

Roland W. Burris

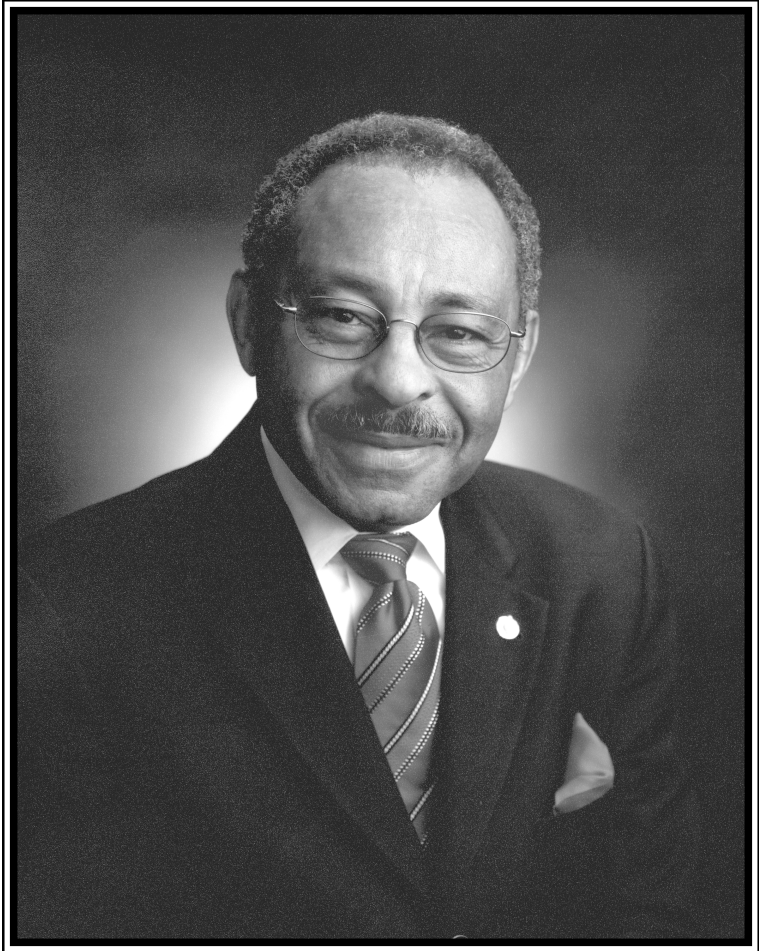
U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES







**Roland W. Burris**

*Courtesy U.S. Senate Historical Office*

Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

Roland W. Burris  
United States Senator  
2009–2010



*Compiled under the direction  
of the  
Joint Committee on Printing*

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## BIOGRAPHY

Prior to being appointed to the U.S. Senate, ROLAND W. BURRIS had been elected four times to statewide office in Illinois—three terms as comptroller (1979–1991) and one term as attorney general (1991–1995); and served as the administrative officer in the Governor’s cabinet in charge of central management services for the State of Illinois (1973–1977).

Senator BURRIS also has an extensive background in the business and financial sectors, serving as the National Bank Examiner for the Comptroller of the Currency for the U.S. Treasury Department (1963–1964) and vice president of the largest bank in Illinois—the Continental Illinois National Bank where he worked both in the trust tax department and commercial lending (1964–1973). Immediately before coming to the Senate, he served as chairman/CEO of Burriss & Lebed Consulting, LLC, a strategic consulting service concentrating in the areas of public relations, governmental representation, political strategies, and corporate strategies. He served as national executive director and chief operations officer of Operation PUSH. He also served as an independent director on the Board of the Inland Real Estate Corporation (listed on the NYSE IRC) from 1996 to 2008.

While serving as State comptroller, in 1984 ROLAND BURRIS produced the first financial statement for the State of Illinois. He served as president of the National Association of Comptrollers, as well as president of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Government Accounting Standards Board, which became a part of the Financial Accounting Foundation. From 1991 to 1994 he served as a trustee of the Financial Accounting Foundation Board. He also led the effort before the U.S. Congress to create a comptroller for the U.S. Government, which became the number 4 spot in the Office of Management and Budget. He served 3 years on the executive board as a Trustee of the Government Finance Office Association of the United States and Canada. He was elected as the first non-CPA to the board of directors of an Illinois CPA Society from 2000 to 2002. In 1986 he was selected as one of the three “Out-

standing Financial Officers in the United States” by *Crain’s Small Business* magazine (Chicago ed.).

