

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

helicopter and perhaps one with the Secret Service. We traveled up and down the Normandy beaches for 2 days, visiting almost every single site where our troops were involved. I just remember it so well. I remember one Member of the House of Representatives who joined us, beckoned to Senator THURMOND to come over, a Congressman from Florida. I will put his name in the RECORD.

He said: Look, STROM, I can see the indentation where I dug my foxhole.

Sure enough, there was the beach and an indentation was there. He was consumed with emotion; STROM likewise. I remember these two men embraced on that spot.

There were other veterans, many of them there, who had participated in D-Day. I always respectfully kept a distance, a pace or two behind STROM THURMOND, who was a Major General in the National Guard, as he was greeted warmly, and likewise shared moments, deep thought with those veterans who had been there on that historic moment in American history. How well I remember that trip.

How well I always remember STROM THURMOND and what he has done for America and what he did for this humble Senator. I served at the very end of World War II in the Navy, just in the training command, getting ready for our overseas assignments when, God bless America, the war ended. I was privileged to be a very minor part of the generation of STROM THURMOND.

Also on our committee was TIM HUTCHINSON. TIM was a fighter then. He is a fighter now. He stood over there on the floor last night, and we talked a bit together. His spirits are high. He lost in a tough, competitive race. But he reflected on those achievements he was able to provide for the men and women of the Armed Forces as the chairman of the personnel subcommittee, when I was chairman of the committee, and then as ranking.

Concurrent receipts is a very difficult issue, one that had to be addressed by the Congress. The distinguished Senator from Nevada, Senator REID, and Senator HUTCHINSON, Senator SMITH, BOB SMITH, also a Member of the Armed Services Committee—I will speak about him momentarily. Senator LEVIN and I joined that triumvirate and finally we had what I call a measure of success on that issue.

It seemed to be irresolvable, irresolvable for many years that the committee addressed this issue. But finally we established a beachhead and, while it is not satisfactory to all, it is nevertheless a beachhead for the first time in the history of the doctrine of concurrent receipts, which goes back 100 years. It is not easy to set aside 100 years of history to establish the beachhead we did.

Tim was in the forefront in that. He also joined in the leadership when we put TRICARE For Life through. Those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States always remember some

of the circumstances when they came in and all the promises that were made when putting on that uniform. Particularly those who became careerists and spent 20-plus years in, they always felt they were entitled to assisted care and medical care and treatment for themselves and their families, which they were, in large measure, promised through the years.

Put aside all of the legalities, nevertheless, to me it was a moral commitment of this country, to provide that care. TIM HUTCHINSON joined me. I was then chairman. We were able to put that into law such that that care now and for the indefinite future—so long as I am here, I will fight to preserve it—will be made available to those career individuals.

Pay raises—all types of things the personnel committee is responsible for; again, the GI bill and other things. But I conclude with TIM on one remark. The Commandant of the Marine Corps approached me the other day just to give me a little update. The retention, particularly in the officer corps of the United States Marine Corps, is at the highest it has ever been in living memory. That comes about through many factors but the principal factor is the knowledge and the feeling—whether it is in the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Army or the Air Force—that the Congress of the United States stands there to help these individuals, and just to treat them fairly with regard to their pay and benefits and the needs of their families.

TIM HUTCHINSON, I salute you. You did a marvelous job to care for the men and women of the Armed Forces.

We also had JEAN CARNAHAN serving on the committee. I remember so well that she fought hard for the FA-18, a modern naval aircraft. Here is this really extraordinary figure who bore the brunt of such tragedy, to quickly come to the Senate of the United States and assume not only the mantle of a Senator with the burdens of the office, under those tragic circumstances—I would say on her committee she performed very well. We were proud to have her.

She was very gentle, a bit soft-spoken, but tenacious. So I wish that member of our committee well as she departs.

MAX CLELAND: MAX also was on the personnel committee, chairman and ranking. MAX was a fighter. MAX bears the scars of war and those are the scars of really a tenacious fighter. He carried that same measure of courage and tenacity here to his duties in the Senate. He fought hard for the GI bill. He fought hard for the F-22. That is our modern high altitude fighter. It has gone through a lot of trials and tough times, but it looks as if it is going to make it. In the next 20 to 25 years, that aircraft, at those high altitudes, with the ability to interdict any aircraft comparable in the world and have distinct technological advantages, and hopefully pilot advantages—it can pro-

vide the security of the airspace for the other elements of our military below that airspace, whether they be on land or on the sea.

