

the land. JESSE HELMS has made a major contribution to those debates.

In volume 2 of my own "History of the Senate," I express the concern "ours is becoming a nation of hardened cynics." I went on to point out that we ought to return to our beginnings. Go back to the hills—the hills of West Virginia or the hills of North Carolina—look up at the treetops and into the open sky and gain a renewed sense of God's presence in our personal lives and in the life of the Nation. As Senators, we especially need to remember the old values, such as faith in God, obedience to law, respect for the flag, honesty, and thrift. How very well Senator HELMS has reflected those values.

I close, Mr. President, by repeating the words Senator HELMS spoke of me 40 years ago, words I remember so well, words I think so aptly tell the story of Senator JESSE HELMS:

He is a Senator whose greatest strength is his dedicated independence of thought and action. He is a Senator who is neither easily frightened nor intimidated.

And foremost—

He is a Senator who has always stood up for what he regards as important.

Mr. President, my wife Erma, who is an old-fashioned girl who married an old-fashioned guy, and I wish the very best for JESSE HELMS and his lovely wife Dorothy Jane Coble as they enter the next phase of their lives.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

TRIBUTE TO ED HADEN

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a member of my judiciary staff, my chief counsel on Judiciary, Ed Haden. Ed will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session, returning to private practice at the outstanding Alabama law firm of Balch & Bingham in Birmingham, AL, where he will work in that firm's appellate litigation department. I will say this: My loss and the Senate's loss will be a great gain to Balch & Bingham.

Before joining the Senate, Ed had a distinguished legal career, having served as a staff attorney on the Alabama Supreme Court and as a law clerk for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He came to the Judiciary Committee in 1999, first serving as counsel to Senator ORRIN HATCH on the nominations and constitutional law unit. In 2000, he became my chief counsel for

the Subcommittee on Youth Violence and is currently chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts.

Ed's work ethic is beyond reproach. From the moment he joined my staff, his legal analysis has been unmatched and his commitment to the rule of law unwavering. His attention to detail and his ability to be thorough but brief at the same time has helped me enormously. I know I can trust his judgment, and I thank him for dutifully managing our staff and our issues since the day he arrived on our team.

During his tenure on the committee, Ed has proven what I knew when I hired him, that he would always carry himself in a professional manner, and even though he might not agree with those on the other side of the aisle, he could work with them and gain their respect.

Ed is truly a man of utmost character. Senator SCHUMER, chairman of the Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee, commented at a recent executive committee meeting that:

[Ed] . . . represents the best of what we are about. He is bright and diligent and honorable. His word is his bond. . . . [Ed] has done a great job, with great distinction. He is really an admirable lesson of what public service is all about.

This is one time I could not agree with Senator SCHUMER more. Ed is a man of honor and integrity. His intellect is unmatched. Most importantly, his commitment to fairness and getting the job done distinguishes him. He has certainly provided extraordinary assistance to me, but I believe he has enriched the entire debate on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is indeed an extraordinary worker with a prodigious capacity to produce high-quality work, almost unbelievably so. He works long hours and is committed to producing the absolutely most accurate answer for any question we are debating.

Ed has not only been a great manager of the complex issues that have passed through our committee, he also has been a good manager of the people I hired to work on the committee. His ability to lead is without question, and the respect he has garnered during his service has been expressed by those who worked closely with him.

Makan Delrahim, chief counsel to Senator HATCH, comments:

Ed is a close friend and an indispensable colleague. I worked with Ed when he first came to Washington and began his career as Nominations Counsel on Sen. Hatch's Judiciary staff. Our friendship has continued as he moved to serve Senator SESSIONS. Ed's intellect and integrity are second to none. The committee will miss him.

Rita Lari Jochum, chief counsel to Senator GRASSLEY, comments:

Ed Haden is an excellent lawyer and a great American. He will be sorely missed by the Judiciary Committee.

Stephen Higgins, chief counsel to Senator KYL, comments:

Ed Haden was an invaluable asset to the Judiciary Committee. He is a superb lawyer

and has both a tremendous respect for the Constitution and a great love for this Republic. We will all miss him.

Scott Frick, chief counsel to Senator THURMOND, comments:

Ed Haden possesses a unique combination of intelligence, work ethic, and the ability to communicate his ideas clearly. These qualities have served Senator SESSIONS and the State of Alabama well. And in addition, he is a truly nice guy. When I first joined the Judiciary Committee staff, Ed selflessly offered his time and advice, and I remain appreciative of his willingness to lend a hand.

John Abegg, Judiciary counsel to Senator MCCONNELL, comments:

Ed Haden has been an invaluable asset to the United States Senate and to its Judiciary Committee. His intellect, resourcefulness, and work ethic are recognized and respected by both sides of the aisle, as is his always courteous and modest demeanor. Ed is the embodiment of the principle that one can disagree with others, even passionately so, about the most important of matters without being personally disagreeable. He is a credit to the country, his state, and his family.

Sean Woo, counsel to Senator BROWNBACK, comments:

In many ways and especially in matters dealing with judicial nominations, Ed Haden was the conscience of the Republican judiciary staff. His commitment, enthusiasm and intellect—applied with the Southern charm of an Alabamian—will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, Ed has given me and his country an extraordinary effort, and I am grateful for that, as well as his loyalty and dedication, always having my best interest in mind and not his own, never seeking credit for his great work, doing what was best for this country and Alabama. Ed is an exceedingly hard worker, a man of integrity and ability, who has dedicated himself to reaching a just result on every issue assigned to him, ranging from bankruptcy, where he was extraordinarily engaged in a most complex bit of legislation, to judicial nominations. I could not have been successful without his leadership and assistance.

