

for Red October, as well as four television series.

Some might characterize FRED THOMPSON's uncommonly successful career in show business as a natural complement to the daily business of the Senate. What I know is that whether on the big screen or on the floor of the Senate, FRED THOMPSON's larger-than-life presence has touched the lives of a great many Americans, and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues in the Senate. I thank my colleague for his eight years of distinguished service in which he has enlivened the Senate and served his country with uncommon resolve. I wish Senator THOMPSON the very best in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

FRANK MURKOWSKI

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my distinguished colleagues, a Senator from the class of 1980. From our seats on the same side of the aisle, I have been able to serve 22 years with my long-time friend, and colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for his distinguished career of service both to our Nation and his home State of Alaska, and to congratulate him. Senator MURKOWSKI has been a great advocate of his State, which has been demonstrated by his winning 75 percent of the vote in 1998, and the gubernatorial race in this last election. As the Senator moves onto a new challenge, I wish him well with his efforts to continually serve the people of Alaska.

As I look at the past seven years, and all that the Senator has accomplished during his time as chairman of the Energy Committee, I know that these will be big shoes to fill. Throughout his career, the Senator has held steadfast to his ideals, while fighting for improved veterans' health care, and the search for American POW/MIAs, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. While on the Finance Committee, the Senator from Alaska played a pivotal role in passing the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Senator MURKOWSKI, his professional manner, and his willingness to work have made him an asset to our Senate. We, in the Senate, will be at a loss without his unrelenting will-power, and determination.

Senator MURKOWSKI has been a friend and servant to the citizens of Alaska, earning a reputation for unbeatable service to his constituents. We have always had a lot in common, fighting for the interest of our predominantly rural States. I have always been impressed with his capability to keep the diversified interests of his State in mind, while developing bills to improve and preserve the tradition, and way of life, for Alaskan citizens. Alaska will be lucky to have him as their Governor.

Today I join my colleagues in offering a goodbye, and good luck, to Senator MURKOWSKI, a tenacious man of high-integrity, for his years of dedicated service. I will certainly miss my

friend, and wish him the best as he enters his new career as Governor of Alaska.

PHIL GRAMM AND FRED THOMPSON

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the time has come—as it does at the conclusion of every Congress—to honor those members who will be departing from this body. This is a task not easily done. The Senate is one of the highest pinnacles in public service to our nation. Those who serve here have often dedicated their lives—and with great success—to changing America for better.

Today I wish to honor two Senators who have indeed changed America for the better—PHIL GRAMM and my fellow Tennessean and partner in the Senate for the last eight years, FRED THOMPSON.

Senator GRAMM began his service in Congress as a House Democrat in 1978. Five years later he switched parties. But rather than serve out his term as a Republican, he resigned his seat and let the people of his district choose whether they wanted to be represented by a Republican. Well, they did, and PHIL GRAMM became not only the first Republican in history to represent the 6th district of Texas, but the only member of Congress in the 20th century to resign and then win re-election as a member of another party.

PHIL and I share the same commitment to being a citizen legislator . . . to bringing professional expertise to public service. In PHIL's case, he's an economist, a college professor, and a public health expert, and his legislative accomplishments reflect that experience. He's been a staunch proponent of tax relief, economic growth, and a balanced budget. And the Gramm-Rudman Act stands as one of the most groundbreaking pieces of budget legislation in the second half of the 20th century.

FRED THOMPSON has been a dear friend for many years and great partner with whom to work on behalf of the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate. FRED was elected in 1994 to fill 2 years of an unexpired term. He was then reelected in 1996. And just as he did in Hollywood, he rapidly rose to become a star in the Senate.

In 1997, FRED was elected chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, making him one of the most junior Senators in history to serve as chairman of a major Senate committee. As chairman, he held hearings on issues such as improving the federal regulatory process; reforming the IRS; exploring ways to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in government; and a number of national security issues, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technologies.

Senator THOMPSON has also been a member of the Finance Committee—one of the most influential committees in the Senate. From that position, he

has focused on reducing taxes, reforming the tax code to make it simpler and fairer, and restoring the Social Security and Medicare programs to long-term solvency. Though FRED has served eight years in the Senate, the scale and number of his accomplishments would lead one think he has spent an entire career in this chamber.