Those familiar with warfare know if you do not have the space secure, those beneath the airspace are in constant peril.

Thank you, MAX, for the GI bill, for end-strength adjustments. He recognized the stress being put on the men and women of the Armed Forces today and their families and deployment. He fought hard to see that those end strengths were in law, written such that the appropriate Chiefs of Staff and the other civilians in the Pentagon could make the adjustments necessary to better care for the men and women of the Armed Forces.

MAX also has a very special place in my heart because, as I mentioned earlier, I was privileged to be Under Secretary and Secretary of the Navy for 5 years during Vietnam. I visited Vietnam a number of times. I visited the aid stations where the wounded were brought straight from the field of battle.

It is hard for people to realize, but those of us who were in the Pentagon in charge of the military service during that period would sit down each week and write some weeks 50, 60, and some weeks hundreds of letters to the families who lost their loved ones in the battles of Vietnam. You don't forget that.

Each day that I was privileged to see this fine, strong American veteran brought back those memories for me in that period of history. As I look back on it now, it was a period where perhaps we should have seen earlier on in that conflict a different way to proceed to try to preserve the integrity of the Government of South Vietnam before it fell. But that I will save for another day.

MAX, I wish you well.

Of course, MAX did another thing to this old Senator from Virginia. He announced last night that he was going to get married. I think that leaves me now as the only bachelor in the Senate. FRED THOMPSON, of whom I will speak now, bailed out on me. And now MAX has bailed out on me. I am all alone in that category.

FRED THOMPSON: I remember there was a very successful advertisement years ago. I can't remember it clearly, but it sort of characterizes FRED THOMPSON. When he speaks, people listen. This is a man who has a remarkable presence—not only a commanding physical presence but an equally commanding strength of mind. And when he spoke, we listened, whether it was here on the floor or within our caucuses or listening to his speeches or when presiding over the Government Operations Committee. People listened reverently as Senator THOMPSON spoke.

He also had a remarkable sense of humility. Those who have traveled through the Hollywood scene—some of which I have known in my lifetime—

often do not have a sense of humility. But FRED has. His capstone, I suppose, was last night when I believe the vote was 90 to 7 for the homeland defense bill about which he felt very strongly.

I think America will look back, and hopefully will look at a successful piece of legislation to add to the bastion of defenses with which we must now defend this Nation.

FRED, we thank you for your work on that and wish you well with your young bride.

PHIL GRAMM: Few people realize it, but when we passed new highway trust fund legislation some years ago in 1996, I was privileged at that time to be chairman of the subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee that was charged with the principal responsibility of drafting the provisions of that historic piece of legislation which enabled each and every State to get a minimum of 90 cents return on those tax dollars paid by citizens of those States and visitors when they pumped a gallon of gas.

We had a very inequitable and unfair system of donor States and donee States. The State of Virginia was a donor in that we only got 78 or 79 cents back, and the remainder of the Virginia drivers' Federal taxes went to other States. There were some other States such as Massachusetts that got over a dollar, for what reason I have never been clear on. But PHIL went back and examined the tax structures supporting the highway trust fund.

President Clinton had put another 5-cent tax on and split it between the highway trust fund and the general trust fund. PHIL, as a member of the Finance Committee, got that reversed. All 5 cents went to the highway trust fund. Otherwise, the 50 States—I emphasize that—50 States could not have gotten a substantial increase in those dollars necessary for roads and bridges and other infrastructure measures to facilitate transportation.

That, to me, is one of Phil's most significant accomplishments. He worked with us on the Environment and Public Works Committee and the transportation committees of the House and Senate to ensure that America got an equal and fair distribution of those highway trust fund moneys.

Of course, PHIL will always be remembered for his wit and for his wisdom—brilliant in both but equally controllable in both of those attributes. I say they are attributes. He is ever quick with the turn of a phrase, or a very insightful path to take to resolve a problem. Many times he stood up in our caucus to say this is a piece of legislation which I believe should take this course, and our leadership often followed that advice.

