

sort of bring Members out of our contentious decisions in conference about whatever the particular issue was to see a larger picture of what was not only in the best interests of our party, but more importantly, what was in the best interests of the country.

He is an extraordinary legislative strategist. I know he is going to miss being in the Senate because he didn't think there was a better job somewhere else he ought to be doing. Being in the Senate to SLADE was never his second choice. It was his first choice. Every one of our colleagues who has been Governor and come to the Senate says a Senator who used to be Governor who tells you they like the Senate better will lie to you about other things.

That, clearly, was not SLADE's view. This was not his second choice. This was where he wanted to be.

We are going to miss his friendship. He was one of my best friends in the Senate and, I would say even if he were not on the floor, which he is, one of the two brightest guys in the Senate, the other one being the Senator from Texas from whom we just heard.

But we are not going to lose contact with SLADE, many of us. I know there will be a new challenge for him. He is bright and vigorous and committed to public service. Someplace, hopefully in the very near future, there will be an opportunity for him to continue to make a mark on our wonderful country.

So we say goodbye to you, SLADE, in the Senate, but look forward to continuing our friendship in the years to come. The Senate will certainly be a poorer place without your presence.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my entire staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of my remarks. In addition, I ask that Tracie Spingarn, from the Congressional Special Services office, be permitted on the floor for the duration of my remarks. The members of my staff are:

Kris K. Ardizzzone, Rachel S. Audi, David Ayres, Andy A. Beach, Annie E. Billings, Cara Bunton, Adam G. Ciongoli, Bob Coughlin, Chuck DeFeo, Mark Grider, Greg P. Harris, Jacob Herschend, Chris Huff, Jessica Hughes, David James, Sally Lee-Kerns, Elizabeth Kim, Kelly D. Kolb, Taunya L. McLarty, Caleb Overstreet, Smita Patel, Janet M. Potter, Jim Richardson, Susan Richmond, Andrew

Schauder, Lori A. Sharpe, John A. Simmons, Shimon Stein, Tevi D. Troy, Brian Waidmann, Ricky Welborn, and Matt Wylie.

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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is with a sense of deep gratitude that I have this opportunity to speak on the Senate floor for one last time before I conclude my term in the Senate. There are few compensating factors for the lame duck session in which we find ourselves, but one is the opportunity for one who has lost an election to come back and make a few last remarks. This sort of makes this like home. At home I always have the last word—"Yes, dear." And to have a last word here is a pleasing thing for me.

Obviously, I am deeply grateful, and, as I think about the opportunity I have enjoyed to be in the Senate, it is a set of thoughts that are characterized by gratitude. I am grateful to God that we are created as individuals with the capacity to shape the tomorrows in which we live. If freedom has a definition, it is that—that we can change things. And, obviously, we want to change things for the better.

America respects that understanding of the creation and how we act as individuals with a Government that represents the people as agents of change, making decisions about the kind of community we want to have. Any of us who has the opportunity to represent fellow citizens obviously is in a position to do great things and to enjoy the ability to fulfill what God has destined for us to do, and that is to shape the tomorrows in which we live.

I want to thank the citizens of Missouri first. It is a community that I love and that I respect. Janet and I live in Missouri, obviously because I was raised there, but by our choice. I have had the opportunity to serve the people of Missouri for 33 years. I began teaching in Southwest Missouri State University as a way of serving the people of the State of Missouri. And then, one of the most important mentors in my life, and one of the individuals who perhaps represents what Missouri is and what Missouri stands for more than any other single individual, the senior Senator of this State, Senator KIT BOND.

He accorded me the opportunity to serve as the State auditor of Missouri when he vacated that office upon his election as Governor. I had first offered myself to the people of Missouri to serve in the U.S. Congress, and they had expressed their profound affection for me, indicating that I should stay in Missouri and not go to the Congress. KIT BOND, recognizing that, appointed me to be the State auditor of Missouri.

It began a marvelous set of opportunities for me for which I am grateful in every respect. I served as the State

auditor for 2 years. I later served as the attorney general of Missouri after a short period of time as an assistant attorney general in Missouri, and that was a notable experience. I had the wonderful privilege of sharing an office with a now Justice of the Supreme Court, Clarence Thomas. We were in the same room together for 16 months. That is a historic item that I did not understand the history of at the time, but I certainly do now.