PHIL GRAMM and FRED THOMPSON will be missed by each and every one of their Senate colleagues. For me it has been an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to work with them both. They have brought to the Senate a rare combination of intellect, charisma, political skill and, above all, a steadfast commitment to principle. And for that they will also be missed by the American people.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the Members of the Senate who will be leaving us at the end of this Congress. They will not be here in this Chamber next year, but each will leave an indelible imprint on this body, and on the lives of the American people.

First, I wish to say a few words about my colleague, my compatriot on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and my friend, FRED THOMPSON, who has served the people of Tennessee and the people of America ably and nobly for the past 8 years.

The man the Screen Actors Guild knows as Fred Dalton Thompson acts—and acts quite well, I should add—but the man we know as Senator FRED THOMPSON has never read off of anyone's script. Again and again, he has done what he in his heart believed was right for the nation. I will always admire his clarity, integrity, and intellectual curiosity.

Since his joining the Senate in 1994, I have known Senator THOMPSON as a dogged investigator who is always willing to go wherever the evidence may lead, and as an independent-minded legislator who sticks to and stands on principle. Senator THOMPSON was the first Republican after JOHN MCCAIN to support campaign finance reform—an act that speaks volumes about who he is and for what he stands.

On the Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator THOMPSON and I worked closely together on probing the evidence and then issuing a report on the government's highly suspect investigation into the alleged wrongdoing of Wen Ho Lee. Senator THOMPSON brought a singular focus to dissecting and fixing the government's computer security problems. And he has and spared no energy working to ferret out waste, mismanagement, corruption, and abuse in the federal government. Senator THOMPSON understands that the people's Government must do justice to the people's values—not just in the pronouncements it makes, but in the way it does business every day.

Every Member of this body respects the quality of Senator THOMPSON's reasoning and the strength of his voice. Whether it's on defense, intelligence,

free trade, or a wide range of other issues, Senator THOMPSON's words are cogent and clear, and his deeds are consistent with those words.

In addition to his career as a Senator, he has practiced law, written a book, acted in 18 motion pictures and a television show, posted his mother's recipe for fresh coconut cake on his website, and—in the midst of it all—managed to find a lovely woman to marry. I am in awe of his energy and vitality.

We know each other as colleagues, as partners, and often as intellectual opponents. But we also know each other as human beings. And at every point and in every context, Senator THOMPSON has brought wisdom, decency, and a great sense of humor to this Congress. When he served as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, he treated me with great consideration and respect, and I hope in my time as Chairman I have afforded him the same courtesies.

I am disappointed to see him go, but look forward to watching him on television on Wednesday nights.

Mr. President, I also wish to honor Senator STROM THURMOND.

We all know that the 20th century was the American Century. It was also the century in which, primarily in his service in the U.S. Senate, STROM THURMOND left his indelible mark on the history of this nation.

There are not many Members of this body today who bring the breadth of his experience to the floor. Senator THURMOND began his career as a farmer, teacher, and athletic coach. He was Superintendent of Education in his home county. He was town and county attorney. He was state senator in his great state of South Carolina. He was a judge. He served in the Second World War, and was part of the Normandy invasion with the 82nd Airborne. He was governor of South Carolina. Then, in 1954, he was elected to the United States Senate.

The long list of these accomplishments would take most Americans 300 years to accumulate. Senator THURMOND has gotten them all under his belt in a mere 100. And he has raised a family, to boot.

Through it all, Senator THURMOND has grown not only as a legislator but as a human being. When we honor him, we pay tribute to human beings' capacity for growth. After running for President, as I mentioned, as a state's rights candidate, he later supported the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on behalf of his state. That transformation sent a powerful message that all of us could become better Americans and better individuals—and that the United States of America, for all its blessings, can always become a better nation.

I also wish to honor another Member the Senate will miss, my good friend from Texas, Senator PHIL GRAMM. Senator GRAMM has only served since 1984,

not since 1954 like Senator THURMOND, but his achievements have been remarkable indeed.

Senator GRAMM, who came to the Senate with a Ph.D. in economics and a distinguished career in teaching, has become one of this Chamber's foremost experts on fiscal policy, one of its clearest voices on defense and foreign policy, and one of the most stalwart defenders of individual liberties.

He has a wonderful intuitive understanding of the value of basic research and other technological innovation, and I have been proud to work with him to increase both the Government's total funding commitment to science and the effectiveness of the money we spend.

