

Senator BUMPERS, our colleague in the Senate, is truly one of the great orators of this institution and one of the most passionate voices who has ever served in the U.S. Senate. And, of course, our President, William Clinton.

But for all of those wonderful politicians who have served the State of Arkansas, DAVID PRYOR remains by all accounts the most popular and the most beloved politician in all of Arkansas. This is certainly no accident, because throughout his career in politics, from the House of Representatives to the Arkansas Governor's mansion to the U.S. Senate, DAVID PRYOR never forgot where he came from and he never lost touch with the people who elected him.

Our colleague, DALE BUMPERS, said of DAVID PRYOR that he personifies "the nobility of public service." Mr. President, I could not agree more.

As a freshman Senator in 1979, DAVID sent his Senate staff back to Arkansas to work alongside their constituents to learn firsthand the concerns of Arkansans, and as a young House Member he investigated nursing homes by donning an orderly's uniform and going undercover into nursing homes. That subterfuge is one of many burdens DAVID PRYOR took on for our Nation's elderly.

Throughout his hard work, he helped establish the Special Committee on Aging. And he never stopped fighting to keep drug prices down for elderly patients. DAVID and I didn't always see eye to eye on this issue. In fact, we disagreed on this particular question. But our policy differences never resulted in personal differences. Most importantly, they never got in the way of our friendship and genuine affection for each other.

DAVID PRYOR has also long been a tireless advocate for American taxpayers, working from his position on the Senate Finance Committee to smooth relations between the Internal Revenue Service and taxpayers.

Here in the U.S. Senate he has worked as hard as any Member to encourage civility and a family-friendly atmosphere. Time limits on votes and recess schedules remain a lasting part of his senatorial legacy.

But, most of all, DAVID PRYOR brought a quiet humility and gentle demeanor to a place that too often is known for its sharp elbows and short tempers. He has earned the respect and admiration of both Republicans and Democrats, which is no easy feat in this day and age.

I doubt there is a Member who isn't genuinely saddened to see DAVID PRYOR leave the U.S. Senate. He personifies all that we must continue to strive for as politicians and lawmakers, and as national leaders.

For myself and all of those whose lives he has touched and for all of those in this Chamber, he will be sorely missed. I wish he and Barbara a happy and healthy and busy retirement.

RETIRING MEMBERS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we are coming to the end of an interesting Congress. It has been a contentious one. We have had a lot of difficulties among various colleagues here. We have had some awful battles, but by and large it has been a Congress of great capacity, a Congress of great accomplishment.

I personally want to express appreciation to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for being able to work together as well as we have and being able to accomplish all the good things we have accomplished. I also want to pay tribute to all of those who are now about to leave the Congress of the United States and in particular, the U.S. Senate.

We have had a remarkable group of people serving with us in the U.S. Senate who are leaving this year, and I, for one, will miss each and every one of them. I wish my colleagues the best in the upcoming election.

SENATOR J. BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, let me also today pay tribute to a great Senator and a close and dear friend from the State of Louisiana, J. BENNETT JOHNSTON.

BENNETT JOHNSTON has served his beloved State of Louisiana for the past 32 years. He began his life in politics in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1964, and went on to the Louisiana Senate in 1968, and in 1972 he became a Member of the U.S. Senate, where he has served with great distinction and honor for the past 24 years.

As much as any man or woman in this body, BENNETT JOHNSTON truly understands the critical importance of compromise, bipartisanship, and working across party lines. He always embraced the opportunity to engage an opponent rather than tear them down, and by doing so he has made the Senate a more civil place in which to serve.

I think the words of our former colleague, Russell Long, best described BENNETT JOHNSTON's tenure. Russell Long said, "No other Member of the Senate has accomplished more for the people he represents. No State in the Union has had a more faithful servant nor a more powerful advocate than Louisiana has had in BENNETT JOHNSTON."

BENNETT JOHNSTON was always looking out for the people and the best interests of the people of Louisiana. He became an expert on issues that make many Senators' eyes glaze over with the mere mention of the subject matter. But they were vitally critical to his State's future: wetlands issues, national defense, and energy policy.

