

HELMS. He has never been a part of the urbane crowd, the radical sheik crowd. He knows it, and they know it. It galled them that he could not be intimidated by an editorial in the New York Times or the Washington Post or some such event.

He is a man of faith, a Baptist. He comes from the soil of North Carolina, and he is proud of it. He prefers the affection and commendation of those in his province over those in the great salons where the masters of the universe operate. In fact, he respects the people of his beloved State and deeply shares their values. That is what he fought for every day.

The cynical, rootless left, the politically correct, those without principles, those who do not believe in truth, those who do not comprehend the greatness of America were not for him.

Indeed, he saw them as the problem. And, at their core, these folks understood that, too. They knew his disagreement with their actions was deep and honest. Try as they might, it would not go away.

I think some may have hated him for it, but JESSE HELMS did not hate. He absolutely does not hate. He only wants to do the right thing for America because he values America over politics and because he is courageous in his stand for principle, and he often would not be moved. The left never understood it. Some thought he hated them, but he does not. He loved them. He loves America. He wants a better life for all Americans.

The truth is that Senator HELMS is the most kind and considerate person. His soft-spoken ways are known by all. His modesty and unassuming manner are plain for all to see. His wonderful wife Dot shares those same qualities and is loved by all who know her. He is a true Christian gentleman in the southern style—courtly, gracious, quick of wit, and firm in friendships. He is a most remarkable person, exceedingly intelligent, well read. No one here can turn a phrase better than JESSE HELMS.

When he has been wrong or slow to understand, he has admitted it. His conversion to advocacy for a much stronger role of the United States in the fight against AIDS in Africa is a very recent example. He even apologized for being slow to understand the moral significance of that tragedy in Africa.

Finally, the career of Senator HELMS cannot be discussed without remarking on the critical role he played in enabling the focus of democracy, free enterprise, and faith to triumph over the godless totalitarian forces of communism. He was a constant cold warrior. He saw the evil in the "evil empire," and his drive to overcome it never slackened. He was relentless, even when undergoing attacks from the so-called opinion leaders of America. It certainly was not those opinion leaders and pundits who won the cold war. They blew hot and cold—mostly cold—

on U.S. policies. But the people in the provinces knew. They knew there could be no compromise with freedom and communism, and fortunately those people had a strong, able, and true voice in JESSE HELMS. He stayed the course. The Soviet Union collapsed.

There were many close calls in that struggle and many highlights in the battle of the cold war. One of those critical moments came when Senator HELMS came to believe in Ronald Reagan and his view of the role of the United States in this struggle. JESSE worked hard, at a critical point in Reagan's campaign, to produce a great victory in North Carolina that gave him the nomination and went on to allow him to be President. I have heard him speak about that moment.

Together, they persevered. The "evil empire" collapsed, and the victory was won. That was a partnership of no small note. It was a partnership of historic importance.

Senator HELMS, we appreciate you. You played a critical role in the struggle for freedom. We thank you for your courage and consistency. American freedom is in your debt, and we are obliged for your service.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CORZINE. Madam President, I rise today to say a simple thank you to a number of my retiring colleagues, good people who have done good things to serve the citizens of their States but, more importantly, serve our Nation.

I particularly mention MAX CLELAND and JEAN CARNAHAN, who are exceptional and special people. They are heroic in their own way, as the term is truly defined. The courage and optimism they have shown in their lives strengthened mine. The grace they brought to their service in the Senate, to their States and the Nation, is truly remarkable.

MAX CLELAND does not need extensive description to know that he is a patriot, one who cares about America, worked hard to voice support for veterans and supports working people across this country.

I worked with him closely on the economic plans we thought would stimulate the economy. He is a remarkable winner. He came into New Jersey and helped me as I was a fledgling, aspiring Senator. He took me into worlds I had not known, and I truly will miss him, as will all of us in the Senate.

JEAN CARNAHAN is my desk mate on my right, No. 96 out of 100, me being 97. We sat together, laughed together, worked together, learned together. She showed me how to be a little bit better at being a Senator than I might otherwise be. She is an inspiration. In her own life, she dealt with tragedy and turned it into opportunity. A remarkable woman who truly cared about the people of Missouri and this Nation, she

brought great grace to everything she did.

