

As my colleagues and her peers—a group of Senators' personal secretaries who call themselves "senior babes"—can attest, the small area just outside a Senator's office often takes on the aspect of Grand Central Station at rush hour. Becky is the person who keeps it all together and all running smoothly. Through it all, and maybe because of it all, Becky displays a sense of humor and a way with people and with words that is legendary among many of the longtime staff and Senators. For someone in a position that is always demanding and often thankless, such an attitude is almost a requirement, and for me it has often served to make even the most tiring and demanding days and nights in the Senate bearable.

But, to me, the most fundamental aspect of Becky's personality is her unquestioning dedication. Whatever the circumstances, however late or early, on weekends or during vacations, if I am there, Becky is there; if I am under the gun, Becky is at my side. In short, in a field of endeavor where loyalty is an often-invoked but seldom-realized ideal, Becky personifies it. I am grateful for her service.

Mr. President, Eric Silagy has managed to pack more achievements into his brief career than any young man I know. He came to my office in 1987, fresh out of the University of Texas. In less than 2 years, he was chief scheduler for a Senate campaign that was as politically significant and hard fought as any in this century. His intelligence, good judgment, and youthful energy were important factors in our victory. For the next 4 years, he served as my legislative assistant while attending Georgetown University Law School, performing superbly in both capacities. Since 1994, he has been my administrative assistant and chief of staff. Thanks to his excellent organizational skills and his tact and good humor, it is an office that has been a productive workplace for a happy, hardworking, and extremely talented staff.

Just as important to me as his skill in running the office, however, has been his remarkable political and policy judgment, which I rely upon in making all the most crucial decisions that come before me; and his extraordinary effectiveness in getting the job done, no matter what the odds against it. Once an ideal legislative outcome has been selected, there is very little that can stand in the way of Eric's efforts to find a way to get there. While some divide the world into thinkers and doers, Eric Silagy manages to combine the best aspects of both. I want to express my gratitude for his diligence and devotion, and commend him for a job well done.

TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH: A PILOT'S LIFE THROUGH WAR AND PEACE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a

new book by a very brave Arkansan, James "Paladin" Fore. Written along with Larry Jacks, the book, "Tragedy and Triumph: A Pilot's Life Through War and Peace," serves as both a biography and a history. In a very unique way, Jim writes about the horrific events he witnessed through a flying career of more than 40 years. I want to commend Jim for writing this fascinating book which follows him from World War II through the conflict in Southeast Asia accumulating more than 37,000 flying hours.

As both a military and civilian pilot, Jim witnessed history in the making in over 100 countries. Mr. President, for a unique perspective on history through the eyes of a pilot, I highly recommend this book.

TRIBUTE TO JAN PAULK

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a very dear friend who has spent more time working for the U.S. Senate than I have. Jan Paulk has left this body to go on to bigger and better things, and Barbara and I want to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Mr. President, there is not a member of this Senate that Jan has not helped in one way or another, and I know all my colleagues join me in thanking Jan for her service.

As a fellow Arkansan from Russellville, Jan came to Washington in 1966 as a staff member to the late Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1971, she joined the Committee on Foreign Relations and served as a professional staff member for 10 years. However, most of my colleagues have become better acquainted with her in her most recent post.

Since 1982, Jan Paulk has served as the director of the Office of Interparliamentary Services, guiding and assisting each one of us in our official duties both here and abroad as Members of the U.S. Senate. Mr. President, the entire Senate will miss Jan Paulk, but I know she will move on to other challenges. Mr. President, Jan Paulk will face all of these new endeavors with the charm and grace that made her such a viable part of the United States Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, truth be told, I don't know which I find more upsetting, the idea that the Government is losing a much-valued judicious voice, or the idea that I might inherit the dubious honor of having "the slowest drawl in the U.S. Senate." Either way, we'll miss HOWELL HEFLIN greatly.

However, I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the career of a man who has built a grand reputation as both advocate and judge.

