home and attending our State universities. One of the main reasons is the HOPE scholarship. We have kids who might otherwise go to a school in the Northeast or the West Coast that has a much greater national reputation, but they do not give the scholarships like the HOPE scholarship to all their students who maintain those averages.

So ZELL MILLER has been primarily responsible for keeping an awful lot of the top kids graduating from our public institutions as well as our private institutions in Georgia at our State institutions. As a result of that, we have seen the average SAT scores at the University of Georgia, for example, rise every single year since the HOPE scholarship went into effect. I do not know what the exact number is for the entering class this year, but I have confidence in saying the average SAT score for the entering freshmen class at the University of Georgia this year is well in excess of 1250, probably closer to something in excess of 1300. At Georgia Tech it is higher than that. And in other institutions we

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have seen the same impact. We are simply getting the brightest and the best because of ZELL MILLER and his commitment to the people of Georgia and his commitment to increasing the quality of education in our State.

As Governor, he put into effect a voluntary pre-K program for 4-year-old kids. All of us know that the earlier we involve our children in the education process, the more likely they are to come out, at the end of the day, with a better education. It is one of the best things we ever did from the standpoint of putting our kids in touch with the school system at an early age. And it has worked.

I could go on and on talking about the things that Senator MILLER did as Governor, but I want to sum it up with two anecdotes.

First, he was committed to ensuring that the education of the children of our State improved every year he was in public service. I will never forget his last 4 years. I remember specifically because my wife was a teacher in the public school system at that point in time. We were ranked 49th out of 50 with respect to the average teacher salaries. ZELL MILLER put into place a salary increase—and he made a commitment to the teaching community and made a commitment to the legislature that they were going to have to abide by this. He was going to provide a 6-percent increase in teacher salaries every year for his last 4 years, about a 25-percent increase for teacher salaries across the board. He not only made the commitment, but he did it. We went from 49th in average teacher salaries to somewhere in the high twenties over the 4 years of ZELL MILLER's last tenure as Governor of our State.

He also made a commitment to the people of Georgia that if you elect me for 4 more years, then I am not going to be just your average Governor and put it on cruise control and go out as a popular guy—and he had every opportunity to do that.

I will never forget riding back up here on an airplane after one weekend, and I happened to sit beside ZELL. This was several years after he had left the Governor's office, but I was a Member of the House. I said: ZELL, I guess if there is anything about you, and I were to remember one thing over everything else, it is the fact that in your last 4 years you did what you thought was right, regardless of the fact that you could allow the legislature to pass whatever they wanted and you could sign it into law. A lot of the legislation were very popular bills with the people back home, but they

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simply were not the right thing to do. He would veto them. He would veto them, not because he had anything against the issue or the people promoting the bill, but it was the right thing to do. It was not in the best interest of all Georgians.

A lot of people ask me today, Why has ZELL MILLER changed? ZELL MILLER has never changed. In his heart, he believes we live in the greatest country in the world. He believes in his heart that he and I live in the greatest State in this great country. He is totally committed to doing what he thinks is right. He did it then when he vetoed a lot of popular bills, and he didn't have to do that; it would have been easy not to do that. That is why today when he speaks it is from his heart because he is doing what he thinks is right.

As he closes out his career, he and I are both mindful every day of the fact that ZELL MILLER didn't want to be here. It was not his wish that he serve in the Senate when he was asked to serve. He ran for the Senate in 1980 and was not successful. But he had no intention of coming back to the Senate. Unfortunately, Paul Coverdell, who was his very close friend and one of my political mentors, passed away in 2000, and our Democratic Governor, Roy Barnes, went to ZELL MILLER and said: Your State needs you, your country needs you, and I need you to fill the unexpired term of Paul Coverdell. So ZELL, after much thought about it, decided to leave the mountains of north Georgia and his hometown of Young Harris and go back into public service, to come to Washington. He and Shirley have been here since July 2000, when he was appointed to fill that unexpired term. He ran in 2000 and was elected to the remainder of the unexpired term. So it wasn't his desire to come back, but, as always, when he has been called upon to fill a void and to be a public servant for his State and his country, he has answered that call—not unlike when he joined the Marine Corps.

As he leaves this great institution at the end of this term in another 6 or 8 weeks, this man is going to be missed by those who have looked up to him from a political perspective. He has been a person that all of us in politics admire because he has always operated in a bipartisan way and made sure he reached across the aisle and brought Republicans into his Democratic administration when he served as Governor. Probably one of the highlights of that is the man who

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is replacing him in the Senate, my good friend Johnny Isakson, who has been a long-time Republican in our State.

