

American people, he is probably one of the best known—and most recognized—Members of the Senate, every morning opening the Senate dutifully here; almost every day when we open. On rare occasions he is not in the chair. And within this congressional family, he holds a place of respect that is truly unique. I have been honored to serve with him, privileged to learn from him, and proud to call him my friend.

If the Senate had a Mount Rushmore, STROM would be on it.

As my colleagues know, Senator THURMOND's stature in the Senate is not just a matter of longevity. It is a matter of accomplishment.

He was first elected to this body on November 2, 1954, as a write-in candidate, and remains to this day the only person elected to the Senate in that manner.

He has served here on both sides of the aisle, and in both the majority and the minority. But he will quickly tell you that the majority is better.

He has chaired both the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee, and he thereby has made an enduring contribution to both our Nation's security and our system of justice.

He has stood for causes that were popular and causes that were less so. He has been fearless in defending his views, and what may be more important, equally unafraid to change those views when convinced of the rightness of change.

I can remember some of his speeches here in the Senate. He holds the record for the longest speech in the history of the Senate. But I remember as a brand-new Senator, he was standing in this aisle here and giving the most vigorous speech in behalf of the need for a criminal law reform that I believe I have ever heard. It was magnificent.

When STROM THURMOND came to the Senate almost 42 years ago, he brought with him enough accomplishments already for a lifetime.

He had already been a State senator and circuit judge in his native beloved South Carolina. He had been Governor of the Palmetto State and had been the States Rights candidate for the Presidency in 1948.

Most telling of all, he had landed in Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne. Senator THURMOND has much to be proud of in his Senate career. But I doubt that any honors bestowed on him in the course of that career can rival the decorations he won in the Normandy landing: The Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster and the Bronze Star for Valor.

All of this, of course, is a matter of public record. But what the public generally does not know, however, is the personality and the fantastic character that Senator THURMOND brings to his work in the Senate.

I often wish I had his unflinching good humor, which, come to think of it, probably has something to do with his length of service here. He always comes

in ready to go to work with a smile on his face, as he did this very morning.

We all know firsthand how strongly he can argue his point, how fiercely he can defend his values, and how firmly he can put down an opponent who does not have the facts on his side.

But we also know how courteous he is when the debate is over, how generous he is even to those who do not reciprocate that conduct sometimes, and how respectful he has always been to this institution—and to every Member of this institution.

He has been a master of the Senate's rules, for he has always understood that those rules—frustrating and bothersome as they may often seem—are what sets the Senate apart as the most extraordinary legislative body in the world.

He has given so much to his country, in so many different ways, and yet he would resist any attempt on our part to thank him for his lifetime of dedication. For in this regard, Senator THURMOND is truly of the old school: He would rather thank his country for the chance to repay the honor of being an American. After all his years, after all those decades, that is the one appellation that best describes him. Though he has been a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, and a Republican, he has ever been and always will be, most of all, STROM THURMOND, proud American.

Thank you, Senator THURMOND for what you have done for your State, for your country, and for all of us as individuals.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m. for continued tributes to the distinguished President pro tempore of the Senate.

Mr. ASHCROFT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

SOUTH CAROLINA'S MARBLE MAN

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise to participate in this opportunity to celebrate the service of STROM THURMOND.

When Abraham Lincoln stood on the battlefield at Gettysburg to memorialize the outstanding service of those who had died there, he put it succinctly: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

I do not suggest by my own remarks here this morning that my remarks are long to be remembered. But the service of STROM THURMOND is unforgettable, and is indelibly marked, not only in the history of the Senate but in the

States of this great Nation as a part of the development of the character of the United States of America.

"A nation reveals itself," said John Kennedy, "not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." And so it is fitting that we should honor the service of STROM THURMOND. For long after his time in the Senate has ended—and the new millennium has begun—STROM will be remembered; not just for the elections that he won, but for the principles upon which he stood, the State he helped to transform, the party he helped to build.

For STROM, winning elections became a habit. From the time he ran his first campaign for Edgefield County superintendent to his most recent reelection, his record of electoral accomplishment is unparalleled in our time. The punditry and political operatives have been left to search for the secret to STROM's success. The answer is really quite simple. At its most basic, it is this: His word is his bond.

Whether giving up his seat in 1956 to run for reelection without the benefit of incumbency, or switching parties in 1964 to support Barry Goldwater, STROM has been true to himself and to the people he represents. He embodies the very essence of what it means to be a leader, "decid[ing] where he wants to go, figur[ing] out how to get there, and then do[ing] it."

But STROM has done more than just win the voters' hearts. He, along with Carroll Campbell, Governor Beasley, BOB INGLIS, and others, have helped take a State of low-country planters and usher them into the information age. Today, South Carolina stands as one of America's great success stories, part of the booming South Atlantic seaboard; its factories, office buildings, and airports are at the forefront of the Nation's economic growth. And through it all, STROM has been there.

Politically, this new South Carolina has also been moving—more than any other southern State—toward the Republican Party. And if ours is a movement of many mansions, then South Carolina is the house that STROM built. Under his watchful eye, the GOP has controlled the governorship since 1986 and wrested four of the State's six House seats from Democratic rule.

Until Senator THURMOND, most would have scoffed at the suggestion that a Republican could win statewide office. But then STROM joined the GOP, and the impossible became the possible. And so today, there are elephants in the cottonfields, and we have Senator THURMOND to thank more than any other.

Mr. President, in his lifetime Senator THURMOND has seen tragedy and triumph, known both midnight and high noon. At times, he has been a solitary figure seemingly at odds with the world. More often, however, he has stood for the national interest and the Nation has stood with him. And as South Carolina has flourished, so too,

has he grown, coming to see fully the diversity and richness of the American dream.

His secret is not what he gets, not what he gives, not what he consumes, but how he serves. In the end, what Douglas Southall Freeman said of Robert Lee four decades ago might also be said of Senator THURMOND today. "He [is] one of a small company of great men in whom there is no inconsistency to be explained, no enigma to be solved." What he appears, he is. Not merely a man of great faith, but a great and faithful friend.

A final thought. I often hear the pundits and the national press bemoaning what they call an absence of leadership. Where, they ask, are the Thomas Hart Bentons, the Calhouns, and the Clays? Well, let me suggest that they look to the United States Senate; and there, just beyond the camera's eye, you will find them. They go by HELMS, GRAMM, MOYNIHAN. And perhaps most of all, STROM THURMOND—the Palmetto State's marble man—a "figure lost to flesh and blood and bones, frozen into a legend out of life."

I yield the floor.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, in 1950 when William Faulkner accepted the Nobel prize for literature, he said that man would not only endure, he would prevail.

I recalled of those words this morning when I was coming to the Chamber to describe my impression of Senator STROM THURMOND. He has not only survived and set a record because of his endurance but he has prevailed and set an example that all of us can study with profit. His character, his integrity, his commitment, his energy, his enthusiasm for his work and for the Senate, his respect for our Government and our country and its people, and his devotion to duty all set him apart. So it is not just because of his tenure that I praise him this morning but it is more importantly for all of these other qualities that have made him so special and so much appreciated as a Senator.

I have felt it to be a real honor to serve in the Senate with STROM THURMOND of South Carolina. He truly is one of the most outstanding Senators who has ever served. And he has been easy to get to know and easy to like, easy to work with because of his cordiality, his warmth, and his willingness to be helpful. He can also give you good advice and be persuasive in a way that makes you want to do what he wants you to do.

I recall going to the well of the Senate to vote when he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I had planned to vote against his position on an amendment. He grabbed me by the arm and began holding it with his famous firm grip, and he said, "Now, you ought to do what's right on this" and started talking to me. And in that lit-

tle while I realized I was going to vote with him and not the way I had thought I was going to vote when I went to the well of the Senate. I later told somebody that I had been "Thurmonized." That's when you are talked to in a fashion that is very persuasive, very courtly and charming, very distinctively like STROM THURMOND can talk to you.

We have worked closely on agriculture matters. We have worked to ensure that the farmers of South Carolina and those involved in their specialty crops, such as the peach orchard owners, have the kind of investment in research that is necessary to maintain our technological edge, and our productivity, so that we can be competitive in the global markets. He is the farmer's friend. He has said on a number of occasions, and I have heard him say it, "We have to be sure we do right by the farmers; they're very important to this country."

He has the same kind of attitude towards those who serve in the military, and as chairman of the Armed Services Committee he has done as much as anyone, more than most, to help ensure that we have a military which is well equipped, well trained, and is second to none in the world. By reason of his own personal experiences, he knows what it takes in a time of crisis to prevail. He has been a wonderful example in so many ways. He has been devoted to his family. I can recall his talking to the then majority leader, Senator BYRD, about getting out early one night so we could go trick or treating with our children. And he was, of course, in his seventies at that time. But he wanted to be sure that family time was made available, and we got out early that night, I recall, because of the insistence of Senator THURMOND that we have time to spend with our families on Halloween night.

There are many other things that come to mind, personal recollections. I never will forget being invited by him when I was a brand new Senator, to come to Charleston, SC to address the annual dinner of the Hibernian Society. He told me all about what to expect. He said, "The main thing to remember is don't talk long." He said, "They don't want a long speech."

Well, I took that to heart. I didn't talk long. And what I really came to realize when he was introducing me was that the people there were interested in his introduction a lot more than they would be in my speech. He brought the house down. They were there to hear vintage STROM THURMOND, and he was terrific. He started describing me as he introduced me. He said, "He is the first person to ever win statewide office in the State of Mississippi on the Republican ticket." Well, they cheered. And he said, "And he thinks just like we do. He believes in balancing the budget." And they cheered and hollered. And then he said, "And he believes in a strong national defense." And they jumped up and

hollered again. And after a while, I realized my speech following this was not going to be worth giving; they were being entertained, but they were also showing their respect, their love for their Senator, STROM THURMOND. I was delighted to be invited and honored to be the speaker, and I did not talk long. It was a very successful experience because of that.

It was a great pleasure working with Senator THURMOND on the Judiciary Committee during my first 2 years in the Senate, which was a very interesting time of transition. Another part of the genius of STROM THURMOND is to manage transition. The President talks about making change our friend. STROM THURMOND has been doing that for so long it is second nature. And the fact is he has been able to not only manage transitions and help ease the pain of transition for this country in so many different areas that he has been a true leader of our country in that respect. He is a wonderful example and a wonderful man, and it is a great privilege for me to be able to speak today in his honor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I literally cannot remember life without STROM THURMOND. My first awareness of STROM THURMOND was one of the first things I remember in my entire life. I was 6 years old. I was in the first grade at Athens Elementary in Athens, AL. It was 1948. One weekend we were on the porch at my grandfather's house, and I was sitting there listening to my dad and to my grandfather talk about the Presidential election of 1948.

Now, I must confess at age 6 that was not a big item in my life, but that was the first time I heard the name STROM THURMOND. My dad and my granddad talked about the election for a little while, and all I remember for sure is that they said STROM THURMOND was a fine man, they were going to vote for him for President of the United States.

The second time I remember hearing of STROM THURMOND, my family had moved from Alabama to Augusta, GA. My dad was a civilian employee for the Army after having served in World War II in the European theater, as did our fellow Senator whom we honor today. My father was working at the Savannah River plant in Aiken, SC, in 1954.

And again, at age 12, obviously politics was not something I was thinking about very often. It seems to me baseball was most in my interest at that time. But that was the year our colleague whom we honor today got elected to the United States Senate on a write-in in South Carolina. The only time that has been done in history, Mr. President—a remarkable accomplishment.

The next time I remember thinking about Senator THURMOND's distinguished career I was 22, and it was 1964 and we had moved to Kentucky by that point. I had begun to think of myself as a Republican and taken an interest in

politics, and I remember the excitement, having been a son of the Deep South, when Senator THURMOND decided to become a Republican. In those days, as the occupant of the Chair certainly knows, too, there were not any Republicans in the Deep South.

I remember the story my dad told me about his father, my grandfather, sitting him down at an early age and explaining to him politics. He said, "Now, son, this won't take long, just a minute." He said, "The Republican Party is the party of the North and the Democratic Party is the party of the South." And that was the end of it. So imagine my excitement as a 22-year-old college senior to see Senator THURMOND from the Deep South, as deep as it gets, South Carolina, saying, I'm going to be a Republican as a matter of conviction. Now, that was a pretty courageous thing to do in 1964 in South Carolina even if you were a pretty established figure, as Senator THURMOND obviously already was. He didn't have to do that. It would have been easy for him to continue to be a Democrat. That was certainly what everybody was in the South in those days. But, as a matter of conviction, Senator THURMOND said, "I can't be a Democrat anymore. This party doesn't reflect my beliefs and I am going to change." That was the beginning, in every real sense, of the growth of the Republican Party in the South—which I want to say the occupant of the Chair and myself have been substantial beneficiaries of on down in subsequent years.

The next time STROM THURMOND impacted my life was in 1969. I was a legislative assistant to a newly elected Senator from Kentucky who got assigned to the Judiciary Committee. And there was Senator THURMOND. I observed him as a staffer for the 2 years that I was here. He was invariably courteous to those who were beneath him in rank. I oftentimes think that the true test of people's worth is how they treat those people who are not on the same level of influence as they. Senator THURMOND was a favorite of the staff that worked at the Judiciary Committee because he was unfailingly courteous to all of us, and we respected him greatly.

Obviously, the next time Senator THURMOND's life and mine intersected was in 1985 when I was sworn into the Senate and became a member of the Judiciary Committee myself and Senator THURMOND was our chairman.

So, when I say I can't remember life without STROM THURMOND I do not exaggerate. He has been somebody I have heard about, observed and admired all of my life. And, as other speakers have said this morning, and I'm sure others will in the course of the morning, it is an honor for all of us to be associated with this great American. He is truly a legend in our time and a legend that goes beyond simply his longevity, his tenure. Certainly that is a remarkable record. I remember many of us were there at his 90th birthday, when Sen-

ator THURMOND looked out at the audience and said, "Now, if you'll eat right and exercise and take care of yourself, you may be here for my 100th birthday party." Obviously, that kind of optimism, the looking forward, planning ahead, thinking about what you want to achieve, that kind of uplifting optimism has been an inspiration to all of us who have had the opportunity to know and to learn from the senior Senator from South Carolina.

But, beyond the legend of tenure, there is also the question of accomplishment. There isn't anybody in the U.S. Senate who knows more about the issues that the Senate Judiciary Committee deals with than STROM THURMOND. And when it comes to national security matters, not only has STROM THURMOND been a hero on the battlefield himself, having ridden on one of those gliders in behind the lines at Normandy in 1944, not only was he a hero himself, but when it comes to the question of securing and standing up for the solid national defense of the United States, STROM THURMOND has no peer. He has been there for 40 years in the U.S. Senate seeing to it that America had a strong national defense in order to protect this country and our way of life and our interests around the world.

So, Mr. President, let me say again, the life of STROM THURMOND—which continues; he is just getting started—has been an inspiration to all of us who have had the opportunity to know him and to love him over the years.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wanted to stop on the Senate floor today on a mission to compliment my distinguished colleague and friend, Senator STROM THURMOND. He has achieved quite a remarkable record here in the U.S. Senate. I didn't know Senator THURMOND very well except by reputation before I came to the U.S. Senate. But, as I have come to know him and his service to our country, I wanted this morning to join all of my colleagues who will come this morning and tell him thank you for his service to our country.