Throughout his career, Mr. BURRIS served on the following boards: The Illinois Criminal Justice Authority Board, the Law Enforcement Foundation of Illinois, and the Illinois Supreme Court Committee for Civil Jury Instructions. He was the chair of the Illinois State Justice Commission, and served on the Chicago Area Boy Scouts of America’s board. His citations include “Who’s Who in America,” “Who’s Who in Government,” “Who’s Who in Law,” and was recognized annually from 1979 to 1995 by *Ebony* magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans.”

Mr. BURRIS was born and raised in Centralia, IL. He attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale receiving a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He was an exchange student on scholarship to study international law at the University of Hamburg in Germany. He earned his juris doctorate degree (JD) from Howard University School of Law.

He is married to Dr. Berlean M. Burris, Ph.D. and is the father of two adult children, Dr. Rolanda S. Burris, Ed.D. and Roland W. Burris II, Esq., and has two grandsons.

# Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. BURRIS. Madam President, as you know, one of the first duties delegated to freshman Senators is the high honor of presiding over the Senate. I remember the very first time I sat where you are sitting now, Madam President. Throughout my time as a Member of this august body, I have had the opportunity to spend more than 200 hours in the Presiding Officer's chair and have earned two Golden Gavel. I also had the honor of delivering our first President's—President George Washington's—Farewell Address on his birthday this year to this august body. From the chair, I have had the opportunity to listen to the words of my colleagues and reflect upon the great debate that unfolds each and every day—as it has always done throughout our Nation's history—in this, the greatest deliberative body in the world.

We come to this Chamber from every State in the Union—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike. Each of us carries the solemn responsibility of giving voice to the concerns of those we represent. Although we do not always agree, as the debate on this floor will often show, I am always struck by the passion that drives each and every Senator to stand in this singular place in the world and to speak their mind. It is this passion that will always define this Chamber for me. For all the weight of history—for all the great and eloquent sentiments that have been expressed by our forefathers—on a fundamental level this remains a very human place.

We stand today, as the Members of this body have done frequently throughout our great Republic's history, at a critical moment. Partisanship and obstructionism threaten to somewhat paralyze this great institution. But it is a testament to the inherent wisdom and durability of the Senate—of the rules and the tradition that govern this institution—that even in the face of great discord we have had the high privilege of serving in the most productive Congress in generations.

Despite our many differences, I believe the men and women who make up this Senate remain its greatest strength. It has been the honor of my lifetime to once again represent the people of Illinois and to do so in the Senate. First, as a cabinet member for our Governor, as the Illinois State comptroller, and as Illinois attorney general, the people of my State placed in me a sacred trust and one that throughout my 30 years in public service I made into my life's work: to serve the people of my State to the very best of my ability.

In my younger years, shortly after graduating from law school at Howard University, not far from where we stand today, I was turned off by a city with far too much government. I headed to Chicago, convinced that I would not return to this city unless I could be an effective and meaningful part of the solution to the many challenges we face and dreaming of a time I might come back to Washington as a Senator or as Vice President of the United States.

That dream took longer to achieve than I could have imagined that day, but in a towering testament to the vibrancy of the American dream, that day came. After decades of experience in the executive branch of Illinois government, I was sworn in as a Senator for Illinois, and this became my first introduction to serving as a legislator. It was the steepest of learning curves, but with the warm assistance of my Senate colleagues, the steady support of my loving family, and the dedication of my tireless staff, I could not be more proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

To my family, my friends, and my staff I owe the deepest thanks. My wife Berlean has always been by my side, and I will always be grateful beyond words for her constant support. My son, Roland II and his wife Marty, and my daughter Rolanda are the pride and joy of my life. Of course, they were just here yesterday, my two grandchildren, Roland Theodore and Ian Alexander, to whom I dedicate my service and for whom I have the greatest hopes and even greater expectations.

