

was a true professional in every respect. He was completely honest and trustworthy, and he was tenacious in bringing to justice those who violated the laws of the United States.

I commend him for a job well done and wish him much continued success and satisfaction in the years ahead.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Clarion Ledger of December 17, highlighting his illustrious career be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TOP CORRUPTION FIGHTER LEAVING POST

(By Jerry Mitchell)

Mississippi's top corruption fighter over the past 30 years—Assistant U.S. Attorney James Tucker—is leaving the U.S. attorney's office to go into private practice.

"If you could combine honor, integrity, courage and expertise in the same person, what you'd have is James Tucker," Attorney General Mike Moore said "they don't make 'em that way anymore. He is the ultimate professional."

Jan. 3 will mark Tucker's last day of work at the U.S. attorney's office, where he has worked since 1971. After that, he'll join the Butler Snow law firm in Jackson, where he'll be part of the litigation division.

Tucker said he is sad to be leaving on one hand but is enthused about his new job. "After 30 years with the Department of Justice, it hurts a little to cut the string, but I'm looking forward to a challenging new career."

A no-nonsense retired Naval Reserve officer, Tucker has shunned the limelight, despite taking on very public prosecutions of Mississippi public officials, including Operation Pretense, which led to convictions of 43 county supervisors and 11 vendors on corruption charges.

His long list of those prosecuted has included members of the Mississippi Senate, the Highway Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Jackson City Council.

His work also helped put former Biloxi Mayor Pete Halat behind bars on federal charges in connection with the 1987 killing of Halat's former law partner, Vincent Sherry and his wife, Margaret.

"I've always had strong feelings about public officials violating the trust," Tucker said. "I always felt if I had the power to right those kinds of wrongs, I ought to do it."

In 1983 and 1998, the Provine High School graduate received the highest award an assistant U.S. attorney can receive from the Justice Department—the Superior Performance Award.

"That's one of my great honors," Tucker said, "winning that award twice."

Perhaps better than an award was the comment he said he received the other day from a current county supervisor: "He said, 'You don't realize it, but what y'all did in Pretense has helped us honest supervisors for years and years and will for years to come. Because of that, we can threaten people with another Pretense if they fool around (with corruption).'"

Moore credited Tucker with cleaning up corruption in Mississippi: "He's helped return integrity to public office."

Tucker's expertise has helped pave the way for many other lawyers, including Moore, who first go to know Tucker when as a district attorney in Pascagoula he pursued corruption cases against local supervisors.

"He really helped me through those tough times, and he's continued to be my friend," Moore said. "He was a mentor to me."

Defense lawyer John Colette of Jackson said what makes Tucker special is his ability to remain calm, even amidst a storm, such

as during the 1990 trial of Newton Alfred Winn, convicted in connection with the disappearance of Jackson socialite Annie Laurie Hearin.

But that calmness belies a quiet ruthlessness, he said.

As someone has remarked, Colette said, Tucker is the kind of prosecutor who slits the throat of a defense lawyer, who doesn't realize it until his head is in his lap.

Now that Tucker's gone, he joked, "I'm going to start trying all my cases in federal court."

What may say the most about Tucker is that he has the admiration of not only the defense bar, but judges as well, Colette said.

"He's probably the most competent prosecutor I ever heard," said U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour Jr. "The district was lucky to have him for so many years."

Even as Mississippi has changed U.S. attorneys in the Southern District, Tucker has remained as the chief of the criminal division.

Former U.S. Attorney Brad Pigott said he relied on Tucker during his tenure.

"He's an ideal public servant," Pigott said. "He's personally modest and quiet. I've spent some time with him in the foxhole, I can vouch for his integrity in every way. He deserves a very wonderful reputation."

Defense lawyers say Tucker helped provide continuity to the sometimes revolving door of the U.S. attorney's office, serving once as interim U.S. attorney.

"Many people, including me, felt that with him there, there was somebody to talk to who would listen," said defense lawyer Tom Royals of Jackson.

"It's a real loss to our justice system to see James Tucker leave," said defense lawyer Dennis Sweet of Jackson. "He's a tremendous lawyer, and he's been tremendously fair. I just hope whoever replaces him does as good a job for the U.S. attorney's office as he has."

Current U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton said he is certainly going to miss Tucker. "He's an institution," Lampton said. "He knows more off the top of his head than you can find out doing research in books."

Because of Tucker, Lampton said he never worried about the criminal side of his office.

