

Not yet a teenager, she is left to fend for herself and her four siblings. Despite this challenge, Mary rose to greet our delegation and recited a poem she had recently written to her parents entitled, "Parents yesterday, parents today, parents tomorrow."

I left for that trip convinced that these challenges facing Africa—chief among them the AIDS pandemic—were tragic humanitarian crises. After this trip, I am convinced Africa's challenges, if left unaddressed, could soon become America's national security threats. Failure to more energetically engage this troubled continent, especially in the post-September 11 world, poses risks to both the lives of millions of Africans and our own national security.

That is why I was especially disappointed to learn last Friday morning that the House chose to adjourn without passing two important pieces of legislation that could have energized our efforts in Africa.

S. 3032, a bipartisan bill to expand U.S. efforts to support micro-enterprise and which passed the Senate unanimously, was a casualty of the House's rush to leave town. We all know that micro-enterprises are a lifeline for the poorest of the poor—and have proven to be a pivotal tool that has allowed women, especially, to provide for their families. Across Africa, we saw women fighting for their families and raising their children on money they earned at small shops. But for every woman who was able to make ends meet because of her micro-enterprise, there are thousands of others who need a helping hand to get started. And by helping hand I don't mean a costly program. The typical micro-enterprise loan is \$50. By failing to pass S. 3032, the House missed the opportunity to provide that helping hand and opportunity.

The House also left town without passing a Global HIV/AIDS bill. In July, the Senate unanimously passed H.R. 2069, which authorized the resources that we all know will be required in the battle against HIV/AIDS. We were told by the House that the price tag on that bill was too high, and that they would pass it if we reduced the funding level. So we made clear to the House that we were ready to cut back the amounts authorized for this battle—vastly if they insisted—to remove the obstacles to some form of progress on this vital issue. Apparently, any amount at all was too much for the House leadership, because the House just could not get to yes on this vital issue.

I am particularly disappointed because the House's refusal to act ends any hope of enacting the Family Partnership Survival Act. This program is very simple. It authorizes \$75 million over the next 2 years to treat HIV-positive mothers and their partners. By keeping mothers and fathers alive so that they can help raise their children, it is, in effect, an orphan-prevention program.

I remember vividly arriving at an HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing Center in Kibera, the largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya. We were greeted by mothers, each of whom was HIV-positive. Yet they greeted us, dancing and singing a song whose lyrics were:

We are so blessed, because we know our status.

They felt blessed to have learned they were HIV-positive because, by knowing their status, they could take steps to protect their partners. And they could receive counseling and nutritional supplements to keep themselves healthy in the face of this insidious virus.

It will be an even more joyful day when these women will feel blessed not only because they know their status, but also because they have access to treatment and drugs that will keep them alive. The House could have hastened that day. It did not. And so, Mr. President, I will come back at this issue until it is law.

The President is scheduled to travel to Africa in January. As I was able to carry with me on my trip—to young Mary and others—some of the compassion of South Dakota, I wish the President could have been able to bring with him two new laws expressing the compassion of the United States.

As our dear colleague Paul Wellstone used to say, "time is not neutral." We can no longer afford to ignore Africa's challenges, because before long they will become our challenges. The House missed its chance to help confront those challenges in the 107th Congress. I hope it will help us address them in the next.

HONORING THE RETIRING SENATORS OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, one of the advantages of a lame duck session is it gives us a little longer before we have to say good-bye to departing colleagues. Quite a few members of our Senate family will not be with us when the 108th Congress begins in January.

From the moment we first step foot on this floor, most of us are powerfully aware that we are links in an extraordinary chain of history. When we open our desks, we see carved or penned in them the names of those who served in this body before us.

Over in the historic Old Senate Chamber, we can almost hear the voices Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John Calhoun. Here in this Chamber, we walk in the footsteps on such leaders as leaders like Lyndon Johnson, Mike Mansfield and Howard Baker.

Once you have served here, you never leave here entirely. Every Senator who has ever served here remains here in some form.

That connection is not only carved in our desks. It is carried in those with whom we serve.

Think about this: Senator THURMOND entered the Senate in 1954.

He served with Walter George, who entered in 1922. Walter George served

with Henry Cabot Lodge, who entered in 1893, who served with John Sherman, who entered in 1861, who served with Hannibal Hamlin, who entered in 1848, who served with William King, who entered in 1819, who served with Rufus King, who re-entered in 1813, who served with Joseph Anderson, who entered in 1797, who served with John Brown, who entered in 1792, who served with Robert Morris.

Robert Morris entered in 1789—and signed both the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Through just ten people, we are directly connected to the two documents that this Nation is founded upon—two documents that all of these departing Members have advanced and defended throughout their careers.

We are able to see those linkages because of the masterful historical work of another of our colleagues, Senator BYRD, whose birthday, we have noted, is today.