Senator THURMOND is serving in the U.S. Senate in 1997. He was born in the year 1902. That means that Senator THURMOND has spent a great deal of time in public service. He is a remarkable person by any measure.

When I read a piece about Senator STROM THURMOND about 4 years ago, I went up to him on the floor of Senate, after I read the piece, and told him

that I learned a great deal about him I did not know.

One of the things that impressed me so much was to have read about his record in the Second World War. Senator THURMOND volunteered for service in the Second World War, I believe, when he was near 40 years of age. And when I read about what he did in the Second World War, I was really truly astounded. He received five battle stars and 18 decorations: the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star for valor, the Purple Heart, the Cross of Order of Crown Belgium, and so on.

But what I read about Senator THURMOND was that somewhere near the age of 40, he volunteered to go into service in the Second World War and then further volunteered on a mission, a dangerous mission, to go aloft in a glider and crash-land behind enemy lines at night during the D-day invasion.

I asked Senator THURMOND on the floor, having read about that, "Weren't you terribly afraid that evening as you boarded a glider to be sent aloft?" And we had a little visit about that. He said, no, he was not. He is a man of enormous courage. If you evaluate the record, not only his record during the Second World War, volunteering for dangerous missions and having received so many decorations for valor as a result of that, but also his record in public service following that, you cannot be anything but admiring of this remarkable and wonderful individual.

We spend our time in the Senate here, and I suppose over the couple hundred years that the Senate has been in existence, debating each other and having the give-and-take of the competition of ideas, and sometimes I suppose there might be those who watch these proceedings who think that, gee, this is quite a vigorous debate and we do not have the greatest of respect for each other. I would say to those who watch and get that misimpression that, in almost all cases in this body, those of us who come here have enormous respect for others who have been here and who have come under other circumstances.

Senator THURMOND came to the U.S. Senate, I believe, in 1954, and he has served here with great distinction and great honor. There might be times where he and I would disagree on an issue, but when we disagree we do that without being disagreeable. There have been other times when Senator THURMOND and I have worked together on amendments on the floor of the Senate, and I have been honored to do so.

No matter the circumstance, I feel privileged to have been able to serve at a time in this Senate when someone with as distinguished a record as Senator THURMOND has compiled has been here. I have said on other occasions, for example, that same feeling exists with Senator BYRD of West Virginia, who, I am sure Senator THURMOND would agree, is one of the great Senators of all times.

I, as a young boy, watching and listening and paying some attention to

American politics, read about and heard about and studied the works of U.S. Senators. Most of those who I knew about when I was going to school I never had the opportunity to meet and certainly did not have the opportunity to serve with. But because of longevity and because of the length of public service given this country by the likes of Senator BYRD, and especially Senator THURMOND, I feel pleased that I have come to the Senate and had the opportunity to serve during my term with some really wonderful Senators who have contributed a great deal to this country and left this a richer place because of their public service.

Today, I simply wanted to come and say to Senator THURMOND on behalf of the constituents I represent in North Dakota, thank you for your service to this country. This is a better country and a better place because you have served.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am more than honored to come to the floor today to pay tribute to our senior Senator, Senator THURMOND, who has achieved such an outstanding milestone.

Last September 6, I had the privilege of being at Oriole stadium in Baltimore to watch Cal Ripken break the consecutive game record held by Lou Gehrig. It was one of the most moving tributes in sports events that I have ever witnessed or ever heard about. And yet, when I watched a replay of that just the other day and understood the significance of an individual who had, through sickness and injury and personal concerns, established that probably never-to-be-broken record, I could not help but think of a similar individual who I have had the privilege of serving with in the U.S. Senate who has established his own record. And I think that the sacrifice and the commitment and the perseverance and the dedication of Senator THURMOND really can only be compared with that of Cal Ripken—two extraordinary individuals who have set their mind to a task and not allowed anything to come in the way of performing that task and achieving the goal that they have achieved.

Of course, serving in the House of Representatives, all you really know about Senator THURMOND is the legend. You know he is a legendary figure who has provided extraordinary service to his country and serves as a distinguished Member of the U.S. Senate. So when you come to the Senate and have

the opportunity to serve with Senator THURMOND, you bring with you a sense of awe, a sense of, how does this individual do this? But you also bring the perceptions that you read about in the press, "Oh, Senator THURMOND's remarkable service, but you know he's getting older and he perhaps doesn't have the stamina and the energy that he once had." Well, it does not take you long here in the U.S. Senate to realize that that perception is wrong.

The first thing you do is you meet Senator THURMOND and you have to shake his hand. And after you shake his hand, you have to take some aspirin because your hand is going to be sore for the next couple days, because Senator THURMOND has maintained a grip that few in the Senate half his age have. So my advice to any new, incoming freshmen or anybody who happens to run into Senator THURMOND in the hall or meet Senator THURMOND is, have a bottle of aspirin in your pocket because, after you shake his hand, your hand is going to be sore for a couple days.

The second thing you find out about Senator THURMOND is that, as Senator Dole says, you watch very carefully what he eats because you want to eat whatever STROM THURMOND is eating if you want to stay healthy. And so we jockey to sit near him at lunch to see what is the secret of this man's success, his longevity, his contribution.

And then, if you are like me and you are someone that enjoys going down to our small, little workout facility down in the Russell Building, you run into Senator THURMOND down there and you ask him, "Senator, how do you get to be the age you are and maintain such good physical health? How is it possible?" And he looks at you and says, "Well, I get up every morning and I do my stretching, do 20 minutes of stretching, and then I do 20 minutes on the bicycle, and then I'll do some calisthenics, and then I swim every week half a mile at a time."

Then he looks at you and says, "If you want to stay limber and you want to stay strong, you've got to pay the price." And I wonder how many of us have the will to pay the price at half his age that he pays at the age of 94.

I could go on and on with these stories. I had the privilege of coaching youth basketball here in northern Virginia, and I had the privilege of having on my team young Paul Thurmond. And so here I am in my forties—my son is on the team along with Paul Thurmond—and Paul Thurmond's father is considerably older than I am, and yet there he is in the stands right behind where I am coaching, watching those games and cheering his son on, who is a remarkable athlete, now a nationally ranked tennis player, I think, at Vanderbilt.

We won the championship of that league, and in no small part due to the terrific contributions of young Paul Thurmond, who is now quite a young man. But I think what is remarkable

to me—it was not Paul's athletic prowess—is the fact that Paul's father, Senator THURMOND, was right there cheering him on and with the parents of the kids that won that championship.

I have gotten to meet the rest of his family, and I have gotten to see how Senator THURMOND handles a very, very complex and difficult job and yet cares so deeply for his children and for his family.

I know that Senator THURMOND went through probably the most difficult thing that any parent can go through, and that is the loss of a child. I know how much he grieved the loss of his daughter in that tragic accident that took place. And yet, lesser people would have been broken by that. Lesser people would not have been able to recover from that. Senator THURMOND, I think due in large part to his faith, due to his strength of will, and due to his belief that despite the tragedies in our lives, life must go on, and did go on, and did it in a spirit that is commendable to all of us, because we know how deeply that tragedy struck him.

So there are so many aspects of this extraordinary man that have left such a deep imprint on the lives of all of us here in the Senate and clearly the lives of the people he represents in South Carolina and to many people throughout the world. The impressions I have, the stories I have, the admiration I have for the remarkable person that STROM THURMOND is is really difficult to put into words.

Initially, I was going to sit down and write a speech, but I really wanted this to be from the heart. I really wanted to come over here and say to my colleagues and say to Senator THURMOND, in my lifetime, I do not know that I have ever met someone like you. I do not know if I ever met someone who showed the courage and showed the compassion and showed the loyalty and showed the commitment to the people that he knows and loves and to the people around him and to the people of this Nation.

I bet you could go back 40 years and look up the pages that have served in the Senate, and I will bet you every one of them would say the person that went out of his way to speak to me, to make me feel welcome, was Senator THURMOND. I bet you could go back and talk to staffers from over the last 40 years, or interns, who have worked for Senator THURMOND and hear such remarkable praise from them about the privilege they had of serving and working for him in the Senate. You could talk to any of us who have served with him and we talk about STROM almost in awe. How does this man keep doing it? How are we possibly going to have the energy and passion for the job when we become the age, or we hope to become the age, that Senator THURMOND has become—a unique person, a remarkable record, something that I do not think will ever be broken.

I just want to say to him today what a great privilege it has been for me to

serve with STROM THURMOND, what a great example he has provided to me and to my family, how much I admire him, and how much I want to congratulate him for his remarkable service.

Now, the standing story here, and said with all seriousness, is when is STROM going to start preparing for the next election? We just had an election, but no one is about to say that STROM THURMOND is serving in his last term. This man of such a remarkable constitution continues to give fine representation to the people that he has represented for so long.

Mr. President, I have another dozen stories illustrating the impact of this fine southern gentleman on this institution, but others will recount many of those. I just want him to know he has made a lasting and deep impression on me and it has been one of the highest honors and deepest privileges of my time in the Congress to be a friend and associated with and to work with the Senator from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise this morning to be one of many to pay tribute to our distinguished senior Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. President, I, like all of Senator THURMOND's colleagues, feel it is a privilege to serve with the distinguished Senator, the man whom the Almanac of American Politics calls "the most enduring figure in American politics."

As you and I both know, Mr. President, because you and I are both new Members of this body, we are quickly learning what it means to serve in the U.S. Senate. So it is with genuine respect that I reflect upon STROM THURMOND's many, many, many years of service here in this body, the votes he has cast, the issues he has debated and the people he has known, and the history that Senator THURMOND has helped shape.

STROM THURMOND was serving America for more than a decade before, you, Mr. President, were born, or before I was born. He landed at Normandy on D-Day. Many people do not know that Senator THURMOND was a legitimate hero of World War II. He was jumping out of planes not at the age of 21, but far beyond those tender young ages. He landed at Normandy on D-day. He was a State legislator, a Governor, and a candidate for President of the United States, all before he came to the U.S. Senate.

However, it has been his service in the U.S. Senate that has made STROM THURMOND's boldest and most enduring

mark, service that began when I was in grade school in the sand hills of Nebraska. STROM THURMOND came to this body when there were only 48 stars on the American flag. He has served with nine Presidents of both political parties, and his leadership has spanned five decades with tremendous change in American culture, society, and government. STROM THURMOND is part of American history.

This freshman, 6-month-old, humble Senator from Nebraska, wishes to thank Senator THURMOND for the opportunity to learn from his experiences and his leadership. I wish to add my commendation to Senator THURMOND for his dedication, his commitment to our Nation. I admire the strong example he has set for all of us, especially our young people. Mr. President, in a day when we do not have enough strong role models in this country, Senator THURMOND is one. He is an example of a life well lived. He is a true American role model, an American hero.

Senator THURMOND is the highest ranking 95-year-old in the Nation, as far as I know, Mr. President. My only request is that I hope that during my time in the Senate I may conduct myself in such a way that Senator THURMOND will remember me as his colleague and friend long after I have departed this body and Senator THURMOND is still presiding.

Mr. President, I thank you for your time. I once again commend my colleague and my friend, the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee and a most distinguished American.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would not be surprised if Senator THURMOND did not even know my name, and there is no reason that he should. He had served in this body and had run for President before I was ever born, and I want him to know that I was uncomfortable in presiding here in seeing time pass by with too few people rising to pay tribute to his name and the heritage of political service he leads to this country.

I, as a little boy, moved with my father and mother from Pendleton, OR, to Washington, DC. My dad worked for Dwight Eisenhower, and as a little boy I became interested in political affairs and public life, and for all of the memory of my life I remember hearing the name of STROM THURMOND. I remember him as a Democrat. I remember him as a Republican. I remember him always following the dictates of his conscience in pursuing issues as he saw them to be right.

I, therefore, join with all who pay tribute to STROM THURMOND. I thank him for his service to our country. I thank him for his repeated reminders to us and the Republican conference of the first constitutional responsibility that we have—to provide for the common defense. As the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee he does that ably, and I, for one, hear his message and am anxious to support him in providing a strong national defense.

I just had occasion to travel with the President of the United States to Europe where we witnessed the signing of the Russia-NATO agreement. I also participated in the ceremonies for the 50th anniversary of the Marshall plan. These are great contributions that America is making to world affairs and to peace. It occurs to me that none of this would have been possible absent a strong national defense. Indeed, providing for an American role in leadership, because we as Americans understand our international responsibility and understand that the world looks to us. Indeed, it looks to leaders like STROM THURMOND to support our military services in making sure that we are the leaders of peacefulness throughout this very hostile and difficult world.

Senator THURMOND, I come to the Senate today to say thank you. I never served in the military and I suppose every man would like one day to have his grandson ask him, "What did you do in the war, Grandpa," and I will not be able to say I served in battle like you did, but in a sense here in the U.S. Senate we go to war every day, but nobody dies, because we have found a way in this country, in this deliberative body, to fight without bloodshed. It will be my great pleasure that when my grandson sits on my knee and asks what did I do to contribute to the public life of this country, one of the things I will say is I served with Senator STROM THURMOND.

Thank you, sir. I salute you and I commend you and I want to say publicly it is a high honor and a great privilege to serve as your colleague in this body of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a few words of congratulations and tribute to a great man.

When the history of American politics is written, somebody needs to put in a pretty good chapter just about Senator STROM THURMOND. This gentleman has seen and lived history as very few people have. He fought on the beaches of Normandy at the age of 41.

His grandfather fought in the Civil War. And his long and dedicated service in the U.S. Senate deserves our honor today. He is both the oldest living and the longest serving Senator in U.S. history.

Like many of my colleagues, he has made a run for the Presidency. That is not so uncommon. But Senator STROM THURMOND ran against President Harry S. Truman. That is a little bit different.

Senator THURMOND's life has been spent in public service. He has known every President since Franklin Roosevelt. He has been a county superintendent of education, State senator, Governor, circuit judge. He has been a schoolteacher, a coach. He has worked on a farm, and has even been a motorcycle rider, like my friend Senator CAMPBELL.

Senator THURMOND is one of South Carolina's most successful exports, and clearly their favorite son.

I think it is worth noting that as times have changed, so has Senator THURMOND. When you look back on his life, you see a pretty good reflection of the way he lives. The views of many Americans have changed in this century. I think it is a good thing to know Senator THURMOND, because his example shows us how someone who serves the public can adapt to the times while still living by his core principles.

STROM is a fair man, a kind man, who steadfastly believes in what he says. He believes in the rights of the people he represents to conduct their lives as they see fit. He has fought for that for years, and I think that is extremely noteworthy. It is among the highest obligations that elected officials can uphold.

But aside from all the history, I think what Senator THURMOND most wants to be noted for today is what he sought to do throughout his life; and that is, there is no denying that this man is unendingly thoughtful and is faithful to his friends and family and the people around him.

There aren't too many folks in South Carolina who do not have a firsthand story of Senator THURMOND picking up the phone to offer congratulations or to offer condolences, and getting a note in the mail where he expresses his concern or his interest in something that has happened in the life of a family.