In ZELL's second term as Governor, he knew that with education being a priority he needed a top-flight person to head up our State board of education. He reached out to Johnny Isakson, who was then out of politics, and brought him into his administration to chair the State board of education. Johnny did a terrific job. As a result of that, he came to the House to replace Newt Gingrich, and now he will be replacing ZELL MILLER in the Senate. That is simply the kind of guy ZELL MILLER is.

So it wasn't politics; it was what was in the best interest of our State, what could he do to continue to improve the quality of the education of our kids. He just did the right thing. It is the same as he did in supporting our Republican President. He knew it was the right thing to do. That is why he was so vocal about it. Regardless of the consequences politically, he did what in his heart he thought was the right thing to do.

So now as ZELL goes back to Young Harris, I fully expect him to stay engaged in the process. He is not the kind of guy who is going to wilt away, but he will not be as active as he has been for the last three decades. He will be sitting on his front porch with his two dogs, Gus and Woodrow, playing with his grandchildren, and enjoying his family. I am sure his mind will, at times, wander back to his times in Atlanta at the State capital, and to the days he spent in this institution, and he will have some great memories. But those of us who have had the privilege and the opportunity to serve with him are going to have even better memories.

ZELL MILLER is a great American, a great Georgian, and he is somebody all of us are going to miss in the day-to-day world of politics. But he is somebody who, when we look back and say, you know, if I charted my course the way he did, I can leave this institution with a great feeling knowing that I have done what was in the best interest of my State and in the best interest of my country. So to ZELL MILLER and to Shirley, I say thank you. Julianne and I have a great appreciation for you and a great friendship with you. We look forward to continuing that friendship. We will miss you here in the U.S. Senate. God bless you.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the late Senator Paul Coverdell was a great Senator and dear friend of many of us in this body. His untimely passing left a great hole in our

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hearts. But it also took from Georgia and from America a great leader.

At the time, none of us had any idea how we would ever manage without him. I remember when we were doing tributes to him after his death. There was great emotion on the floor of the Senate. I remember Senator Phil Gramm tearfully giving Senator Coverdell a farewell. We all felt great affection for him.

So when the Governor of Georgia, Governor Barnes, needed someone to step into Paul Coverdell's place to be the voice for Georgia, he called upon a fellow whom I had not previously met but had heard of for some time, former Governor ZELL MILLER.

Happily retired and without personal ambition for further public office, ZELL MILLER responded to the call of duty. And what a difference he has made in this body. In a time of turmoil, a time of terrorist attacks, of economic challenge, of foreign war, when America needed somebody to lead, Providence blessed America with a great Senator, ZELL MILLER.

During his short tenure here, this old marine has been critical to our efforts to obtain economic opportunity, homeland security, and national security for this Nation. I can say with total certainty that Paul Coverdell would be proud of the accomplishments of ZELL MILLER. They have been good for Georgia, and they have been good for America.

A review of every major battle this administration had in the last 4 years shows that ZELL MILLER was in the middle of each one and the linchpin to each success. ZELL MILLER was instrumental to the economic recovery our Nation now enjoys. ZELL MILLER was the key to the homeland security our Nation has attained. ZELL MILLER was one of the strongest voices to harden our Nation's resolve to fully wage the war against terrorism. On these, the most critical issues upon which history will judge this Nation, this President, and this Congress, it was ZELL MILLER whose vote and voice made the difference.

ZELL made the difference when the numbers didn't add up to victory. Like our mutual friend, Phil Gramm, apparently being outnumbered was never a cause for concern to ZELL. ZELL served in the proud line of Truman Democrats. Like Harry Truman, he called for unity during a time of war and, like Harry Truman, gave hell to anybody who played games with our national security.

Like John Kennedy, he knew that tax cuts were not just good for the economy but they were good for the take-home-

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pay of workers and their families. But from ZELL we didn't just hear the thoughts of old-school Democrats, we also re-discovered the truths of our Nation. He showed us that integrity still matters, that nation comes before party, and that thinking first of our children and grandchildren is the right and proper way to judge national policy. Any time ZELL looked for his bearings, he gazed to those fixed stars of his favorite constellation: His wife Shirley, his children, his four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. This internal compass served him well because no one could ever accuse ZELL of being confused about what he believed in and why.

So ZELL MILLER heads back to the Appalachian Mountains of north Georgia, whence he came. He returns with his wife Shirley back to the base of Double Knob Mountains, where the ravines flow to the Brasstown Creek and then the Hiawassee River and on to the Gulf of Mexico. He returns to the dirt roads he walked as a lad, where he worked with his mother, to haul stones from a nearby field to build a rock-walled house with no rafter, no subfloor, and a ladder for a staircase in the house in which he was raised.

