

SENATOR CONNIE MACK

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the Constitution of the United States provides that each State, regardless of other circumstances, will have two Members in the Senate. It says nothing about how those two Senators will get along. Sometimes they don't.

I think we had a good demonstration a few moments ago with the very heartfelt comments of Senator BOND to his colleague, Senator ASHCROFT. They are two Senators who have a very close, constructive relationship for the people of their State.

It is my pleasure and my honor to be able to say the same relationship has existed for the last 12 years between myself and Senator CONNIE MACK. I am proud to call CONNIE a friend, and I am proud to have served with him as a colleague.

There are a number of reasons that may have led to this good relationship—one of which is that we have a great deal in common.

We both grew up in a Florida which was undergoing massive change. When Senator MACK and I were born in the late 1930s, the State of Florida had a population of about 1.5 million. As we start the 21st century, Florida has a population of over 15 million. That demographic change has brought a floodtide of other economic, cultural, social, and political changes to our State. They have affected both Senator MACK and myself as we have seen and participated in those changes.

We went to the same college. We are both graduates of the University of Florida, and we share a deep, abiding interest in that institution. It is my hope that there will be a very appropriate tribute to Senator MACK, and that there will be an institute at our alma mater which will symbolize and continue his deep commitment to the work of science and health.

Our personal lives have also overlapped. We both had the good fortune of marrying substantially above ourselves. Adele, Priscilla, CONNIE, and myself have grown to be not only neighbors living across the street on Capitol Hill but also very close personal friends.

We are about the same age. We have now been blessed with a growing number of what is one of life's greatest gifts—grandchildren. I believe if you ask either of us what our favorite title is, it would probably be the title of grandfather.

But we have also had some differences. Lest we try to ignore the big white elephant in the living room of relationships between myself and CONNIE; indeed CONNIE is a Republican. He is very proud and loyal to his party. In fact, recently CONNIE told me a story which indicates the risk he was willing to take in support of his party. At the early age of seven in what was clearly a foreshadowing of what was to come, young CONNIE MACK was invited to the Democratic National Convention which was being held in Philadelphia. He was

not just being invited; he was being invited by his step grandfather, a Democratic Senator from Texas, Tom Connally, one of the most prestigious Members of this body, particularly in the period of World War II.

While attending this Democratic luncheon at the national convention, young 7-year-old CONNIE stood up and began yelling "I'm a Republican; I'm a Republican." That behavior, needless to say, earned him the wrath of his step grandfather who threatened to call the police if the display was not terminated.

Now, despite this highly partisan launch to CONNIE's political career, Senator MACK and I have been working together in the closest manner for what is best for Florida and for the Nation.

Just a few of the items on which we both take considerable pride, in our joint efforts we have battled against offshore drilling in Florida. We battled for a highway funding formula that takes into account States with rapidly growing populations. As a team, we worked to help rebuild Dade County after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

We are particularly proud of our success in filling Federal judicial vacancies, which is a direct result of co-operation of working together to put quality judges on the Federal bench, not judges of a particular political party. We interviewed applicants together. We made joint recommendations to the Judiciary Committee. We cointroduced the nominees to the committee. And we applauded, together, when they were confirmed on the Senate floor. I am very pleased in the last 4 years the Senate has confirmed 15 Federal judges from Florida.

Our close cooperation isn't limited to just the two of us. Our staffs have worked closely together on issues of mutual importance. And most recently, in fact, the last act of the Congress before it recessed for the election period, we helped participate in legislation that will forever cement Senator MACK's legacy, the restoration of America's Everglades.

CONNIE should be justifiably proud of each one of these and many other accomplishments. But I suggest he would be most proud of the fact that he worked hard at, and made it look easy, bipartisanship. CONNIE is a consummate gentleman, a man of unwavering civility in a body that often yearns for more of that quality. This is no small matter.

In today's political world, we shrug off a notion of being polite, as if it is a relic from a world that no longer exists. But being polite is far more than knowing your table manners. Civility, collegiality, and respect are the building blocks of political bipartisanship. And bipartisanship, in turn, is the foundation of constructive legislation.