To my friends and supporters from Chicago to Centralia, I will never forget your smiles and your kind words during even the most difficult of times. To my staff, in DC, and those in Springfield, Moline, and Carbondale, you have been some of the most dedicated, talented, and professional individuals with whom I ever had the privilege to serve. From the front office staff assistants and interns answering the endless ringing telephones, to my circle of senior advisers

who gave me wise and thoughtful counsel throughout, my team has been indispensable to me, and they have all served the people of Illinois with distinction. I am deeply grateful for their service.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the complete list of my staff be printed in the *Record* following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Hagan). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1, p. xiv.)

Mr. BURRIS. Thank you, Madam President.

I wish to extend a special word of gratitude to my old friend who is sitting right there, the Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer; the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson; the secretary for the majority, Lula Davis; for their many kindnesses, and a thank you to the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black, for his counsel and prayers during my time here.

I also wish to acknowledge my fellow freshman Senators: Senators Begich, Bennet, Franken, Gillibrand; the Presiding Officer, the North Carolinian, Senator Hagan; as well as Senators Merkley, Shaheen, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Mark Warner, and our just departed Senator Kaufman from Delaware. They are tremendous individuals possessing incredible talents and have been a very supportive group for me. Thank you, my freshman colleagues.

In a broader sense I wish to also thank all of those who serve under this hallowed dome with quiet and often unheralded dignity and duty. The Senate floor staff, you all do a heck of a job—the maintenance crews, the elevator operators, the Capitol Police, the Senate train drivers, the dining room servers, and the scores of others whose hard and important work ensures the smooth and constant operations of the business that takes place within our Capitol.

As I stand to address this Chamber for the last time, I cannot help but reflect on the unlikely path that led me to this point and upon the challenges we continue to face. When I first came to the Senate nearly 2 years ago, our Nation was only days away from inaugurating an African-American man from Chicago as the 44th President of the United States of America. It was a national milestone I never thought I would ever live to see, an incredible moment that speaks volumes about the progress our country has made even in my lifetime.

As a child, I knew the injustice of segregation. When I was only about 15 years old, I helped integrate the swimming pool in my hometown of Centralia, IL. Although that incident drove me to pursue a life of public service—dedicating myself to the goals of becoming both a lawyer and a state-wide elected official—there was never any guarantee that such a path would be open to me. There were no people of color in elected office in those days, especially not in Illinois and not in Centralia, and there was no path to follow. So I knew from the start that I would have to blaze a trail.

Despite the lack of established role models, my parents provided nothing but support and encouragement. They nurtured my dreams and helped me develop the skills to achieve them. In the end, they and my older brother Earl, who is now deceased, and my sister Doris, God bless her, who is still living, were the only role models I needed. The values they instilled in me—of hard work, determination, and unwavering dedication to principle—have guided me throughout my life, and the same values have driven me to take an interest in the next generation.

It is that focus on the future that drives all of our legislative energy, to constantly improve the quality of life for the generations to come.

Not too many generations ago, my family roots told a different story. I stand in this Chamber as the great-grandson of a man who was born into slavery, in an era when this Senate debated whether he and others like him were worthy of freedom and equal treatment under the law. Yet today I stand among my colleagues on the Senate floor, a Member of the highest body of lawmakers in this land. In some ways, this is a remarkable testament to our Nation's ability to correct the wrongs of generations past, to move always toward that "more perfect Union."

However, in other ways, it is a solemn reminder of how far we still have yet to go. In a country as progressive and diverse as any on this planet, I am today the only Black-American Member of this Senate. Aside from myself, I can count the number of Blacks who have served in this body on the fingers of a single hand: Blanche K. Bruce, Hiram Revels; Edward Brooke, the last from Illinois, Carol Moseley-Braun, and our President, Barack Obama.

Throughout 220 years of Senate history and 111 Congresses, only 6 Black-Americans have been able to serve. This is troubling in its own right. But when the 112th Congress is sworn in this coming January, there will not be a

single Black-American taking the oath of office in this Chamber.

This is simply unacceptable. We can and we will and we must do better. In this regard, and in others, our political process has proven less successful and less representative than it ought to be. Although I have never allowed my race to define me, in a sense it has meant that my constituency as a Senator has stretched far beyond the boundaries of Illinois.

Letters, emails, and telephone calls have poured in to my office from Black-Americans from all across the country, and at times, as I have tried to bring their voices to this Chamber, I have acutely felt the absence of any other Black person to represent them.