From such modest beginnings, and such a modest man, the world is better because of his leadership. He stands as a lesson for all and for all time. Because of ZELL MILLER, I can say, be you a Senator, a college graduate, a single mother, or an elementary school student, never, never, never doubt the impact a single person with clear vision and a strong heart can make for your family, your community, your nation, and, yes, your world—not just for now but for generations to come.

So, Senator MILLER, we will miss you around here.

Mr. President, we have had the privilege over the last 4 years to serve with a truly great American who has made a difference in a body in which it is very difficult for an individual Senator to frequently make a difference. Farewell, Senator MILLER. We look forward to seeing you in the coming years.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the assistant majority leader for his fine words. I certainly agree with those about ZELL MILLER. Democracies in general, America in particular, seem blessed that in times of turmoil, leaders do step forward and give us the guidance we need. During a time of war and economic challenge, America got such a leader in ZELL MILLER. It is not too much to say that he was the key, the very hinge upon which much of the fate of the agenda of the last several years swung. For the goals of President

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Bush, from homeland security to economic growth to the war on terrorism, ZELL MILLER has been the difference between victory and defeat, the gap between almost and barely.

I think part of the willingness of Senator MILLER to step forward, break ranks, and support President Bush came because he is a man of experience and judgment and integrity. He got to know President Bush. He looked into his heart, he examined his policies, and he believed him. He had a particular belief in this man at this point in history, based on his study of history, his writing, and his experience, and he was willing to step forward in an unusual degree and take a lot of grief for it, to stand up for what he believed was right.

When President Bush proposed a tax cut to get the economy moving in 2001, and things were not going well, ZELL MILLER was the first Democrat to support that plan. He co-sponsored the bill with Phil Gramm of Texas, a great Senator. When they teamed up I thought of that slogan in the Alabama football network. Bear Bryant would have a TV show every week to talk about the game. He promoted Coca-Cola from Georgia, I guess, and Golden Flake potato chips, and the slogan was: "Great Pair Says the Bear." So when ZELL MILLER and Phil Gramm joined forces, it was indeed a great pair. When it came time to protect the homeland against terrorist attacks, it was ZELL MILLER who stood with the President in 2002 to make sure we had a department that functioned more like the Pentagon than the post office in protecting the lives of American citizens. After 4 months and 11 votes and a national election, finally it took. We passed the homeland security bill that has succeeded in keeping us safe, since 9/11, at least—a feat not many would have predicted possible at the time.

I would just say this: Senator MILLER understood the importance of that issue. I believe he called three press conferences. He urged those who were blocking the homeland security bill for some sort of internal governmental union-type politics, not on the real merits—he warned them that this was bad. It was bad for America, and it was bad politically for those who blocked it.

They didn't listen. I think they wished they had. Certainly, after the election they were quite willing to pass the bill they had been blocking before the election.

When the economy slowed down due to the attacks and the corporate scandal, and it came time to accelerate the tax cuts

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in 2003, once again it was ZELL MILLER who made the economic incentive plan the law of the land.

On the question of judges for America, ZELL MILLER had the classical view of the role of a judge consistent with his good friend, the wonderful Judge Griffin Bell, who was a court of appeals judge and also Attorney General of the United States under President Jimmy Carter. He follows that philosophy. As a matter of fact, he analyzed each nominee who came forward and I believe saw fit to support the nominees, consistently, that President Bush sent forward—not because of politics but because he believed those judges would follow the law, not make law. They would be constructionists, not activists.

Oftentimes, on each one of these issues it came down to this one man making the difference, either taking the lead or casting the key vote on those issues. He taught us once again that nation, family, faith, heritage, and principle are more important than politics and party. In this he reaffirmed the belief that government for, of, and by the people can work.

When he spoke, people listened. I will tell you why people listened. I asked him how he found time, how he did his speeches. He personally writes his speeches. It is not written by staff. It is not generated by some computer. It is not regurgitated from some document or some memorandum or some summary somewhere. It comes from his heart, his experience, his head, and his understanding of this great Republic of which we are blessed to be a part. That is why people listen to his speeches.

Most of us recall his speech in New York at the convention, where he, in Trumanesque fashion, blasted those who play games with our national defense. They squalled and thought it was hell. He was just telling the truth, I suggest.

It was clear, passionate, and powerful and helped change the course of the national debate. It changed the course of the national debate because it was true. What he said was important. It had to do with whether this Nation would have leadership committed to a strong America. He also had some very fine words right here on the floor of the Senate.