I had the chance, after serving 8 years as attorney general, of going on to be Governor of the State of Missouri for 8 years. What a marvelous opportunity it was to work with the community, to work with people, to shape our community in a way which was constructive and reinforced the things in which we believed.

This past election obviously was a disappointment for me, but I am not disappointed in the people of Missouri. The tragedy of this election, the death of my opponent and his son in a plane crash of unspeakable disaster, was one that the Missouri community responded to with two values and virtues that I cherish about our community—the value and virtue of compassion. I want America and Missouri to be a place of compassion.

What a tremendous and wonderful thing it is when people are compassionate and share the feelings of each other, and the value of respect, particularly respect for those who have gone on and have been of service. In expressing those values, the people of Missouri decided they would honor the deceased Governor by voting in his behalf and in his stead in the election rather than voting for me, and I respect them for that and I honor them for that. It is a great community. They are a community to be loved and respected, and I profoundly love and respect them.

I wish well Mrs. CARNAHAN who will succeed me in this seat in the Senate. I thank her for coming by my office yesterday. I hope she is treated with kindness. I told her yesterday that I was pleased to see her and have the opportunity to communicate with her, and I reminded her yesterday that 30 days from now she will be my Senator, and I want her to do well.

I thank, in addition to Missourians, my staff. I am delighted the Senate has agreed to allow them all to be here on the floor of the Senate during these remarks. When I came to the Senate, my staff and I decided there were values and principles we wanted to honor in everything we did. We wanted those values and principles to transcend circumstances. We wanted them to be controlling factors of our conduct. So we spent some time together.

Early in my time in the Senate, I came to the floor of the Senate and placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement of service, commitment, and dedication that each member of my staff joined me in formulating. This one hangs near the desk of

Annie Billings in my office. I asked each staff member to sign this commitment and then I signed the commitment, too, so each one of these items contains the signature both of the staff, the real workers of the Senate, and the Senator, at least in this case, who relied so heavily on their work.

I did not want to set the standards for my office absent the staff's participation because I believed the staff would help me reflect profoundly the values of the people of Missouri—and, indeed, they did. Each member of my staff took the pledge, the pledge that is contained in this statement of service, commitment, and dedication—high standards of service.

Our pledge states, and I will read part of it:

We dedicate ourselves to principled public policy. We believe that Americans are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The power we exercise is granted by Missourians and the American people; we serve to secure their rights. Our commitment is to respect diverse political views and serve all people by whose consent we govern.

As people of liberty reach for opportunity and achieve greatness, our Nation prospers. A government that lives beyond its means and reaches beyond its limits violates our basic liberties, and the Nation suffers. We dedicate ourselves to quality service. America's future will be determined by the character and productivity of our people. In this respect, we seek to lead by our example. We will strive to lead with humility and honesty. We will work with energy and spirit. We will represent the American people with loyalty and integrity. Our standard of productivity is accuracy, courtesy, efficiency, integrity, validity, and timeliness. We hold that these principles are a sacred mandate. We take responsibility for these standards.

I thank my staff for helping me formulate that format for our service, and I thank them for, in every instance I know, pursuing the fulfillment of that format and formulation for public service. It is an honor to serve with individuals who are in pursuit of principle, and my staff has been consistent in that respect.

We have literally in the last Congress had over 550,000 constituent contacts with our office, to which we have made millions of responses because frequently we can acknowledge the contact and then provide additional service or otherwise follow up. There have been 110,000 specific cases in which individuals had dealings with the Federal Government, and we were able to facilitate those dealings. So I thank the staff. I thank them for their dedication to principle and for understanding that working with humility and integrity and industry and timeliness is a way of fulfilling a sacred trust in the people of my State.

I thank the Members of the Senate. This is an institution that is unique. The function of the Senate is a very frustrating one, and real fulfillment probably is found in the friendships of the Senate more than in the function of this body. I have to say that this opportunity for my service in the Senate

has been one that has been a fulfilling experience, in sum because we have been able to achieve things that are very important, in other respects as a result of the relationships that come with the friendships in the Senate.