We will miss you, PHIL. But we will remember you, and we will remember you, as you say, with love and affection. Those are the words that he used so often. Of course, he, along with FRED THOMPSON, was one of the principal architects of the homeland de-

fense bill. And I am confident that will in due course be a landmark piece of legislation that will serve this country well.

Lastly, I speak of my colleague BOB SMITH. BOB and I are friends based on our loyalty and indebtedness to the U.S. Navy. BOB's father was a very distinguished Naval officer in World War II. He fought in the Navy, and he fought through a number of combat situations in the Pacific to come home. And then his extraordinary capabilities in aviation enabled him to become a test pilot. That is sort of the ultimate desire of aviators—to become a test pilot to begin to push the frontiers of aviation and develop those aircraft for successive generations to combat the enemies that are lurking against this country.

BOB's father had not been home from World War II but a few months when he was testing a plane that malfunctioned and he lost his life. BOB was robbed of his father at a very early age. He carried that thought with him—as he does today—with complete reverence to what his father did in the Navy. BOB served in the Navy himself during Vietnam. So the Navy has a very strong bond between us.

I remember when he fought so hard right here on the floor—originally, I didn't think it was a good idea, but I eventually decided to join him in going back to reexamine the circumstances of the USS *Indianapolis*. That was a remarkable chapter in Naval history. It was a magnificent heavy cruiser. It was the last ship sunk by enemy action. I could be wrong on some minor vessels, but the last capital ship sunk by an enemy action. A Japanese submarine sank that ship as it was making its way back to the Pacific theater to take up its position once again. It had been out there earlier in the Pacific. This was another tour, positioned with our fleet, when, in moonlight—the captain was asleep—that ship took a torpedo and went down.

A great many of the crew were lost when she went down. But a number survived and floated aimlessly in the oceans, suffering from the deprivation of water and intense sunlight. Sharks actually came in and physically devoured and maimed a number of those crewmen.

The Navy search for that ship will always be one of controversy, but eventually a destroyer came alongside and found them.

I remember very well an officer on that destroyer was a proud Virginian, Graham Claytor, who eventually became Secretary of the Navy. He followed me by a few years in the Navy secretariat. And he told me, firsthand, about the appalling sight of those men who had been at sea some several days, suffering extraordinary deprivation.

The captain was held accountable, court-martialed, and although it dwindled off in a certain way—it pretty well drummed up—BOB felt that the captain had not received the full measure of

justice to which he was entitled. He fought on the floor of the Senate, and eventually the Senate voted to, in large measure, restore—although the captain was long since dead—the equities, the recognition that he is entitled to for his heroism on that ship.

So to this sailor, to this Vietnam veteran, who is so proud of the Navy, and who fought so hard when he was chairman of the Strategic Subcommittee in the Senate on missile defense—BOB, to this day, feels very strongly, as do I, to have this Nation have a workable, early deployable, limited missile defense system. BOB fought hard for that.

Every Senator cherishes the opportunity to provide for their State's National Park Systems.

FRANK, I thank you for helping me, over your many years in the Senate, to make additions to Virginia's Park System.

In particular, those initiatives, some of first legal impression, to make private land available for viewing and study by the ever growing number of visitors interested in the civil war.

Thank you, FRANK, for also being a "Paul Revere" on the need for a national energy policy and the increasing need to free America from the bondage of reliance on imported energy.

We wish you and your wife good fortune as you are "elevated" to the Governorship of Alaska.

So I again summarize simply by saying to my colleagues, thank you for all you did for this humble Member of the Senate. I wish each of you well in your next chapter of distinguished careers. We shall remember you here, one and all, in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I know that there is another Senator here, the Senator from North Dakota, who wishes to get recognition. I was told the Senator from Maine wished to get recognition, Senator COLLINS. She is not here?

I will not detain my colleague from North Dakota long. And I did not say I would, but I certainly meant to—I think of gentlemen as being very special people, and I intended, as a gentleman, to yield to the lady from Maine first.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, will the Senator from West Virginia yield?

Mr. BYRD. Yes.

WISHING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD A HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, let me observe, if no one has, as of yet, it is the 85th birthday today of our colleague from West Virginia, Senator BYRD.

I gave him a note a few moments ago, not only wishing him a happy birthday but, on this last day of this Congress, saying to him how much all of us appreciate the fact he has given so many years of public service to our country.