When funding for the National Institutes of Health advances, many Members on both sides of the aisle will be

able to claim a small measure of credit, but none more so than Senator MACK. No Member of this body has worked harder to build the coalitions based on understanding of the importance of the issue and the opportunity which we had as a nation to roll back the barriers of disease than Senator MACK.

In the future, when science beats cancer, we will look back and thank Senator MACK who worked with many others, particularly Senator ROCKEFELLER, to allow Medicare payments for clinical cancer trials. These are major achievements and they required the support and hard work of both parties.

It is no secret that this Congress has had few such serious legislative accomplishments. How can we enact any innovative legislation when we can't even agree on the future bills such as the remaining appropriations bills that we must pass to keep our Government running? We are now 10 weeks beyond the beginning of the fiscal year and still have much necessary work to be done. Certainly there is plenty of blame to go around for this overly long session, and it is hardly a surprise that the American people are tuning out while we battle inside the beltway over issues that seem to affect no one other than ourselves.

Senator MACK has always said it doesn't have to be that way. And he has lived up to that creed. He was a founding member of the Centrist Coalition when it came together in 1997 to stop the hemorrhaging of annual fiscal deficits.

One of the other areas in which he should justifiably take great pride is his contribution to bringing America from an era of accumulated national debt to one in which we are starting to pay down the debt. To a lesser degree, we will be asking CONNIE's grandchildren to be paying our credit card bills.

Maybe we have heard too many times that nice guys finish last. I submit Senator MACK proves that adage to be dead wrong. Nice guys, in fact, get results. Those who can't get along with their colleagues get gridlock. And the American public pays for their posturing.

There is another danger in the culture of swagger that has too often characterized this Congress. That danger is arrogance. Somehow, many Members have convinced ourselves that the reason we can't reach an accommodation is not that we haven't really tried and not because we are playing politics; instead, the problem is simply that we are completely, totally, right, and the other side is wholly and utterly wrong.

Now, clearly that attitude is not conducive to getting much done on a bipartisan basis. The easy excuse for arrogance is that we were elected for our opinion and to change them would be a betrayal to our constituents. But Senator MACK has found a better way, a

way that I describe as nonarrogant self-confidence. That is not an oxymoron despite how it may occasionally appear when this room is filled with enough hot air to melt the polar ice cap. Nonarrogant self-confidence is, in fact, a foundation for public service. Nonarrogant self-confidence is the product of sustained and diverse life experiences prior to and during a political career. It is the ability to look beyond one's world, to reach out to people of different beliefs, different values, different backgrounds. It is not a person who wakes up every morning and puts his proverbial finger in the wind to see which way it is blowing and decides what his position will be that day. It is the quality of having the strength to hold well-grounded opinions and values, and yet to be open and persuadable in the face of new information and logical arguments. Nonarrogant self-confidence is the ability to be a leader in your party, but not necessarily a follower of the party line.

This is how CONNIE MACK has worked throughout his tenure in the Congress, and it is a model to which we should all aspire. It could be that confidence convinced CONNIE MACK of the importance of playing by the rules which we have so carelessly shunted aside in this session of the Congress. CONNIE is a leader of his party, a key member of the Banking and Finance Committees, and has served as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. In all of these positions, he has had a respect for the process of senatorial decisionmaking. He has been confident enough to let what he believes is right to be in full view of the American people.

Now, few would argue that the process we have is cumbersome and, frankly, often dull. We rarely hear of someone setting up a VCR or rushing home after work to catch our latest pontifications on C-SPAN. But the seriousness of this process has added purpose. Time and public debate are the key ingredients that go into solid, sustainable public policy. Legislating behind closed doors is breaking our promise to the American public, the promise that if they, the American people, made the effort, their voice would be heard and would influence public policy on Capitol Hill. The rules of this body rely on keeping promises in an informal way as well as formally.

We must all be able to trust that our colleagues will do as they say and vote as they claim to do. CONNIE MACK is a man of his word. He keeps his promise to his colleagues. He keeps his promise to the people of Florida.