Our government hardly resembles the diverse country it was elected to represent. Partisan bickering has driven moderates out of both parties and made principled compromise more difficult for those who remain. Too often our politics seem to have become a zero-sum game. It is easy for people to believe that the best argument or the plainest truth would not necessarily win the day anymore. In such a destructive political environment, people are often left wondering who will speak up for them. The media certainly isn't blameless. News outlets which could play a critical role in educating the American public with facts too often bow to ratings or quick sales and, in the process, end up choosing to pursue the entertainment value of conflict over thoughtful analysis.

This is the harsh reality we face.

America just cannot afford this any longer. We should check these notions at the Cloakroom door.

This is a critical moment.

So I believe it's the responsibility of everyone in this Chamber to take ownership of this process once again, to demonstrate leadership, and pledge a return to more responsible rhetoric, and more responsive government.

What we face is a test—not only of our willingness to meet the challenges we face, but of the democratic institutions designed to cope with these challenges.

Here in the U.S. Senate, this question is paramount.

Have our destructive politics left this great body locked in a stalemate—unable to move forward, because of the petty obstructionism that has taken root?

Or can this Chamber be made to address these problems once again? Can it be redeemed by the good people who serve here?

I have confidence that it can.

It will require the concerted effort of all 100 Senators to overcome the partisanship that has paralyzed this Chamber, and the obstructionist tactics that have become the rule rather than the exception.

Colleagues, this is the moment to summon the strength of our convictions, and fight for what we believe in.

This is the hour for principled leadership, originating right here in the U.S. Senate.

But even as we look to the future and debate the agenda for the upcoming year, I must note with regret that my time here is nearly at an end.

Serving as a Member of this body, alongside so many fine colleagues who have become good friends, has been the honor of a lifetime.

Together we have achieved passage of the most ambitious legislative agenda since the Great Depression. And a great deal of the credit for our success is owed to Leader Harry Reid.

I am proud of every vote I cast in the name of the people of Illinois, and proud of the more than 60 bills I sponsored and over 300 I have cosponsored.

In the 22 months I have been a Member of the Senate, I have advocated for comprehensive health care reform designed to meet the goals of a public option, and fought to address health care disparities that separate minority communities from the population as a whole; pushed for redirection of subsidized funds that made \$68 billion available for new Pell grants and extended new opportunities for minority students to attend historically Black colleges and universities, and predominantly Black institutions; stood up for minority-owned businesses, and made sure they will have equal opportunity to share in America's renewed prosperity as our economy continues to recover; worked hard to extend unemployment insurance, improve access to COBRA benefits, and create jobs for the people of Illinois and across the country; voted for the sweeping stimulus package that brought this country back from the brink of economic disaster and started us on the road to recovery; introduced legislation that would improve transparency and accountability as stimulus dollars are spent, so the American people can keep their elected officials honest; cosponsored legislation to repeal the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, so all of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines can serve openly, and had a press conference on that.

I say to my colleagues, don't filibuster that issue. We need all of our individuals to have an opportunity to serve in the military service, regardless of their sexual orientation. Don't be surprised if I come back for that vote. I am from Chicago, and I will vote twice. I supported major credit card reforms, to prevent credit card companies from abusing their customers; fought for equal pay and benefits for women, to cut down on workplace discrimination; fought for additional impact aid funding, to shore up Federal support for school districts that serve military communities and other Federal activities; honored the accomplishments of pioneers like Vice Admiral Samuel Gravelly, the first African-American to serve as a flag officer in the Navy, and the Montford Marines, the first African-American Marine division; supported the Matthew Shepard Act, which will help make sure those who target people based on sexual orientation, race, or other factors are brought to justice; raised my voice on behalf of Main Street, and all those who have been left behind in our continuing economic recovery, so that everyone can share in the benefits; introduced legislation calling for the Department of the Interior to study a historic site called New Philadelphia, IL—the first settlement founded by a freed African-American slave—for its preservation as part of the National Park System.

I hope, as a legacy to ROLAND BURRIS, that someday that legislation will pass.

I raised awareness of youth violence, which threatens our children and tears our inner cities apart—and must be stopped; fought for veterans' benefits, including the implementation of the new GI bill, so we can honor the service of those who defend our freedom.

