

century, Kristine Iverson's last working day in my office has now come upon us.

I can still remember that day in 1976, when a young Illinois native—just two years out of DePauw University—when that young lady came to my office, résumé in hand, seeking a position as a legislative correspondent. Kris got that job, and it was one of the best moves I made.

Kris joined my staff in 1977 as a legislative correspondent. But her intelligence, dedication, warm heart and incredible ability to grasp all the intricacies of the legislative process quickly propelled her to a series of top positions in my office and on the Labor Committee.

And for the past 24 years, day in and day out, we have always been able to count on Kris Iverson. Night after night, year after year, she was the first one in and the last one to leave.

In short, we have grown gray together.

Over the years, Kris has worn many hats: Legislative Assistant, Labor Committee Policy Director, Labor Committee Minority Staff Director, and now Legislative Director.

In every position she served admirably and won the utmost respect from her colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Most recently, Kris has served without peer in one of the most difficult and challenging positions in the office of any Senator—legislative director. In that position, she has served with an unmatched commitment to the Senate and indeed the very Congress of the United States.

We all know how important it is to have a Legislative Director who we can trust to take our legislative priorities and help us direct them through the Byzantine maze of the legislative process.

Kris has been responsible for shepherding every piece of legislation that I sponsored. Beyond that, she was also responsible for helping to direct the legislative activities of both my personal staff and the Judiciary Committee staff.

Not only has Kris—or “Ivo” as we endearingly refer to her—earned my undying respect and admiration, but she is also highly admired by many in this body for her honesty, her work-ethic and her analytical skills.

When I think of many of the great laws in this nation the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, the Women in Science Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Job Training Partnership Act or JTPA, the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP all of these great laws reflect Kris Iverson's substantial mark.

Kris was there—in fact, Ivo was the lead staffer—on my first law, the National Ski Patrol Federal Charter, signed by Carter in 1980.

We often joke that she has files older than many of our staffers, and I'm sorry to say, it's true!

Unfortunately for us, her reputation has carried all the way to the White House where President George W. Bush has announced his intent to nominate her to one of the highest positions in the Department of Labor.

If all goes as planned—and I know it will—very shortly Kris will become the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Her only obstacle is confirmation by this august body . . . and I am counting on my colleagues to give her their support. Unanimous support!

I know that in that very important office, she will serve Secretary Chao with the same dedication and spirit. Clearly, being appointed by the President of our great nation to such a position is a tremendous honor and a tribute to her.

A great writer once said:

Give us an individual of integrity, on whom we know we can thoroughly depend; who will stand firm when others fail; the friend, faithful and true; the advisor, honest and fearless; the adversary, just and chivalrous: such an one is the fragment of the Rock of Ages.—J.P. Stanley

Ivo has been such a faithful and true “rock” of our office. I cannot put into words how much she will be missed, not only by my staff but also by the Senate as a whole.

And of course, she will be greatly missed by me.

I have considered her my right-hand counselor and advisor. I have relied on her on a daily, if not hourly basis.

We have come to count on Kris to do it all. From proper placement of commas . . . to strategy on the most important legislative initiatives . . . Kris does it, and does it well.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of people throughout Washington and the nation were mentored by Kris Iverson, and under her gentle tutelage have gone on to lead successful careers.

When the times were hard or the seas were rough, Kris was there with a steady and unbending hand to guide us on the proper course. She was our captain, our Mother Superior, our eye in the storm, our calm center in a sea of chaos.

I must say that I am very saddened by her departure. But I am very, very happy and proud of her accomplishments and most importantly, of this tremendous appointment to a place where I know that she will continue to honor and serve her country with dignity and respect.

So, I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing Kris well, in expressing our love and gratitude for her service to us.

There is no doubt in our minds that she will move on to even greater heights as she continues to serve our government and our President.

Mr. President, I have had a lot of people serve with me throughout the years, a lot of really good people I love, adore, appreciate, and honor. I have had no one serve with me who did a better job or gave more to this institu-

tion and to our country than Kris Iverson. I felt very much like I had to make this statement at this time before Kris leaves. She is sitting right beside me, and I am very, very proud of her.

I yield to my friend from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I was happy to yield to my colleague for the purpose of making this statement, although I had no idea what the subject matter was going to be. I feel fortunate to have been on the floor when I discovered it was going to be about Kris Iverson, with whom I have worked now for some 15 or 16 years, going back to the mid-1980s when Senator HATCH and I authored the child care development block grant.

Kris Iverson did the initial work for Senator HATCH on that legislation, working with a fellow from my office who has been at the Department of Health and Human Services over the last number of years. I thank Kris.

Coming from the other side of the aisle here, I didn't have the privilege of working with her every day, but on the days that I did, I came to know her as a highly competent, serious individual of deep convictions, who understands issues very, very well, appreciates the role of government, and that bright and talented people can make a contribution.

We are going to miss you, I say to Kris Iverson, here in the Senate, although we are not going to lose you entirely from public service. So on behalf of those of us on this side of the aisle—we don't want to ruin your reputation in Republican circles—but we thank you as well for a job very well done on behalf of all Americans. We are lucky to have had you serve the Senate and certainly the interests of the American people.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his kind remarks because he knows how hard we worked together on the child care development block grant, and a whole raft of other issues. Kris has done such a great job, and I am honored to have her sit beside me for the last time in the Senate. We are very proud of her.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING JIM O'ROURKE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Connecticut State Representative Jim O'Rourke on being named the Irishman of the Year by the Portland-Middletown Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-American organization with a tradition of service to the community.

Jim O'Rourke, born in Boston, MA, has served the people of Connecticut for most of his adult life. He is a graduate of Manchester High School and earned a Bachelors Degree in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. While at the University of

Connecticut, Jim developed a deep passion for issues affecting the environment, consumer protection, and education, serving as Chairman of the statewide Connecticut Public Interest Research Group and later as Chairman of the Connecticut Environmental Caucus.