I have the very pleasing opportunity to think of myself as a friend of each Member of the Senate, and I am grateful for that. I am particularly grateful for the leadership that has been kind to me. For Senator LOTT—and, of course, I have had a lot of fun with Senator LOTT as a Singing Senator. That has ruined more than 1 day for other people—but the leader has been kind to me in every respect. His demeanor in leading this body is one of kindness to every Member.

Senator NICKLES—I had the privilege of nominating him as assistant majority leader, and I respect greatly his contribution.

I see my friends in the Senate today—Senator GRAMM, Senator MCCONNELL, in addition, of course, to the senior Senator from Missouri about whose service I have already remarked, and my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, with whom I have had the opportunity to fight for things in which we believe. These are all very pleasing items.

In particular, I thank Members of the Senate for participating in very important legislative achievements that are a part of what I believe has been important for me to do while I have been here.

I had the privilege of filing legislation to protect the Social Security trust fund, called the Social Security lockbox legislation. I believe I was the first to do that in the Senate. Senator ABRAHAM, Senator DOMENICI, Senator SANTORUM, and I worked awfully hard for that concept. It is now part of the Senate rules, and it has guided the way in which we have appropriated resources.

The Medicare lockbox passed the Senate. I am grateful for that opportunity and was grateful that Senator CONRAD, on the other side, was interested in making sure we put the right framework around the Medicare trust fund so that it was not raided for other purposes.

An effort to repeal the Social Security earnings tax—the test on the Social Security earnings—which we were able to achieve in April of this year under the leadership of Chairman ROTH, and signed by the President, I had the privilege of being the Senate sponsor of that measure. There were about 45 Senators who joined together, but there was even overwhelming help from people on the other side of the aisle, such as Senators LANDRIEU, FEINSTEIN, BAUCUS, DORGAN, LIEBERMAN, and LINCOLN, in addition to members of this caucus.

A big problem in the State of Missouri has been methamphetamines. Over and over again, I have worked to strengthen the law regarding methamphetamines, both with my colleague, the senior Senator from Mis-

souri, KIT BOND, and with others who have also been concerned about this problem.

Senator FEINSTEIN's State of California, similarly, has been afflicted with the curse of methamphetamines, and she was always helpful in this respect. And we could not have done it without Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on which I have had the privilege of serving.

May I digress for just a second to say I have had the privilege of serving under Chairman HATCH. I respect him and am grateful for his leadership on the committee. There are a tough set of circumstances that always involves us in the tensions of give-and-take, and he has masterfully negotiated the shoals in that particular arena.

Of course, I should mention as well JOHN MCCAIN's leadership on the Commerce Committee, on which I have had the privilege of serving, and his graciousness to me and kindness to me and his direction in a committee which has achieved massive revisions in the kind of liberating renovation which has provided tremendous energy to American industry. The revision in the telecommunications law which we were able to achieve is a result of excellent leadership. It has changed the dynamics of the world's economy, not to mention the United States.

But I go back to some of the specific legislation.

This year, we enacted legislation to provide funding so that the survivors of slain law enforcement officers could have the opportunity to get education and training so that they could in some way begin to undertake an effort on their own behalf, which the law enforcement officer, slain in the line of duty, was otherwise prepared to help them with. I am thankful to Senator SPECTER and Senator COLLINS and Senator BIDEN for working and being so helpful to me in that respect.

Tougher penalties for gun crimes: When I put the amendment into Senator HELMS' law, which was moving through this body, for tougher criminal penalties for those who use guns in the commission of a crime, it could not have happened without Senator HELMS' measure. Of course, as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, on which I have had the opportunity to serve, I have learned to respect Senator HELMS, his gentlemanly character, and his generous and judicious approach to running the committee.

I worked with BILL FRIST on curbing weapons in schools and making sure we could provide penalties for those who carried guns into schools or maintained guns at schools. It could not have happened without him.

I think of the late Senator Paul Coverdell and his efforts on education flexibility, sending resources to the State. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work with him and Senator WYDEN and Senator FRIST on that legislation. It was very important legislation across the aisle, but it would have an impact across America.