I think that is the mark of the best kind of public service. You don't forget that at the end of the day what matters is the people you can count as friends. And people remember their friends. They respect a true leader who sticks by his guns. Regardless of your politics, that is the kind of respect any public servant strives for, and it is the mark of a true statesman and a true gentleman, and, in this case, a true Southern gentleman.

I have read that my colleague wants to be remembered as a man who is honest, patriotic, and helpful. I am here to tell you that he is all three.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, today it is a great honor for me to join in this tribute to a remarkable man who has established a remarkable career, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND has served America as a teacher, as an athletic coach, an attorney, a judge, an Army officer, a war hero, a State senator, a Governor, a Presidential candidate, a U.S. Senator, and, perhaps most importantly, a father and husband.

What an honor it is to serve with Senator THURMOND in the U.S. Senate.

I mentioned his role as father and husband. Mr. President, I am sure you have seen also, on those occasions when we are all together with our family members, the wonderful pride that you see in the eyes of STROM THURMOND when he introduces his children to us, when he talks about some of the great accomplishments of his children, and the twinkle in his eye when he talks about his family.

While serving, Mr. President, in a variety of these capacities, it was as a circuit judge when war with Germany broke out. As a judge, Mr. President, he was exempt from military service. But STROM THURMOND, as soon as war was declared with Germany, traded in that robe for the uniform of the U.S. military.

Recently, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of World War II. We think about all that that meant. And, for many of us, we had not even been born at that point—World War II. One of the key, key events of World War II was D-day, the invasion. And it was on that day that this former circuit court judge joined in the invasion of the occupied territory, and, in a glider, went behind enemy lines and fought for his country. Because of that, Senator THURMOND received 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for valor. And we see that valor every day here in the U.S. Senate.

Senator THURMOND set a record for longevity of service in the U.S. Senate. But it is his record of accomplishment, not just the length of service, that makes his career legendary.

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to serve with STROM as my chairman on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator THURMOND is a tireless advocate of a strong defense, a strong America, and the men and women who volunteer to wear the uniform of the United States, and with his distinguished, distinguished service in the military here is a man who

every man and woman in uniform can look to with great pride knowing how much he cares for them and the duty that they are called upon to carry out.

My colleagues know the strength of Senator THURMOND's convictions which can be measured directly by his grip on your arm as he discusses those issues with you. Senator THURMOND has never been afraid to stand up for his principles and what he believes in, no matter how the political winds may be blowing.

In recognition of his career and his character, the people of South Carolina have elected STROM THURMOND seven times to represent them as their Senator, including the first time in 1954 as a write-in candidate.

Mr. President, when we think about this remarkable life of Senator STROM THURMOND, who was born in the year 1902, think of all of the changes that have taken place in this country of ours, all of the advances in technology, all of the changes in the progress, the achievements of this Nation, of the world, here is a man who has seen it all. Here is a man, though, who has absolutely remained current. I hope that as I continue my life I can continue to be contemporary. When STROM THURMOND goes back to the wonderful State of South Carolina, it is the young people who identify with him as well. Here is someone they admire and look to. Here is a man who because of his inquisitive mind, because of his wonderful sense of humor, his energy for life, and his unending love for his country, people of all ages admire.

We need the STROM THURMONDS of this country because it is the STROM THURMONDS of this country who are the role models for the rest of us. At some point when I conclude my career in the Senate, one of the things I will be able to look back on is that I had the great honor of serving with Senator STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND, as a citizen, I thank you for all that you mean to the United States of America and God bless you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank you for presiding at this very important morning of celebration. We are here to talk about someone who is truly remarkable—our distinguished colleague, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

Pablo Picasso once said it takes a long time to grow young. This is one

point on which STROM and Picasso would agree. Picasso was still a painter at the age of 92, and of course, we all know what STROM THURMOND is doing today. He is leading our Nation.

STROM often reminds me that Col. William Barrett Travis, the commander at the Alamo, was from STROM's home county in South Carolina. Although STROM missed the Battle of the Alamo by a few years, he has displayed the spirit of the Alamo time and time again—the sense of duty and commitment to freedom that made Colonel Travis such a hero at the Alamo.

He was commissioned in the Army in 1924, and though he didn't need to, he volunteered for service in World War II at the age of 40. He wanted to. He served in both the Pacific and the European theaters and landed in a glider on the beach at Normandy on D-day. He earned 18 decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for Valor. He remained in the Army Reserve. He retired at the rank of major general, following 36 years of active and reserve military service, nearly 40 years ago.

I remember something that made such an impression on me in 1994 when I was a new Member of the Senate. We were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the landing at Normandy in 1944. I remember hearing—in absolute awe—that one current Member of Congress who landed at Normandy, STROM THURMOND, was to be honored. He missed the anniversary, and I remember thinking to myself how extraordinary his reason was. STROM THURMOND, who volunteered at the age of 40, and who landed on a glider at D-day, missed the 50th anniversary because he had a son graduating from high school. This is an extraordinary man. He has served as a State senator, a circuit court judge, a Governor, a soldier in time of war, a Presidential candidate, and now is the oldest and longest serving Senator in our Nation's history.

It was my pleasure to serve with STROM THURMOND on the Armed Services Committee, and I can say as one who was there, he worked for only one purpose: To ensure our country's national defense remained strong. During his last campaign, Senator THURMOND asked the people of South Carolina one simple question: Who can do more to help steer the future of America toward the conservative principles we believe in? Who can best continue to diligently and effectively help all the people of South Carolina? The people of South Carolina spoke resoundingly that the person was STROM THURMOND and returned him to the U.S. Senate. We are here today to honor their choice and their confidence in this gentleman.

STROM has announced that it is, after all, a man's prerogative to change his mind. He has announced that he will no longer support continual service without term limits. So, now that he has embraced term limits, in a magnani-

mous gesture he has announced that he will not run for reelection in 2002. We think that really is magnanimous because there are few South Carolina politicians who would have the energy to take on the man that we have affectionately dubbed "The Thurmonater."

He began his career in public service as a coach in 1923, and 74 years later he remains a coach and teacher to all of us.

Senator THURMOND, it is a pleasure and an honor to work beside you, and I wish you continued success in a long and healthy life that I know you will have.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the celebration of the life and recordbreaking Senate career of Senator STROM THURMOND gives each of us an opportunity to underline strengths of our friend and our colleague which we should emulate. Senator THURMOND is the oldest of our colleagues, but my most vivid memories of him have often involved his interaction with young people.

During a trip to military installations early in my Senate career, I learned much about successful constituent relationships from STROM. Even while on the road, STROM THURMOND was receiving the names of South Carolinians who had recently died, were married, or enjoyed personal honors such as graduation or academic recognition. With the assistance of his able staff, STROM obtained daily lists of names and placed telephone calls, through his Washington office, to at least 2 dozen of these persons, according to my observations, leaving appropriate messages when necessary. He displayed the greatest excitement over students and could often identify their parents and their grandparents as he shared pride in the accomplishments of the entire family.

Upon arrival at one naval base that shall remain nameless, STROM demonstrated another attribute, which has been partly responsible for his longevity of Senatorial service. We were greeted by the naval captain who commanded the base and, after just a few words of conversation, STROM indicated that it was 4:30 in the afternoon, he had been traveling for hours, and he wanted to jog around the base. He invited the astonished commanding officer to join him for the run and strongly insisted that this would be an excellent opportunity. As negotiations on the running assignment proceeded, the captain successfully pled the press of urgent duties and encouraged a young ensign to suit up for running duty with Senator

THURMOND. I saw this episode repeated on another occasion.

I noticed a remarkable excitement which young people enjoyed when running with STROM THURMOND. This excitement is not restricted to miscellaneous strangers that STROM met across the country. Last summer, I found that STROM's son, Paul, was a member of my fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, and that several of his fraternity brothers were interns in Senator THURMOND's office. I invited them to lunch in the Senate dining room where, midway through our meal, STROM entered with constituents from South Carolina. I was deeply touched while watching Paul greet his dad and the constituents and indicate to all the importance of the reelection campaign in which the entire family was heavily involved. Paul critiqued STROM's early morning TV appearance and the current stress of various activities, giving his dad advice. Then Paul and his fraternity brothers shared with me great stories about their experiences with STROM, including his intense interest in their daily activities.

All of us know from our daily visits with STROM THURMOND on the floor of the Senate that he greets each of us warmly. He is excited by these encounters, almost as if it were the first time in a long while that he has seen us. In visiting with these young men who were interns in his office, and later with my own son, David Lugar, who had a wonderful conversation with STROM at a fundraising reception, I found a common theme.

STROM, obviously, is invigorated by his meetings with young people, and he has much to say to them about successful patterns of living. His political instruction is surely world class, and I suspect that all of us recognize the power of a truly disciplined life that has been lived with the setting of important goals and the sustained activity necessary to achieve them.

Very fortunately, STROM has not only set a record for longevity of service in the Senate, he is still among us, giving encouragement each day and inspiring the best of our efforts. I am very grateful for the privilege of serving with him.

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

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to join in honoring a legend, a legend not just in the Senate but also throughout the United States of America.

I have been privileged to serve with Senator THURMOND for 21 of the last nearly 42 years that he has represented the State of South Carolina as one of the premier U.S. Senators in this body.

When I first arrived in January 1977, Senator THURMOND was my special mentor. As my senior on the Senate Judiciary Committee, he gave me my first lessons of the committee's processes. Ever since then, he has been a personal and very special friend to me.

I have admired Senator THURMOND's strong commitment to federalism and his steadfast support of the prerogatives of both State and local governments. I have admired his toughness in the matters of criminal justice. I have admired his objectivity and fairness when it comes to matters concerning the judiciary. There can be no question that Senator THURMOND has left his mark on the Senate Judiciary Committee and the laws created by it.

Nearly 42 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Senate would be a lifetime accomplishment for anybody—certainly for most people. But Senator THURMOND was just warming up when he arrived here for the first time in 1955. Before that he was county superintendent of schools, county attorney, circuit judge, D-day hero with the 82d Airborne, Governor of South Carolina, and Presidential candidate in 1948.

The problem with using the word "legend" is that many times the exploits ascribed to a legendary figure are exaggerated or apocryphal. But it is entirely safe to say that Senator THURMOND is a legend. His accomplishments and contributions both for his beloved home State and his country are very well documented. And a lot of us are very familiar with them.

I will never forget his trip to Utah in 1991 to keynote my Utah Seniors Conference. About 1,000 seniors from all over the State of Utah and the intermountain West gathered in Salt Lake City for a day of workshops and speakers on everything from retirement finances to travel bargains. Senator THURMOND is quite a role model. His enthusiasm for his work, his family, for his country, and for life itself was genuine and infectious. Our people in Utah were so impressed, that he gave them so much to live for, so much to strive for, so much to try to be, that I will never forget that appearance out there in Utah.

We have been together on so many occasions and we have done so many things together that I think I am in a special position to say how much I care for this wonderful human being and how proud I am that he has reached this milestone in the U.S. Senate. I am not sure that it will ever be broken.

Senator THURMOND is one who will leave a legacy not only of achievement but of honor and integrity to the Senate and the people of South Carolina. But, of course, it is premature to think that the latest milestone is the last milestone. I do not believe STROM THURMOND is finished yet.

I have a lot of friends in the Senate, and I care for all of them. This is a wonderful body. It is a collegial body. It is an important body, the most important legislative body in the world

today. But I have no greater friend than my good friend from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

He has been my mentor. He has been my friend. He has been my supporter. He has been a person who has taken time to help me to know the ropes here. And he is a human being who you cannot help but respect.

I am proud that he has not lost a step. This man is as effective today as when I got here in 1977, in fact, in some ways maybe even more effective because of the additional 21 years of experience that he has been able to accumulate.

Senator THURMOND has been good to his staff. He is good to the people around the Senate. I have seen him shake hands with almost everybody who comes his way. He takes time with young people, children, older people, whoever. He stops and says hello and always has a cheery salutation for people as he serves in the Senate.

I also know that there is nobody in the Senate who knows more about his State and the people therein than STROM THURMOND. I have seen him make phone calls to his State. I have seen him worry about funerals, about deaths, about graduations, about education, about so many things that really have been important for people in his State. I think it is probably true that he has basically touched the lives and the hearts of virtually everybody in the State of South Carolina. But it is also true that he has touched the hearts of many of us throughout the rest of the country.

And I for one am a better person because of my relationship and the friendship and brotherhood that I have with STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

He is a great man. He is a legend. And I believe that he is going to make these next number of years the most important years of his life. And if anybody can do it, it is my buddy, my friend, my mentor, STROM THURMOND.

So I would have felt badly if I had not gotten over here and at least said a few of the things that are on my mind. I could go on for hours. But this is a great man, one of the greatest that has ever lived in this country. He is a great patriot, somebody who really loves this country and has given blood for it.

I want you to know, Senator THURMOND, I appreciate you. And I know I am not supposed to refer to you in the first person on the floor, but I am going to today. I appreciate you and appreciate the kindness and the friendship you have shown me all these years. And we are going to be friends forevermore. So I am grateful to you and I am happy to see you achieve this honor. And I wish you many, many more years in the U.S. Senate. And I know that as long as you will be here, that you will give it everything you have.

Thank you, Mr. President.
I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in his thought-provoking book, "The Faith We Have Not Kept," Senator STROM THURMOND writes:

The nation that ceases to expand its consciousness begins to die at that very moment. Once a nation loses its conviction of truth, doubts, and self-doubts rob it of its will and its strength.

During his 41 years and 10 months in the U.S. Senate, Senator STROM THURMOND has certainly helped ensure that this great Nation continues to expand its consciousness and to ensure that we never lose the conviction of truth. In so doing, he has helped our Nation continue to thrive and prosper and build its will and its strength.

For these reasons, we admire as well as honor the man who this past Sunday, on May 25, became the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States.

From the start, I want to make it clear I have not always agreed with the senior Senator from South Carolina. In fact, we probably disagreed more than we have agreed.

But I also want to make clear that my disagreements with him have never once diminished my admiration for him as a man, as a lawmaker, and as an American. Never once have our differences reduced my respect for his tenacious fights for the causes in which he believes and his adherence to what he has called the bedrock for all our expectations, the Constitution of the United States.

This historic achievement is another important milestone in the life and career of a man who has become a political icon of the South—a life and a career that has included:

Being the first and only person to be elected to the U.S. Senate on a write-in ballot;

Delivering the longest speech in the history of the Senate, 24 hours, and 18 minutes; and,

Being the oldest person to have ever served here in the Senate.

One might be inclined to think that being a Federal lawmaker is all that STROM THURMOND has ever done. Actually, he has done a few other things. He has been a farmer, a lawyer, a teacher, a coach, an education administrator, a judge, a Governor, a State senator, and an author. He is a soldier—a distinguished veteran of World War II who participated in the D-day invasion and has been awarded 5 military stars and 18 decorations. He has been a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, and a Republican.

What a life.

What a career.

In addition to the skill and intellect, the doggedness and drive, and the other

attributes that make for an outstanding senatorial career, Senator THURMOND's historic achievement marks the career of someone:

Born before the birth of aviation—the year before the Wright brothers took off in their plane at Kitty Hawk;

Elected to his first political office while Calvin Coolidge was President;

Who began serving in the Senate before some of its current Members, including this one, were born; and

Who has served with about one-fifth of the 1,843 men and women who have been Members of the U.S. Senate.

