

before he was elected governor or entered the U.S. Senate. He was an American hero long before he became a Senate hero. Now he's both. Time and time again, he earned his reputation as one of the most courageous members of this body by taking on the toughest issues around—from entitlements to health care, and speaking his mind no matter what. He took on sacred cows where others feared to act. He did so with tremendous dash and daring, with a wonderful youthfulness and enthusiasm. His speeches against amending the First Amendment of our Constitution relative to flag burning, for instance, have been speeches which I have often used as a resource back home to prove that the most courageous among us—those that have put their lives on the line for this country—also believe in its Constitution with great passion and believe we must not reduce its protections of our freedoms in response to the behavior of a few misguided or extreme individuals.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee, BOB has earned a reputation as a proponent of tax reform, Medicare and Social Security reform, and as a tireless advocate for the nation's farmers.

The Senate will sorely miss Senator BOB KERREY's wise and experienced voice on national security matters. And, I will deeply miss his presence, although I trust that we will see him often and that his new role at the New School University will not keep him from weighing in on public policy issues that so need his special touch.

I have often thought, only half in jest, that Senator KERREY should be awarded a second Congressional Medal of Honor for his many brave stands in the Senate to match the one he won in war. It has truly been a privilege to serve with BOB KERREY and I will miss the noble passion and purpose he has brought to so many causes.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Senator BOB KERREY. I have mixed emotions knowing that the United States Senate, the State of Nebraska, and the nation are losing a valued public servant at a time when we can ill afford to lose a person of such great talent. I am saddened thinking about the loss of his valued presence in this chamber. But, I also recognize that my friend is leaving by his own choice to take on the challenges of a new adventure as president of the New School University of New York City. New challenges and new accomplishments are about to be added to his already legendary list of achievements that include Medal of Honor recipient, entrepreneur, governor, and Senator.

I smile as I think about the good company my colleague has been at the Senate Committee on Agriculture. I always felt as if the hearing room brightened up a notch when Senator KERREY entered the room. I appreciated greatly the fact that we never failed to share a

few light moments together, even as we worked to help the farmers and ranchers we represent. His collegial approach crossed the aisle, too. Senator KERREY moved landmark agricultural legislation to passage with hard work and the respect he garnered from his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as he did this session with the crop insurance reform bill.

We also served together on the Senate Finance Committee, where Senator CONRAD has been an absolute bulldog on the issue of entitlement reform. Senator KERREY headed up the bipartisan entitlement commission and served on the Medicare Commission. He was a particularly active participant in the centrist coalition, which worked to find common ground on budget issues during the partisan stalemate in 1995 and 1996—an effort that helped produce the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. On these very difficult issues, Senator KERREY has always been willing to consider policies that make sense for the long term even when these policies carry a high political price in the short term. He was a leader in insisting that the Senate version of the Balanced Budget Act contain long term Medicare reforms as well as short term fixes. Yet throughout these discussions, Senator KERREY has also been a strong defender of the most vulnerable among us—from children in low income families struggling to get by with cash assistance, food stamps and Medicaid to rural seniors who depend on adequate Medicare reimbursement to maintain health care in their local community.

All of us will miss his keen intellect, his insight and his candor. We will miss his terrific sense of humor. We will miss his positive attitude. We will miss the unique perspective he brings to every discussion. We will miss his integrity and his courage. But most of all, we will miss the boundless enthusiasm he brings to public service. There is no question the Senate will soon be made poorer by his departure, and there is no doubt Senator KERREY will make the university community he now joins richer by bringing these wonderful attributes to his new position.

We thank you Senator KERREY for your service to the United States Senate.

And I thank you for your friendship.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President. I rise today to pay tribute to Senator ROBERT KERREY of Nebraska. As Undersecretary, then Secretary of Navy for over five years during the war in Vietnam, I learned first hand the courage and sacrifice of the men and women of the armed forces who served our Nation.

Lieutenant, USN, BOB KERREY earned our nation's highest recognition for his valor and unwavering leadership during that conflict. Those same extraordinary personal attributes BOB KERREY brought to the Senate.