Then on the legislation to end food and medicine embargoes, I think this is a major step forward for America—good foreign policy, good farm policy, and expresses the values of the people of this country. Working with Senator DODD and Senator DORGAN, and on our side, Senator HAGEL and Senator ROBERTS—and Senator WELLSTONE joined in that effort—the Senate overwhelmingly worked together to get that done. Now that it is a part of the law of this country, I think it is a major step in the right direction.

I was pleased to be able to work with TOM DASCHLE, the minority leader of the Senate, to make sure that the U.S. Trade Representative had a full-time, permanent ag ambassador so agricultural interests were not neglected when negotiations were made regarding trade.

Over and over again, I think of things that happened this last year, such as when HCFA, the Health Care Financing Administration, announced new rules for reimbursing cancer care treatments. I thought of the millions of people around the country who lived in rural areas who would find their care curtailed. Senator MACK of Florida worked with me to make sure we were able to begin the process of changing the law. And the process was so successful that HCFA changed its rules and regulations. Sometimes that is the way we make progress.

There are the big things we have done. Some of these are a litany of things that are more incidental. There are the things such as welfare reform. I think of PHIL GRAMM's work, Senator GRASSLEY's work, and Senator ROTH's work there. This was early during my term. I had the opportunity to craft a provision called charitable choice that welcomed nongovernmental agencies into the process so that we could begin to remediate the pathology of welfare in the country, abusive welfare, by making sure that we helped all of America address this problem, not just America's government.

It was a wonderful thing to see its broad bipartisan acceptance. It was very pleasing to see in this last Presidential election that Governor George W. Bush of Texas made this a point of what he would provide in the welfare arena, as did Vice President GORE.

I had the privilege of chairing several subcommittees. I am grateful for the opportunity to have done so. In particular, with Senator FEINGOLD, I chaired two subcommittees. I chaired the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I have to say, I have never had a better working relationship with any individual than with Senator FEINGOLD in that respect. Never did he ask me to do something that I thought was unfair and that I could not do and that I would not do. In each instance, when I offered him an opportunity to participate in a broad range of what the sub-

committees were doing, he fulfilled his responsibilities with fairness, with dignity, with respect, and with the public interest as the uppermost criteria. I am grateful for that.

Obviously, I do not want to overstate what it means to have been a Singing Senator, but it was a tremendous opportunity to spend time on Tuesday mornings, before the workday began, rehearsing and seeking perfection—elusive perfection—which never attended our efforts. But we never lost our faith for it.

I thank the Singing Senators for allowing me to be a part. We did travel over a good bit of the United States from one time to another. We raised, I think, well over a half million dollars for the Alzheimer's research effort. It is one of those things that otherwise provided a little squirt of WD-40, where the friction might otherwise have made things less pleasant. It lubricated the relationships and gave us a great opportunity.

I have recited a lot of important things that went into law. I am very close to concluding my remarks. I just want to say this: I do not want anyone to think the law is the most important thing in America. What happens in families, in churches and civic organizations, the values people believe in their hearts, is more important than the laws we write on the books.

I don't want anyone to ever believe the laws are not important. We do have to have laws that tell us what the baselines are of our culture and, if you fall below those, we will punish you, what the framework is in which we operate. But no culture ever really achieves greatness by everyone just being at the baseline. Cultures achieve greatness not when people just stay out of jail but when they soar to their very highest and best, not when they just accommodate our threshold of the lowest and the least.

The greatness of this great Nation is to be found in the hearts of the American people more than in the books of the American Government. But those items of policy and framework that we have put there guard the opportunity for greatness that comes from the heart of the American people. So our law and Constitution and the decisions we make are fundamentally important. It has been a great privilege for me to be involved.

I thank one last group of people, and that is my family. If we didn't believe in these very important principles, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to ask them to make the sacrifices they have made. My wife Janet has been willing to dislocate her career time after time when changes in my life have moved me from one place to another. She has taught at Howard University in Washington, DC, on the faculty for the last 5 years now. I am grateful for that. My son, when I first came to the Senate, was still in high school, and we divided our family for that year so he could finish. A high

school senior generally likes a dad around. I am not sure I would say he always wants me around, but there was a little bit of a dislocation of the family.