Every departing Senator has added pages to the history of this Senate and this Nation. Some have provided whole chapters. And, in a couple of cases, whole volumes of history.

I would like to take a moment and acknowledge our departing Senators.

STROM THURMOND is the longest serving Senator in our Nation's history. His career has spanned the arc of the last century, and his service has helped usher in this one.

He has gone from Democrat, to Dixiecrat, to Republican. His party affiliation may have changed, and his position on some issues may have changed, but his service to the people of South Carolina has been unwavering. He is truly the Cal Ripken of the Senate.

JESSE HELMS began his first term in the Senate in January 1973. Senator HELMS is a giant—not only on the Senate stage, but also on the world stage. And, with his budding friendship with the rock star, Bono, in retirement we may yet see him on a concert stage. It has been said that leaders face a choice between being loved or feared—Senator HELMS is both.

JESSE and Dot have been indispensable members of the Senate family, and we will miss them.

PHIL GRAMM has been at the center of every major economic and domestic policy battle in my time here. And even though I have frequently disagreed with him, I have always learned from him. Virtually singlehandedly, he has changed America's economic policy—twice. Like all things Texan, he is larger than life, and he leaves some big shoes to fill.

FRANK MURKOWSKI is departing the Senate not because the people of Alaska don't want him in Washington, but because they do want him closer to home. That makes sense, because he has been a tireless advocate for his State. I have no doubt that he will continue to be, whether it is shaping policy at home, or twisting the arms of his former colleagues here. Congratulations, Governor.

BOB SMITH once said, "I hope that they'll put in my obituary that I was a good legislator—that I did my job for the people of New Hampshire. I hope they put that whole picture in."

Well, we don't have time to capture the whole picture—and I know that there are more chapters to be written in BOB SMITH's political life—but for nearly 20 years in the Congress, he has been a good legislator, and he has certainly done his job for the people of New Hampshire.

We may not be seeing FRED THOMPSON on C-SPAN anymore, but we will certainly be seeing him on TV. And should he ever take a role that involves combating government fraud, waste, and mismanagement, it will be a case of life imitating art—because that is just one of them many things he has done so well here in the Senate.

From the Arkansas State house, to the House, to the Senate, TIM HUTCHINSON has brought his keen understanding of both education and small business to bear for the people of Arkansas—and that is something I am certain he will continue to do in the days and years ahead.

Let me also say a word to Senator BARKLEY. I recently saw an interview in which Senator BARKLEY said he would bring some bottled water from Minnesota so as not to catch Potomac Fever. I think you probably need a slightly longer exposure to catch it—but we thank him for his service at this time of transition for Minnesota and for the Senate.

I also want to say a few words about the departing members of the Democratic Caucus:

There is no tougher fighter for this party or its values than BOB TORRICELLI. There is no more loyal ally, there is no more passionate Senator. He has lived a life devoted to public service.

I have often heard Senator TORRICELLI talk about how, growing up in his house, "a person's value was measured by what they did for other people." By that measure—or by any measure—BOB TORRICELLI has been an invaluable member of the Senate.

BOB TORRICELLI has always put others first. He helped recruit and elect the Senators who would ultimately put Democrats in the majority—embracing a thankless task, and excelling beyond all expectations. In an act of political courage, he stepped down when he felt his own candidacy would threaten that majority he worked so hard to build.

In the legislative arena, he has worked to protect Americans from gun violence—to protect women's rights—and workers' rights—and civil rights—and he has sought to provide tax relief for working families.

And in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11, BOB TORRICELLI took on the cause of rebuilding—helping New York rebuild—helping the region rebuild—and helping the victims and the survivors begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

I will miss BOB TORRICELLI's eloquent, passionate, articulate voice—and I thank him for his service.

I am sure these last few weeks have been bittersweet for MAX CLELAND. He lost an election—but he did get engaged the next day.

It shows he has his priorities straight.

But then, he always has had his priorities right. After Vietnam, just about anyone else would have said: I've given enough for this country. Not MAX CLELAND. When some of the people whose job it was to care for him lost hope, saying that the very act of putting on a shirt would tire him for the whole day—MAX willed himself to health. And then he set out to help others.

In 1970, at age 28, he became Georgia's youngest State Senator ever. In 1977, he became President Carter's outspoken chief of Veterans Affairs. After that, he served for 13 years as Georgia's Secretary of State.

In every job, he worked to make life better for Georgians, for veterans, and for those who needed the government to work for them.

And then—as if he hadn't given enough of his time and energy to others—he volunteered for another tour of duty—this time as a U.S. Senator.

In the Senate, MAX's personal experience gave him a voice in the issues of war and peace, the preparedness of our armed forces, and the way in which we treat those whose service is done.