On the energy bill, he rose in “defense of that great American workhorse,” in his words, the pickup truck. He told a story of meeting a guy who was a PHD—that is a post hole digger—who said:

If you really want to know when times are bad, take notice of the number of people having to sell their pickups. Look at the ads in the paper and the

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“for sale” signs in the yards. The more you see, the worse it is because pickups are the very symbol of the working man. As the pickup goes, so does the working man and the very heart of this country.

He added:

Pickups are as essential to the carpenter as his hammer; as essential to the painter as his paintbrush. So we must leave this American workhorse, the pickup truck, alone. Don’t pick on the pickup.

Then he shared with us a tune called “Talking Pickup Truck Blues.” He spared us the agony of singing it, but he did share one verse.

Sure, an SUV is classy travel, but it ain’t much good for hauling gravel, or hay or bovine feces. So please do not make my pickup truck an endangered species.

That is not often heard on the floor of this Senate—words of eloquence that bring a smile to us all but more than that drives home a truth about real people who serve America day after day in pickup trucks.

So this man knows America. Given all the good he has done in so little time—he has given so much to it—he leaves much too soon. He has done a great job for this Nation and for Georgia in replacing the departed Paul Coverdell who we all loved and admired. He has been a great leader and a great Senator, and the Senate will miss the presence of this old marine sergeant.

I can say without contradiction I believe that few Senators in the history of this Republic have in one short term contributed so much to the health and welfare of our Nation and made such a tremendous impact on it.

It is because he put his Nation first; he stood for what we believe in. He was true to his raising.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my friend from Georgia, Senator MILLER, who preceded my remarks.

I was raised in the Midwest. We both come out of an era of rural America. It was a different life. I remember when we did not have electricity. We did not live on a gravel road. We did not have running water in the house. In fact, the water bucket froze on cold winter nights. We didn’t have the best clothes in the world. But they were clean. And I have never gone to bed hungry.

I have an idea my mother was kind of like Mrs. Miller. A home full of love on a Badlands farm made up of two rocks and one dirt, trying to hang on to it, coming out of tough times called the Depression of the dirty 1930s. It shaped a

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lot of character. It put a lot of fiber in a lot of people who went on to love this country and would serve her and our States at any cost.

The highest compliment one could pay to any person we meet in this body, comes from the West in an expression that says: We'll not say goodbye; we'll just say so long because you are welcome to sit at my fire anytime.

That is my feeling toward this old marine. I only have one disappointment, that we never did get a trip to the Pacific to visit Iwo Jima. I have been there but he never got to go. We tried every way in the world. We had a couple trips scrubbed because of business in the Senate. We never did make it, but we are not going to give up.

So we say so long to ZELL MILLER, a good friend, a good Senator, a great representative of Georgia, and a great representative of this country. * * *

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. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to make a couple of comments regarding the departure of one of our colleagues, Senator ZELL MILLER. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator MILLER for the last several years and I think the world of him. He comes from a great line of fantastic Senators from the great State of Georgia.

When I was first elected, I served with Senator Sam Nunn and Senator Mack Mattingly. Both were very good friends. Both were outstanding Senators. Senator Paul Coverdell, a very good, close friend of mine, served in the Senate for a little over a term and, unfortunately, had a very sudden illness and passed away. ZELL MILLER was appointed to take his place.

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I remember thinking at the time that Paul Coverdell was a great loss to the Senate. I believe that today. He had a great future in the Senate. He was actually elected to the Senate leadership, which was very unusual for his first term in the Senate. Paul Coverdell was one of my closest friends. I really did mourn his loss.

I did not know his replacement appointed at that time, ZELL MILLER, but I got to know him very quickly. I grew to know him, respect him, and admire him as a patriot and as a Senator. He did a fantastic job in service not only to his State of Georgia but, frankly, to this country. He made a valued, positive, and considerable impact on the Senate and, frankly, on our country. I will talk about that for a second.

I remember he was a real leader in passing the homeland security legislation. That was very tough legislation. It passed by a very narrow margin. We did that in his second year in the Senate.

He supported efforts to enact tax reform. I was chairman of the Committee on the Budget in 2003, and we passed a budget, frankly, by one vote. ZELL MILLER's vote helped make it happen. We had about 80 something amendments to the budget during consideration of the budget process. ZELL MILLER was with me on every one. He was my principal co-sponsor of that budget.

That budget enabled us to pass the tax relief later that year, the economic tax reform bill of 2003. That bill made a lot of changes, I might add, a lot of positive changes, that would not have passed had it not been for ZELL MILLER. I was honored the President asked me to sponsor it, and I was honored to ask ZELL MILLER if he would co-sponsor it with me, and he did.