And now, as we are ready to close the books on the 111th Congress and the long and significant chapter of legislative accomplishment, it is time for a new class of Senators to join this fight.

I am deeply grateful to my friends on both sides of the aisle for the passion they bring to their work every day.

I have witnessed it from the Presiding Officer's chair—and have had the privilege not only to watch the debate but to take part.

But now it is time for me to find new ways to serve.

This is the arena where great ideas are put to the test on a national stage. This is where our identity is forged anew, every day, and where our principles are challenged.

It is the heart of our democratic process. Although there will be few easy solutions for the problems we face, I will never forget the courage and patriotism that I have seen from countless citizens of Illinois and America over the course of my time here.

This is a trying time for our Nation. But as long as the American people have the wisdom to elect leaders like the ones I have come to know in this Chamber—and as long as this Senate remains true to the people we serve—I will never lose faith in our ability to overcome these challenges together.

These are my parting remarks from this body. I treat this as an opportunity of a lifetime, and I treat this with great respect and dignity for all of those I have worked with and have come to know in this body.

With that, I thank the Chair, I thank all my colleagues, and I yield the floor for the final time. God bless you all. Thank you.

#### EXHIBIT 1

##### OFFICE OF SENATOR ROLAND W. BURRIS STAFF LIST

###### WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

Dori Alexandre, Legislative Aide; Roosevelt Barfield, Military Legislative Assistant; Eleanor Bastian, Legislative Assistant; Charles Brown, Legislative Assistant; Nicholas Catino, Legislative Aide; Nate Davern, Legislative Aide; Cynthia Dorsey, Intern Supervisor; Amanda Fox, Legislative Assistant; Joel Griffith, Staff Assistant/Driver; Cristen Hall, Counsel/Legislative Assistant; Giana Hutton, Staff Assistant; Renee Johnson, Legislative Aide; Andy Keeney, Correspondence Manager; Brady King, Chief of Staff; Ursula Lauriston, Deputy Press Secretary; Ken Montoya, Legislative Director; Kyle Moore, Military Fellow; Terry Mullan, Legislative Aide; Robin Nichols, Director of Scheduling; Jim O'Connor, Communications Director; Ford Porter, Legislative Aide; Aleysha Proctor, Administrative Director; Shomaila Sharif, Deputy Administrative Assistant; Stephan Tibbs, Special Assistant.

###### CHICAGO OFFICE

Rachelle Badem, Grant Coordinator/Special Assistant; Matt Berry, Outreach Rep.; Jacqueline Dawkins, Constituent Service Agent/Outreach Rep.; Scott Kagawa, Outreach Rep.; Rodney LaBauex, Staff Assistant; Jazmine Hasty, Small Business Outreach Rep.; Frank S. McClatchey, Small Business Coordinator; MyRon McGee, Constituent Service Agent/Outreach Rep.; Kristina Michell, Constituent Service Agent; Jason Miller, Constituent Service Agent; Richard Porter, Director of Outreach; Chris Russo, Special Assistant; Kenneth Sawyer, State Director; Tami Stone, State Scheduler; Audrey Till, State Press Secretary; Zorie Valchev, Constituent Service Agent; Erin T. Williams, Assistant to State Director; Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas, Office Manager/Intern Coordinator.

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

Ceceilia Haasis, Constituent Service Agent; Jamar Johnson, Constituent Service Agent; Sally Millichamp, Constituent Service Agent; Bradley Smith, Constituent Service Agent; Jimmie Voss, Downstate Director.

CARBONDALE OFFICE

Dina Timmons, Field Rep./Constituent Service Agent.



TRIBUTES

TO

ROLAND W. BURRIS



# Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *September 28, 2010*

Mr. WARNER. . . . The Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) will be leaving this Chamber at the end of this year. He and I came in together, as did the Senator from New Mexico (Tom Udall). It has been a great honor of mine to serve with him. I consider Senator BURRIS a dear friend. I know there will be time for a more formal process, but I simply wish to say on this matter and countless others over the 2 years we have served together, it has been a real pleasure. I look forward to other opportunities for us to serve and work together for many years to come. . . .