But dislocations are worth our effort. Perhaps the most important thing my father taught me was that there were more important things than me, and the ability to make sacrifices to get good things done is important. When we understand there are some things that are more important than we are, we have a willingness to make sacrifices. I thank my family profoundly—my wife Janet, my sons Jay and Andy, my daughter Martha, my son-in-law Jim, and my grandson Jimmy. I thank them for being willing to understand that when there are things more important than we are, we can sacrifice those things and recognize in our lives our willingness to set aside our personal agenda for the public good.

It is my hope that if and when I ever have an opportunity to serve again, I will be able to serve in accordance with those principles, with the values that my staff and I had the privilege of developing, always understanding that the public good is an objective well worth pursuing, not just pursuing but well worth sacrificing for, because when we sacrifice for each other, we communicate the most important values of our culture, that we love and respect one another.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity. I know he has foregone the time limit on my behalf. I thank each Member of the Senate, this very important body in preserving liberty, for its courtesy and kindness to me and for this last opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 is under the control of the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, might I ask the indulgence of my good friend from Florida to take perhaps 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am pleased to yield such time as my colleague and friend from Missouri would like and to add my accommodation to the service of Senator ASHCROFT and for the remarks he has presented to the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my former gubernatorial colleague. There are far too few of us former Governors in this body, and it was my pleasure to serve with the Governor from Florida, who is now the Senator from Florida.

It is a very melancholy time for me to rise today to pay my respects and honor and to offer sincerest thanks to a friend who is probably my closest colleague in politics. We have been through a lot together. I lost a couple races as well as winning some. I can tell you, it is not fun. In fact, it is really terrible. I know what it is like.

After my last loss, a good friend came up to me and slapped me on the shoulder and said: Well, experience is what you get when you are expecting to get something else.

I don't know what that proves, but I have had experience, and I know JOHN has had experience. It hasn't made him bitter. Every time he has had an experience, it has made him better.

Last night I had the pleasure of joining him for ceremonies at a Christmas celebration to collect toys for tots in the Marine Corps effort. Now, there was some singing. And the host who heard both of us sing sort of gave me a speaking role and gave JOHN the responsibility to lead the singing. There is no question that I will not try to take his place in the Singing Senators. That is going to be a loss.

But there are a lot of other ideas, a lot of other fond memories that come back to me. When JOHN ASHCROFT followed me in the State auditor's office, he continued the effort to clean up the mess of the State auditor's office, something I chided him about frequently. He went on to be attorney general, my second term as Governor. During his first time, I had taken an involuntary hiatus from the Governor's office. I had one of my experiences.

I came back and he was my counsel, my lawyer, kept me out of trouble for 4 years. Then he served 8 great years as a very effective and farsighted Governor of the State of Missouri. I will not impose on the Senate's time to go down the list of accomplishments.

One of my favorite programs is Parents as Teachers. This is a wonderful early childhood program that has revolutionized early childhood education in Missouri. We managed to get it on the books and kind of bring it to life. But JOHN ASHCROFT was the one who funded it, nurtured it, encouraged it, made it flourish to become a national model and even an international model. It has gone to six or seven other countries, last time I heard, because it works. And because of his strong leadership, it was successful.

With his long experience in Missouri, it is no surprise that when he came to Washington he said he was going to Washington not to bring Washington ideas back to Missouri but to bring Missouri values, views, and good ideas to Washington. He has clearly done that.

There are many accomplishments we could cite about his service. He has mentioned a few of them. The methamphetamine problem became a very serious problem in Missouri in the early 1990s. We worked together, he on the Judiciary Committee, fashioning laws. He helped me secure appropriations to deal with this scourge. It was a terrible tragedy for too many Missourians. His work on behalf of ending the food and medicine embargo was just one more step in opening the markets that our farmers and, indeed, our entire world economy needs so they can be healthy from the export markets.

Working together at the staff level, we had great staff efforts. I express my thanks to his staff as well because we worked jointly together and managed to do a lot of good. We sincerely appreciate the service the staff has provided.

