

The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from West Virginia.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have not.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 28, nays 70, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 222 Leg.]

YEAS—28

Biden	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Harkin	Reed
Byrd	Hollings	Reid
Cantwell	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Clinton	Johnson	Schumer
Conrad	Kennedy	Stabenow
Dayton	Kohl	Wellstone
Dorgan	Leahy	Wyden
Feingold	Mikulski	
Feinstein	Murray	

NAYS—70

Akaka	Domenici	McCain
Allard	Durbin	McConnell
Allen	Edwards	Miller
Bayh	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Nickles
Bond	Frist	Roberts
Breaux	Gramm	Rockefeller
Brownback	Grassley	Santorum
Bunning	Gregg	Sessions
Burns	Hagel	Shelby
Campbell	Hatch	Smith (NH)
Carnahan	Helms	Smith (OR)
Carper	Hutchinson	Snowe
Chafee	Hutchison	Specter
Cleland	Inhofe	Stevens
Cochran	Kerry	Thomas
Collins	Kyl	Thompson
Corzine	Landrieu	Thurmond
Craig	Levin	Torricelli
Crapo	Lieberman	Voinovich
Daschle	Lincoln	Lott
DeWine	Lott	Warner
Dodd	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—2

Baucus Inouye

The amendment (No. 4644) was rejected.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BURNS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding we are now going to proceed to a period of time to offer tributes to our friend, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina; is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is open for morning business for that purpose.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the first speaker be the majority leader, the second speaker be the Republican leader, followed by Senators HOLLINGS, STEVENS, BYRD, and a Republican, to be named at a later time.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, for not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I join my colleagues today in this special presentation to acknowledge the distinguished Senator from South Carolina for his decades of service in this Senate.

America has changed in many ways in the 48 years since JAMES STROM THURMOND was first elected to the Senate. But some things have not changed. Among them are Senator THURMOND's fierce determination to do what he regards as the right thing for the people of his beloved South Carolina.

While Senator THURMOND and I often reach different conclusions and cast different votes, I admire his devotion to his State, to our Nation, and to this Senate. In recent years, fulfilling that obligation has seemed at times to require an extraordinary exercise of will or love or both.

Someday another Senator will sit in Senator THURMOND's seat, but it is hard to imagine anyone ever filling his shoes. He is, as I have said before, an institution within an institution.

He has been alive for almost half the history of the United States. Theodore Roosevelt was President when he was born. He was 17 years old when American women secured the right to vote. He is one of only a few Americans alive who received votes from Civil War veterans. He has lived through the term of 18 of America's 43 Presidents and served as a Senator under 10 of them.

His long and distinguished career is remarkable for its many successes, both in and out of the Senate.

In 1996, Senator THURMOND became the oldest person ever to serve in the Senate.

In 1997, he became the longest serving Senator.

In 1998, he became one of only three Senators, in addition to our colleague, Senator ROBERT BYRD, ever to cast 15,000 votes in this Senate.

In addition, Senator THURMOND has served as a senator in the South Carolina State Legislature and as Governor of that great State. He has been a senior member of both the Democratic and

Republican parties and a Presidential candidate of a third party. There is not another American, living or dead, who can make that claim.

He has also served our country in uniform. Senator THURMOND entered the U.S. Army for the first time in 1924. Twenty years later, he volunteered for service in World War II, and on June 6, 1944, at the age of 43, he took part in the first wave of the D-Day invasion, the airdrop of American troops on Normandy Beach.

I am told that Senator THURMOND wanted to parachute into Normandy Beach, but another officer who clearly did not know with whom he was dealing, decided Senator THURMOND was too old to jump out of an airplane. So Senator THURMOND piloted a glider instead, landing, with the rest of his company, behind enemy lines.

Senator THURMOND is today a retired major general in the Army Reserves, the President pro tempore Emeritus of the Senate, a member of the South Carolina Hall of Fame, and a recipient of more honors and awards than any of us can name, including the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Simply said, we will never see another like him.

I join my colleagues this morning in our heartfelt expression of gratitude to Senator THURMOND for his decades of service. We wish him, his family, and staff our very best in his future, whatever life may hold beyond the 107th Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, today the Senate takes time to celebrate the life and career of one of its most outstanding Members who, though always a loyal son of South Carolina, has become, indeed, a nation's treasure. It is not enough to say Senator STROM THURMOND has lived his life well. It has been an extraordinary life.