For his home State of Louisiana, BENNETT JOHNSTON worked to improve educational opportunities and helped to provide funds for new research facilities, better interstate highways,

new ports, levies, and three national parks.

His knowledge of the minutia of energy issues, his skill at crafting coalitions, and his tireless efforts shepherded one of the most comprehensive energy-related measures through the U.S. Senate in 1992. That bill remains one of the most important achievements of the 102d Congress, and it is a fitting legacy to BENNETT JOHNSTON's tenure in the U.S. Senate.

When he announced his retirement from this body, he didn't use it as an opportunity to attack the Senate or to decry his service here, but instead to reaffirm his commitment to the principles and values of this institution, and of public service.

I would like to quote from his own statement on the day he announced his retirement. He said, "Politics and public service are synonymous with the pursuit of public office. It is a high calling in our society. It is the best opportunity for helping your State, your country, and your fellow man. The Senate, with its faults and criticisms, remains the bulwark of our democracy, and a hallowed institution. I will stand up for it, will not bash it, and will defend it against those who do."

Those words, I think, Mr. President, stand in sharp contrast to the voices of cynicism that we often hear not only in this town but also, frankly, too often in this Chamber. They are the words of a man who loves the U.S. Senate and who treasures the opportunity to serve his State and his country.

To BENNETT JOHNSTON and his wife, Mary, and their family, I wish them Godspeed and the best wishes in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE JUDGE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those of my colleagues in paying tribute to our distinguished and venerable colleague, the Judge, Senator HOWELL HEFLIN.

I've had the great honor to serve—and here on the floor of the Senate, to sit alongside the Judge from Alabama—throughout my entire tenure as a U.S. Senator.

Mr. President, HOWELL HEFLIN brought integrity, character, virtue and his folksy Southern humor to a body that is often devoid of such characteristics. What's more, his life has been consistently marked by a constant, single-minded devotion to public service and the love of his country.

During WWII, like many of his contemporaries, he answered the call of his Nation and enlisted in the Marine Corps. In the process, he became a bonafide war hero.

Lt. HOWELL HEFLIN joined in the initial assault to liberate the island of Guam from its Japanese occupiers. He was wounded twice and spent considerable time recovering in stateside hospitals. For his bravery, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.

After the War, Senator HEFLIN became a trial lawyer in his native Alabama, which began his career-long fascination and devotion to the law. In 1970, he was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, where he received the moniker that many know him by in this body—Judge HEFLIN.

That nickname describes well his tenure here in the U.S. Senate and provides context to the issues he championed as a Senator.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he brought an unparalleled understanding of the judicial process and judicial interpretation to the Senate. Judge HEFLIN was instrumental in improving our Federal courts, and he worked tirelessly to improve and reform our Nation's judicial system.

HOWELL HEFLIN also brought his wealth of legal knowledge to his role as chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. While largely a thankless and sometimes tedious position, he never shirked his responsibilities to his colleagues and to the reputation and integrity of the Senate.

Most of all though, HOWELL HEFLIN was always looking out for the people of Alabama. Not surprisingly he's been dubbed the "Spokesman for Southern Agriculture" for his unwavering and vigilant support for Alabama's rich agricultural heritage.

While often tagged as a conservative Democrat, he displayed the fervor of many a New Deal Democrat when he came to the Senate floor to speak passionately about issues that directly affected his constituents—from rural electrification, Federal crop insurance, the peanut subsidy program to the space station and civil rights legislation.

But, most of all HOWELL HEFLIN brought a sense of quiet dignity and tolerance to this body. When he announced his retirement from the Senate, he spoke with great fervor about the need for a new level of political discourse and conduct in our Nation.

He said: "We must set a new course in this Congress and across the land—a course of moderation, tolerance, responsibility and compassion." These words epitomized HOWELL HEFLIN's service in this body, and in my view they are the essence of what service in the U.S. Senate is all about.

This place will not quite be the same without HOWELL HEFLIN's indomitable presence, his deep Southern drawl and his wonderful sense of humor. They will not easily be replaced.

But for every Member of this body there comes a time to move on and embrace new challenges and new goals. That time has come for the Judge. I wish HOWELL and his wife "Mike" best wishes in their retirement and all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SIMON

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, as the Senate fast approaches the end of the 105th Congress, I would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to one of our most distinguished colleagues—Senator PAUL SIMON from Illinois.