For the past 11 years, as a member of the Connecticut State House of Representatives, Representative O'Rourke has been a champion of initiatives aimed at providing cleaner air and water for the people of Cromwell, Portland, and Middletown. Last month, he hosted the Connecticut Coalition for Clean Air, CCCA, a partnership of private, State, and local government officials committed to educating the public while providing solutions to pollution concerns throughout the State. Jim believes that pollution of our air and waterways is more than just an environmental problem, it is a public health concern. Representative O'Rourke's leadership on these vital issues has earned him wide respect among his colleagues. In fact, one indication of the high regard Jim's colleagues have for him is that he was chosen to serve as Assistant Majority Leader of the Connecticut House of Representatives earlier this year.

Jim O'Rourke has made numerous contributions to his community. His tireless work on behalf of children and families there and throughout Connecticut is never-ending. He works as Assistant Development Director of The Connection, a non-profit service and community development organization which provides counsel to low and moderate-income families seeking to purchase their first home. It also provides important treatment services for underprivileged families and persons in need of counseling.

Mr. O'Rourke is an active member of the Portland-Middletown division of the Connecticut Ancient Order of Hibernians, having been granted the third degree prior to his latest achievement. The Order has been an integral part of Irish-American life since its North American branch was founded in 1836 in New York City, it is now the largest of all Irish Social Societies in the United States. Jim O'Rourke is also a member of the Cromwell Kiwanis Club and the DeSoto Council Cromwell Knights of Columbus. He serves as president of the statewide People's Action for Clean Energy, an organization committed to energy conservation and a clean and healthy environment.

As a result of his endeavors, Jim has been the recipient of numerous awards, including being recently named the Legislator of the Year by the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and Champion of Youth by the Connecticut Coalition of Youth Advocates.

As you are aware, this week is a special one for all Irish-Americans, for Saturday we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Let us take this opportunity not only to recognize the rich legacy of the Irish in America, but also to honor a

man who has worked so hard within his community to preserve this heritage, and to promote the well being of all citizens, as well. I can think of no finer illustration of the contributions that Americans of Irish descent continue to make to our Nation than the good deeds that Jim O'Rourke performs each and every day as an outstanding public servant.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BLACK MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Black Mountain Ski Area in Jackson, NH, upon the celebration of their 65th year of business.

A pioneer in the ski industry, Black Mountain Ski Area installed the first overhead cable lift in the United States in 1935. Designed and installed by Bartlett, NH, inventor George Morton, the lift consisted of an overhead cable with strands of rope hanging down for skiers to hold onto as they ventured up the mountain.

In 1936, Bill and Betty Whitney purchased the Moody Farm and Ski Area at Black Mountain from Ed and Ada Moody, renaming the business as Whitney's. The Whitney family retrofitted the overhead cable lift in 1937, replacing the strands of rope that hung from the cable with seventy-two shovel handles purchased from Sears Roebuck and Company.

Black Mountain utilized the first snow making system in New Hampshire in December, 1957. A Skyworker Snowmaking System was installed by the William A. Walsh Company of Manchester, NH.

Black Mountain Ski Area has been in continuous operation as a ski facility since 1935, making it one of the oldest ski areas in New Hampshire. The Black Mountain Ski Area is a true friend to the people of New Hampshire and to the tourists who travel to our great state to utilize the facility. Their efforts to serve the needs of the ski industry in New Hampshire are truly commendable. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

#### RETIREMENT OF THE HONORABLE BRETT DORIAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Judge Brett Dorian as he retires after almost 12 years as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in Fresno, CA.

Brett Dorian's legal career reflects a long and honorable commitment to public service. His dedication spans more than three decades, beginning with his service in the United States Air Force. Upon graduation from Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley Mr. Dorian helped and assisted the underprivileged in Central California as a legal aid lawyer. He then went on to a distinguished career in private practice where he specialized in bankruptcy law

and served as a bankruptcy trustee for many years.

In 1988, Judge Dorian was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court in Fresno. He served as a Bankruptcy Judge for almost 12 years. Judge Dorian served an eight county area in Central California. Judge Dorian has long been known as a thorough, dedicated and compassionate judge. Throughout his judicial career, he was diligent in carefully balancing the law in his cases and protecting the rights of those who appear before him.

Judge Dorian has served the people of California as well as all Americans with great distinction. I am honored to pay tribute to him today and I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Brett Dorian continued happiness as he embarks on new endeavors.●

#### GEORGE W. MILLER'S FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize a Pennsylvanian who has been a tremendous asset to our community. I was recently notified that Mr. George W. Miller of Mount Pleasant will be celebrating 50 years of active service in the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.

It is without question that this fine Pennsylvanian has gone above and beyond the call of duty to improve the safety of his community. Mr. Miller has displayed great courage over the years, as he has put himself in danger in order to protect the lives of his neighbors, friends, and community members. Our society will remain forever in debt to Mr. Miller and those like him who spend their own time in volunteer efforts.

The Volunteer Fire Department of Mount Pleasant, PA has been blessed to have had Mr. Miller as part of its team for the last fifty years. I enthusiastically congratulate him on reaching this tremendous milestone, and I am sure that I don't stand alone in hoping that he will be a part of the fire department for many years to come.●

#### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGIST: 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, ACOG, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary. I would also like to include the letter signed by several of my colleagues who have joined with me in offering congratulations to ACOG and to pay tribute to their efforts on behalf of women's health.

With a membership of over 41,000 physicians specializing in obstetric-gynecologic care, ACOG is the nation's leading group of professionals dedicated to improving women's health care. ACOG is a private, voluntary, nonprofit organization.