Today, with every front page screaming about the public's disillusionment

with politicians, HOWELL HEFLIN stands as a model of integrity and dedication. In this era of increasing partisanship, he is a Senator who would not vote along party lines against his own constituency. In this atmosphere of media scrutiny, he is a judge who could not vote along the lines of popular opinion against his own conscience. He leaves a legacy of what it truly means to be in government: to represent the interests of the voters and to govern according to the law.

Whether he was working on court reforms, championing agriculture, advocating a balanced budget, or defending the space program, HOWELL has spent his 16 years in the Senate working hard for the people who put him there. He has been a tireless representative for the people of Alabama, and a tenacious defender of their interests. He is not a distant politician immersed in Washington business.

HOWELL HEFLIN's record of public service did not just benefit his home State. With his distinguished service on the Senate Ethics Committee, the country came to know a just, pragmatic, and compassionate judge of character. Though he didn't like to sit in judgment of his peers, he steered the country through some rough and divisive episodes and our Nation became familiar with the man we already knew as the Judge.

As you well know, Senator HEFLIN has a reputation for being an independent thinker, a master storyteller, and a strong proponent of issues he believes in from civil rights to family values.

One thing that never fails to amuse me is when critics attempt to malign HOWELL HEFLIN, the most scathing thing they can come up with is to call him a fence-straddler or indecisive. This is ironic because it is this quality that has made him such an exemplary Member of the Senate. He listens to all the arguments before making his decision, and when he does, it is fair and just. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out in a letter to George Washington: "Delay is preferable to error."

We will miss Senator HEFLIN and his charming wife Mike, but we couldn't expect to keep them in Washington forever. So I wish for them the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BROWN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to the senior Senator from Colorado, HANK BROWN and to wish him all the best upon his retirement from this Chamber.

Mr. President, my association with Senator BROWN has been brief, by Senate standards, but it has been quite enjoyable. We have the shared goal of reducing this Nation's deficit, even if we have not agreed on each and every step of the way.

I am proud to say I worked with Senator BROWN on the Kerrey-Brown deficit reduction package 3 years ago, a proposal that would in and of itself

have chopped \$100 billion from the deficit. Although we were ultimately unsuccessful, the Kerrey-Brown proposal was a model of bipartisanship, and I am convinced it laid the groundwork for more recent bipartisan deficit reduction efforts.

Senator BROWN and I have also served together on the Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees, and I have appreciated his comity and his open-mindedness.

Mr. President, Senator BROWN leaves us after only one term as a U.S. Senator. We all wish him well, and we all hope future Senators, from Colorado and elsewhere, take a lesson from his tenure in the value of bipartisanship and civility. Those qualities have served him well, and they have served the Senate well.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BRADLEY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Senator BILL BRADLEY as he closes a distinguished career in the U.S. Senate.

A thorough recitation of Senator BRADLEY's achievements would require a large portion of today's RECORD. His many accomplishments as a scholar, an athlete, a writer, and a lawmaker are well-known. So let me limit myself with just one area to which he has applied his considerable intelligence and energy, that of bringing a sense of fiscal responsibility to the Federal budget, and particularly, fairness to our Tax Code.

Senator BRADLEY has been praised as a serious student and an original thinker in terms of fiscal policy, marked by a disposition for prudence, fairness, and clarity. Little wonder he has been ranked highly by the bipartisan Concord Coalition for his efforts to cut wasteful spending.

I have specifically appreciated his leadership in the effort to reform our system of tax expenditures, what amounts to a \$400 billion annual Federal spending program with scant congressional oversight. Senator BRADLEY has sought reform of this system for years, and I will be one of those who will continue that fight in the 105th Congress. I hope citizen BRADLEY will be available for advice, encouragement and support in that effort.

Mr. President, I know the U.S. Senate will miss the presence of BILL BRADLEY, and I hope that, from whatever vantage point he has after he takes his leave of us, he remains engaged in the public policy debate. We need people of intelligence, energy and good will, and BILL BRADLEY possesses all those traits.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SIMPSON

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my best wishes to Senator ALAN SIMPSON of Wyoming upon his retirement from the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, in a New York Times interview published in June, Senator

SIMPSON was asked to offer valedictory advice to the next class of Senators who will arrive with the 105th Congress. Among his suggestions was "be your best self" and "learn to compromise an issue without compromising yourself." Those words would be an apt summation of Senator SIMPSON himself.