For his long and distinguished career, the people of South Carolina are naming much of that State in Senator THURMOND's honor. Go to almost any town in his beautiful and beloved State and you will find Strom Thurmond Street or Bridge. You will similarly find named in his honor a high school in Edgefield County, a student center at Baptist College, a dormitory at Winthrop College, a criminal justice building at the Greenville Technical College, a Federal building in Columbia, the Center for Excellence in Government at Clemson, an auditorium at the University of South Carolina School of Law, a mall in Columbia, and a vocational rehabilitation center in Aiken. You will also find Strom Thurmond Lake, Dam, and Highway in Clarks Hill, the Strom Thurmond Educational Center in Union, the Strom Thurmond Biomedical Research Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Strom Thurmond Defense Finance and Accounting Building in Charleston.

His office walls are covered floor to ceiling with awards too numerous to mention. The people of South Carolina are obviously pleased and proud of their man in Washington just as we are pleased and proud to have him here with us.

It is interesting to note that the oldest and longest serving Member in Senate history has announced his support for term limits. After six decades in political office and four decades in the Senate, this may be the only way that he will ever leave the Senate.

One of his staffers aptly pointed out that “graveyards in South Carolina are filled with people waiting for STROM THURMOND to die so they could run for the Senate.”

Mr. President, I congratulate Senator STROM THURMOND for his remarkable career and his historic feat, becoming the longest serving Senator in U.S. history. I thank him for his contributions to the U.S. Senate, for his contributions in making this a better country, and for being a friend and a colleague. Finally, I thank him for expanding the consciousness of this great Nation and ensuring that we never lose our conviction of truth.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

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

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have served in the Senate for 25 years. Obviously, when compared with Senator STROM THURMOND, I do not even have any bragging rights yet.

I thought I would come down here to remark, for the Senate record and for the distinguished Senator THURMOND, on a few of my thoughts about my 25 years here, and what I remember most about Senator THURMOND. Rather than talk about legislation, I will talk about some of his qualities and characteristics that stand out most in my mind.

I guess the most immediate thought that comes to mind is that he is a real gentleman. I think when you have been such an acclaimed, esteemed political leader for as long as he has, it is a rare quality and rare compliment that you can say he has never stopped being a gentleman. By that, I mean he is considerate of everyone. He visits more people and attends more events to honor other people, than anyone I know, and he does it with great enthusiasm. He attends events, whether for the chairman of the Appropriations Committee or a brandnew Senator—he puts it on his list and he spends an hour to an hour and a half, 3 or 4 nights a week, attending events to honor or help other people. It is absolutely beyond belief how much energy and time he spends on other people.

Second—and I hope this characteristic is never passe, I hope it is always important—I believe he is about as loyal an American citizen as I have ever worked with, as I have ever exchanged views with, and that I have ever been privileged to call friend. By being a loyal American, what I mean is he is constantly asking what is good for America. When he speaks about our national defense, you just know he loves this country. That is what I mean when I say he is a true, loyal American. He is a patriot. He has served America and his constituents in his State in more capacities than anyone in this institution will ever be privileged to serve. Yet, he is always optimistic and he is always sure and certain that this country—that he loves so much—is one of the great achievements of all humankind. He speaks of it as something that we ought to be proud of, that we ought to preserve.

Mr. President, my last observation about STROM THURMOND is that he knows how to be a team player.

You know, it is entirely possible that a man of his exquisite accomplishments and seniority wouldn't have to be a team player. But I can tell you, as one who has had to manage a large number of very, very tough measures on the floor of the Senate, STROM THURMOND is one of the best team players when he believes you are trying to do is something good for the country.

There are many other characteristics that other Senators will speak of. They are all well deserved. I am here to speak of my own evaluation: a gentleman, a true and loyal American, and a team player. That is how view him. That is how I think many will view him they look at his great accomplishments and marvelous life.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate my good friend, colleague, and neighbor, STROM THURMOND.

Mr. President, I cannot say much that has not already been said about Senator THURMOND. When I think about the life of STROM THURMOND, his life is literally a chapter of American history.

STROM was born in 1902. This was the year before the Wright brothers did their first flight. He has lived through four wars, and was a war hero in one of them—World War II. He was at Normandy in June of 1944 when we liberated Europe.

A funny and personal note, quickly: After I came to the Senate, STROM said to me on the floor one day, “What year were you born?” I told him I was born in 1928, which made me pretty old. He looked at me and said, “That was a good year. That was the year I was county superintendent of education.” So I felt young again.

I congratulate him as the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States. I can think of no one more fitting than STROM THURMOND to hold this honor. He has devoted his entire adult life to serving the people of the United States and the people of South Carolina.

He first became a State senator in 1933, which was a pretty long time ago. And he served as Governor from 1947 until 1951. He ran for President, and was a lot closer to being elected than most people realized. But, more appropriately, they elected him to the Senate in 1954 as a write-in candidate—so far as I know, the only write-in candidate ever elected to the Senate. And they have reelected him ever since, as both Democrat and Republican.

As his neighbor from North Carolina, I say to all South Carolinians that they should be proud, and I know they are proud of Senator THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND is a man of deep faith, and he truly has the courage of his convictions. In his long career, I have never heard anybody question his integrity or his dedication to public service. In this day and age of attack politics, STROM THURMOND is forever the gentleman. His manner should be a role model for aspiring politicians and Senators.

Further, I can think of no one in the Senate who I would rather have as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He is a veteran, he is a war

hero, and he is a man of unwavering integrity and commitment to the causes he believes in. And one of those principal causes is a strong national defense. He is a man of principles, and one of those principles, I again repeat, is a strong national defense. It is the one identifying characteristic, if no other, of STROM THURMOND.

I know that he will not let anyone ever weaken the national defense system as long as he is chairman. And I hope he remains chairman for a long time to come.

Mr. President, I thank STROM THURMOND for his service, and as a nation we thank STROM THURMOND for his service. Our veterans and men in uniform throughout the country are aware of what he has done, what he represents, and he still has the strong support of them.

I look forward to continuing to serve with Senator THURMOND far into the future.

I thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have been an occupant of the Chair and listened to many statements now concerning my good friend from South Carolina. So I am not going to repeat some of the matters concerning Senator THURMOND's personal background. I would like to just discuss some of the memories I have of this great Senator.

It is a matter of coincidence, I guess, but Senator THURMOND came to the Senate by appointment on December 24, 1954. I came to the Senate by appointment on December 24, 1968. I thank the Parliamentarian for assisting me in finding those dates. When I came to the Senate, Senator THURMOND was 22d in seniority. It is an interesting thing that he is now the first in line, and, on our side, I am now the second.

A great many people have come to the Senate, and left, since the first day that I came to the Senate and joined Senator THURMOND. But it was with great interest that I met him because I read a great deal about the Senator from South Carolina prior to coming to the Senate.

As a matter of history, I was trained to fly gliders in World War II and firmly expected to be deployed to the European theater, when I was reassigned into the China theater, and did not ever get to tow gliders into combat. But I did train to tow them. And I was very interested to find out that Senator THURMOND was one of those who led part of our forces flying a glider into the invasion in June 1944.

You know, the whole concept of using gliders was to insert troops far beyond the shore defenses out in front. And that is, I think, what I would say about Senator THURMOND: He has always been out in front.

He has also been a leader by example. There is one thing that young Senators coming into the Senate, whether in the group that I came in 1968 or every new

term that brings more Senators, soon learn. If you want to see what a Senator should act like, should be like, you should emulate the Senator from South Carolina. As a matter of fact, my brother, Bob, lives in South Carolina. When he speaks of "my Senator," he is talking about Senator THURMOND—not me—because Senator THURMOND is a real champion of the people of his State. They know him personally.

It was my privilege in one election to accompany Senator THURMOND to South Carolina and to go to campaign events with him. I want the Senate to know, if they want to learn how to campaign, that they ought to try that. Because when Senator THURMOND goes into an event—and we went to several on that trip that I made with him to South Carolina—he does not need someone standing beside him to remind him who people are. He loves campaigning. You can tell that he knows his people, and they love him because it is a reunion. Each one of his campaign events are reunions. They are not just something to go to, to try to listen to; they are supporters coming to meet their Senator. There is a great difference, Mr. President. I think we all know that.

But time passes very quickly in the Senate. It passes quickly for those who are busy. Some people come and leave very quickly because they never really become part of the Senate family. Senator THURMOND has been a leader not only in the Senate, but here on the floor and in the Senate family.

My daughter, Lily—this is Uncle STROM to her. I think for almost every one of us who have had young children here in the Senate, they have had that same relationship to Senator THURMOND. She literally lights up when she sees STROM because she is meeting a friend. He really vibrates with young people. And I like that as a father. But I also admire it greatly in terms of his qualities and the way he approaches life.

I was thinking, as I sat there in the chair, about what I would say about Senator THURMOND. My message to the Senate is, here is a man who loves life. There is a real joy to his life. He has had some sadness. But he has had the strength to overcome that. But he really enjoys life.

I remember when he used to tell me that I ought to work out more, that I ought to get more exercise. I thought I was getting a lot of exercise. But I soon found out that I needed that exercise because every time he grabbed me by the arm, I went away with a bruise. And I had to get a little bit more muscle there so I could be close enough to him so he could talk to me. You watch. He will do that when I finish. He is going to grab me by the arm and let me know there is still strength in that arm. And it is the strength of a strong heart, a heart that really loves our country, and loves the Senate, and that really has dignified the Senate in his years here.

He has been in some battles. He has been in some battles with me. But I will tell the Senate that no one in the Senate could have a better friend than STROM THURMOND. I am proud to be here today to call him my friend and to acknowledge his great leadership.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the distinguished President pro tempore of the Senate, the senior Senator from South Carolina, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND was born at the dawn of the 20th century, on December 5, 1902, at Edgefield, SC. He has lived nearly every day of this tumultuous century.

Mr. President, I take particular interest and pride in Senator THURMOND's early career. After graduating from Clemson University in 1923, Senator THURMOND embarked on 6 years of service as a public school teacher and athletic coach. Mr. President, that is how I began my own career after my own graduation from college.

Senator THURMOND subsequently served as his home county's superintendent of education from 1929 to 1933.

Having studied law at night under the tutelage of his father, Senator THURMOND became a member of the South Carolina Bar in 1930. He was a city attorney and county attorney from 1930 to 1938.

In 1933, STROM THURMOND was elected State senator, an office that he held until 1938. He next served as a South Carolina circuit judge from 1938 to 1946.

It has been my honor, Mr. President, to have served on the Armed Services Committee with Senator THURMOND since I was elected to the Senate in 1990 and, for the past more than two years, under his able leadership as chairman. Given that connection, I want to call special attention to Senator THURMOND's heroic service in World War II.

Mr. President, in June, 1944, STROM THURMOND volunteered to participate in D-day by parachuting into France, but was told that he was too old. Instead, then-Judge THURMOND, age 41, participated in the Normandy Invasion by landing with members of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division.

Ultimately, STROM THURMOND was awarded 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with "V," the Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre.

After World War II, Mr. President, STROM THURMOND served as the Governor of South Carolina from 1947 to 1951. He was the States' rights Democratic nominee for President in 1948. He carried 4 States, receiving 39 electoral votes.

Following his service as Governor of his beloved state, STROM THURMOND

practiced law in Aiken, SC, from 1951 to 1955.

Mr. President, STROM THURMOND was elected to the U.S. Senate as a write-in candidate in 1954. He resigned in 1956, in the words of his official biography, in order "to place the office in a primary, pursuant to a promise to the people during the 1954 campaign."

Subsequently, of course, Mr. President, STROM THURMOND was elected to the Senate in 1956, and reelected in 1960, 1966, 1972, 1978, 1984, 1990, and 1996. He has spoken of retirement after his current term, which will end after Senator THURMOND's 100th birthday on December 2, 2002. I am sure that I am not alone when I say that I hope that he will reconsider.

Mr. President, it has been my honor and privilege to serve in the U.S. Senate with Senator STROM THURMOND for the past more than 6 years. I respect him, I admire him, and I value his friendship. I look forward to continuing to serve with him, under his leadership as President pro tempore of the Senate and as the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, for many years to come.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, last week, Senator STROM THURMOND became the longest-serving U.S. Senator in American history. That, in itself, is an amazing feat—42 years tirelessly representing his home State of South Carolina and our Nation. While this milestone rightly garnered much attention, it is because of Senator THURMOND's many accomplishments in and out of this Chamber, not simply the length of his tenure, that he will always be remembered as one of the true giants of this institution and why he will go down in history as one of the most important figures in 20th century American politics. I am proud to serve in the Senate with STROM THURMOND and glad to have this opportunity to honor him and his continuing record of achievement.

We all know of STROM THURMOND's legacy. Teacher, State senator, judge, soldier at Normandy, Governor, Presidential candidate, and U.S. Senator. Always guided by principle and a strong devotion to service, STROM THURMOND's life and career are an example to each and every one of us and are a poignant realization of the American dream.

STROM THURMOND grew up on a farm in Edgefield, SC, not far from where William Barret Travis, the heroic commander of the Alamo, was born. He began his career as a teacher and athletic coach and his strong love of education soon led him to be the youngest person ever to become superintendent of education for Edgefield County. In the ensuing years he would further serve the people of South Carolina as a State senator and a circuit court judge. When World War II came, STROM THURMOND chose to leave the State he so loved to defend democracy overseas. As

a judge, he was exempt from military service, but Senator THURMOND relinquished his robe and volunteered for active duty in the military. His war record is the stuff of legend: he fought in five battles, landed by glider at Normandy on D-day and was ultimately awarded 5 battle stars and 18 decorations for his service.

After the war, STROM THURMOND came home and was elected Governor, and in 1948, he ran for President. Soon after, he was elected as a write-in candidate to the U.S. Senate, becoming the first person ever elected to the Senate by this method.

Newly-elected Senator THURMOND, drawing upon his firsthand experience in the armed services, quickly became an expert on military and defense issues, beginning a lifelong dedication to our fighting men and women and an unwavering stand in favor of a strong national defense.

Senator THURMOND began his political career as a Democrat. But when he concluded that the national Republican Party better embodied the principles and values he held and cherished, he made a bold decision to become a Republican in 1964. I know from experience that there are many pressures and difficulties you face in leaving the party you grew up in, but I know that STROM has never regretted his decision.

Throughout his historic tenure in the Senate, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and as President pro tempore, Senator STROM THURMOND has served the people of South Carolina—and America—with uncommon distinction and honor. I congratulate Senator THURMOND today. It is an honor to call him a friend and colleague, and I look forward to his continued strong leadership in the U.S. Senate.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee had a new chairman, and a new ranking member, and there were more than a few folks who were eagerly looking forward to the fireworks. With the election of a new, conservative Republican administration and a new Republican majority in the Senate, the Judiciary Committee seemed destined to be a battleground for many of the great philosophical questions which divided us then, and which divide us now. And to many "Washington Insiders," there was little prospect that STROM THURMOND—the veteran conservative Republican chairman from South Carolina who first made his mark on national politics as a principal advocate of States rights—and JOE BIDEN—a northeastern democrat still in his thirties whose interest in politics was sparked in large part by the civil rights movement—could ever find common ground as we grappled with many of those fundamental questions.