MAX CLELAND and JEAN CARNAHAN are an inspiration to the lives of all of us now and as we go forward. So I congratulate them in their service and celebrate their lives.

From a different perspective, less personal because I have worked less frequently with them and certainly have a different partisan perspective, but I commend their service and respectfully congratulate STROM THURMOND, BOB SMITH, JESSE HELMS, and TIM HUTCHINSON. They are remarkable people in their own right. Certainly, Strom Thurmond is someone with whom it is an honor to be in the Senate, to see the courage he brought every day to his service in the Senate while I was here, but to the Nation in general.

For years, BOB SMITH, his great leadership on the environment I saw firsthand as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

I thank JESSE HELMS and TIM HUTCHINSON for their service. Each has been a major contributor to America's political life and the deliberations in this great body.

So, again, a simple thank you.

Finally, maybe most importantly, I want to say a few words about my colleague, my political mentor and my friend, BOB TORRICELLI. Let me begin by saying most certainly that, like Senator TORRICELLI himself, I was deeply disappointed in his admitted errors of judgment. The subsequent reprimand by the Ethics Committee was a most unfortunate blemish on a career and life of extraordinary service, certainly to the people of New Jersey and I believe to the Nation.

In the fullness of time, we all are judged not always by one event in our lives; we are judged by the complete contribution we make or we do not make. Senator TORRICELLI is one who has made many contributions to individuals, to my State, and to the Nation. It is remarkable, frankly, that his whole adult life has been dedicated to public service, stretching 20 years in elected office and probably 25, 26 years from his early days in college.

He was a part of the political environment and public service, starting as a deputy legislative counsel for New Jersey's Gov. Brendan Byrne—I think that actually means he was his driver—but he was an important part of one of the most successful administrations and leadership of the State of New Jersey. A great man, Governor Byrne, gave Senator TORRICELLI his start.

Then he worked in the Carter White House with Vice President Mondale as a senior staff person, one who was close to many of the important issues in foreign affairs and domestic policy on which the Vice President worked.

In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives and served there for 14 years, a strong, constant voice, a representative of New Jersey. He worked on matters relating to transportation systems, environmental

issues, concerns about our educational system, public housing, all those things that make a big difference to the most densely populated State in the Nation—in the most densely populated county in our Nation.

Senator TORRICELLI built an unimpeachable career in the House of Representatives and used that as a platform to be elected to the Senate in 1996—always, always a tough fighter, tough elections, tough fighter for the issues he believed in, and particularly a tough fighter for New Jersey.

Together we have been able to have a very positive and constructive dialog with the White House, with five judges appointed to district courts, all as a package. This is a very important contribution to our judicial system, one where high-quality people agree to work. We were pleased to work together to respond to the tragedy of September 11 and the 691 families in New Jersey who lost a loved one, with regard to working on the funds, to assure tax deductibility for families was allowed, making sure the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region was properly or appropriately supported with financial resources. BOB TORRICELLI was a fighter for that.

He was a fighter for making sure we resisted domestic violence in the home, provided more housing for battered women, pushed to take guns away from wife beaters and child abusers, fought for middle-class tax relief.

Senator TORRICELLI and I did not always agree on some of the proposals. Some, we did. He certainly made a major contribution in our most recent tax relief proposal that the President and the Senate and others came to include, the college tuition tax deductibility, which he fought for, which was included, expanding deductions for student loans, a tax credit for lifetime loan. All these are major contributions that will live long beyond a term in the Senate.

He was a strong advocate for those suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, eliminating restrictive Medicare rules with regard to that. On foreign relations issues, he was a constant and ever-present voice to make sure American foreign policy was broadly attentive to human rights and making sure America's interests were represented not only in meaningful defense terms but that we were involved in carrying a strong posture with regard to the values in which we believe in the Nation.

Finally, we cannot talk about Senator TORRICELLI's efforts without his strong political advocacy and representation of the need to make sure we have a strong two-party system in this country, with a voice, that ideas are openly debated, and the public has a choice. He certainly was most effective in leading the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, but most importantly, in representing the view that we need to have a debate about ideas.