We defeated a lot of amendments designed to gut the legislation, and we passed the budget. Again, we passed it with the Vice President breaking the tie. It would not have passed without ZELL MILLER's leadership, without his sponsoring the legislation.

What did that legislation do? It made a difference on every American taxpayer in this country. That legislation allowed us to have a \$1,000 tax credit per child. That legislation allowed us to expand and provide marriage penalty relief. For a couple making \$58,000, marriage penalty relief boiled down to about \$905. That passed because ZELL MILLER stood with us on that legislation.

It also allowed us to reduce the capital gains tax rate from 20 percent to 15 percent. It allowed us to say that we would

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not double tax corporate dividends, at least not as punitively as we did before. We reduced the corporate tax on dividends. Actually, the bill we passed in the Senate had zero double taxation. The bill that came out of conference was 15 percent, instead of the ordinary rates. That is a big and positive change because this country, unfortunately, taxed distributions from corporations higher than any other country. We are tied with Japan at a net effective tax rate of 70 percent.

Why would corporations distribute earnings to their owners if the government would get 70 percent? Many did not. They would accumulate earnings, hide the money, or do something different with them. We passed that legislation, and now people are paying dividends.

Microsoft announced a multibillion-dollar distribution because of that legislation. We tax it now at the individual rate, 15 percent. When we started marking up that legislation, the Dow Jones was at 7,700. Today it is over 10,500. That legislation made a difference. The legislation passed because ZELL MILLER stood with us on the floor to pass that legislation.

It is not too often you can actually say you passed legislation that made a real and positive impact. There are over 2 million jobs that have been created in the last 14 months as a result of that legislation. I believe the President signed it in June 2003. It has been almost a year and a half now, and a couple of million jobs have been created. The economy is moving. Revenues are coming into the government. The deficit is \$100 billion less than estimated previously, 9 months ago, because there is economic revival. A lot of that happened because of the courage and conviction of the Senator from Georgia.

I said Paul Coverdell was my friend. He has certainly been missed in this Senate, and that is a fact. I will also say that ZELL MILLER is my very dear friend and he will be missed in the Senate. He only served here for a few years, but he had a great impact, a very positive impact, not only on taxpayers and the country but to our body politic, the body of the country. As a patriot, a former marine, former mayor, former State senator, former Lieutenant Governor, and as a former Governor, he had enormous impact.

He was a speaker at the Republican National Convention. I told him his speech wasn't so much that of a Democrat or Republican; his speech was that of a patriot who was speaking out strong because he believed strongly in this country. You could see it. You could sense it. You could believe it.

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I am very proud to have ZELL MILLER as my friend. He and his wife Shirley have been a blessing to this body and a blessing to this country. I thank God for the fact I had the opportunity to serve with him and the fact that he served in this body. I think our country is much better for it, and I wish him every good wish in the years ahead.

Mr. SHELBY. Senator ZELL MILLER, the colleague of the Presiding Officer, is a distinguished Senator from Georgia. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, I believe, State senator, and then Governor of Georgia for at least two terms. He came to the Senate and distinguished himself. He is someone for whom I have a lot of respect, for his integrity, for his forthrightness, for his grit, for his perseverance, and also his foresight.

ZELL, we will miss you in the Senate. But we will see a lot of you. I hope to visit you in north Georgia. You tell me what a beautiful place it is, and it is not too far from my State of Alabama, so I hope you have a room for us there. We will come see you, especially when the apples are ready to pick and you are ready to show us around.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, ZELL MILLER commands a certain respect. He has guts. He has integrity. He speaks simple truths. He is as good and honest a man as I know.

ZELL is the type of leader that takes a stand and doesn't yield an inch of ground—no matter how hard the political winds blow.

America saw this first-hand with his unwavering support of President Bush in the most recent election.

At the Republican Convention, ZELL described the President perhaps better than anyone in our own party. He said the President is: "a God-fearing man with a good heart and a spine of tempered steel."

Those same words also describe Senator MILLER.

As a former marine, ZELL has never wavered in his support of the men and women in uniform who defend our liberty—or the values he shares with them. And he has worked hard and steadfast to end the unprecedented filibuster of judicial nominees.

More than anything, ZELL loves his wonderful wife, Shirley, and their family. Of course, by family, I also include Gus and Woodrow, his two labrador retrievers.

ZELL will always be a touchstone of good old common sense for this body. He will forever remind us that all we need to do is what is right—nothing more, nothing less.

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ZELL MILLER is one of the most colorful Senators ever to grace the halls of this Capitol. And he and Shirley have been two of the most valued members of the Senate family.

We will miss them both, sorely, as a special part of our daily lives.