I never shared those doubts, because by that time, Senator THURMOND and I

had served together for 8 years. I knew that STROM THURMOND's personal strengths, which I admired greatly regardless of our political differences, would guide the committee toward responsible consensus rather than divisive gridlock, and establish an atmosphere of civil and constructive debate rather than divisive and meaningless partisan rhetoric.

In his 6 years as chairman, and for several years after we switched roles in 1987, Senator THURMOND exceeded my expectations in every way. While the Judiciary Committee did indeed go through some heated debates and contentious hearings—weathering the kind of controversy which I have seen poison the well for other committees for years afterward—Senator THURMOND and I worked together to ensure that the committee's business, the Nation's business, would go forward once the day was done. That would not have happened had it not been for the strength of character of our chairman.

First and foremost, STROM THURMOND is an absolute gentleman, unfailingly courteous and respectful of each individual's dignity. Throughout a lifetime spent in the political arena, he has never forgotten that those who disagree with us are nonetheless entitled to being heard out and treated with dignity. Indeed, that is an important reason that his lifetime in politics has been such a long and productive one.

Here in the Senate, and—as I have seen firsthand—back home in South Carolina, STROM THURMOND's honesty and integrity are the hallmark of his public and private reputation. His word is his bond, and each of us—even the most partisan of political opponents—knows that through the heat of political debate, regardless of the intense pressure that may be upon him, STROM THURMOND can be trusted to keep that word; not when it's politically possible or expedient, but always.

Here in the Senate, our integrity is, ultimately, our most valued possession, and Senator THURMOND is a living example of the value of personal integrity.

Throughout our service on the Judiciary Committee, "The Chairman", has distinguished himself by his commitment to absolute fairness; to Republican and Democrat, political ally and philosophical opponent, alike. During the years when I held the gavel—and STROM will always be "The Chairman" to me—I tried to match the example of fairness that he set. Indeed, it is a legacy which I hope every committee chairman—and every senator—now and in the future, can strive to follow.

Long before he was a committee chairman; indeed long before he came to the Senate so many years ago, STROM THURMOND was the consummate public servant, dedicated to the proposition that the political system is not an end in itself, but an arena for doing the public good. To that end, he has been committed to getting things done; to meeting the challenges facing our

Nation and our people; and to accomplish those goals regardless of partisan politics. Though he holds the record for the Senate's longest filibuster, STROM THURMOND is a doer rather than a talker, and his long list of accomplishments here in the Senate is a testament to his determination to serve the people of South Carolina and this Nation.

"Patriotism" is a word that is used often in the course of political debate, sometimes by those seeking to further nothing more than their own personal or political agendas. But patriotism has always been at the core of STROM THURMOND's being, whether in the fields of Normandy or in the Halls of the United States Senate. Senator THURMOND has epitomized the notion that patriotism is neither an outdated value nor a term for scoring political points; but a living principle that challenges us daily and refuses to let us rest on our laurels when it comes to doing the public good.

Today, we commemorate Senator THURMOND's record-setting tenure here in this body. In recent weeks, because I am his friend in spite of our ages and differing political philosophies, I have been asked numerous times to explain the secret to his long tenure. The truth of the matter is that—in addition to the fact that he is a testament to healthy living—the secret to STROM THURMOND's political longevity lies, not with his considerable political skills or with any local anomaly in South Carolina, but deep within STROM THURMOND himself.

It lies in his strength of character, his absolute honesty and integrity, his strong sense of fairness, and his commitment to public service. None of those things are skills which you learn; they are qualities deep within you which, when people know you well, they can sense. That is the secret to STROM THURMOND's success.

STROM THURMOND's ongoing legacy is not the number of years, months, and days he has served in the U.S. Senate. Rather it is his many accomplishments and the good that he has done during those years.

I have been honored and privileged to serve with and work with Senator THURMOND for many of those years. I am proud of the work we have done together on the Senate Judiciary Committee. And I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in honoring this important benchmark in Senator THURMOND's long career in public service, knowing that he still has much to give and looking forward to working with him as we confront the challenges of the 21st century. ●

Mr. FRIST, Mr. President, on May 25, this Congress made history. On that day, we became the Congress to have the longest sitting Senator in the history of the United States. Our distinguished colleague and friend, the senior Senator from South Carolina—STROM THURMOND—set the Senate longevity

record, serving his State and Nation for 41 years and 10 months. And like that little bunny, he just keeps going and going and going.

However, as impressive as Senator THURMOND's legacy of service are his record of successes and the example of leadership he has achieved during his tenure. Today he serves as President pro tempore—a constitutional office that places him fourth in line to the Presidency. He has served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the senior member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he now serves as chairman of our powerful Armed Services Committee.

Senator THURMOND has been elected to eight consecutive terms since winning his seat as a write-in candidate back in 1954.

We know of his breadth of experience: teacher, soldier, lawyer, judge, administrator, Governor, and even Presidential candidate; and we have been inspired by his example.

We see in his life the values and possibilities that still distinguish our great Nation. Small town virtues, selfless service, a sense of duty—roots buried deep in lifelong membership in the local Mason Lodge, the Lion's and Rotary service organizations, the community church and hometown businesses. These all give STROM an authentic quality—a richness of character—an accessibility that's felt even by those who don't know him as well as we do.

I cherish STROM's friendship. I count myself fortunate to have served the many years I have served with this great Senator, and I can say that I know of no one in this Chamber who doesn't look to him as I do—as a friend. And when you think about it, Mr. President, that's quite a remarkable thing to say about a man who started his political career when Calvin Coolidge was in the White House.

During this special time—as Senator THURMOND continues to bring distinction to himself and to the U.S. Senate through his historic service—I want to be counted among those who recognize and appreciate all that he has offered to South Carolina and to the United States of America.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join in these tributes to our distinguished colleague, Senator THURMOND and his extraordinary record of service to the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

In a very real sense, Senator THURMOND is the Cal Ripken of the Senate. He has set a record of longevity in the Senate that few if any of us ever thought would be broken. His service to the Senate extends over four decades, and we honor him today for that remarkable record of success in public service and his enduring commitment to the Nation's highest ideals.

Senator THURMOND and I have served together for many of these years on both the Judiciary Committee and the Armed Services Committee. He was chairman of the Judiciary Committee

for 6 years in the 1980's and the ranking Republican on the committee for many other years, and he was always impressive and fair in dealing with all aspects of the committee's work.

Although we have often disagreed on the issues, we have also worked closely together on many important challenges. I think particularly of our decade-long effort together on the Judiciary Committee to achieve Federal criminal law reform, especially with respect to laws on bail and sentencing. Our success in that important effort is an excellent example of the ability of Democrats and Republicans to achieve common ground and deal effectively with major problems facing the Nation.

In recent years, when South Carolina bore the brunt of the tragic epidemic of church arsons, Congress enacted bipartisan legislation to deal with these shocking crimes, and Senator THURMOND played a vital role in obtaining the resources needed for an effective response.

We have also worked closely on a wide range of immigration and refugee issues on the Judiciary Committee. His leadership was indispensable for the enactment of the landmark Refugee Act of 1980—the Nation's first comprehensive refugee law. Its passage would not have been possible without him.

Senator THURMOND has also dedicated his life, both in and out of the Senate, to protecting our national security, and I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to his personal courage, heroism, and patriotism. Even though he was a sitting circuit court judge in South Carolina, he did not hesitate to enlist in the Army on the very day that the United States declared war against Germany in 1941. He served in Europe with great distinction, parachuting into Normandy with the 82d Airborne Division during the D-day invasion. He earned five battle stars and numerous other medals and awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

Like President Kennedy, he is a member of the generation that went to distant lands to preserve America's freedom in World War II, and his public service here at home has been dedicated to preserving that freedom ever since.

As a member and now chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he continues to demonstrate his strong commitment to providing our Armed Forces with the equipment, training, leadership, and quality of life that they need to make the Nation's military the world's finest.

On this auspicious occasion, I commend Senator THURMOND for his leadership and statesmanship and unparalleled record of public service, and I extend my warmest congratulations to the Senator and his family. I value his friendship, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with him in the years to come.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am delighted to join in congratulating Senator THURMOND on attaining the distinction of being the Nation's longest serving U.S. Senator.

Since coming to the Senate a little over 20 years ago, I have respected Senator THURMOND's abilities, admired his tenacity, valued his judgment, and treasured his friendship. He is an inspiration to all of us, not only because of the length of his service, but because of the quality of his work and the depth of his commitment.

All of us marvel at the sheer duration of STROM THURMOND's tenure in the Senate—42 years. But we congratulate him today not only for his longevity, but for dedicating most of his adult life to public service. As a school teacher and a coach, as an attorney, as a soldier who participated in the D-day landing at Normandy, as a State senator, as a circuit court judge, as Governor of South Carolina, and as U.S. Senator, STROM THURMOND has repeatedly sought out opportunities to serve his community, State, and Nation.

And, due to his reputation for hard work and effective leadership, the people of South Carolina have repeatedly demonstrated their confidence in him—a degree of confidence among the voters that all of us aspire to but few achieve.

Senator THURMOND's unflagging vigor is evident to anyone who shakes his hand—his handshake is firm and formidable. All of us hope and expect that he will stay in the Senate until he reaches the age of 100 and beyond.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, it is both an honor and a personal privilege for me to join my colleagues and rise today to pay tribute to a great Senator, a great patriot, and now the longest-serving Senator in our Nation's history, the most distinguished Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

Mr. President, the challenge for one trying to capsule this great American's service to South Carolina and our Nation is considerable. All Americans, however, should be encouraged—and I certainly encourage them to do this—to access Senator THURMOND's home page and discover the truly remarkable and unprecedented achievements of this man.

Mr. President, it has become very commonplace in public service today, especially in this city, to refer to individuals of accomplishment as "great Americans." And in some respects it is so commonplace that the term has even been overused, and sometimes even in humorous fashion. But that is not the case with Senator THURMOND who has been and is truly a great American in every sense of the word.

This man has 27 honorary degrees to go with his BS degree from his beloved Clemson University. He has been a superintendent of education, a judge, a decorated veteran and hero of World War II, and he earned 18 decorations, medals, and awards. He has been a Gov-

ernor of the Palmetto State. He has been a candidate for President, the first person ever to be elected to a major office on a write-in, a leader within three—not two—three political parties. And, obviously, he is our President pro tem of this body, and continues to serve as chairman of the Armed Services Committee providing continued leadership in behalf of our military and national security and the individual freedoms we all enjoy and also take for granted.

If you think about this man's career, and as many of our colleagues across the aisle have said, regardless of issue or politics, it is unequalled, it is basically unparalleled.

Mr. President, the other challenge in paying tribute to Senator THURMOND is what to say that has not already been said by his many friends, his constituents, his family, and his colleagues.

But having said that, I do have a rather unique relationship with the Senator. I am sure that my colleagues have all heard of fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law and brothers-in-law. Well, I am proud to say that I am a Thurmond staff-in-law.

The number of South Carolinians and others who have worked for the Senator in various capacities number in the thousands. We could accurately call them "storm troops for STROM." And one of those former staff members is my wife, Franki, who worked for the Senator back when I first came to Washington as a new administrative assistant to then-Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas. As a matter of fact, it was STROM THURMOND who told me about all of the South Carolina magnolia blossoms who came north and whose charms attracted future husbands, always to return to South Carolina. Put another way, Senator THURMOND said, "You can take the girl out of the South, but not the South out of the girl." And that is what happened to me, a Capitol Hill romance if you will, a South Carolina wedding, and in our family a Kansas-South Carolina compromise, always to South Carolina.

So while many in this body have thanked the Senator for many deserving contributions and accomplishments, mine is somewhat unique.

Thank you, STROM, for introducing me to my future wife and the mother of my three children, David, Ashleigh, and Anne-Wesley. All three, by the way, are STROM THURMOND fans, having met the Senator many times and sharing occasions with his family. In that regard, my wife Franki counts Mrs. Thurmond, Nancy, as a very good and a close friend as well.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, while I was really jotting down my remarks that I am making today, I noted with nostalgia that my Senate office overlooks the Methodist building that has served as home for many young women when they first work on Capitol Hill when they first come to Washington. When my wife, Franki, looked out that window, we both noted in some re-

spects our family had come full circle. Her desk in my office looks out on her first home in Washington.

Again, thank you, Senator STROM THURMOND.

I might add, Mr. President, with the privilege of serving in this body I have finally achieved status in the Thurmond universe. I am now Senator ROBERTS instead of that Congressman who married Franki.

And now, Mr. President, what with all of the Senator's friends having paid tribute to him, what they really said in their many deserving tributes to Senator THURMOND is that the Strom Thurmond family has come first. Every time I see the Senator he comes up to me with that smile and that twinkle in his eye and, yes, that firm grip that many of my colleagues have described on my arm—and it is a firm grip—and he asks, "How's your family, your lovely wife and your family?" And he means it. He cares.

One of our treasured scrapbook pictures captured STROM all dressed up as Santa Claus some years back with his staff and his and their families. And there we sit in the front row with all of the kids and the proud parents. To me, that picture is STROM THURMOND, and enlarged it could just as well be a picture of his beloved South Carolina, or this great Nation, for South Carolina and America are his family as well, and he has served them well.

Senator THURMOND, a colleague, friend, patriot, and, yes, a great American, thank you for your continued service. It is a privilege to serve with you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as one of the newly elected freshmen it is a great honor and a privilege to have this chance to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the president of the senior class—STROM THURMOND. A term of service that began on December 24, 1954, now enters the record books as the longest, and one of the most distinguished terms of service, by any Senator.

Over the years, we have all witnessed STROM THURMOND's great successes in the Senate and back home in his beloved South Carolina. I think I have found the secret to his success, and I would like to share it with my colleagues. Simply put, STROM THURMOND listens to his constituents—otherwise known as voters—and he hears what they have to say. Then he brings that South Carolina brand of common sense back to the Senate as we tackle those thorny issues that come to our attention in committee and on the floor. STROM THURMOND has been doing that for over 40 years now, and it is clear that the people of South Carolina like his style.

Anyone who has any doubts about STROM THURMOND's popularity back home need only check the record. There is no greater gauge of the strength of anyone's support in his or her home State than to see how you

fare at election time. Again, STROM THURMOND has sole possession of the record for he is the only one who has ever been elected to the Senate on a write-in vote. Simply put, the people of South Carolina love him as much as he loves them. That is why they keep sending him back.

Still, STROM THURMOND is not being celebrated and toasted by all of our colleagues because of his longevity alone. We take notice of his many years of service in the Senate, but we also make mention of our great appreciation of the wisdom, insight, and determined effort STROM THURMOND brings to the work of the Senate every day.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote a letter to Julia Ward Howe on the occasion of her 70th birthday. In it he said, "To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old."

As we mark STROM THURMOND's legacy of service in the Senate, I think it is clear that no one is younger in spirit, more cheerful in attitude, and more hopeful for a better future for our children and grandchildren than STROM THURMOND.

It is an honor and a pleasure, as the Senator who sits on the 100th rung on the current seniority ladder, to take this opportunity to congratulate the Senator on the top rung, STROM THURMOND, as he hits No. 1 one on the all time seniority list.

