

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.

#### 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

Federal dollars toward finding a cure and treatment for autism.

SLADE GORTON has had an impact on this Senate in so many ways. Whether it is serving as a valued mentor to more junior Senators, such as myself, or being the architect of very important legislation or shepherding appropriations bills through an incredibly difficult procedural morass, SLADE has been front and center in every debate in this Senate.

He has not only been a brilliant legislator; he has also been a wonderful friend. I will deeply miss serving with him, and I appreciate this opportunity today to pay tribute to a man who has not only been an outstanding Senator but a wonderful friend.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and 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.

#### — AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5640, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5640) to expand homeownership in the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President. I am pleased to see that we are passing this bipartisan piece of housing legislation today. While there are provisions that were not included in the bill, which I thought were worthy of passage, on the whole, the "American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000" is a bill that should become law. I would like to highlight just a few parts of this legislation that we worked particularly hard on over the last two years.

First is the manufactured housing bill, that has been incorporated into this legislation. This bill establishes a national minimum installation standard for manufactured homes, ensuring that the home as installed performs as advertised. We have created a dispute resolution program, so that owners, many of whom are lower-income, are not mistreated when they are trying to have a defect in their home corrected. This bill also updates the safety standard setting process for the manufactured housing industry, which will allow new innovations in technology to be incorporated into homes more quickly, making them safer, more efficient, and cheaper for homeowners.

Passage of this portion of the bill would not have been possible without the help of Senators KERRY, EDWARDS, BAYH, and SHELBY, and their respective staff, namely Lendell Porterfield and Josh Stein. I would like to thank all of these individuals for their contributions throughout the process of writing, negotiating, and passing this legislation.

I also want to associate myself with the remarks made by Chairman LEACH and Congressman FRANK in the House of Representatives on October 24, 2000 regarding the contracting language in this bill. Their colloquy clarified the intention of this section.

The legislation includes language taken from S. 2733 designed to increase the supply of low-income elderly and disabled housing by expanding available capital for such projects. We allow service providers in federally assisted elderly and disabled facilities to include eligible residents in the surrounding neighborhood in their programs, expanding their service to the community as a whole.

In addition, there are provisions which will allow Rural Housing Service to refinance guaranteed loans, reducing costs for low income rural homeowners, and a new program to expand housing opportunities to Native Hawaiians and Native Americans. Both of these changes will make a big difference in the lives of low income families.

Finally, the legislation reauthorizes a number of agency reports under the jurisdiction of the Banking Committee which would otherwise have expired this year. These reports include the Federal Reserve's Semiannual Report on Monetary Policy, the Economic Report of the President, the annual reports of the federal financial regulatory agencies, and a number of other significant reports in the area of consumer protection. These reports are vital to the exercise of the Banking Committee's oversight function, and I am very pleased that the House and the Senate were able to reach agreement on their reauthorization.

I reiterate my approval for the substance of this bill. I am glad to see us pass these portions of different pieces of legislation this session, though I regret that a low-income housing production program was not included.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, there is much to applaud in the bill we are taking up today, H.R. 5640, "The American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act." I note that this legislation is identical to legislation I have cosponsored, S. 3274.

Some of the provisions of H.R. 5640 are contained in bipartisan legislation, S. 2733, which I have introduced with my colleagues Senator SANTORUM, Senator SARBANES, and others. These are designed to increase the stock of affordable housing for elderly and disabled Americans by expanding the pool of available capital. It will also expand the availability of services to help im-

prove the quality of life for elderly and residents of HUD-assisted properties and other eligible people in the neighborhood.

The legislation also includes important reforms to the manufactured housing statute. These reforms provide significant new consumer protections for owners of manufactured homes. For example, the bill creates national minimum installation standards to make sure manufactured homes are not just manufactured correctly—an area that has long been under federal control—but that they are installed properly and perform as advertised to provide high quality, safe, durable, and affordable housing for their occupants.

In addition, the new law establishes a dispute resolution process which, for the first time, will enable a consumer determine whether a problem with a manufactured home is due to a manufacturing or installation defect, and then get the defect corrected.

Overall, the manufactured housing title of this bill will modernize the regulatory structure for the industry in a way that gives consumers a full and equal voice. Such modernization will help the industry incorporate new technologies more quickly, making this housing more efficient, more attractive, safer, and cheaper. Manufactured housing can and should be a bigger part of this nation's effort to address the rising need for affordable housing. This legislation will help make this a reality.

I also concur with remarks made in the House of Representatives by Chairman LEACH and Representatives LAFALCE and FRANK in the House on October 24, 2000, regarding the issue of contracting out certain monitoring and oversight functions required by the legislation. HUD needs to be able to manage these contracts in a way that allows them to get the work done.

Finally, I thank Senator SHELBY for his leadership on this issue. Senator SHELBY deserves great credit for making this legislation possible. He worked through every issue and concern raised by the various parties to make this day possible. I also thank Lendell Porterfield from the staff of Senator SHELBY. Mr. Porterfield was highly professional and extremely knowledgeable. He provided the leadership at a staff level that enabled this bill to become law. In addition, Senator EDWARDS and his staff, Josh Stein, were instrumental in negotiating the final compromise. They ensured that the interests of consumers were balanced with the needs of industry. Likewise, the leadership of Senator SARBANES and his staff helped ensure that this process would continue to be bipartisan and productive. Senator BAYH also played an important role. I want to make a special note of the work of Christen Schaefer of the Banking Committee staff, without whose hard work and dedication this legislation could not become law.