Ed's greatest strength, I believe, is that he has a remarkably developed and rich set of core principles that guide him in his daily work. He does not go in for flash or show, but for substance. He, to a remarkable degree, understands the glory and uniqueness of the American Government. He loves America. He works constantly to enrich her and strengthen her—especially the rule of law, which has been the foundation of this country's strength.

Ed Haden is more than just an outstanding chief counsel, he is a great friend and a great American. I thank him for his service to me, to the people of Alabama, and to the people of the United States. He typifies what we so often see and too little hear about in this body—the great work of our staffs. They give us loyalty into the night, preparing work for us so we can shine the next day before the TV cameras. I think Ed is the epitome of excellence in staff, the kind of person I have valued greatly and will miss greatly.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to join in Senator SESSIONS' comments earlier today regarding the departure of Ed Haden, a staffer who has given a great deal to the Judiciary Committee during the past three years. Ed has made his influence felt, and he will be missed.

Ed came to the Judiciary Committee in 1999 to work as my counsel in the Nominations and Constitutional Law unit. He served me admirably in that position. The next year, Ed became chief counsel to Senator SESSIONS' subcommittee, and he continued to contribute substantively to many issues handled by the full committee. Ed's reputation as a smart, creative, and effective lawyer is well-earned.

As Senator SESSIONS said, the Senate's loss is someone else's gain. Ed will be joining the Birmingham, AL, law firm of Balch & Bingham, which will no doubt benefit greatly from the association.

I want my colleagues to know that, as Senator SCHUMER said in a recent Judiciary meeting, I have found Ed Haden to represent the best of what we are about. He is honorable and hard-working and someone who can be taken at his word. I thank Ed for his great service to me and the Judiciary Committee, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 2 p.m.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be speaking on a number of things at appropriate times this afternoon. I ask the distinguished Presiding Officer, at what time do we turn to the Shedd nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 2 o'clock.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Chair. I commend the Chair for his interest in the proceedings here—something he always demonstrates when he is there. He has had the ability to serve in both bodies and we have what might be a little bit more of a leisurely technique over here. The Senator from Vermont is delighted to have the Senator from Florida as a Member of this body.

HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVORS BENEFITS ACT OF 2002

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to encourage the Senate to pass today the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2002, H.R. 5334.

This multipartisan legislation is to improve the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program. This bill allows the families of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes to qualify for Federal survivor benefits.

I commend those in the other body, including Congressmen ETHERIDGE, WELDON, HOYER, and OXLEY, for their

leadership and, I might also say, their fortitude on this important legislation. On the last night the other body was in session, Congressman ETHERIDGE stood as a sentry on the bridge and said nothing else is going forward until this goes through. And it did pass in the House. I am proud to be the original sponsor of the Senate version of the Hometown Heroes bill, S. 3114. I thank Senators COLLINS, JEFFORDS, LANDRIEU, and DURBIN for joining me as cosponsors.

This legislation should not be in any way controversial. It is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police; National Association of Police Organizations; Congressional Fire Services Institute; International Association of Arson Investigators; International Association of Fire Chiefs; International Association of Fire Fighters; National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council; North American Fire Training Directors; International Fire Buff Association; National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians; American Ambulance Association; American Federation of State, County Municipal Employees. Actually, I will not list them all, but there are 50 additional national organizations.

Public safety officers act with an unwavering commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens, and it is always the case that they are willing to selflessly sacrifice their lives to provide safe and reliable emergency services to their communities. Hundreds of public safety officers nationwide lose their lives, and thousands more are injured while performing duties that put them at great physical risk.

Although we know that PSOB benefits can never be a substitute for the loss of a loved one, the families of all our fallen heroes should be eligible to collect these funds.

The PSOB program authorizes a one-time financial payment to the eligible survivors of Federal, State, and local public safety officers for all line-of-duty deaths. A number of other things are in the bill. We have improved this PSOB program on numerous occasions—we did it in the Patriot Act—but, unfortunately, the inclusion of on-duty heart attack and stroke victims in the program has not been addressed.

This bill fixes that loophole to ensure that the survivors of public safety officers who die of heart attacks and other cardiac-related deaths in the line of duty, or within 24 hours of a triggering effect while on duty—regardless of whether or not a traumatic injury occurs at the time of the heart attack or stroke—are eligible to receive financial assistance. Heart attack and cardiac-related deaths account for almost half of all firefighter fatalities and an average of 13 police officer deaths each year.

It is time for the Senate to show its support and appreciation for these extraordinarily brave and heroic public safety officers by joining the House and

passing the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act.

Mr. President, I understand it has been cleared on this side of the aisle. I hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle will let this bill pass. We are willing on this side of the aisle to pass it, but there has been objection on the other side. I hope that objection will be withdrawn and this will pass so that we can join what has been already done in the other body.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the legislation just referred to by the distinguished Senator from Vermont. I have a particular interest in this legislation because in my former governmental capacity as the State treasurer, insurance commissioner, and State fire marshal of Florida, I had the occasion to come to a great appreciation of the role of the firefighter, the extraordinary courage that firefighters display, and the extraordinary amount of property and life they save.

Fortunately, that was etched into the consciousness of America as a result of what we saw on September 11—not only the police, the firemen, but so many public service personnel who responded under those conditions. So I want to add my voice in support of the legislation referred to by Senator LEAHY and to those on the other side of the aisle who might be putting a hold on this legislation.

There is an extreme risk to the occupation of firefighter. We understand that risk more clearly based on what we saw of the bravery and the devotion to duty expressed on September 11. But that bravery and devotion to duty goes on day in and day out in the firehouses in communities across this Nation. These firefighters should be appropriately compensated when infirmity and disaster strikes them.

Mr. President, I wanted to add my name in support of the distinguished Senator from Vermont and his bill.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.