From this day forth STROM THURMOND will set a new record every day he comes to the Senate. He has been a powerful and effective voice for his constituents. May he continue to do so for many years to come.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a great American and Senator, STROM THURMOND of South Carolina. The occasion for this tribute is STROM THURMOND's remarkable achievement of becoming the longest serving Member of Congress in history, surpassing the record held by Carl Hayden of Arizona.

This historical milestone gives each of us an opportunity to publicly applaud Senator THURMOND, but it is not the reason for our praise today. The reason I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to Senator THURMOND is that he is a great man and patriot who has served his State and his country faithfully in times of war and in times of peace.

Senator THURMOND has had a remarkable life. When I reflect on some of the positions he has held in his career, including: attorney, superintendent of education, State senator, judge, Governor, Army officer, Presidential candidate, and U.S. Senator, I marvel at the skill, determination and dedication that was required to achieve each of these goals. Most men would be satisfied with just one of these many careers. Not STROM THURMOND. He was on a mission to serve the American people. That mission kept pushing him to strive higher and farther in his lifetime of public service.

I came to know STROM THURMOND through my work on the defense committee in the House of Representatives. I know Senator THURMOND is a very capable legislator in many issue areas. I now serve with him on the Judiciary Committee, for example, and can attest that he is a most capable attorney. I also know that the people of South Carolina are enormously proud of him for all the good work he has done for their fine State. From my perspective, there is one area in which I believe Senator THURMOND has stood out and has made the greatest contribution—as an active member of the Armed Services Committee.

STROM THURMOND deeply loves his country. This is apparent in even little things such as the American flag lapel pin he often wears. Or in vivid examples like volunteering for service in World War II when he was in his forties. Today, Senator THURMOND demonstrates his strong affection for America and the men and women in uniform by having the courage to take unpopular positions to protect the defense budget and to ensure adequate training and equipment for the Armed Forces. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee he has presided over tumultuous times in the military. The end of the cold war and the social reengineering of the military have made it a challenge to preserve military readiness. But, Senator THURMOND has tried. He deserves much of the credit for preventing our Armed Forces from becoming a hollow Army. As Adlai Stevenson once said, he did this "Not [through] a short and frenzied outburst of emotion, but with the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

Upon his retirement, Carl Hayden said "I have always dreamed of power and the good I could do." STROM THURMOND, I believe, has the same motivation. He has not wanted material things or glory, but has simply done the best he could to help those who needed help. Carl Hayden could not lose his longevity record to a finer man.

I remember a recent visit to Senator THURMOND's office where I was greeted by an impressive gallery of presidential pictures, beginning with Franklin Roosevelt. He told me that these pictures are of Presidents with whom he has served. It was then that I absorbed the magnitude of the impact of the Thurmond legacy on history. STROM THURMOND has been involved in every significant event that touched Congress or the Presidency in the second half of the 20th century. Very few people can say that, Mr President.

STROM THURMOND was a good soldier and good citizen. His high standard of allegiance has enriched our national consciousness and has sustained a sense of purpose and patriotism all across America. I believe history will remember him not for his age or longevity in the Senate, but for his contributions to improve the well-being of his beloved America.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is not often during the course of our busy days here in the Senate that we take time to recognize one of our colleagues for their individual accomplishments. Today, however, we are doing so on the occasion of STROM THURMOND's history making event of having served longer in the U.S. Senate than anyone since the founding of our country. I join with my colleagues in paying special tribute to Senator THURMOND, the Senior Senator from South Carolina, on this noteworthy day.

On May 25, Senator THURMOND became the longest serving Member ever in the Senate's 208-year history by serving more than the 41 years and 10 months Senator Carl Hayden served between 1927 and 1969. Senator THURMOND's longevity in Senate service is truly remarkable because, in addition to length of service, he has been deeply committed to providing leadership in the Armed Services Committee and as the President pro tempore.

Senator THURMOND has worn many hats during his distinguished career in public service, which began well before he was first elected to the Senate in 1954. As a school teacher, State senator, judge, World War II veteran, D-day fighter, and Governor, Senator THURMOND's service to our country is very likely unparalleled. In the Senate, STROM has been an indefatigable fighter on behalf of his State of South Carolina and has demonstrated enormous tenacity in championing our national defense and veterans causes. His enthusiasm in all that he does is truly unmatched.

Mr. President, although Senator THURMOND and I may not always see eye to eye, I respect his integrity, his consideration of others, his love of country, and his deep sense of responsibility to public service. His service will have a lasting impact on this institution's history because of the policies he promoted, the high standards he set for us, and the lessons he taught so many of us about the will to carry on no matter the obstacle. He fought against the most painful of tragedies by trying to make sure others were spared the grief he endured. I look forward to continuing working alongside him for many years to come and hope to witness his service at his personal century mark.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am privileged to honor my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND. Today we salute Senator THURMOND, who becomes the Senate's longest serving Member.

It only seems fitting that I should be allowed to speak in his honor today. Several years ago our roles were reversed, and the distinguished Senator was thanking me. Now I would like to return the honor and thank him for his years of leadership. When Senator THURMOND was jostled in the subway 2 years ago, I used my years of police

training to come to his aid and help the police to handcuff his assailant. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The incident led to a friendship between the Senator and me that I very much enjoy.

Now we are all here to recognize the achievements of Senator THURMOND and commend his years of dedicated leadership and service. The senior Senator from South Carolina has used his skill and knowledge to serve the Senate and provide direction for over 43 years.

Senator THURMOND has provided strong leadership in this institution, both on the floor and in committee. He has drawn from his own personal knowledge from his decorated service in World War II to contribute to and lead the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In 1942, Senator THURMOND joined the U.S. Army, and was among those brave young men of the 82d Airborne Division who landed in Normandy on D-day. For this service, he was awarded 5 Battle Stars. After earning 18 decorations for outstanding service in World War II, Senator THURMOND has maintained his dedication to war veterans throughout his years in the Senate. Senator THURMOND represents a wealth of institutional knowledge and history.

Senator THURMOND's tenure has spanned a number of tumultuous decades, from the end of World War II, through the turmoil of the Vietnam war, to the end of the cold war, to this year, when the Congress finally agreed to a balanced budget. Through it all he provided the strong leadership which we are here to honor today.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize our esteemed colleague as he becomes our longest serving U.S. Senator. Congratulations, STROM THURMOND, on making history as well as being a major part of our Nation's history.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FAIRCLOTH). The Chair recognizes the Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Parliamentary inquiry. I understand there is a unanimous consent that these proceedings paying our respect to the distinguished Senator from South Carolina are to continue until 12:30. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HELMS. I want to defer to the Senator from Florida. But before I do, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the previous unanimous consent, when these proceedings are completed and before we recess for the policy meetings of the two parties, that I be given 10 or 12 minutes to speak on a joint resolution that I am introducing.

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

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Florida.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the recognition.

I, like my colleagues, have come to the floor of the Senate today to express my fond feelings for Senator THURMOND, the Senator from South Carolina. As he is fond of saying about so many of us that he campaigns for, he is a man of character. He is a man of capacity. And I would add that he truly is a man who cares about his fellow man.

Senator STEVENS said a moment ago that Senator THURMOND is someone we can all learn from. I can tell you as a fellow who was running, campaigning for the Senate in 1988, Senator THURMOND volunteered to come to Florida to campaign for me. One of the things he said prior to making that commitment was that "if I come, I want to be busy. I do not want to come down there for just one or two events. I want to come down there, I want to be busy." We picked him up at about 5:30 in the morning and we finished that day about 10 o'clock at night. We traveled from Jacksonville, FL, down through the center part of the State, to Lakeland and Tampa, and then an event close to Winter Haven that evening, never missing a beat.

And again, I say I learned not just about campaigning but I truly learned about the heart of the man because about halfway through the day there was a press conference set up. He asked me if he could make a phone call before we did that press conference. And, of course, I said sure. And as I stood by him I realized what he was doing. He was calling a family in South Carolina that experienced the loss of a family member. Here is this man who has been elected and reelected and reelected and reelected, and loved in South Carolina in the middle of a tough day campaigning taking a moment out of that busy schedule to reach out to that family in South Carolina to say we understand your concern, the pain that you are feeling, we are concerned about you; I am concerned about you. Your family member was a great, great person; he meant so much to me.

Can you imagine the sense of love the family felt that day. If anybody ever questions why Senator THURMOND has been elected and reelected and reelected and reelected, it is because he is a man who truly cares about others, whose heart is filled with love.

I came to the Senate 9 years ago, and in a sense Senator THURMOND acts as a bridge between one generation of my family and myself. My step-grandfather retired from the Senate in December 1952, and Senator THURMOND, if I have that correct, was sworn in to the Senate in the next Congress, and so he served in that interim period of time between the time that my step-grandfather retired from the Senate and I came to the Senate.

What an inspiration he has been to me. Frankly, Senator THURMOND, you have created a new dimension of what service to this country is all about. You have created a new dimension

about service to the Senate. A moment ago I heard Senator STEVENS talk about a strong heart, and it triggered in my mind that in essence, Senator THURMOND, you are a modern day brave heart, and it is has been a true honor to serve with you in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am honored to be in this great body and particularly honored today to be able to say a few words from my heart about the Senator from South Carolina. I have no doubt really that I would not be here today if it were not for Senator THURMOND. I first met him—and this is typical of his leadership and commitment to this country—when I was a U.S. attorney in the early 1980's. I had just been appointed. There was a reception the Attorney General of the United States had. He came to that reception and stayed 30 to 40 minutes. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he stayed and he met every U.S. attorney in attendance that night before he left. That demonstrated to me his commitment to law and order.

Many people have talked about his leadership with regard to military matters, and they are certainly legendary and unsurpassed in this body. But in terms of law enforcement, he has been an absolutely key figure in the reform of the Federal criminal justice system in America, that makes our Federal criminal justice system today, in my opinion, superior to any State criminal justice system. He did that in many bills, but in the 1984 act he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee that eliminated parole and made every person who is sentenced in America serve the full time they are sentenced, that reformed the bail law so that people could not be out on bail for years before they were ever tried, and many other reforms—the most historic criminal justice reform bill, I am certain, in my lifetime. He was a key player and a leader.

In 1986, I had the pleasure to be a nominee for U.S. district judge. That was not an experience which worked out good for me, but Senator THURMOND believed in me. He fought for me. He stood by me day after day. He refuted the charges that were made that were not true, and he stood by me.

A number of years later, he came to Mobile as a Patriot of the Year. There were 600 people from the city of Mobile there, and he recognized me in the audience. He said good things about me. His support, his friendship, his steadfast commitment to me and to this body was important in my career and I want to say personally how much I appreciate that, Senator THURMOND. It is amazing to me that I have the honor and the privilege to be in this body and to be able to say to you how much I appreciate your support and friendship, to say how much I appreciate your service to your country, as a military

leader and as a Member of this body. I know some may think it not politically correct, but I will say this. Senator THURMOND has represented his State with great fidelity and character. He has represented his region as a southerner with the highest of standards as a southern gentleman. He has reflected the qualities of courage and integrity, bravery and commitment to truth that have reflected great credit on his community, his State, his region, his Nation, and this body. I am honored to have the opportunity to say how much I appreciate that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to join with so many of our colleagues today to honor the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate and the chairman of the Armed Services Committee. STROM THURMOND achieved another of many historic milestones when he became the longest serving Senator in the history of this institution.

STROM THURMOND had already served on the Armed Services Committee for 20 years when I came to the Senate and joined the committee in January 1979. I knew of him as a passionate and effective advocate for a strong national defense even before I joined the committee. In the 18 years I have served on that committee, I have come to appreciate even more his commitment to the welfare of the men and women who serve and who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces, as well as their families.

It is my privilege now to serve as the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee under the chairmanship of STROM THURMOND. Over the years, one of the hallmarks of the Armed Services Committee has been that we conduct our business with a minimum of partisanship. Our former colleague and chairman, Sam Nunn, was right when he said that there was not a single national security issue facing this country that has been or could be solved by one political party. That legacy of bipartisanship on the Armed Services Committee continues under STROM THURMOND's leadership.

Mr. President, one of the reasons Senator THURMOND has been such an effective leader on national security issues is that all of his colleagues know—and the American people know—that he speaks from the heart and he speaks from personal experience. He served his country in uniform for 36 years. He was commissioned in the Army Reserve even before he began his career in politics. He served 36 years in the Reserves and on active duty before retiring as a major general in the Army Reserve.

In June 1944, Lt. Col. STROM THURMOND landed behind German lines with the rest of the 82d Airborne Division as part of the D-day invasion. As I and so

many others watched the 50th anniversary of the Normandy invasion 3 years ago, we gained an even greater appreciation for the lifetime of service to this Nation by someone all of us are proud to call a friend and a colleague.

More than a half century after landing behind enemy lines on D-day, Senator THURMOND continues to carry out his responsibilities as a legislator with a skill and perseverance that are the envy of his colleagues. I recall a time several years ago when STROM THURMOND and I offered an amendment to reform lobbying fees. Our amendment prohibited lobbyists who were lobbying for contracts for their clients from getting a contingent fee. We felt it was wrong for lobbyists to be paid that way and we offered an amendment together. The manager of the bill objected to our amendment. What Senator THURMOND did was to hold back for a couple hours while he talked to all of our colleagues personally. He got 51 supporters for his amendment, and then came back to offer it. That kind of perseverance which we know in Senator THURMOND has paid off in many, many ways for this institution and for this Nation. We are proud to call him a friend and to recognize that kind of capability.

The Democratic Party lost a Senator of great ability when STROM THURMOND joined the Republican Party in 1964. I just want him to know that we would welcome him back on this side of the aisle at any time, this century or next.

Senator THURMOND cares about us as people. I cannot say how many times he has given me advice—and I know this is true of our colleagues—on exercise, on diet, and on other human conditions. I wish I had followed his advice more often.

I will never forget the time early in my Senate career when STROM and I and a few of our Armed Services Committee colleagues were out visiting at a California air base. At about 6 o'clock in the morning I was awakened by people running below. They were talking to each other as they were running. I heard this happen on a few turns of the track and woke up and then would go back to sleep. A couple of hours later when I was at breakfast I said, "Who was that out here running at 6 o'clock in the morning?" I should have known the answer. It was STROM THURMOND.

He has given us advice on how to try to achieve this kind of longevity. He gives us that advice because he cares about us. And I just want him to know that we care about him. We wish him well. It has been a real privilege to serve with him for 18 years, particularly as the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

Our distinguished friend and colleague from South Carolina has long

been, as the saying goes, a legend in his own time. And because of his hale and hearty good health and his amazing longevity, Senator THURMOND is a legend in the time of everybody else in the Senate. I doubt that there is any one of us whose life has not been touched by the distinguished Senator from South Carolina. He has certainly touched mine time and time again, beginning with that day back in early 1972 when a very brief, speculative item appeared on page umpteen of newspapers around the country saying that a fellow named HELMS might seek the Republican nomination for the Senate from North Carolina.

Early that morning, Senator STROM THURMOND, to my utter delight, was on the telephone calling from Washington urging that I do run and assuring me that if I did and if I wanted him to, he would come to North Carolina and campaign for me. Mr. President, I did and STROM did. As a matter of fact, he did it time and time again. If I count correctly, he flew with me that year, in a very small plane, six times back and forth across North Carolina, telling the people of my State, Democrats and Republicans alike, that they ought to send JESSE HELMS to Washington. I will never forget it.