Though MAX knows the sacrifices service sometimes demands, he didn't limit his focus to those who have sacrificed. He dedicated himself to the creation of an America worthy of that sacrifice: a society of justice, freedom, compassion and strength.

In the wake of September 11, and the anthrax attacks here on my office, MAX was instrumental in passing the legislation that better secures our ports and airports, better prepares our armed forces, and better equips the CDC to confront the new challenges of bioterrorism.

The things he has done may have been important for Georgia, but they were vital for America—and history will bear that out.

From his service in Vietnam, to the VA, to the U.S. Senate, MAX has exhibited a rare, almost singular kind of patriotism. He has taken his service seriously, but—as anyone who has been a subject of one of his jokes, or has witnessed him telling jokes about himself can tell you—he has never taken himself too seriously.

It has been reported that nearly every day, someone calls MAX's office, just to thank him for being MAX—for overcoming what he has overcome to become a leader.

Today, I want to thank MAX CLELAND for being MAX—for being a great Senator, a personal inspiration, and a dear friend, one who I will miss tremendously here in the Senate.

Tragedy carried JEAN CARNAHAN into the Senate, but she refused to let it define her once she arrived here.

I saw that most vividly last October 16, the first anniversary of the plane crash that killed her husband, her son Randy, and their aid Chris Sifford.

Jean had visited their graves over the weekend—and then returned to Washington so she could debate and vote on a foreign operations bill that strengthened our efforts to track terrorists, to strengthen the coalition against terrorism, and to feed and shelter Afghanistan's refugees.

That was the same day a letter containing anthrax was opened in my office, forcing her to continue her work—as a freshman Senator—without an office.

Compared to the adversity she has overcome, that was nothing. From the day she arrived, JEAN CARNAHAN brought with her to the Senate the hopes and concerns of millions of Missouri's families. She has a unique ability to find compromise, but there was one thing she never compromised—she never compromised the interests of hardworking Missourians.

Whether it was working for tax relief, prescription drug coverage, a National Patients' Bill of Rights that would be as strong as Missouri's, or help for laid-off workers—her elegant words and depth of understanding commanded attention, and more often than not, got something done.

JEAN sits in Harry Truman's seat—and I think that is fitting, because she occupied it with strength, dignity, plain-spoken independence.

She may not have served long, but she served this Nation and the people of Missouri well, and she served at one of the most turbulent and historic times in the life of our Nation.

I remember once hearing Government CARNAHAN say, "Most of the time, you just get to sit in the boat, but every now and then you get to row the boat and direct it."

In a short time, JEAN CARNAHAN demonstrated that she belongs at the helm, and I, for one, am going to miss having her there.

I sometime think MAX CLELAND and JEAN CARNAHAN possess as much internal strength and grace as the rest of the Senate combined. They are extraordinary people, exceptional public servants. Each in his or her way, is an inspiration.

They served their Nation faithfully, and at great personal cost.

I must say, it was disturbing and disheartening to see how their records and characters were misrepresented in this campaign. They deserved far better. Voters in Georgia and Missouri deserved far better.

I hope that through the clarity of history, the people of their States see these two great patriots for what they are, and how well they served.

Finally, let me mention a colleague who left us too soon—Paul Wellstone. It was a joy and an honor to have him in the Senate.

Paul said that he came here to rattle some cages—and sometimes he rattled

mine. But he always told the truth. And he always remembered who he was speaking for. As I have said before, he was the soul of the Senate. He had that rarest and most difficult kind of bravery: moral courage. He always stood for what he believed in, even if it meant standing alone. And he fought in a way that ennobled his causes and inspired us all. And I will miss him dearly.

To hear each of these leaders call me "leader" has been one of the greatest honors of my life—and I will be forever grateful to you.

In 1998, Senator LOTT inaugurated the "Leader's Lecture Series," featuring speakers who had "enriched] the memory of the Senate by sharing with us the wisdom and insights that can be gained only by a lifetime of service."

Without exception, every speaker—including those who went on to serve as Vice President, even President of the United States—has recalled his years in the Senate as the best and happiest of his career.

Given the historic events that shaped this Congress, I don't know that any of us will look back on these 2 years as the happiest of our careers—although there have been moments of great joy for all of us.

But I hope we will look back on these 2 years and remember times when we were able to work together to help lead America through one of our Nation's darkest chapters.

The private times we have all shared together over those months have forged bonds that make us more than just colleagues. In keeping with the Senate's best traditions, we have become friends, and family.

I regret that we weren't always able to maintain that unity—especially this year—that I had hoped we might have. I hope we can recapture it in the days ahead.

To all of my departing colleagues, it is an honor to be connected to history—that short thread that ties us to the Founders of this great Nation. But as a much of an honor as it is to be connected to history, it has been a privilege to be connected to each of you.

THANKING STAFF

Senators may be the most visible people here, but there are also many people who make the Senate work.