FRIDAY, *November 19, 2004*

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, obviously, in the brief time here I am not going to be able to say everything that comes to mind about the Senators who are retiring but to summarize a little bit of the information for the benefit of those who might be watching.

When you have long, distinguished careers of Senators and they decide not to run for reelection but leave the body, there is a lot that comes to mind about their service. I think it is good to remind ourselves of just a few of these things because of the service they have provided, both to the people of their own States and to the United States. * * *

Mr. President, let me mention our colleague ZELL MILLER. ZELL MILLER is another person who will be in the history books of this body because of his passion and because of his unique character as well. He is probably best exemplified by one of the books he has written called *Corps Values*, obviously a reference to the U.S. Marine Corps, in which he describes how a lot of the values that have animated the course of his career and the values he has held dear throughout the rest of his life came from his training as a marine and from his drill sergeant whom he describes so vividly in the book as having almost literally pounded some very important lessons of life into ZELL's head at a very young age—lessons that he took away to apply throughout the rest of his life and which have stood him in very good stead throughout his career.

He has represented the people of his State of Georgia with passion and with great capability, not only as Governor but then to come to the Senate. He has certainly been a friend of people on both sides of the aisle. He is a Democrat, but he still, of course, has many friends here on the Republican side of the aisle.

I can't think of ZELL without thinking of some of the more humorous things he has done as well because despite his passion and enthusiasm, he also has a very good sense of humor. I remember one case in particular when he and Phil

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Gramm from Texas, who has left the Senate, teamed up to offer an amendment which had no chance of passing. There was no real rationale for it. It was an amendment to exempt pickup trucks from the mileage standards we were going to apply to all other vehicles in the energy bill, but they thought there was something kind of un-American about having these standards applied to pickup trucks. The two of them offered the amendment.

During the course of the debate, more and more people came over here to listen to them. Their case made such great sense that one by one the Senators began to think maybe this is an amendment that ought to pass. At the end of the day, when they pointed out that, after all, there was no other place to haul your coon dogs when you are going to hunt, or have the rack for your gun, and all of the other things they pointed out what a pickup is for, and no other vehicle could do that job, the Senate finally, I think on a voice vote, acquiesced in their amendment. Because, after all, it made sense when ZELL MILLER and Phil Gramm argued that pickup trucks should be exempted from that standard, we exempted pickup trucks from that standard.

In other words, they knew how to have fun with the seriousness of this body to point out some of the commonsense things most Americans believe and we sometimes forget here in this body.

Senator ZELL MILLER from Georgia is a man of great common sense, a man of the people who loves America greatly, and who certainly inspired me.

These are only four of the colleagues who are going to be leaving us at the end of this session. These are Senators whom I became particularly close to. I wanted to say a word about each one of them, to wish them all the very best, bid them farewell, also to know they have too many friends around here to ignore. And we are going to be staying in touch with every one of them.

We thank them for their service to the people of their States, to the Senate, and to the people of the United States of America.

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.

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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. * * *

A southern icon, Senator ZELL MILLER, will go down in southern history as one of the great progressive Governors of the new South. He is one who has always extended wonderful courtesies to me. * * *

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. COCHRAN. Mr. President, as I think about the retirement of our colleague from Georgia, Mr. MILLER, I am reminded of the song, "Johnny, I Hardly Knew You."

It doesn't seem very long ago since I heard his maiden speech. He said in a strong voice that he had not come to the Senate to represent a political party but rather he was here to represent the interests of the people of Georgia. He has proven to be a man of his word. He has demonstrated great courage and much conviction as he has carried out his promise to the Senate and to the people he has represented and voted for here in the Senate.

I have observed closely his work in the Agriculture Committee where he has been a very thoughtful and effective voice for his State and our Nation.

His well-reasoned and well-informed method of approaching all the issues that come before the Senate is very impressive. He is serious-minded about his responsibilities, and he works very hard to be an effective force for solving the problems that face our country.

If more public servants had the character and the commitment to doing the right thing, whatever the consequences, as ZELL MILLER does, our destiny would be assured.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor our departing colleagues who are leaving the Senate. In 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.

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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.

I wish to take this time to honor a great Senator and a true American patriot, ZELL MILLER. He is a man who has served Georgia with dignity and honor these past 4 years in the U.S. Senate.

ZELL MILLER embraced public service early on in his life. His mother served as one of Georgia's first female mayors. She taught him early on about public service and a strong work ethic, which he has exemplified throughout his career.