Now he'll have to find a replacement, which he'll probably choose from within his office, he said. "We'll all have to work together to take up the slack."

Those outside legal circles also praise Tucker.

"There was a time when James Tucker was the only defense standing between us and total corruption in Mississippi," said veteran journalist Bill Minor, who wrote about Tucker in his new book, *Eyes on Mississippi: A Fifty-Year Chronicle of Change*. "In my estimation, he ranks among the true heroes that I've known over my 54-year career."

Former Public Safety Commissioner and FBI agent Jim Ingram said Tucker will be sorely missed by all of Mississippi. "Almost all of us can be replaced. He can't."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DENIS GALVIN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank Denis Galvin, the Deputy Director of the National Park Service, who will be retiring at the end of this year after a career of almost 40 years with the Park Service. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has jurisdiction over national park issues, and we have been fortunate

to have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Galvin over the years.

Since beginning his tenure with the Park Service in 1963 as a civil engineer at Sequoia National Park, Mr. Galvin has held several positions with the Park Service throughout the country, including a period in the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe. He also worked for several years in Boston in the Northeast Regional Office, and as the Director of the Denver Services Center, the planning, design, and construction arm of the Park Service. Since 1985 Mr. Galvin has held two positions that brought him into frequent contact with the Congress and our Committee, as the Associate Director for Planning and Development from 1989 to 1997, and twice as the Deputy Director of the National Park Service, from 1985 to 1989, and again from 1997 until now.

In his capacity as Associate Director and Deputy Director, Mr. Galvin has been involved in every major policy issue facing the National Park Service. He has been one of the National Park Service's greatest resources, and his knowledge and judgment about national park issues is very much respected, both within the agency and here in Congress. Whenever the Committee held a hearing on an especially important legislative issue affecting the National Park Service, we would often request that Mr. Galvin testify, so that the members of the Committee could benefit from his expertise and advice. Because of his broad and varied background, he could speak with as much knowledge on the merits of particular construction project within a park as he could on general policy issues affecting the entire park system.

I would like to recognize his efforts, especially in his role in the National Park Service leadership, to maintain and protect the integrity of the National Park System. The Park Service has been fortunate to have had many strong and far-sighted leaders in its history. We have been extremely fortunate that Denis Galvin has continued in that great tradition. As he embarks on a new chapter in his life I would like to take this opportunity to thank Denny for all of his assistance to me and to other members of the Senate, and I extend my best wishes upon his retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO CARAN KOLBE MCKEE

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a loyal friend and trusted advisor who left my staff in late August. Caran Kolbe McKee came to work for me 14 years ago. She served the people of Iowa in a number of capacities in my office. In every case, Caran demonstrated remarkable leadership qualities, steadfastness of purpose, and the kind of problem-solving

ability that can make our Government work for the people in the best way possible.

Caran came to the Senate in 1987, when she joined my staff as assistant press secretary. Two years later, she became my press secretary. During this time, she dealt with a range of important issues, including the Gulf War, Supreme Court nominations, whistleblower protections, a farm bill, civil rights legislation, a campaign to apply labor and employment laws to Congress, and the budget battle of 1990. She made certain that Iowans had access to accurate and timely information through the news media and fostered a better understanding of the way in which the issues addressed by Congress affect the lives of individuals and families.

In 1994, Caran took on new challenges as a special assistant. She developed initiatives and reached out to the grassroots. Caran brought to her work a great appreciation for the people who make Iowa the extraordinary place that it is. She grew up on a farm in Western Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University, and maintains many close family ties in Iowa.

Caran is the kind of person who is always looking ahead and making a plan to improve things for others no matter what their stage and place in life. Just last week, President Bush signed into law legislation re-authorizing the Drug Free Communities Act, a bill I sponsored in the Senate. During his remarks, the President took time to recognize a coalition I launched in Iowa to address our state's growing drug problem. Called "Face It Together"—or FIT—it is the first-ever community-based, statewide anti-drug coalition. The goal is to help Iowans work together to keep their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and communities drug-free. I hope to see this productive effort continue in the years ahead. No individual deserves more credit for making FIT a reality and a success than Caran Kolbe McKee. Her vision for the project, gift for bringing people together and dedication to making the program happen were vitally important.