CONNIE's strength of character, his respect for this institution, and his ability to reach across party lines became apparent to me early in our time together in the Senate. Our service in the Senate overlapped with his last term in the House in 1987 and 1988. I got to know CONNIE when he came to the Senate after the 1988 election, when he won the seat that had previously been vacated by Senator, later Governor,

Lawton Chiles. When the campaign was over, we vowed to work together. This has been an easy commitment to fulfill because CONNIE MACK is a fine person, as he is a fine representative of his State.

He is blessed with a sense of humor. He understands that the business we conduct is serious, but he does not take himself too seriously. He is hard working, an always reliable coworker. I have walked out of meetings with pages of notes and reams of paper. CONNIE generally writes down little. But when we divide assignments, without fail he completes his homework, generally before I do. He not only remembers the names of various members of my staff, he recollects the schools they went to and the football teams they support.

Senator MACK is devoted to his family. In fact, I have said that CONNIE and Priscilla Mack are the living embodiment of family values. Adele and I have been honored to call the Macks friends now for well over a decade. We have compared notes on our children and grandchildren. We have watched our families grow and grow up.

For his legislative and personal qualities, Senator MACK will be sorely missed. I call on my colleagues, colleagues from both sides of the aisle, to join me in tribute to our friend Senator CONNIE MACK, his wife Priscilla, and the Mack family.

CONNIE, while they call what you are doing retirement, I prefer to think it is more like you are being traded to another team, a practice in which your grandfather participated on a regular basis, or maybe playing another position. I have no doubt you will continue to work hard for the people of Florida and America. We will all be a better and especially a healthier nation because of your commitment and Priscilla's commitment. May your next step bring you as much personal and professional satisfaction as your days in the Senate have brought to all of us.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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SLADE GORTON

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a truly outstanding United States Senator, and that is SLADE GORTON.

During SLADE's recent campaign, I had the privilege of going to Seattle to speak at a luncheon organized for him by women who had once worked for him in the Senate and in his capacity as attorney general. I was not at all surprised to see so many women who

felt so strongly about Slade's reelection. He is, and always has been, an oasis of inclusion, encouragement, and support for women in the workplace. He is one of those people who know how to encourage, how to mentor, and how to help women and men reach their full potential.

That certainly has been true in my own case. Even before I was sworn in as a new Senator some 4 years ago, SLADE took me under his wing with advice on everything from choosing my committee assignments, to selecting my office space, to hiring my staff. He has continued to give me invaluable advice on a host of issues ranging from what our policy should be in Colombia and Kosovo, to how to take a different approach to education spending, to how to succeed in a tricky procedural situation.

SLADE has always been someone to whom I could turn for advice, for answers, for good counsel. It has also been my pleasure to work with SLADE GORTON on a host of issues such as education, children's health care, and the cost of prescription drugs. What I admire most about SLADE is his intellectually rigorous, challenging, and creative approach to public policy. He simply does not go along with the conventional wisdom; he challenges it, constantly seeking new ideas and innovative approaches to solve thorny problems.

A perfect example of SLADE's innovative style was his development of an entirely new approach to Federal education policy, one that recognized that local school boards, parents, and teachers know best what their children need.

As the architect of the Straight A's bill, SLADE has been a leader in education in the Senate. I was very proud to cosponsor his innovative effort to bring academic achievement and accountability to our public schools.

SLADE realized that when the Federal Government gives money to local schools, it should not come with dictates from D.C. on how it should be spent. He understood that it should, however, come with an expectation of results, and that is why he worked so hard to give local school boards, parents, teachers, and administrators, the freedom to decide how best to spend Federal money in exchange for holding them accountable for improving their schools. He changed the entire focus of Federal education policy from being focused on paperwork and process, to instead being focused on how much our students were learning, to a focus on student achievement and results.

SLADE has also been an advocate for children's health. Not only was he an early supporter of the Children's Health Insurance Program, the S-CHIP program, but he has also worked for years to increase Federal research dollars toward autism. That hard work is about to pay off because his autism bill was included this year in the omnibus children's health bill which was signed into law last month. It will direct more