In the late fifties, ZELL MILLER served as mayor of his hometown of Young Harris, GA. He then went on to serve as a State senator, Lieutenant Governor, and eventually served in the highest power in the State of Georgia as Governor. Not surprisingly, ZELL MILLER was named by the *Washington Post* in 1998 as the most popular Governor in America and *Governing Magazine* named him Governor of the Year in 1998. These career paths finally led him to the U.S. Senate in 2000.

While ZELL MILLER was invested in politics, he was also dedicated to education and students. Throughout his career, ZELL MILLER was a professor of political science and history at Emory University, University of Georgia, and Young Harris College.

Senator MILLER has continuously reached across the aisle to work with Republicans, but it is probably best stated in his own words when he pointed out that while he is a life-long Democrat, he pledged to serve all 8.5 million Georgians and no single party in the Senate. Through this approach, ZELL MILLER has been a supporter of a broad range of issues such as tax cuts, improving education, strengthening national security, and fighting the global war on terrorism. While in the Senate, he dutifully served on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

His time here has been all too brief, but Senator MILLER has made a difference and I will miss him. While he may be leaving the U.S. Senate, I do not doubt that we have not

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heard the last of ZELL. I bid him farewell and extend my best wishes to him and his family.

SATURDAY, *November 20, 2004*

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I take a moment to talk about four colleagues whom I have had an opportunity to serve with in the Senate. * * *

Madam President, I wish to take a moment to recognize ZELL MILLER, who replaced Paul Coverdell. He is someone I have grown to admire during my service here in the Senate. He is a principled individual and truly represents his great State of Georgia.

With each day of this session, I continue to admire his strength and tenacity and ability to stand up for what he believes is right.

These four individuals have distinguished themselves in my mind. I have appreciated having the opportunity to serve with them in the Senate, and I hold them in great esteem. I wish them the very best as they pursue life's journey, having served in a distinguished way in the Senate. I wish them the very best and Godspeed.

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. * * *

Madam President, it is hard to say how much I appreciate ZELL MILLER, a proud Democrat and a great American. Senator MILLER's early life was not easy. He grew up in the hills of Georgia where people may not have had much but they worked hard and had strong families and solid values. He pulled a stint in the U.S. Marines, which he said put him on the right path in life. His colorful career in Georgia politics included two terms as Governor. When U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell, my great friend, died unexpectedly, ZELL MILLER was appointed until a special election could be held, which he won handily.

After he arrived in Washington, Senator MILLER was one of the few who not only talked the talk of bipartisanship but walked the walk. During the war on terror, he advised bipartisan action on the homeland security bill. He called for bipartisan support for traditional American values, a lower tax burden, and a strong American defense.

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I think the verdict on Senator MILLER's stand for oldtime Democratic values has been vindicated, first in the 2002 elections and last in the 2004 elections. Someone who is being friendly tells you things you want to hear, but a true friend is one who tells you things he thinks you should hear. ZELL MILLER is that kind of friend to both Democrats and Republicans. He will be missed in this august body, as one of those who told it like it is, straight from the heart.

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.

I want to speak about four others, though. * * *

ZELL MILLER is probably the colleague that I have known the longest. He and I served at the same time as Governors of our respective States. He was always one of my role models. We got to know each other very well in the Southern Governors Association. Before I came to the Senate, one of the people who motivated me to go to the Senate was Paul Coverdell. ZELL took his seat and his office. When I came in, ZELL gave up that office, and now I am in ZELL MILLER's and Paul Coverdell's former office. I will think of ZELL a lot in the future. Two years ago, when ZELL announced his retirement, or that he was not going to run again, some were saying ZELL MILLER is a lame duck. Well, on this floor, at our convention in New York City, and throughout this fall, ZELL MILLER was anything but a lame duck. ZELL MILLER leaves office as a "mighty duck." We are going to certainly miss ZELL. We know he will stay active.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to departing Senators for their service and devotion to the U.S. Senate. They are not only my colleagues but my friends as well.

The reality of elections for the Senate is that every 2 years we experience change—current Members depart and new Members are welcomed. At every transition I am reminded by the reality that life is more than just politics. I am certain

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the departing Senators are experiencing a tremendous feeling of sorrow, yet anticipation of things to come, as they leave their friends, colleagues, and this great nurturing institution.

Though we may fight hard during campaigns, we return to the Senate after the election to realize that we are not just losing Senators—we are losing friends. There is a bond—a collegiality and friendship in the Senate that crosses party lines. We face long hard battles on the campaign trail and sometimes things can get ugly. But after all is said and done, after election day, we must all come back to Washington and work together to do what is best for our country.

I will certainly miss my colleagues with whom I have worked for several years. I have had the honor to serve on the Finance Committee with four of my distinguished retiring colleagues, including Senator John Breaux and Senator Don Nickles. Both of these men were instrumental in leading the fight to reform Medicare.