In recent years, Caran also managed my correspondence with Iowans. In the Senate, I work hard to make the process of representative government work. I keep in close touch with Iowans by returning home when the Senate is not in session. And since 1981, I have conducted a meeting in each of Iowa's 99 counties at least one time every year. I am committed to an active dialogue with constituents, so at town meetings I always say representative government is a two-way street. While I have come to them for a meeting about the issues, they also have a responsibility to write to me expressing concerns and views and asking questions. Well, each and every one of these letters or e-mail messages deserves and receives as answer from me. Caran made sure that Iowans who wrote or called received a

reply that was not just a piece of paper but a substantive, informative response. In this way, she helped representative government work for the people in a fundamental, meaningful way.

Caran Kolbe McKee was a true public servant. She was a mentor to many of her fellow staff members. And she was an inspiration for the way she handled challenges—both professional and personal—with compassion, strength and courage. Now Caran has decided to spend more time with her family. She will be greatly missed, but I admire her decision and wish her the very best. Above all, I extend to her my deepest thanks.●

RETIREMENT OF NOAA SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, EUGENE PROULX

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to express appreciation and congratulations to Eugene Proulx on the occasion of his retirement as the Special Agent in Charge of the Southeast Enforcement Division of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. For over 28 years, Gene has dedicated himself to the protection of our nation's oceans and living marine resources. His service of 3 years with the United States Coast Guard and 25 years with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) have been exemplary, and he is being appropriately honored for this service at an event to be held on December 21st in the Southeast region.

His commitment and leadership with the OLE have been reflected through his service as a Special Agent, National Training Coordinator, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, and as Special Agent in Charge and Acting Chief. Gene's service as a Special Agent in Charge included assignments in both the Southwest and Southeast Divisions in addition to his many years of service as an agent at various duty posts in the Northeast Division as well as several assignments to Headquarters in Silver Spring as both an agent and as the Acting Chief of the Office for a period of three months.

Gene has been the example of a public servant who routinely gives 100 percent towards his responsibilities. His enthusiasm, dedication and energy level are widely known. His corporate knowledge, fisheries expertise, common sense, interpersonal skills and gracious humility are all traits that are exemplary and have facilitated his contributions to NOAA and our nation's resource missions. The accomplishments of the Office of Law Enforcement in the areas of Vessel Monitoring Systems, Sanctuaries Enforcement, Accreditation, and Cooperative Enforcement were all strongly facilitated through the support of Gene's vision and leadership.

Gene's work with the national Cooperative Enforcement program and the

State Joint Enforcement Agreements have provided a long-lasting foundation for this important program. In particular, the state of South Carolina and its fisheries resources have benefited greatly through his work. In large part, Gene was responsible for convincing South Carolina that working jointly with NMFS could serve to substantially improve protection of our fishery resources far beyond the level we could achieve working separately. His initiative led to a Joint Enforcement Agreement that is improving the management and protection of South Carolina's precious marine resources. This program has proven so successful that it is now the "gold standard" model of marine resource enforcement, and it is being established in coastal states around the nation. These cooperative programs and relationships will be the legacy of Gene's leadership.

In closing, although we hate to see him go, I once again wish to congratulate Agent Proulx on his exemplary career. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a difference in protecting the marine resources of South Carolina and the Nation.●

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DERAN KOLIGIAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the recent passing of Fresno County Supervisor Deran Koligian, an extraordinary public servant and Californian who died on December 11th at the age of 74, after a two-year battle with cancer.

Deran Koligian was a Fresno County icon, having served as a Supervisor for two decades. He faithfully served his constituents up until the day of his death.

Deran Koligian set a high standard of integrity and decency. He was a man of great determination and dedication who worked tirelessly for Fresno County and California and was loved and respected by so many. He was a farmer, a World War II veteran, a family man and an honorable Fresno County Supervisor. He will be greatly missed by all.

I ask that the Fresno Bee editorial from December 13, 2001, be printed in the RECORD. And, on behalf of the Senate, I extend our thoughts and prayers to the Koligian Family on the loss of an extraordinary man.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Fresno Bee, Dec. 13, 2001]

DERAN KOLIGIAN—A POWERFUL VOICE IN FRESNO COUNTY, STATE POLITICS FALLS SILENT

The odds suggest we shall not soon see the likes of Deran Koligian in public life. The longtime Fresno County supervisor, who died Tuesday at the age of 74, embodied a rare set of skills and virtues. He was a bluntly honest farmer, a man of the soil who so deeply loved his roots he lived his entire life on his family's original 40-acre homestead. He was also a talented and shrewd politician, in the very best sense: clear about his philosophy and