I remember one episode in particular, since we are all remembering nice things about Senator THURMOND. We were at a farm rally outside of Hickory, NC, after a grueling day of eight stops with that small plane, and he made a stemwinder speech at every one of them. I was getting more and more tired. We ended up at this farm, and there were about 400 people at that rally because they were giving away free barbecue and because STROM THURMOND was there. The barbecue caterer was late. He got lost trying to find the place. So they decided to let Senator THURMOND speak and they asked me to introduce my guest. I was a weary guy when I got up, and I introduced Senator THURMOND with such eloquence as I could muster at that time of night after such a day. Well, there came another stemwinder and the last 10 minutes of the stemwinder, we saw the barbecue truck roll in. Everybody had barbecue and then we went home.

In the car going to the motel I heard the most awful sound I ever heard in my life. He said, "JESSE, when we get to the motel, I want to call my wife. She's in a family way, you know, and I want to be sure she's all right. And, after that, I understand it's about a mile to downtown, would you want to run downtown and back with me?"

I said, "Senator, if I could crawl to the bed, that's the best I'm going to be able to do." But he did. He ran downtown and he ran back and he was up at 6 o'clock next morning.

Thanks to my dear friend, the people did send me to Washington, and I have been here for almost a quarter of a century now, watching that great man from South Carolina serve in the Senate and break record after record. I

have been enormously proud of a lot of things. I guess one of the most profound things was when the Senator and Mrs. Thurmond invited me to become the godfather of that beautiful young lady, Juliana Thurmond.

So I am proud to have served with Senator THURMOND. He is a remarkable American because he has always been a hard-working, honest, and reliable Senator. His friends back home—as a matter of fact his friends all over the country—know that they can always count on STROM THURMOND to do what he says he will do. Let me tell you something, Mr. President, South Carolina is far the better off today because STROM THURMOND has been in the Senate representing the State of South Carolina. Moreover, and just as important, the U.S. Senate is better because STROM THURMOND has been here. And so is the country, better off.

Congratulations, my dear friend and Senator, you have been a good and faithful servant, and all of us are proud of you.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I see my other colleagues here on the floor. I, too, wish to rise this afternoon and pay tribute to my friend and colleague from South Carolina. This past Memorial Day, we recognized the significant achievements and accomplishments of many Americans who sacrificed their lives for this country. In a matter of days, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous speech that Gen. George Marshall gave at Harvard University announcing the Marshall Plan on June 7, 1947. But this past Memorial Day, we also recognized a milestone achieved by our colleague from South Carolina, who became the longest serving Member in the history of the U.S. Senate.

I was recalling the words of another famous American given in a Memorial Day address in 1884. Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, another great American known for his longevity, said on that day, "Life is action and passion. It is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived."

Mr. President, whatever else may be said about our friend and colleague, STROM THURMOND, he is a man of action and passion. That has been the history of his public life. It is a distinguished career that has covered so many milestones, many of which have been mentioned here this morning.

One of his accomplishments which impressed me the most was the fact that at age 41, when a lot of people are preparing to play a round of golf, STROM THURMOND got into a glider and flew behind enemy lines on D-day as a volunteer. It was not required of him. He was not ordered to do it. But at that age he decided this is something he ought to do, to be a part of a major ef-

fort to retard one of the greatest threats in history, certainly in the history of this country, to democracy and freedom. A remarkable statement about an individual.

I am also deeply impressed by the fact that he was elected to the Senate under four different banners: as a Democrat, as a Republican, as a Dixiecrat, and, the most impressive of all, as a write-in. The fact that citizens of the State had to go and write his name in, that they had to make the conscious decision to write his name on a ballot—it wasn't just a question of going in and supporting a political party—but for people to consciously go in and write his name on the ballot was truly a remarkable achievement. It is something that I think clearly demonstrates the significance of the affection with which he is held.

Senator THURMOND has had to tolerate many things during his Senate career, not least of which, he has had to put up with two generations of my family. One of the dearest friends my father had when he served in the U.S. Senate was the Senator from South Carolina. In fact, among the dozens of pictures I have hanging in my office's conference room, I have just two pictures with colleagues of mine. One of them happens to be a photograph which I cherish of myself standing with the senior Senator from South Carolina, which he very generously inscribed to me, and he made special mention of my father and their relationship. I am deeply appreciative of the loyalty and friendship which STROM THURMOND shared with my father, who has been gone these many years now, some 27 years. He passed away that long ago. But theirs was a wonderful friendship. They didn't always agree on issues, but they did agree on some matters. They agreed about the great threat that communism and Marxism posed to this country and stood shoulder to shoulder in that regard. While they disagreed on other issues, there was still a great affection. So today I stand here, not just as a colleague from Connecticut, but on behalf of a family that deeply appreciates the loyalty and friendship that STROM THURMOND has demonstrated over these many, many years.

Let me just conclude because so many other things have already been said which I would endorse and second. STROM THURMOND and I don't always agree on the issues. We agree on some, but not many. But what I love about STROM THURMOND, and what I think America and what the people of his State love about him, is not his particular views on issues that come and go, that pass with the time; these issues that are temporal. What people love about STROM THURMOND, what his colleagues love about him, Democrat and Republican, is that he is a man who, as Oliver Wendell Holmes described, is a man of passion, action and conviction. Whether or not we agree with STROM THURMOND is really not the

point. It is so refreshing, at a time when everyone seems to end up sort of muddled, that you have an individual who has deep, deep convictions and is willing to stand alone and defend them even when he is the only person in the room doing so. Even to people who disagreed with him over the years, he ought to stand, as I know he does to our colleagues, as a monument to principle, to individuality, to conviction and to that passion and action that Oliver Wendell Holmes talked about more than a century ago.

Mr. President, I am deeply honored to be able to stand here today. When STROM completes this term, he will be 100. I look forward to standing on the floor of the Senate with him sitting here, celebrating that milestone with him, I hope, as his colleague. The fact that he has been sent back here by the people of South Carolina eight times through all sorts of changes in the political climate in this country is a great tribute to the people of South Carolina. But I think all of them would agree with me when I say it is a greater tribute and higher tribute to the man who represents that State and represents America in so many different ways. I am deeply honored to stand with my colleagues to pay tribute to truly an American original, STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am privileged to join my colleagues. First, I ask unanimous consent a statement by the distinguished senior Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] be printed in the RECORD along with these proceedings on behalf of our distinguished senior colleague.

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

(At the request of Mr. WARNER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of the extraordinary public figures of our time: Senator STROM THURMOND.

As we know, Senator THURMOND recently became the longest serving Senator in the history of this august institution. His record of service—over 41 years and counting—is unparalleled, and his devotion to South Carolina and the United States is unquestioned. His has been a life committed to this Nation, and a life as rich and varied as the years that have passed since his birth in the fledgling days of this century.

Indeed, the breadth and scope of Senator THURMOND's life is truly remarkable. Born just before the dawn of flight, Senator THURMOND is now chairman of a committee that oversees the world's most sophisticated air force. He has borne witness to an explosion of scientific knowledge, fundamental changes in economics and labor, and tremendous sociological transformations. Most remarkable of all, Senator THURMOND can even remember

the last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 1918.

Senator THURMOND has been a full participant in this century of monumental events, and in no way is this more profoundly demonstrated than with his service in World War II. As a member of the 82d Airborne Division, STROM THURMOND was part of the invasion force that stormed the beach at Normandy, France on D-day, and he will forever be a heroic part of these events that changed the course of history. For his courage and valor, he was awarded 18 decorations, medals, and awards—as well as the undying gratitude of America and free nations everywhere.

Before World War II broke out, as a State senator, STROM THURMOND had already begun what would become a lifelong dedication to public service. That commitment came to the national stage for the first time with his run for the Presidency in 1948—almost 50 years ago—when as an independent candidate he garnered the third largest independent electoral vote in U.S. history. Six years later, he became the first person ever elected as a write-in candidate for the U.S. Senate.

The rest, as they say, is history—history that is still being written every day by this remarkable and enduring man. The true iron man of the U.S. Senate, his energy, enthusiasm, and love for this institution is as inspirational to me as I know it has been for countless Members of this body—past and present. Here is a legislator whose labor of love is performed against a backdrop of institutional knowledge and historical perspectives unequaled among his 534 colleagues in Congress. One cannot place a value on such service. One can only express their respect and profound appreciation.

That is why I feel privileged to be able to join with my colleagues in recognizing the extraordinary story that continues to unfold. And why I am especially honored to serve with Senator THURMOND on the Armed Services Committee. As a new member of the committee, Senator THURMOND has made me feel most welcomed and valued, and for his wise guidance I am most grateful. After all, he has been an integral part of the committee through change and crisis, cold war and détente, conflict and peace.

The defense of this Nation and our responsibility in the world have always been of paramount importance to Senator THURMOND. He understands that we must remain vigilant even as the demise of the Soviet Union has left America as the world's last remaining superpower. Senator THURMOND has seen enough of the world to know that it remains, in many ways, a dangerous place—and that we are uniquely capable and indeed obligated to stand guard against the potential threats which still exist. And most of all, he knows first hand the importance of providing to our service men and women—people willing to put their lives at risk for

this Nation—the best possible personnel, equipment, and resources so that their risk is as low as we can humanly make it.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, he has brought his breadth of experience and his reasoned voice to bear on such issues as immigration and crime. And when it comes to the matter of ethics, Senator THURMOND has always stood strong and tall for the forces of integrity, supporting limits on how much Senators can earn outside the Senate, and bans on lobbying for foreign countries by former Federal officials to name but a few of his initiatives in this regard. His commitment to the honor of the Senate and the confidence of the American people has been unflagging for over four decades, and that is a record of which he can be proudest of all.

It is no wonder then that his Republican colleagues would elect him to be President pro tempore of the Senate. As one of only three constitutionally established officers in Congress, it is a position of tremendous respect and trust accorded only to those who have demonstrated an unwavering adherence to the finest ideals of public service and the U.S. Senate. I can think of no finer or more appropriate choice than Senator STROM THURMOND, and I am proud that he has come to embody this institution.

Throughout this storied career—whether as a superintendent of education, circuit judge, State senator, Governor, or U.S. Senator—Senator THURMOND has never forgotten the people of South Carolina. It is where his heart is, the place from which he draws his strength. And he is in turn beloved by South Carolinians—just ask the folks at the Strom Thurmond Soldier Service Center in Fort Jackson; the Strom Thurmond Educational Center in Union; the Strom Thurmond Federal Building in Columbia; or, most telling, the Strom Thurmond Center for Excellence in Government and Public Service at Clemson University. They know that the senior Senator from South Carolina has been a strong, steady, consistent voice for them. And they know he will always be so.

Senator STROM THURMOND exemplifies a life worth living: courage, enthusiasm, service to others, a willingness to learn and grow, and a deep appreciation of the opportunities this life—this country—offers. The mark that he is leaving on the U.S. Senate is a positive and enduring one, and I am proud to serve with Senator THURMOND as he continues to make history.●

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, much has been said, and I have listened with great interest, as have others. I could summarize my brief remarks in two words: Thank you. Thank you, Senator THURMOND, for your service to this country, for your service to South Carolina, for your service to the Senate, and for the privilege, I thank you, Mr. THURMOND, of being a colleague who has served with you these 18 years.

Senator THURMOND was the first U.S. Senator to greet me when I came to the U.S. Senate. We had known each other because I had the privilege to serve for 5 years as Under Secretary and Secretary of the Navy and testified before the great Senator on many, many occasions and received his counsel and wisdom during those really tragic and difficult times of the Vietnam war, from 1969 through 1974. He encouraged me in that period of time to someday seek elective office. I counseled with him, and, indeed, I am here today in part because of his wisdom and foresight to encourage young persons like myself, men and women, to come and serve in the Congress of the United States.

Thank you, Senator. Thank you for the opportunities that you have given me, and I would like to say, and maybe selfishly, thank you for a great deal of personal attention. When I joined the Armed Services Committee in my first year in the Senate, there were four individuals on that committee referred to as the Four Horsemen. There was John Stennis, there was Scoop Jackson, there was John Tower, and there was STROM THURMOND. Those four individuals together, in many respects with others—I do not mean to slight anyone not mentioned—but those Four Horsemen struck the maximum possible bipartisan relationship because of their sincere belief that the interests, the security interests, of the Nation always came first and such partisanship as we indulge in from time to time has to be relegated to second.

It was his leadership on our side—in the committee, seniority, of course, prevailed. When it came time for the opportunity for Senator Tower to take the leadership role of the Republicans, STROM THURMOND once again yielded the seniority so that Senator Tower could have that very proper recognition and give the strong leadership that he did—followed by Senator Goldwater. Likewise, Senator THURMOND yielded the seniority that was rightfully his so that Senator Goldwater, one of his closest and best friends, could have that opportunity. Then I say quite humbly, he yielded again so the Senator from Virginia, for 6 years, could be the ranking member.

But it was always made clear to every member of that committee that, at some point in time, STROM THURMOND would cap his distinguished career by serving as chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the Senate of the United States. That he has done for these many years and given that committee the forceful leadership that it deserves.

Indeed, the last bill last year, he set a record in terms of the time to complete the committee work and to bring the bill to the floor. How well I know because it was late into the night we had the markup sessions. But he was always there, always present, and giving us his leadership.

If I may say, with the deepest of respect, I look upon him as a brother, the

big brother that I never had, but he fulfilled that role in my life, not only here in the Senate, but in many ways outside of the Senate.

Today, Senators have shared personal recollections of times spent with STROM THURMOND that they remember with great fondness and respect. Mine was the 40th anniversary of the landing of our forces on Normandy Beach. Senator THURMOND was asked by President Ronald Reagan to lead a delegation from the Senate. I was privileged to be with that delegation.

I remember as if it were yesterday when we arrived in Normandy, President Reagan had helo No. 1, Senator THURMOND had helo No. 2. He sat right up there with the pilots. For 3 days we toured the entire area. I remember one afternoon the helos landed in the vicinity of Sant Mera'anglis where they reenacted that famous drop by our courageous parachutists in the history of recounting the tragedy that befell those airmen that parachuted.

But we sat there with three of the senior officers that participated in that battle. I remember one very vividly. His name was "Lightning" Joe Collins. We sat on old ammo boxes propped up and watched the drop. Senator THURMOND recalled his own recollections throughout our trip of that historic chapter in the march for freedom of the allied forces to fend off Adolph Hitler.

Senator THURMOND's helicopter, when we went back, malfunctioned and we could not take off to go to the next spot. So the President went on, and they sent in another helo. Senator Weicker, who was with us, knew a great deal about that part of the country of France because his father had been chief of the Army Air Corps intelligence. Senator Weicker said to me, "Let's not stand here and wait for this other helicopter to come in. Let's walk off into the countryside, and perhaps we can knock on the door of a French farmer and get a little cheese and a little wine." We did just that. We found in abundance the provisions among the Frenchmen. All of a sudden the Senator's helicopter arrived, and two of his party were missing. He sent out the gendarmerie to find us, and indeed they did, and they hauled us back. What a scolding he gave us for delaying his departure by some 20 minutes. But, boy, we emboldened ourselves with the finest from a French cellar of their wine and their cheese.