It is with a sad sense, from my perspective as a close friend and someone

who cares about another human being, that I congratulate him on service and thank him for all he has done personally. But most importantly, for the people of New Jersey, the people of this country, I thank him for his service to all for those 27 years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I say to my colleague from New Jersey, that is the most appropriate way to speak with regard to our party colleagues, those two magical words understood by every American: Thank you. If I may, I take that as my keynote and, likewise, make a few comments.

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT—H.R. 695

Mr. CORZINE. If the Senator will yield for a unanimous consent request, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding passage of H.R. 695, it be in order for the Senate amendment to be corrected as follows: On page 57, line 9, insert a "\$" before "10,000,000."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, this is a moment we look upon with mixed emotions: Yes, thank you for the service of these wonderful men and women and sadness of their departure; but to have the opportunity to say a word or two about the legacy they leave.

This is the most extraordinary legislative body in the entire world. People have often asked me, When did you decide you were going to become a U.S. Senator or try for the Senate? I suppose I have never been able to give an adequate answer. But it is a privilege that few have. For those who do succeed, what a rich reward this service is. It has been for me, and I am now concluding my 24th year. In January, I will start a quarter of a century of service in the Senate. That hardly compares with my distinguished colleague from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, who has been here these many years, but a quarter of a century is a good start. I am privileged now that my State has reelected me for a fifth term.

But it has been with the help of my family, my immediate family. I shared breakfast with my eldest daughter. We talked about the years I have been in public service and the opportunity I now have to continue in that public service. It has been a burden at times on the family but one which any family would do, as every family here of those privileged to serve in this Chamber look upon that as a great reward.

I start with those colleagues who have served with me on the Senate Armed Services Committee and with my dear friend, Senator THURMOND. I remember so well when I was Secretary

of the Navy and I would come up before the Armed Services Committee at various times, of course, in connection with budget requests, but at other times I was called on the carpet pretty thoroughly by Senator THURMOND during the war in Vietnam. I served 5 years and 4 months as the Navy Secretary. He used to question me. As the hearing ended, he would pull me over and say: Why don't you think about coming to the Senate someday? I owe Senator THURMOND a debt of gratitude for instilling in me the thoughts that eventually led to my election to the Senate.

Senator THURMOND has touched every life with whom he has served in this Chamber these many years. He has touched mine very deeply. He was sort of like the older brother I never had. There is not a Senator here who, from time to time, does not quietly go and talk to the elder statesmen in the Senate about problems they have. I have certainly shared many conversations with Senator THURMOND.

Both sides of the aisle, Senator John Stennis, Senator Scoop Jackson, Senator Barry Goldwater—he sat right over here—Senator John Tower. It has been an enormous benefit to me to serve with, really, these giants of the Senate and those who served on the Armed Services Committee.

I was ranking on the committee for many years, and then, in a very courteous manner, Senator THURMOND came to me one day and said he really wanted to cap off his career serving as the head of the Armed Services Committee. So he succeeded me as ranking and then eventually became chairman of the committee.

Even though he had the title and I had stepped down as ranking and so forth, I worked with him very closely and learned a great deal. And still, this last moment, last night, after he delivered his memorable few final remarks to this body, we visited quietly together in the hallway.

Yes, STROM THURMOND, I thank you. I thank you for all you have done for me and for all you have done for America.

Tom Brokaw has written about the greatest generation, those who served in World War II. STROM THURMOND has had the most extraordinary of service. I remember one time he called me up and he said: John, the President has invited me to go with him to the D-Day beaches. It was the 40th anniversary. It was the thinking of President Reagan at that time, very wisely, that many of those veterans would not live to see the 50th anniversary. So Strom embarked for the beaches of Normandy on the 40th.

Howard Cannon, Democrat from Nevada, went with us. Howard Cannon had gone in on D-Day in a glider.

Lowell Weicker went with us. I remember his father had been Chief of the Air Force Intelligence, 8th Air Force, Army Air Corps. So there were just the four of us who went.

STROM THURMOND was assigned a helicopter right behind the President's