Again and again today, we will hear points made about various accomplishments in his life. Senator DASCHLE has already noted many of them, but there is so much that can be said about this particular Senator that words are almost inadequate.

As I was thinking about him over the weekend, I thought about his life and what he has done and what he has seen and the little acts he does on a human personal basis.

First, when one thinks about it, his is a life that has included being an educator, a judge, a soldier, yes, a general, Governor, a Presidential candidate—in fact, when I was 7 years old, Senator THURMOND was already running for President and carried my State as well as four others, I believe—and a U.S. Senator where he has served so admirably as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and President pro tempore.

I remember in my first couple of years in the Senate, Senator THURMOND

was managing a bill on the floor. I believe it was a crime bill. I remember he got right out in the center aisle and gave a fantastic speech, with energy, all the enthusiasm one would expect from a much younger man, but then he was young in spirit, and he made us all feel good about what we could do as the years went by.

He has been a philanthropist. He has practiced what he has preached. The record is replete with scholarships and examples of generosity from this Senator, what he has done for others on a financial basis but, more importantly, at times, on a very personal basis, and I will talk about that in a moment.

Obviously, he has achieved the ultimate in life also as a proud father. Watching him with his sons and his daughters is a marvelous experience for all of us.

He truly has achieved the rank of statesman. Some serve their country as teachers, jurists, or as State or local officials, but Senator THURMOND has been all of those and so much more: A counselor to Presidents, a warrior in the cause of freedom, not to mention a humanitarian, a staunch patriot, and a faithful friend. I do not think we will ever see a life in history such as that of Senator STROM THURMOND; he has served his country in so many ways.

His public career spans the days of Franklin Roosevelt and the present President, George W. Bush. Senator THURMOND knew the veterans of the greatest war. He was there. He saw it in real time. He knows the soldiers of our current war on terrorism, and today, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, he works to make sure they have what they need to do the job because he understands the importance of their job in the defense of freedom.

When I was born 60 years ago, Senator THURMOND was already a judge and well on his way toward a governorship and his candidacy for President. Yet here we are today as colleagues in this great institution. I know I am not alone in feeling humbled by his presence.

In the days to come, the newspapers will emphasize his extraordinary political career, but the epic that is STROM THURMOND is far too grand to be summed up as an enduring politician and to leave it at that. No, we know better. After all, it is not many of us who have a room in this Capitol named for us while we are still here to use it.

Another Senator from South Carolina, John C. Calhoun, in his time was described this way:

As a Senator, he was the model of courtesy. He listened attentively to each one who spoke, neither reading nor writing when in his seat.

At one time or another, I believe every Senator in this Chamber has been touched by Senator THURMOND's courtesy, and we will honor him if we continue to follow his example in that regard. Hardly a day goes by, when Senator THURMOND is on the floor, that he does not call me over and offer sup-

port and offer a piece of candy for my beautiful wife. He reassures me what a beautiful lady she is and what a credit she is to this Senator from Mississippi.

I wonder sometime, too, if we all appreciate and even our pages realize that a great man of history walks among us every day, but he does it in such a humble way and such a generous way. How many of us have taken the time to not only acknowledge these pages who are seeing history in the making and are working for us to make the institution look better, but taken the time to bring them to the dining room for a meal?

I always loved it when I was in the dining room and Senator THURMOND came with a whole string of pages right behind him treating them to lunch. It was like a hen with her biddies behind her, a beautiful sight—a little thing, but typical of Senator THURMOND.

There are the calls he has made when friends have had trouble in their family or illnesses or deaths. There are stories of Senator THURMOND calling people or even going to the house of one of his former staff members after she had had a baby. Knocking on the door, he came to congratulate her and to get a look at this newborn baby. Over and over, that is the kind of man he has been.

So while he has had these great achievements, he has kept that common touch. In fact, I think the greatest story about Senator THURMOND is not list of achievements but the fact he has never wavered in defending, protecting, and working for the principles he believes in and the importance of keeping that human touch, that personal touch.

Senator THURMOND is a different case in many ways. He is, of course, of a different generation and he exemplifies its strengths just as he has worked to leave behind its shortcomings. During his last Congress with us, it was sometimes difficult to remember that at the start of World War II, a mere youngster of 39, he actually resigned his office as a judge. He was with the 82nd Airborne Division and landed in the Normandy Invasion on D-day.

Half a century ago, GEN Douglas MacArthur addressed the Congress and delivered his famous line about old soldiers:

They never die, they just fade away.