We fought the battles. I should note for our colleagues who are not soon going to forget our efforts on behalf of the Missouri River, we appreciate their indulgence. That issue of controlled flooding on the Missouri River was very important to our State, and we fought that battle. We appreciate the suffering of our fellow Senators.

There is no better measure of a man than how he handles adversity. It is something you don't want to experience but when you do, how do you react? Do you get bitter or do you get better? JOHN ASHCROFT showed the nobility, the character, and the honor that has been his trademark throughout.

When he conceded the election and there were those who wished to mount a legal challenge, he wasn't going to stand for it. He would not tolerate it. The people of Missouri had spoken. He views his job as one of service to the people of Missouri—not one of using legal challenges and court challenges to try to win what the polls had shown.

I can tell you that as I have traveled around the State there is one overwhelming message Missourians have; that is, thank you, JOHN ASHCROFT. Their esteem for you has grown. People shake their heads, and say: Why didn't he fight? Why didn't he do something? I said: Look. He wants service to go forward. They are very proud of the nobility he showed. But they are confident, as I am, that new opportunities will be arising for him. They wish him well—with his experience, commitment, and his solid faith.

There will be many areas where JOHN ASHCROFT will serve. He has too much to offer. And I look forward too—I admit—with awfully mixed emotions to seeing him take a new role and new responsibilities.

On behalf of my fellow citizens of Missouri, I say thanks for the first 33 years of service to the State. We are not finished with you yet. There is a lot more to be done, and you are the one to do it.

For me personally, I know what you and Janet have gone through. And I am very proud of the way you have handled it. Your friendship will always mean a great deal to me, and the shared time that we have had together in this body is particularly special.

When they close the service and the benediction at my church in Missouri, the minister says: The service is over, and now it is time for the work to begin. For JOHN, the service is over for now right here. But let the work begin.

JOHN, thank you from the bottom of my heart, and very best wishes to you, Janet, and your family.

I thank the Chair. I particularly thank my colleague from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from

Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I yield such time as he would use to my friend and colleague from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me, for 1 minute, add my voice to those today who paid tribute to Senator ASHCROFT for his service in the Senate.

As I indicated earlier, some think because we are engaged in heavy debate from time to time that we are not friends. Across the aisle, Senator ASHCROFT and I worked on a piece of legislation, one which we passed early on when he came to the Senate dealing with Federal funding of physician-assisted suicide. We worked together, and it was passed. It is now law.

We worked a great deal for a long period of time on lifting sanctions with respect to the sale of food and medicine. It is a fight that will continue even after Senator ASHCROFT leaves the service of the Senate.

Also, a couple of times, I joined Senator ASHCROFT and the quartet on the Republican side with the Singing Senators, along with my colleagues, Senator DASCHLE and Senator BOXER. I think on one other occasion I joined Senator ASHCROFT and the quartet. I have seen Senator ASHCROFT in action in a number of ways.

My expectation of his public service is that it is not at an end. I appreciate the service he has given to this country and to the Senate. I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with him. I know him to be smart and tough and tenacious on the issues about which he cares deeply. I wish him well.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, my primary purpose this morning is to make some remarks relative to my retiring colleague, CONNIE MACK. But while he is still here, I would like to also express my admiration for Senator ASHCROFT.

Senator DORGAN talked about some of the times they worked together. Those are always rewarding, and they help build relationships. I have had some of those times with Senator ASHCROFT. I have also had some times when we disagreed—such as on the same issue that Senator DORGAN referred to as the wisdom of our policy towards Cuba. In those times of disagreement, you also learn something about the character of the person. I found Senator ASHCROFT to be a person who listens to what the other side thinks is the proper course. He wouldn't necessarily agree with it, but he would take it into account and would try to use that as the basis of finding a broader common ground.

Those are important qualities which I think our colleague, CONNIE MACK, also represents and which I will discuss in a few moments. But I wish to extend my best wishes to Senator ASHCROFT who I did not have the opportunity to serve with as a Governor, but I admire his service to the State of Missouri and to America in many ways. I wish him well for a happy, rewarding future.