Serving with BOB is a reward all Senators will cherish. Though the challenges of education will be his next call

to duty, I predict he will someday soon be back in public office. Enjoy this respite, my friend, but harken to the bugle-call in years to come for another career to strengthen our nation with your "brand" of leadership.

I shall miss our vigorous floor debates, our trips abroad to visit our troops, our moments of levity as two old bachelors.

As we sailors say, "well done sir"!

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR SLADE GORTON

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as this session of Congress ends, Senator SLADE GORTON of Washington will leave the Senate. Senator GORTON has long been a leader among the Republicans and a thoughtful voice in the Senate.

Senator GORTON, a hard-worker, has served not only on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he chairs the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, but on the Budget Committee, the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Indian Affairs Committee. He has carried an impressive workload.

In addition, SLADE GORTON, a former Attorney General in the State of Washington, earned a reputation as a tough proponent of fighting violent crime, particularly international terrorism.

While proud of his conservative credentials, SLADE GORTON was often willing to reach across party lines to work with Democrats on issues like consumer affairs and an increase in the minimum wage.

I admired SLADE GORTON's work along with Senator Joe LIEBERMAN to fashion a sensible, balanced and expeditious way to consider the impeachment resolution sent to the Senate by the House of Representatives in 1998. While the plan was ultimately not adopted by the Senate, the careful and judicious effort to put such a plan forward reflected SLADE's commitment to the dignity of the United States Senate.

As this year winds to an end, I know that I am joined by my colleagues in the Senate in wishing SLADE GORTON and his wife, Sally, their three children and seven grandchildren, the very best in the years ahead.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those paying tribute to Senator SLADE GORTON upon his departure from the Senate.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator GORTON on the Senate Budget Committee for the past eight years. During this time, Senator GORTON has fought hard for the principles he believes in: a stable economy and a balanced budget. He has made a significant contribution to bringing fiscal discipline to our nation. As part of that effort, in 1996 Senator GORTON and I, as part of the Centrist Coalition, worked with many other Senators to forge a compromise budget resolution that balanced fiscal responsibility with our nation's discretionary spending needs.

Senator GORTON can be proud of his contribution to ending the deficits of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Senator GORTON has been a leader in the Senate by focusing on the high-tech revolution that has dramatically changed our economy. He has fought to ensure that we are teaching the next generation of high-tech workers in our schools and has fought to keep our high-tech sector the best-trained in the world. He has also been a champion of providing tax incentives for companies to conduct the basic research and development that has helped fuel the dramatic growth of the high-tech industry in recent years.

Finally, let me recognize the work Senator GORTON has done as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Every year he has had a difficult task developing a spending bill for the Interior Department and related agencies. He has also helped other Senators to meet needs in their own states, and I appreciate all of Senator GORTON's help over the years to meet particular needs in North Dakota. Even when Senator GORTON could not meet all the requests his colleagues presented, he was always fair in his consideration of each Senator's needs.

Senator GORTON's dedication to the long-term health of our economy, his work for the high-tech sector, and his leadership on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee are but just a few examples of his work that have produced clear results not only in Washington state, but also for our entire nation. He will be missed here in the Senate, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a genuine leader in the United States Senate, my colleague and friend—Senator SLADE GORTON.

We have served together over his entire 18 year career in the Senate. Of the 23 men and women who have served the State of Washington in the Senate, SLADE has earned a ranking commensurate with those classic giants Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Senator Warren Magnuson.

SLADE has served the State of Washington with distinction, but he has also served the nation, exceptionally well. Beginning with his service in the United States Army in 1946, SLADE has served his state and the country for nearly 40 years in a number of elected offices.

He has fought for balanced budgets, tax relief, and health care reforms. We served together on the Armed Services Committee, and I, as Ranking Member, was the beneficiary of his wise and steadfast counsel.

SLADE, you are a valued friend. I wish you and your wife Sally well in the years ahead.

THE RETIREMENT OF SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine indi-

vidual and distinguished colleague upon his retirement. At the close of the 106th Congress, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG will step down from his position as a United States Senator after 18 years of dutiful service to the people of New Jersey and the citizens of the United States of America.