WEDNESDAY, *September 29, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the 111th Congress will be recorded as one of the country's most historic. It will be rightfully remembered for the landmark legislation we passed to help our economy recover from recession and to help Americans afford to recover from health problems and for the passion that characterized the debates over many of these laws. But it will also be remembered for the replacement of remarkable Senators, under remarkable circumstances, by dedicated and devoted appointees.

Two years ago, for the first time in half a century, the men elected President and Vice President of the United States were sitting U.S. Senators. One year before the last time that happened, in 1959, Robert C. Byrd was sworn in for the first of his record nine consecutive full terms in this body.

In the 111th Congress, three pairs of the biggest shoes in American history needed to be filled, three public servants were chosen to sit in the seats vacated by the President, the Vice President, and the longest serving Member of Congress. That has never happened before and will probably never happen again.

Though Senators Edward Kaufman, ROLAND BURRIS, and Carte Goodwin were selected and not elected, none was content to be merely a footnote of history or the answer to a congressional trivia question. Each made the most of his time in the service of his State. . . .

ROLAND BURRIS came to the Senate under difficult circumstances, but he impressed our caucus by rising above the controversy and concentrating on doing his job for the people of Illinois. He had already built an impressive record in that State, becoming the first African-American to ever hold statewide office in Illinois and spending more than three successful decades in the public and private sectors.

During his time here, Senator BURRIS stood up for many progressive causes, including advocating for better civil rights education and writing legislation in support of our servicemembers overseas. He also presided over the Senate Chamber far more than anyone else during the 111th Congress, soaking in every minute of it along the way. . . .

Senators Edward Kaufman, ROLAND BURRIS, and Carte Goodwin represented their respective States with distinction. They will forever hold a special place in American history for the good work they did in the short time they were U.S. Senators.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Senator ROLAND BURRIS of Illinois was sworn into office less than 2 years ago. In that short time, he has debated and voted on some of the most important legislation the Senate has considered in 40 years. During his tenure, Senator BURRIS has helped pass major reforms to end abuses by the credit card industry, to put a cop back on the beat on Wall Street, and to expand health care coverage to 32 million Americans while reducing the Federal deficit by \$143 billion. Senator BURRIS also voted to confirm the nomination of two U.S. Supreme Court Justices: Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Senator BURRIS serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which I chair. During his service on the committee, Senator BURRIS helped provide oversight of the military as we draw down U.S. forces in Iraq and standup Afghan forces in Afghanistan. He helped pass weapons acquisition reform legislation and two national defense authorization acts out of committee. He helped confirm the nominations of the Nation's top civilian and military leaders.

Before coming to the Senate, ROLAND BURRIS had a distinguished career in Illinois politics, as Illinois comptroller and then as the Illinois attorney general.

As Senator BURRIS ends his time here in the Senate, I thank him for his service to our Nation and wish him and his family the very best.

WEDNESDAY, *November 17, 2010*

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, first, let me say I have had the pleasure any number of times, as I think have most all of our colleagues, to be recognized by the Presiding Officer. Many times it is you (Mr. Burris). I know you will be leaving us soon—2 days—but it has been a real pleasure to serve with you. I appreciate not only having the opportunity to work in the Senate with you but on our committees and subcommittees. You have been a great colleague. We are going to miss you.

THURSDAY, *November 18, 2010*

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, as I see my colleague, Senator BURRIS, still on the floor, I wish to thank him for his excellent work and his comments today. He will certainly be missed by all of us.

Mr. BURRIS. I thank the Senator from North Carolina.

TUESDAY, *November 30, 2010*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 16 Senators will retire this year. There is a pretty big turnover in this body, but that is a lot of Senators at once. We are losing an enormous amount of talent, but, of course, we are gaining a lot of talent with the new Senators.

I wish to show my respect for those who have served, which I will do in a summary fashion because we are talking about 16 individuals with very complex and distinguished backgrounds.

One might ask, what are the characteristics of a Senator? There are a lot of different answers to that, depending on your background and attitude toward politics and government. First, I have always thought that one characteristic of almost every Member of the Senate is that he or she probably was a first grader sitting in the front row, hand in the

air waiting to be recognized. This is an eager bunch or you would not have gotten here.