Senator GRAMM is an ideologue—and I mean that in the best sense of the word. He fervently defends his beliefs against all challenges. Senator GRAMM relishes debate. Here on the floor, you can see it in his eyes and hear it in his voice. And let me add—and I say this reluctantly, having been at the receiving end of more than a few of his misfires—that he is quite good at it. In that way, he has continued and advanced one of the great traditions of this body. Yes, compromise is what makes governments great and marriages happy; we all know that. But without firm principles and intellectual passion to guide us, without ideals we are not willing to sacrifice, we would never know what is worth compromising. And Senator GRAMM has never forgotten why he is here or what he is fighting for.

I wish him luck in the private sector, where he will continue to serve the nation and will, much to his liking, make much more money in the process.

The Senate is losing many giants at the end of this term. Let me now say a few words about JESSE HELMS of North Carolina—a Navy veteran in the Second World War, a respected journalist, a businessman, a city councilman, and since 1973, a legendary legislator in the Senate.

As a Member of this body, Senator HELMS has done too much to mention here today. But he is most respected for his leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

There, he has proven to be a tireless defender of the interests of America—and an advocate of the inalienable rights of people all over the world to the basic freedoms and opportunities we enjoy. I have always admired his steadfastness and his strength. And I have always known that the goals we seek—a strong America that advances democracy and increases prosperity around the world—are the same.

And we have at least one other thing in common. Senator HELMS' name was placed in nomination for Vice President of the United States—this was at the GOP convention in Kansas City in 1976. Although he asked the convention to withdraw his name, he nevertheless received 99 delegate votes. A few years later, I could have used those votes.

Another Senator retiring after a distinguished career—in his case because he is trading the U.S. Capitol for the Governor's mansion in his great home state of Alaska—is Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI. Hopefully his new challenge will afford him more opportunities to enjoy life with his lovely wife Nancy, his six children and his 11 grandchildren.

For four terms of office, Senator MURKOWSKI has served the people of his state with vigorous energy and rigorous attention to detail since being elected to the Senate in 1980. He delivers for the people of Alaska—and they appreciate it. I am confident he will continue to lead with distinction as governor.

My friend and colleague Senator MAX CLELAND gave elegant departing remarks yesterday on this floor. Those remarks reminded me how much the Senate will miss his buoyant personality, his eloquent words, his principled service to the people of Georgia, and his transcendent faith.

I was privileged to serve alongside Senator CLELAND on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, where he was always courageous, independent, and tenacious. I also had the good fortune of working with him on the Armed Services Committee and the Small Business Committee. I could not have wished for a kinder or more decent man to call my colleague.

Senator CLELAND also was an early supporter of and essential contributor to the bill establishing a Department of Homeland Security that we reported out of committee in May. Therefore, the historic bill we passed yesterday, and the Department it will create to protect the American people from terrorism here at home, is due in no small measure to his efforts.

But Senator CLELAND will be remembered for the spirit he brought to this Senate as much as for the many things he accomplished here. His grit. His wit. His honesty. His willingness to take risks. His never-failing sense of humor. I wish MAX the best of luck.

Mr. President, let me also take a moment to honor my friend and colleague Senator JEAN CARNAHAN who has added to a long and storied career by serving the people of Missouri with care, skill, and devotion over the last 2 years.

Senator CARNAHAN was not only the proud occupant of Harry Truman's seat, but was an able custodian of Harry Truman's legacy. She legislated with an independent mind and a pragmatic personal philosophy, always putting the well-being of Missouri's working families first.

I have been fortunate enough to serve alongside Senator CARNAHAN not only on the Governmental Affairs Committee, where she quickly proved to be an invaluable asset, but on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator CARNAHAN doesn't only talk about bipartisanship. She practices it. I'm proud to call her a fellow New Democrat, and even more proud to call her a friend.

We are losing many women and men of principle from this body; I hope an equal number replace them. I will fondly remember Senator BOB SMITH for his unwavering adherence to the values of his faith and his family. And I admired Senator SMITH's hard work on the Environmental and Public Works Committee in defense of New Hampshire's environment and this nation's. BOB is a man of honor and I was proud to serve with him.

Many of us strive for eloquence here on the floor. But few of us are as consistently passionate and persuasive as another departing colleague, ROBERT TORRICELLI, who served seven terms in the House of Representatives and then here in the Senate since 1996. As a fellow northeastern and fellow member of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, I will miss his wisdom and great sense of purpose. He is extremely gifted and gave great service for New Jersey and America.

Finally, Mr. President, a special word for our dear departed colleague Senator Paul Wellstone—who I want to describe in the best way I know how, as a *mensch*—a man, a very good man. He radiated decency and kindness and commitment to make the world a better place. That was so not just in what he said and did on camera, but in what he said and did in quiet moments, small moments, private moments.