Senator LAUTENBERG has truly lived the American Dream. The son of immigrants, Senator LAUTENBERG, was born in the hard working town of Paterson, New Jersey in 1924. During his childhood his family moved some twelve times in search of employment, and his father spent a majority of his time working in the Paterson silk mills.

After his high school graduation, Senator LAUTENBERG answered his country's call to duty when he enlisted and served in the Army Signal Corps in Europe during World War II. Following his military service, he enrolled in Columbia University on the G.I. Bill, and graduated with a degree in economics in 1949.

Senator LAUTENBERG then began a very successful business career. He and two of his childhood friends founded Automatic Data Processing (ADP). ADP, a payroll services company, developed into one of the largest computer service companies in the world.

FRANK LAUTENBERG worked very hard to achieve success in the business world. Many individuals would have simply stepped away to a more relaxing and slow paced life, but not Senator LAUTENBERG. Throughout his tenure, FRANK LAUTENBERG has exhibited the characteristics of patriotism, hard work, and service to others that define great Americans.

In 1982, he decided to begin a new career in public service, and for the past 18 years he has represented the people of New Jersey in the United States Senate. Senator LAUTENBERG wanted to give back to the state and Nation that gave him the opportunity to rise to great heights, and he has worked diligently to make America a better country for her citizens and future generations.

It has been a pleasure working alongside Senator LAUTENBERG, especially on such issues as reducing alcohol abuse. We shall miss him in the Senate chamber, and I wish Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and his entire family health, happiness, and continued success.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the greatest pleasures of being a Senator is working with fellow-members like FRANK LAUTENBERG. Few Senators have brought more dedication and experience to their service in this body.

I will never forget how excited my father was to meet Senator LAUTENBERG when he first came here almost 18 years ago. My father of proud Irish descent followed FRANK's first campaign. There was a wonderful connection between the two of them, and I am forever grateful to Senator LAUTENBERG for the lovely letter of condolence that he sent me when my father passed

away. FRANK LAUTENBERG is first and foremost a good friend.

Of course, Senator LAUTENBERG is also a skilled legislator. We served together for years on the Appropriations Committee. Recently, the committee debated an amendment to the Defense bill that would lead to the withdrawal of U.S. troops to Kosovo. A veteran of the European theater in World War II and the builder of a data processing empire, Senator LAUTENBERG understood that democratic stability could come only through a long-term and patient investment in peace.

What made Senator LAUTENBERG's argument so effective was not just the ideas he possessed but the way he delivered them. He has a rhetorical force that I have always admired, and I think that this ability to marry sound ideas with effective speech-making is what makes him such a stellar member.

Of course, Senator LAUTENBERG had a number of legislative accomplishments. He helped make our democracy more transparent, opposing confusing smoke and mirrors as a Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee. He promoted international justice, fervently urging the prosecution of war criminals. Senator LAUTENBERG understood that reconciliation and economic growth could not come until these perpetrators are held responsible and punished for their actions. At home, Senator LAUTENBERG laid the foundation for our strong economic growth of the last decade. Amtrak and commercial aviation had no greater friend than Senator LAUTENBERG, who confidently chaired the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. And he has improved the public's health, encouraging restrictions on tobacco use and ensuring the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

In his 18 years here, Senator LAUTENBERG had an impact that goes beyond his important votes and the bills he sponsored. Through his experience and knowledge, he was steadfast advocate for freedom, fairness, and responsibility. He kept these ideal on an alterable course, and we are all in his debt for it.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, before Congress adjourns for the year, I wanted to take a moment to pay tribute to Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG of New Jersey, who is retiring this year.

Senator LAUTENBERG served our nation in World War II, and later became a successful businessman. He helped to found a payroll services company, Automatic Data Processing (ADP), and built it into one of the largest computing services companies in the world.

In 1982 FRANK LAUTENBERG launched a new career, in public service, when he was elected to the United States Senate. He has represented his state well. FRANK LAUTENBERG has been a leader on budget issues, a good friend to the environment, and an accomplished legislator in the areas of transportation and health care.