Second, it is a group of risk takers. Most people who end up in the Senate get here because a lot of other people who wanted to be Senators were standing around waiting for the right time to run. A lot of people who were elected to the Senate seemed to have no chance of winning at the time they decided to run, but the voters decided differently, and here they are.

Third, we are almost all professional and congenial. That is a big help. It is almost a requirement in an organization of 100 individuals who spend almost all their time with one another, who serve in a body that operates by unanimous consent, when just one Senator can bring the whole place to a halt, and whose job basically is to argue about some of the most difficult issues that face the American people. So it helps that almost every Member of the Senate is an especially congenial person.

Back in Tennessee, people often say to me it must be rough being in that job. They are awfully mean up there. The truth is, I don't know of a more congenial group than the Members of the Senate. We begin the day in the gym. The next thing you know we are at a Prayer Breakfast, and then we are at a committee hearing. Then we are on the floor voting, and then we have lunch. It goes through the day until 7 or 8 o'clock, or sometimes later. We live together and we get along very well. We know and respect each other.

Not long ago, the Presiding Officer (Mr. Udall of New Mexico) and I were having dinner together with our wives. We were lamenting the loss of families who know one another, the way it happened when his father was serving in Congress and when I first came to the Senate to work for Senator Baker. And that's true. We've lost some of that. Still, there is an enormous amount of affection and good will here. You don't always get to be very close friends in this job, but you get to be very good acquaintances, and you learn to respect people for their strengths.

Senator Domenici said, when he left, that we don't do a very good job of saying goodbye here. That is true. As one part of saying goodbye, I wish to say at least one good thing about each one of the 16 retiring Senators. Much more could be said about each, of course. Mostly, I am going in alphabetical order. . . .

There have been four Members appointed to the Senate who are retiring, and that is quite a number. . . .

Senator ROLAND BURRIS of Illinois was a State comptroller and attorney general. He is his own man, and capped off a long career in public service by serving here. . . .

It has been my privilege to serve with these 16 Senators. We thank them for their service to our country. They have had a chance to serve in what we regard as the world's greatest deliberative body; it is a special institution. We will miss their leadership, and we hope they will stay in touch with us because they are not just retiring Senators, they are all our friends.

I yield the floor.

WEDNESDAY, *December 8, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to retiring Members of the 111th Congress, and that Members have until Thursday, December 16, to submit such tributes.

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

FRIDAY, *December 10, 2010*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleagues who are departing the Senate after distinguished service on behalf of their States and on behalf of the Nation. I have been privileged to work with these individuals, to learn from them, to collaborate and cooperate with them, and to, in some small way, help them do what they have done so well—represent their States with fidelity, with great effort, and to move the agenda of the Nation forward. . . .

Senator ROLAND BURRIS brought a great bit of vitality and energy to the Senate in his time here. I wish ROLAND and Berlean the very best. He has had a remarkable career in Illinois as someone who was in the banking industry and then public service—been a pathbreaker in so many different ways. When he came to the Senate, he came with that same enthusiasm, knowing that his service would be limited in days but not limited by any aspirations or any ideals. He

wanted to do the best for the people of Illinois and the Nation. I thank him. . . .

To all of these colleagues and their families, my deepest appreciation and my profoundest respect.

WEDNESDAY, *December 15, 2010*

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor my colleague, Senator ROLAND BURRIS, who will be retiring from the Senate after serving 2 years.

Senator BURRIS has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant, both at the State and local levels. Upon graduation from Howard Law School in 1963, Senator BURRIS became the National Bank Examiner for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 1978, Senator BURRIS became the first African-American to be elected to a statewide office when he was elected comptroller of the State of Illinois. Senator BURRIS continued to break barriers when elected as attorney general for the State of Illinois, becoming only the second African-American ever to be elected to the office of State attorney general in the United States.

Mr. BURRIS was appointed to fill President Obama's open Senate seat on December 30, 2008. In his nearly 2 years in the Senate, Mr. BURRIS has been active on the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees, as well as the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Whether it is fighting hard for Illinois' veterans or casting an important vote in favor of health care legislation, Senator BURRIS has done much with his limited time in the Senate. A lifelong resident of Illinois, there are very few people more invested in their State's future than ROLAND BURRIS.