Much has been made of the fact that Paul was a teacher. And it is fitting. I think about all the lessons that Paul Wellstone the political scientist taught to his students, and how every one must have come alive when he ran for office—and won—in 1990. That inspiration will last for generations.

Paul Wellstone taught his students, by example, that Americans who want change can do much more than carp or complain. They can and should enter and shape the system. They can and should be a part of the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Senator Wellstone uplifted the Senate and uplifted our democracy, and he did it with the clarity of his conscience and the power of his principles and passions.

It's no wonder Paul titled his book *The Conscience of a Liberal*, after Barry Goldwater's book *The Conscience of a Conservative*. Paul had read Senator Goldwater's book as a boy, and though he found himself at the opposite end of the political spectrum, Paul admired Goldwater's decency, his honesty, and his conviction.

The name "Paul" comes from the Roman family name "Paulus," which meant "small" or "humble" in Latin. And Paul was physically small. He was spiritually humble. But the scope of his ideals and of his service was monumental.

In *The Ethics of the Fathers*, a tome of Jewish law, it is written: "It is not your obligation to complete the task [of perfecting the world], but neither are you free to desist [from doing all you can]."

Paula Wellstone, as a Senator, a father, a husband, and a man, lived these words and lived them well. May he rest alongside his wife and daughter in peace.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I would like to engage the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education in a brief colloquy on an issue that is very important to frail older persons and individuals with disabilities who reside in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

My colleague should be congratulated for the additional funds that his subcommittee has provided in recent years for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, under the Older Americans Act. Our colleagues, Senator KOHL, and Senator SPECTER, should also be recognized for their support of the ombudsman program. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill that you introduced for Fiscal Year 2003 proposes a much needed \$3 million increase to provide more ombudsmen to help address the growing quality problems in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

I would like to discuss with the chairman and my distinguished colleague and ranking minority member of the Finance Committee our strong support for this program and the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center that so effectively serves State and local ombudsmen across the Nation.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the distinguished chairman of the Special Committee on Aging is correct in describing our efforts to steadily increase the capacity of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. This very effective program is available to the 2.8 million residents of over 60,000 facilities including licensed assisted living. It makes a big difference in the quality of life for residents by resolving their complaints 231,889 about resident care and residents' rights, visiting facilities on a regular basis, and by advising residents, their families, and facility staff. We have also supported funding for the very effective Ombudsman Resource Center, which has been housed at the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform since 1993. I would like to see an increase for this important Center.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise in support of my two colleagues' viewpoints on the value of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and its national resource center. The hearings that my colleague from Louisiana and I have conducted over the years have provided significant evidence that the ombudsman program is critical in protecting the rights of older and disabled

individuals living in long-term care facilities.

Training and technical assistance are among the critical variables in determining the quality of services that ombudsmen are able to provide. Additional funds appropriated for the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center would be used to increase the capacity of the Center to develop and coordinate training systems and other skills-building opportunities for State, local and volunteer ombudsmen. The Center has an exemplary track record and this will improve program consistency among states and enhance program effectiveness.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague. The Center's work is critical to millions of residents of long-term care facilities and their families. I am hopeful that when we finally pass a fiscal year 2003 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill that we will provide appropriate support for the Center and report language that ensures the continued quality training and assistance for ombudsmen that has been so ably provided through the Center.

It is my view that the Center must continue to be housed in an independent nonprofit citizens-based organization that has the improvement of care in long-term care facilities as its primary purpose. Such an organization should include long-term care ombudsmen and consumers in its governance and have a minimum of 5 years of experience on a national basis of providing long-term care ombudsmen with technical assistance, training, and information.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I concur with that assessment. We know that there is a growing demand for ombudsman services and too few ombudsmen and volunteers to regularly visit all of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. And we know that training and resources are essential. The Center provides individualized support to State and local ombudsmen on specific, complicated long-term care questions and provides training at state and regional conferences. The need to expand these supportive services is growing rapidly.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I believe that we must put our energies toward ensuring that we protect the rights of nursing home residents and help them to resolve problems with the quality of the care that they receive. I am committed to working with my colleagues on this goal for fiscal year 2003 and beyond. I am also supportive of the notion that we need to ensure that the resource center continues to be housed in an organization as described by my colleague.

I thank my colleagues for their support of the work of our subcommittee. I look forward to working with my distinguished colleagues to ensure that these programs continue to serve older adults and disabled individuals.