I had the privilege of getting to know Senator ZELL MILLER as we traveled around the country together this past fall. Senator MILLER and I have worked hard on education issues including the Paperwork Reduction Act. He is a man who believes in the ideals of this Nation and understands that we must sometimes take a stand if we want to be heard. I treasure the friendship that Senator MILLER and I have formed during our service together. I want him to know how much I admire him. He is a man with the courage to stand up for his convictions. He did the hardest thing for any man to do—he endorsed the opposing party's nominee in this year's election. I cannot thank him enough for his support. I will always have undying gratitude for him. * * *

Our departing Senators have been lights of inspiration and men who went above the call of duty to serve our country in their congressional capacities. They each have their own unique political perspective that has served the Senate well. Although my philosophies may differ from some Senators, we do not disagree on the greatness of America. We can all agree that we live in the greatest nation in the world, and we all believe that without democracy, life, liberty, and justice cannot flourish.

My departing colleagues are great men and great Americans. They have contributed immensely to our country—making their States and our country significantly better than when they first set foot on the Senate floor.

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We are all going to miss their presence and wisdom here in the Senate. Their departures will surely leave a hole in expertise and leadership that will be hard to fill. I wish them health and happiness in their future endeavors—wherever the road may take them. May God continue to bless them and their families.

Come January, as we face another transition, I welcome the new Members and look forward to forging new relationships as we continue to work toward making Americans safer, healthier, and more financially secure.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful for the chance to take a few moments to recognize my good friend from across the aisle, Senator ZELL MILLER of Georgia. ZELL is one of my best friends in the U.S. Senate. I know every one of my Senate colleagues would join me in expressing how much we care for Senator MILLER and how much we will miss him.

It is no secret that ZELL is his own man, someone who does what he believes is right, not what is politically expedient. His values were shaped while growing up in the South, raised by his strong mother and reinforced through his service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

And for those who say you cannot be a successful politician without sacrificing some of your principles, I point to my good friend from Georgia. When he finishes his Senate term this year, he will complete nearly six decades of publicly elected service, starting with his first election as mayor of his hometown of Young Harris, GA, in the late fifties.

ZELL was a popular two-term Governor of Georgia. In fact, he was named the most popular Governor in America by the *Washington Post* in 1998. His popularity came from his successful programs that found national acclaim. Among them was passing the Nation's first "two strikes and you're out" law against violent felons; starting the Nation's only voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds; and creating the nationally acclaimed HOPE scholarship that has had such tremendous success in Georgia.

My good friend swept into the Senate to complete the remaining 4 years of the late Senator Paul Coverdell. Many political observers call ZELL the last of the southern conservative Democrats to serve in the Senate. He has certainly established himself as a strong voice for the conservative, commonsense approach to issues, reaching across the aisle to support tax cuts, improve education, confirm judicial nominations, and strengthen national security.

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ZELL is widely known for his straight talk on the issues. You know where he stands and what he stands for, and everything he says comes straight from the heart. I can't tell you how many times a constituent from my home State of Utah will write to tell me how inspired they were by a speech that ZELL had given on this Senate floor.

I am sorry to see ZELL leave, but I am grateful for the service he has given these last 4 years. He is beloved by Georgians, and I know he would have easily been reelected, and he is beloved by millions in America. And, last but not least, he is beloved by his colleagues here in the Senate.

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 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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Proceedings in the House of Representatives

FRIDAY, *November 19, 2004*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, as Senator ZELL MILLER retires from the U.S. Senate, he returns to the State he has served so well for over four decades.

ZELL MILLER of Towns County, GA, has served his State as a State senator, four-term Lieutenant Governor, two-term Governor, and U.S. Senator. Though he reached the highest peaks of political success, he never left his roots in the mountains of north Georgia.

Today in Georgia, thousands of young adults have earned college, university or vocational degrees through full scholarships paid for by the HOPE scholarship ZELL MILLER created.

Today in Georgia, thousands of young 4-year-old children attend public or private prekindergarten provided through ZELL MILLER's leadership.

As Governor of Georgia, ZELL MILLER empowered educators and improved education. His no-nonsense approach to law enforcement made Georgia's streets and neighborhoods safer. Georgia's economy prospers because ZELL MILLER invested in her ports, roads, and infrastructure.

Following the September 11 attacks on America, ZELL MILLER's strong voice, leadership, and commitment to our country and the safety of our people never wavered. His legacy is a legacy of love of country, love of Georgia and love of democracy.

ZELL MILLER has served Georgia and America as a visionary statesman and a patriot. Georgia and America are all the better for his service.

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