Those are just moments that we have shared together. And now I look forward to serving with him throughout his career here in the U.S. Senate and particularly sharing with him, as do all members of our committee, the responsibilities to keep America strong.

I close with one other recollection. That is his great fondness for children, not only his own, but he never fails to ask me about mine. As I watch him go through the Halls of Congress, there is one Senator who will stop and take whatever time is required to greet every child. His parting words are, "Someday you can be a U.S. Senator."

I yield the floor.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have listened to some of my senior colleagues reminisce on their relationships with our good and dear friend, Senator THURMOND from South Carolina.

As a new Senator coming into this body in 1981, I recall my first meeting with Senator THURMOND. It was in the elevator. I felt a very firm, strong grip on my upper arm. As I turned around, he said, "How you doing, Son?" I think, without exception, every time I have been in the elevator with Senator THURMOND I have had that tight squeeze—"How you doing, Son?"

So it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues in honoring our dear friend.

May 25, 1997—the longest serving U.S. Senator in our Nation's history, a remarkable individual who has unselfishly dedicated his entire life to the service of others.

Being from Alaska, the newest State in the Union, a State that has only been around for about 39 years, I have found Senator THURMOND to be most understanding of our issues with regard to development. He comes from the school that suggests that those who are elected from their State ought to have a pretty good handle on what is in the best interest of their State. I think his logic follows that, if the folks back home think otherwise, well, they are going to get new representation. I have respected him for his support these 17 years that I have been in the Senate.

Perhaps one of the most memorable and lasting recollections I have of Senator THURMOND is during the years when I was chairman of the Senate Veterans Committee. You know Senator THURMOND, as it has been stated, landed behind enemy lines in a glider. He was a volunteer. That was the Normandy D-day invasion of the 82d Airborne Division. But he went on to earn 5 battle stars during World War II, 18 military decorations during his distinguished military career. He was made a major general of the U.S. Army Reserves. In working with him during the years on the Senate Veterans' Committee, I found him to be the most significant contributor toward the recognition that we can never do enough to meet our obligation to our veterans, those who did so much and gave so much.

But his balance was that while we can never do enough, we have to do a better job with what we have to keep up with the changing needs of the veterans and do more and get more input from the veterans' organizations and accepting the responsibilities associated with our obligation to meet our veterans' needs. He has been honored many times by various veterans groups for his contribution.

But I particularly look back to the days when we worked together in meet-

ing our Nation's obligations to our veterans and his contribution in that regard.

I think one of the interesting things, in recognizing the contributions Senator THURMOND has made and continues to make, is his humble beginning as a teacher. He has taught us all, but he began his teaching career back in South Carolina in 1923. He wrote the South Carolina school attendance law. He worked hard to increase pay for teachers and longer school terms. I think it is noteworthy that even today he sends congratulatory certificates to every graduating South Carolina high school student.

Senator THURMOND continues to teach us today, and he will again in the next century. He has really taught us all in this institution.

I am honored to call him a friend. I am pleased to rise today in tribute to this great man, this great American, who has become synonymous with this great institution.

Senator THURMOND, we honor you, and we are particularly appreciative of your leadership and teaching which has served us all. Thank you, my friend. I look forward to our continued relationship.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ABRAHAM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak briefly, prior to Senator HELMS speaking, with regard to Senator THURMOND.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, thank you very much.

I am happy to be here today. My plane arrived on time, which I was a little nervous about because I was afraid I would miss the opportunity to join our colleagues in talking about the great Senator from the State of South Carolina to whom we pay tribute today and whose recent accomplishment of becoming the longest serving Member of this Chamber is one we all, I think, celebrated from a distance a couple of days ago.

When I was elected to the Senate in 1994, I found myself, after the election was over, given the first chance really to reflect on what it meant to serve here and the people that I would have the chance to serve with. I think during an election campaign you only focus on the issues and the opposition and the campaign. But when it was finished, I was able to think about the remarkable chance I was going to have to come to this Chamber and be a part of a Chamber filled with so much history and have the opportunity to serve with such a distinguished Member as is the Senator from South Carolina and the Senator from North Carolina and others who have been here and who have made their marks.

No sooner did I arrive—I was listening to the Senator from Alaska describe his first meeting with Senator

THURMOND. In my first meeting with him, I was amused because he came up and said he was stunned that anybody like me could get elected from the State of Michigan. I remember when he said that, I was thinking that he was taking note of the fact that I was the first member of my party to win in that State since 1972, and his recollection of how long it had been since a Michigan Senator from my party had been elected made me feel pretty pleased that I had become known to him and that he had taken note of my success.

I was then delighted when, as a consequence of the committee selection process, I was able to secure a seat on the Judiciary Committee, which gave me an opportunity to serve directly with the former chairman of that committee, who had distinguished himself in that role. Indeed, some of the former staffers of that committee now live in my State, and we have had the chance to reminisce about some of the various accomplishments that took place when Senator THURMOND chaired the Judiciary Committee.

Then, indeed, as all the Members who have already spoken have acknowledged, his leadership both in his State prior to his election to the Senate and since coming here in a variety of areas, ranging from the defense of this Nation to the role he has played in the judiciary process and in fighting to combat crime and lawlessness are all signs, of course, of somebody who has made this country stronger because of his presence in this Chamber.

I want to single out, though, one particular incident that I remember very vividly, and it showed me the other side of Senator THURMOND.

Shortly after my arrival here in 1995, we had, as many of the Members will remember, a very busy first 6 months in that year. We were here night after night after night very late, often in situations where we could not share with our families important occasions. One such occasion was coming up—in fact, it is going to be repeated again in a few weeks—which was the birthday of my twin daughters. They were born on June 22, 1993. So our family planned to have a birthday party for those twins on June 22, 1995. We had plans to take them to a restaurant and have a birthday cake. At the last minute it turned out we had votes that night. That was back when we were keeping the Senate dining room open for Members and their families on Thursday nights. And, happily, therefore, we were able to still have dinner together, although not as we had planned.

We were down in the dining room, and it was just my wife, myself, and our two kids. The folks who worked there were nice enough to prepare a birthday cake at the last minute. So we had two candles on that cake. Our little daughters, after eating a little bit of their dinner, immediately turned to the birthday cake and plowed into it with their fingers and began eating, as

2-year-olds do, in any fashion they could without using utensils. About that time Senator THURMOND appeared in the dining room and wondered what all the hubbub was over at Senator ABRAHAM's table. He came over and asked what the occasion was and we told him it was our birthday party for twin daughters. He took a lot of time and gave each of the girls a birthday hug, and as he walked away I noticed a couple of fingerprints may have adhered to the back of his coat that night from one of our little girls.

The degree to which he cares about all of us here and the affection he has for us and our families which shows a side beyond the leadership side that makes him such a special person. I just want to say, Senator, I am very proud to have been given the chance to come to the Senate, and especially proud to have had the chance to serve with you. I want to thank you on behalf of my constituents for your contributions to our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore, the senior Senator from the great State of South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, it hardly seems that almost 43 years have passed since December 24, 1954, when I first became a U.S. Senator by raising my right hand and taking the oath of office from then Vice President Richard Nixon. Though it is only 527 miles, this is certainly a long way from where I began my career in public service in 1923 as a teacher in a high school in rural McCormick, SC. I am pleased to say that it has been a rewarding and gratifying journey.

When I graduated from Clemson College and took my first job, my only ambition in life was to be able to help people. As I worked to educate my students in McCormick—and later in Ridge Spring and in Edgefield—I quickly realized that I could have a greater impact in providing for the learning needs of the children of South Carolina by shaping policy. I ran for, and was elected Edgefield County Superintendent of Education in 1928, and during my tenure in that post, I implemented many measures which raised the standards of education in that county. I also got my first taste of how much impact a person can have through elected office.

At that time, South Carolina was an economically challenged place well before the great crash of the stock market which sent the Nation plummeting into the Great Depression. Without trying to sound melodramatic, life was hard back then, the banks were failing, businesses were closing, and people were very concerned about the future. As someone who was eager to try and improve conditions in my home county, as well as throughout the Palmetto State, I declared for State Senator in 1932 and was elected to office. For 5 years, I helped shape policy that guided South Carolina out of the depths of the

Depression by, among other things, strengthening education; establishing a rural electrification program; helping our farmers; and by establishing the South Carolina Public Service Authority known as Santee-Cooper.

In subsequent years I became involved in a number of different public service endeavors, some of which have been mentioned by others here today in their flattering floor statements about me. One position after another, and though I did not deliberately set out on this path, each job I had—State senator, State circuit court judge, Army officer, attorney, and Governor—seemed to be leading toward the U.S. Senate.

To those who want to dedicate a part of their lives to serving the Nation, I can think of no better place to do so than in the U.S. Senate, and my time in this institution has truly been the happiest and most rewarding in my life. Over the past four decades, I have been pleased to have been a part of hundreds, if not thousands, of worthwhile endeavors through my duties as a Senator, and my service on the Committees on the Judiciary and Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

I knew when I moved up here with my first wife, the late Jean Crouch Thurmond, that I would never earn wealth from my tenure in the Senate, but financial gain was never a consideration for me when I ran for this office. In fact, financial compensation is not why I or anyone else becomes involved in public service. We do it for the opportunity to help others and to give back to the Nation which has provided us with so many opportunities.

There is no other job in the world that allows us to have a more direct impact in rendering service than that of a Senator. The work we do here benefits millions of Americans, and how can one not help but take great satisfaction and pride in such important service. Through oversight, legislation, and old fashioned constituent service, each of us is able to help the citizens of our respective States, as well as build a Nation which is stronger and better for all who live here. I am very proud of the fact that over the past four decades, I have had a role in building the finest military force that history has seen. I am proud of the work we have done on the Judiciary Committee which has helped to safeguard the Constitution, keep the judicial branch independent, and provided sound policies to help make our streets safe. Most importantly, I am pleased that I have been able to use my Senate office to help hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians interact with a government bureaucracy that can sometimes be confusing, unyielding, and intimidating.

It has been a special pleasure for me to help the veterans who serve this Nation in times of war, as well as the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As I stand here and reflect upon my career, I have nothing but positive

memories. During the course of my tenure, I have had the privilege of serving with some of the truly great figures in the history of this Body. I have been fortunate to make many good friends through my service in the Senate. I am often asked how I want to be remembered, and my answer today is the same as it was in 1954, or would have been in 1923—for being an honest, patriotic, and helpful person. I would like to be remembered as one who cares; cares for his family, his friends, and cares for his Nation.

Though I look forward to completing this term, when I finally retire in 2002, I hope that if I leave any legacy, it is that answering the call of public service is an honorable and worthy vocation. It is only through the efforts of men and women, regardless of their political ideology, who believe in working for the greater good that we will be able to assure that the United States remains a bastion of freedom, justice, and hope.

In closing, I wish to thank my colleagues for their beautiful words concerning my public service. It has been a privilege to serve with such able dedicated, and wonderful people. I thank them for their many courtesies. God bless this magnificent body and the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. HELMS pertaining to the introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 31 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will stand in recess.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:23 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HAGEL).

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 4, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:.

A bill (S. 4) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide to private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off, bi-weekly work programs, and flexible credit hour programs as Federal employees currently enjoy to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the Baucus-Kerrey-Landrieu substitute amendment to Senator ASHCROFT's comptime bill.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is a set of laws that Congress enacted some 60 years ago to protect the American worker from abuse in the workplace. These laws do a good job to make sure that our country's greatest asset, our work force, is protected. They put a halt to child labor. They established a 40-hour workweek. And they set up the concept of pay and a half for overtime. Under these laws, our country has grown and thrived, and, by and large, our workers are protected from extravagant abuses.

However, our society has changed a great deal since Congress enacted that landmark legislation. We have more families where both parents hold down full-time jobs. We have more single-parent households. And for everyone it seems as if their dollar does not buy as much as it used to.

All that means longer hours on the job, which, in turn, leads to less time spent with the family. Today's parents find themselves caught in a tightrope act as they try to balance the needs of their families with the demands of their jobs, and that just is not fair.

I believe we are in a position to help them. That does not mean we should go about dismantling the protections on which our workers have come to rely. That is what some provisions of Senator ASHCROFT's bill will do, and I think that is the wrong path.

Instead, we must adapt our labor laws to maintain the protections that are so necessary while making it possible for our workers to have some flexibility. That is the right path. That is why my colleagues must support our substitute amendment.

In Montana, I meet a lot of hard-working people. One thing they tell me time and time again is they need more flexibility in their work schedules. They need to be able to choose between earning time-and-a-half pay for their overtime or taking that time in the form of vacation. This choice would allow workers to either put aside a little extra money or take some time to be with their families.

One area where the effects of this flexibility will be greatly felt is education. You see, in Montana, we pride ourselves on the quality education we provide our children. And we have done a pretty good job. One key to our success is parental involvement in their kids' education. That means taking time to meet with teachers, helping out on homework and participating in extracurricular activities.

The Baucus-Kerrey-Landrieu amendment will allow parents to freely choose how and when they use their overtime so that parents can again be part of their children's lives.

At the same time, I know every family is different and their needs vary greatly. Lots of folks depend on a little extra money to make ends meet. Oth-

ers need time for their families. And that is why we need to make sure that every household can choose how to use their time and money.

There are three clear reasons why my colleagues should vote for the substitute amendment offered by myself, Senator KERREY from Nebraska, and Senator LANDRIEU. First, our amendment will allow employees the final choice on when and how they will use their overtime. Whether it is time or money, the worker gets the choice. That is very important.

Senator ASHCROFT's bill leaves the final decision on how you spend your time with the employer. Their bill has no protection for the worker. In fact, it would allow an employer to discriminate against a worker who chooses to take money for their overtime. That is just not fair.

The second difference is that our amendment does not tamper with the 40-hour workweek. If you work more than 40 hours in a week, you are entitled to time-and-a-half pay. That is the way it has always been under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Americans overwhelmingly support the 40-hour workweek, and we ought to preserve it.

Under Senator ASHCROFT's bill, a worker could log 60 hours in 1 week and not qualify for 1 minute of overtime. For over 60 years, we have told our employees that if they worked hard and did a good job, they would be rewarded. Under this bill, we are reneging on that promise. The result is a pay cut for America's workers.

And finally, the third reason my colleagues should support the substitute is that President Clinton has said he would sign our amendment, and he has said he would veto the other comptime bill. So if we are truly interested in giving workers flexibility in passing the comptime bill, we must support, I believe, our amendment. It is the only chance for a meaningful reform this year.

Look, I think most Senators agree we need comptime. It is a good idea whose time has come. Yet, there are two ideas of how to get it done. One would take away workers' choice, end the 40-hour workweek, and is headed toward a certain Presidential veto. The other, our substitute, lets workers decide how to use their overtime, maintains the 40-hour workweek and will become law if we pass it. Our amendment I think is the more reasonable choice.

So if you are really interested in passing a comptime bill, this is the time and our proposal is the bill. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Baucus-Kerrey-Landrieu substitute amendment to the comptime bill.

Mr. President, I yield my time, and I also thank the manager of the bill for his indulgence.

Mr. D'AMATO addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask that I might be permitted to proceed