

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 unalterable 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.

I have served on the Senate Budget Committee with FRANK LAUTENBERG since 1987; he became Ranking Member of the Committee in 1997. Senator LAUTENBERG played a key role in the 1997 negotiations on the bipartisan Balanced Budget Act, which completed the work of balancing the federal budget. That legislation provided important resources for education and health care, while cutting taxes for millions of Americans.

Senator LAUTENBERG has also been a good friend to the environment, serving as the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Superfund. Throughout his time in the Senate, Senator LAUTENBERG has fought to improve the Superfund program, and has worked for legislation preventing pollution, and ensuring clear water and clean air.

Senator LAUTENBERG's accomplishments in the area of transportation are impressive. He serves as the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation. Senator LAUTENBERG authored laws establishing the legal drinking age at 21, and was successful just this year in encouraging states to reduce legal blood alcohol limits to .08. He worked successfully to ban smoking on airplanes, and has championed funding for Amtrak and mass transit.

Senator LAUTENBERG has also worked for some time on health care, including tobacco policy issues. He is a nationally recognized leader in the fight to protect our young people from the health consequences of cigarettes. In 1997, I was extremely fortunate that Senator LAUTENBERG was chosen to co-chair the Senate Democratic Task Force on Tobacco. Senator LAUTENBERG was a particularly strong proponent of provisions on second-hand smoke and the so-called "look-back" enforcement mechanism to reduce youth smoking rates.

FRANK LAUTENBERG's dedication and expertise on many issues will be missed greatly in the United States Senate, even as New Jersey natives welcome him home. I will miss my good friend and colleague.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR WILLIAM ROTH

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in bidding good wishes and God speed to Senator WILLIAM ROTH, the distinguished senior senator of Delaware. I have served with Senator ROTH for most of my career on the Governmental Affairs Committee. For a significant period of that time, Senator ROTH chaired that committee and its Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Senator ROTH proved an able and dedicated advocate of government reform, guiding our committee through oversight hearings and investigations into how our Federal programs were or were not working. He also spearheaded

a number of key efforts—many of which were successful—to change our laws to reduce opportunities for waste, fraud and abuse.

When I sat in my seat on the dais of the Governmental Affairs Committee, I often heard Senator ROTH argue passionately and convincingly for the enhancement of the M, or management responsibilities, in OMB, the Office of Management and Budget. As much as anyone in this body, Senator ROTH truly cared about the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. He has my deep respect and the gratitude of all of us for his efforts in this area.

In addition, Senator ROTH distinguished himself as a gentleman in a chamber that has sometimes lost its gentlemanly manner. Senator ROTH could be tough, there's no doubt about that, on issues about which he cared, as well he should be, but he was always civil.

We will miss his gentlemanly ways and his guiding hand on the important but not-always-so-visible issues of government management. I wish him well and hope he enjoys an active but less hectic life which he so clearly deserves.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man I have worked with my entire Senate career: Senator BILL ROTH. He is a true friend and gentleman, as well as a superb legislator whose contributions to the nation are many.

Senator ROTH will likely be best remembered as the co-author of the famous Kemp-Roth tax cuts, initiated during President Reagan's tenure and for the Roth IRAs which have made it possible for millions around the country to invest taxable income that can be withdrawn tax-free in their retirement.

Senator ROTH has represented Delaware for 29 years, making him the longest serving Senator in our "First State's" storied history.

Senator ROTH is a decorated veteran of World War II, and began his Congressional service in 1966. He has served his country for almost 40 years. We all are indebted to him for his remarkable service.

I wish Senator ROTH and his wife, Jane, well and hope that they will cherish the years to come in the same way they have those that have past.

BILL ROTH's gentlemanly nature, his quietness and his humility were his hallmarks and strength.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, when this Congress finishes its work it will also mark the end of a particularly distinguished 30-year career in this body. I rise to pay tribute to my chairman on the Finance Committee and my friend, BILL ROTH.

No Senator could hope to serve under a more thoughtful and considerate Chairman than those of us on the Finance Committee have experienced over the last five years. BILL is a true gentleman who works as hard as any Senator I know to make sure that

issues under his control have the broadest possible consensus. He has consistently reached out to members on our side of the aisle in order to make law in a way that honors the Senate's best traditions.

Like BILL, I represent a small state. He knows, as I know, what a special responsibility that is. People in a small state expect to have a personal relationship with their Senators, and I know from the times I have taken short vacations in his beautiful state the deep affection BILL inspires all over Delaware.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work so closely with him on the important tax, health, and trade issues we deal with in the Finance Committee. BILL has a natural appreciation for the strong roles agriculture and tourism play in the economy of my state of North Dakota because they are such important components of Delaware's economy as well. He knows instinctively the value of looking for common ground.

Even as he leaves the Senate, however, one thing will set BILL apart. Many Senators are well known among the public at large, but very few have their names become household words. Senator ROTH earned his membership in that tiny elite. BILL's deep commitment to retirement security and savings led directly to the establishment of the Roth IRA, a retirement savings vehicle that will give savers decades from now a reason to be grateful to our beloved colleague from Delaware.

When we consider the departure of Senator ROTH in conjunction with the simultaneous retirement of the Senator from New York, the Committee on Finance is losing more than half a century of institutional memory and experience. That is a loss not only for our committee, but for the country as well.

We wish BILL ROTH all the best as he leaves us, but he will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues in the Senate.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR CONNIE MACK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to a colleague and good friend who will be leaving the Senate when the 106th Congress adjourns sine die, CONNIE MACK, the junior senator from Florida.

I have served with CONNIE MACK on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where, on the important issues of national security it considers, he can be counted upon to set partisanship aside, roll up his sleeves and get to work.

In the United States Senate we are called upon to work with colleagues of many differing points of view. While CONNIE MACK has served as a key member of the Republican leadership as Republican Conference Chairman, and he and I often disagree on the issues before the Senate, it has always been a pleasure to deal with him. Always an