Throughout his entire life, PAUL SIMON has been devoted to his fellow citizens and has never wavered from the firmly-held beliefs and principles that guide his public life.

From his first job in 1948, at the tender of age 19, as the Nation's youngest editor-publisher, PAUL SIMON was focused on helping his community. From his position at the Troy Tribune he led an impressive crusade against local criminals and machine politicians.

In 1954, he officially began his career in public service as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. He went on to serve in the State Senate and as Illinois Lieutenant Governor until coming to Washington as a Congressman in 1974 and finally becoming a Senator in 1984.

Throughout that time, PAUL SIMON never lost touch with his Midwestern roots, his reformist ideals or with his constituents, who continued to return him to office, year after year.

PAUL SIMON was one of the first politicians in this Nation to disclose his personal finances, starting in the 1950's.

Additionally, throughout his career he focused on helping provide educational opportunity for the American people. In the Illinois Legislature, he was one of the first lawmakers to propose legislation that would provide a public education for children with disabilities.

Later he was one of the original sponsors of similar landmark legislation on the Federal level, which became the law of the land in 1975.

PAUL SIMON helped lead the way in attacking the problem of illiteracy by working to pass the National Literacy Act.

In 1994, he continued to lead the way on education by working to open up new school-to-work opportunities, and he was the lead sponsor of the President's effort to reform our student loan program. I was pleased to work with Senator SIMON and today we can both look with pride to the new direct student loan program.

Throughout his career, PAUL SIMON has represented the traits of fairness, integrity, and honesty, which has earned him the respect of all members of this body.

This was never more evident than last week, when all the members of the Senate gathered together to honor him by donning imitations of his trademark bow-tie. That salute to our distinguished colleague was an appropriate tribute to a man as unique and distinctive as PAUL SIMON.

To Paul and his wife Jeanne, I wish him the best of luck in all their future endeavors. For a man who has written 15 books I can't imagine that we've heard the last of PAUL SIMON and I look forward to enjoying his wise counsel in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like this opportunity to pay tribute and bid farewell to our distinguished colleague from Colorado—Senator HANK BROWN.

HANK BROWN will be leaving the U.S. Senate after an all-too brief, yet impressive stay in this body. A dedicated and thoughtful legislator, his leadership and intellect will be sorely missed.

Beginning with his experiences in the House of Representatives to his one term here in the Senate, he's been an outspoken leader on issues of foreign policy, deficit reduction, trade, and the military.

His integrity, fairness, and commitment to principles were evident in his approach to all these issues.

I had the pleasure of working with Senator BROWN on both the Budget and Foreign Relations Committees. In both committees, I've been impressed with his perseverance and dedication to developing innovative policy options.

Senator BROWN possesses a rare but important enthusiasm for delving into the Government's fiscal situation. His dedication to discuss budgetary issues is particularly evident in his extra-curricular activities.

While many of us are consumed by the lengthy schedules of day-to-day congressional affairs, HANK BROWN took the time to earn two graduate degrees while a Member of the Congress. In 1988, while still in the House, he earned a degree in accounting, and 2 years earlier, he received a master's degree in taxation. His scholarly grasp of budgetary matters is evidence of his abiding commitment to be well-informed and aware of all possible policy directions.

Senator BROWN has been equally dedicated to foreign policy issues. His amendment to expand NATO to include former Communist states in central and Eastern Europe is just one example of his efforts. The NATO amendment gained bipartisan support because of his strong analytical grasp of the issue and an important willingness to seek out compromise.

HANK BROWN's efforts on this issue stand as an example to us all that a political process often accused of inefficiency and gridlock can work when ideas and cooperation are elevated above the cynical tone too often found in this Chamber.

Senator BROWN is also a distinguished Vietnam veteran, awarded the Air Medal with gold stars, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, and a Naval Unit Citation. He served in the Colorado State Senate from 1972 to 1976, and was named "Outstanding Young Man of Colorado." Afterwards, he spent 10 years in the House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1990.

Senator BROWN's experience as a military veteran and long-term public servant is indicative of his tireless devotion to addressing the problems that face our Nation today.