As he departs the U.S. Senate and heads off to future endeavors, there is no doubt that his beloved wife Berlean and his two children, Rolanda and Roland II, will be by his side. I wish Senator BURRIS lots of luck and happiness in the years ahead.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, soon the gavel will bring to a close this session of Congress, and many of us will return home to be with our families for the holidays. Before we leave, it is one of the Senate's traditions to say goodbye to those who will not be with us when we reconvene for the

next session of Congress in January. One Senator I know I will miss in the months to come is ROLAND BURRIS.

ROLAND is quite a remarkable individual—a man of many firsts who has never been one to shy away from any challenge. He was the first African-American to win a statewide election in Illinois, for example, and for the past months he has been serving the people of that State as their Senator.

Through the years, ROLAND has had a wide and varied career. He has been a lawyer, a lobbyist, a college instructor, the director of a civil rights nonprofit, a bank executive, and so much more. He has a great understanding of how government works from many different perspectives, and that knowledge has helped him to make an important contribution to the work of the Senate every day.

One aspect of his character I will always remember is his great love of God and his willingness to share so much of himself and his faith in our Senate Prayer Breakfasts. He has always had something important to say, a word or an insight that had not been mentioned until he spoke and added something that needed to be said by him—and heard by us.

I am always amazed to discover that no matter how many times I have read or reflected on a passage in the Bible, there is always someone who is able to offer a fresh insight, a new approach to the text that I had never heard or considered before. That is what made ROLAND such an important part of our Senate Prayer Breakfasts. On many occasions he was able to offer a personal perspective on the Bible that was gained from his unique life experience. His heartfelt dedication to the words of the Bible meant a great deal to me and to all those in attendance. Through these past 2 years, I have enjoyed listening to him speak about his faith and the source of strength and support it has been for him throughout his life.

Now ROLAND will be returning home to Illinois in search of another mountain to climb, another adventure to enjoy. I have no idea what the future holds for him, but if his past is any indication, we haven't heard the last from him. He has always been a trailblazer in a number of fields, and I am certain he will continue to be all of that—and much more.

Diana and I send our best wishes to ROLAND, his wife Berlean, and their children. Thank you for your willingness to serve. Life in the Senate has never been easy, and you have handled its pressures very well. God bless.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the printing of tributes be modified to pro-

vide that Members have until sine die of the 111th Congress, 2d session, to submit tributes and that the order for printing remain in effect.

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

THURSDAY, *December 16, 2010*

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a number of our friends and colleagues who are ending their service in the Senate. Their contributions are too numerous to mention, therefore I would like to take just a few minutes to highlight some of the memories of the Senators I came to know personally.

Some of the departing Senators I have served with for decades. Others were here for only part of a term. All of them worked hard for their constituents and our country. . . .

SENATOR ROLAND BURRIS served on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which I have the honor of chairing. Throughout his months with the committee, he made time in his busy schedule to attend and participate in numerous committee hearings and meetings. His participation played an important part in the committee's ability to conduct oversight and, ultimately, to improve benefits and care for our Nation's veterans. Senator BURRIS' work on the committee was a great service to the men and women of Illinois who wore the Nation's uniforms, as well as to servicemembers, veterans, and their families nationwide. . . .

In closing, the end of this Congress is bittersweet, with so many talented and dedicated public servants leaving this institution. All of them made a lasting impact on the Senate and on our country. *Mahalo nui loa*, thank you, for all your work.

WEDNESDAY, *December 22, 2010*

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when the 111th Congress draws to a close, we will bid farewell to 16 colleagues who have collectively given more than 200 years of service to our Nation through their service in the Senate. These include seven of the Senate's most experienced Members. People like Chris Dodd and Arlen Specter who have each served

five terms in the Senate. Kit Bond who has served four terms and Bob Bennett, Byron Dorgan, Russ Feingold, and Judd Gregg, who have each served three terms in this Chamber.

When the 112th Congress convenes in January, the ranks of women Senators will be reduced by one. In fact, the 112th Congress will be the first Congress in recent memory in which the total number of women Senators will actually decline. With the departure of our colleague, ROLAND BURRIS, there will not be a single African-American Senator when the new Congress convenes. . . .

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with each of the people who will leave this Chamber when we adjourn sine die. Each has made substantial contributions to their States, to the Nation, and to the Senate during their time here.

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