You always know where you stand with ALAN SIMPSON, and where he stands with you, even when it's against you. He has demonstrated respect for the Senate, his colleagues, and for the public policymaking process. He is a man to be trusted, and, therefore, respected, and that has made working with him on the Judiciary Committee a pleasure.

I also appreciated Senator SIMPSON's cosponsorship of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform legislation.

Like so many of my colleagues, I will miss ALAN SIMPSON, and I wish him and his wife, Ann, all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SIMON

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished lawmaker, a devoted public servant, and a good friend, the senior Senator from IL, PAUL SIMON.

It has been nearly half a century since PAUL SIMON bought the Troy, Illinois, Tribune and began crusading against local crime and political corruption, a pretty gutsy thing to do for a 19-year-old who had just left college.

But, as many of us have learned, courage, candor, and dedication to principle are fundamental components of PAUL SIMON's character. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with him in the U.S. Senate, and I will miss him greatly upon his retirement.

Mr. President, 1996 marks Senator SIMON's 40th year in public service. He served in the Illinois House and Senate, and as Illinois' Lieutenant Governor before coming to Washington in 1974 as a Congressman. He joined this body in 1985.

Millions of Americans can thank PAUL SIMON for his important role in the passage of legislation to improve literacy and to support adult education and school-to-work programs. He fought to make student loans more affordable.

He has stood by America's working families. He has worked to improve America's relations with the nations of Africa. His sense of social justice has anchored his opposition to the death penalty, and, not surprisingly, this former crusading journalist also has been a reliable defender of the first amendment.

He has been, as columnist Jack Anderson once described him, "a model of integrity."

He has also found time to write a weekly newspaper column, which has enjoyed a run of 48 years.

Mr. President, Senator SIMON and I have served together on the Judiciary

Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee, and we have worked together closely on many issues, including bipartisan legislation to reform our system of funding political campaigns, legislation on which he was a cosponsor. Throughout it all, I have valued his opinions, his camaraderie and his ability to maintain his cordiality so many feel is slipping away in our public debate.

I understand Senator SIMON will be taking a post at Southern Illinois University, teaching journalism and politics. I expect he may also keep writing books. He has authored or coauthored 16 of them at last count, including an authoritative book on Abraham Lincoln's years in the Illinois Legislature and one about another crusading journalist, Elijah Lovejoy.

Whatever his future pursuits, PAUL SIMON has already created a memorable legacy in his public service career.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PRYOR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the service and the friendship of Senator DAVID PRYOR of Arkansas.

Mr. President, Senator PRYOR's story begins in much the same way as another retiring Senate colleague, PAUL SIMON—as a journalist. After graduating from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1957, Senator PRYOR founded a weekly newspaper, The Ouachita Citizen. He entered politics in 1960, winning a seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives, to which he was reelected in 1962 and 1964, while simultaneously earning a law degree from the University of Arkansas.

His career in public service carried him to Congress in 1966, to the Governor's office in 1974 and then to the U.S. Senate in 1978. Following him to the Governor's office that same year was the young attorney general of Arkansas, William Jefferson Clinton.

Mr. President, my association with Senator PRYOR began with my joining the Senate in 1993. As it happened, we both share a deep interest in the issues affecting older Americans. Whether the issue is nursing homes, the price of prescription medications, fighting fraud and abuse, consumer protection, or, perhaps most importantly, the reform of our system of providing long-term health care, Senator PRYOR has been a leader.

In his position as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, and now in his role as ranking member, Senator PRYOR has been this Chamber's pre-eminent voice on aging issues. It was no surprise that he was selected last year to chair the White House Conference on Aging.

Perhaps most crucially, Senator PRYOR has helped Americans to see that we must all face the inescapable fact of growing older and the issues that fact presents. He has argued that issues of concern to our senior citizens