I want to thank all of those who make the Senate run: our staff here on the floor, the reporters, the doorkeepers, the police officers, the pages, the tour guides, the librarians, the employees of the Architect of the Capitol, our Chaplain and his staff—and the list goes on.

Our clerks, those who are with us today, our Parliamentarian—to all of them, to each of them, let me express my heartfelt thank you.

They deserve our thanks, but there are two people in particular who I also want to thank: Jeri Thomson, the Secretary of the Senate, and Al Lenhardt,

our Sergeant at Arms—both of whom I had the privilege, as majority leader, to nominate.

I have heard them called our 101st and 102nd Senators, and they truly have been indispensable to me, and to the Senate family.

For Al Lenhardt, the fact that he was in place in this job 6 days before September 11 is further proof for me that God watches over this body. Through 9/11, anthrax, he helped the Senate to handle unprecedented challenges, and prepare for a new generation of threats.

For Jeri Thomson, no challenge was too big, no detail too small, the consummate professional, unflappable. She kept the Senate functioning in the aftermath of anthrax. Without her, we would not have broken ground on the Visitors Center. She made the Senate work better—not only for the Senators, but for the people we serve.

She has been by my side my entire time as leader. She has become a dear personal friend. And I will miss her, as we all will.

This has been an historic Congress. Between September 11 and anthrax, we have lived through two of the greatest crises the Capitol has not seen since Civil War soldiers were camped out in this Chamber 140 years ago.

The dedication and professionalism of Jeri Thomson, Al Lenhardt, and all of those who work here helped us not only survive those who work here helped us not only survive those crises, but to work through them, and to continue to serve the American people.

I thank them, the Senate thanks them, and I feel confident that history will record them as able servants who deserve our thanks for generations to come. And that, too, is a part of the recognition they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BAUCUS). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENATE AND TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment briefly about the conclusion of our Senate session. We finished our last vote late last night, and after today's session, we will be in adjournment until January.

The Senate, unlike the House of Representatives, is a continuous body. Only one-third of our number stands for election each year, unlike the House of Representatives, where there is a new House elected every two years. So we are continuous.

The Senate has been called the world's greatest deliberative body. Sometimes I doubt that acclamation, but sometimes we measure up to it, and I think we did yesterday in passing homeland security and the terrorism insurance bill.

There is an air of collegiality and an air of civility, which is the backbone of the Senate. There are only 100 of us.

We get to know each other very well. We do that in our committee meetings. We do that in our travels. We do that on the floor of the Senate. A good occasion for that is when we have consecutive votes, back to back to back to back, as we had last night, four votes. This gives us a chance to avoid playing telephone tag, which occurs frequently, and to see our colleagues on the floor and to talk to them.

We will be missing some really outstanding Senators as we conclude the 107th Congress. There is a great deal that could be said about each of them from my own personal experiences.

Senator THURMOND is truly a living legend. When I first saw him chair the Judiciary Committee, he asked a nominee if the nominee promised to be courteous. I questioned whether that was a very good inquiry. What else could the nominee say? The nominee said, "Yes." Then, Senator THURMOND said, "the more power the person has, the more courteous a person should be."

Senator HELMS finished six terms in the Senate, elected in 1972. One of my fondest recollections of Senator HELMS is relative to the pornography bill, which he wrote, and which was declared unconstitutional. After being consulted by him, I gave him a hand in writing a bill which was constitutional.

In order of seniority on our departing colleagues, FRANK MURKOWSKI came to the Senate with 15 other Senators, a total of 16. They called us the "Sweet 16," elected in 1980. Now there are but three: Senator GRASSLEY, Senator NICKLES, and myself.

Senator MURKOWSKI goes on to be Governor of Alaska, where he can maintain his own schedule and be an executive without relying on 50 other Senators to carry the day.

PHIL GRAMM is truly an extraordinary Senator. Nobody in the Senate is smarter than PHIL GRAMM. Perhaps nobody in the history of the Senate was smarter than PHIL GRAMM. One of his memorable moments was when we were debating how to proceed on the impeachment proceedings of President Clinton. There was a lot of disagreement. Suddenly, like a bolt of lightning, PHIL GRAMM and TED KENNEDY agreed. What were the other 98 of us to do? If those two men could agree, it must be an appropriate solution.

BOB SMITH, with distinguished service in the House and distinguished service in the Senate, was perhaps a little too candid sometimes as he took the floor in his quest for the Republican nomination. A little critical of the party, but he was always courageous and always straightforward. I learned a lot from Senator SMITH in our caucuses on impeachment. I had not known the depth of his knowledge as a high school teacher, but he was an extraordinary Senator and made a great contribution.

Senator FRED THOMPSON, a super star. When he came to the Senate, he took over the chairmanship of a major committee in record time and presided