Well, Senator THURMOND decided to do neither. He resolved to keep working for his country, devoting all of his experience, all of his wisdom, all of his energy to that task. We have been blessed and enriched by his determination. He has been here every day, and I have not checked the record, but I think he has been here for every vote this year, which is typical of the sheer iron will that has been the example of his great life.

He has seen the defeat of nazism, the collapse of communism, and the bringing down of the Iron Curtain. He has been an important part of making all of that possible. He has worked with Presidents repeatedly to support their efforts to do what needed to be done for our country.

It has been 213 years since George Washington was inaugurated as President and the first Congress assembled to write laws for the new Nation. Senator THURMOND has seen more than 99 of those years. It reemphasizes the fact we are still a young country. This great Republic is still very young in the annals of history, and this one man has seen almost half of those years. He is an institution, a senior statesman, but he is much more than that. He is a patriot. He loves this country of ours in an old-fashioned way, a simple and deep way that seemed to have gone out of style a few decades ago but a way we have relearned during this past year.

Our centennial Senator's life is a part of the rich rolling tapestry that is America's history. This soldier who fought at Normandy, this cold war warrior who helped Presidents overcome communism, has lived to witness a new enemy of freedom strike at us and all that we hold dear. He saw the tragedy last September that still tears at our hearts, but he saw, too, the resurgence of what he cherished most: Pride in America, devotion, honor and sacrifice for America. I do not know of any other Senator who will earn this title, but it seems to be appropriate to refer to Senator THURMOND as our centennial Senator. He could have very easily been an inspiration perhaps for that great quote that is attributed to Teddy Roosevelt back in 1910 that sums up, I believe, the greatness of this Senator.

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Senator THURMOND has been in the arena. He has been dusty and sweaty and, yes, probably even bloody, but he still stands, the rock from South Carolina, a great Senator, a great man, a great friend. The Senate will not quite be the same when we convene next year, but we will all be better because of the Senator from South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND, you are the best. You are an institution, but more than that you are a great friend. We love you and we wish you many more happy days in your next career.

Mr. THURMOND. Thank you very much.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, the distinguished minority leader has noted STROM's comment about the beauty of his wife Patricia. STROM has also done that to my wife Peatsy. I think the record ought to be made here

that for STROM THURMOND, all women are beautiful.

Madam President, as the longest serving junior Senator in the history of the Senate, it is my distinct honor and privilege to pay tribute to the longest serving senior Senator and the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. The story is told about a Washington matron at one of these evening receptions, how she rushed up to a Spanish Ambassador and allowed:

Mr. Ambassador, this bull fighting, the No. 1 sport in your country, I think it is revolting.

After a pause, the Ambassador turned to the matron and said:

Madam, you are mistaken. Bull fighting is our No. 2 sport; revolting is our No. 1.

That has been the record of J. STROM THURMOND in the field of public service. He has definitely been a revolutionary with respect to public service. At age 29, he served as the youngest county superintendent of education in the history of our State; thereupon, being elected as the youngest State Senator from his home county; thereafter, as the youngest circuit judge presiding, being elevated there in the year 1938.

When Germany declared war, just a few days after December 7—Germany declared war first on us before we declared war on Germany—STROM THURMOND, as a presiding circuit judge, took off those robes and volunteered for service in World War II. He was exempt from service under our judiciary rules in the State of South Carolina, but he didn't hesitate. And as has been noted here, made the invasion on D-day, June 6, 1944, in Europe and served in five campaigns with valor and courage, coming back to retire as a major general in the U.S. Army.

In 1948, he organized the only really successful third party movement in this country as a States Rights Party, and as a candidate for President he carried South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana—he carried four States.

Thereafter, in 1954 he was the first—and I take it the only—Senator ever elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. Then, in 1964, having been a Democrat, he changed parties. He saw the future of the State of South Carolina and the South in the Republican Party, and he has led the move ever since.

There is no question in my mind that he has had the most distinguished of service up here, serving as the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the President pro tempore of the Senate. But I think people back home know STROM best of all for his constituent service. Whether it is the job found for a constituent, or helping a family get a relative admitted to the hospital, or sending a letter to the deceased's family, or helping when the soldier is brought back home, or whatever it is, you can count on STROM. I can tell that to you right

now. He has made his fame looking out for the people of his home State.

It has been noted that STROM was born when Teddy Roosevelt was President. Elihu Root, who was the Secretary of State for Teddy Roosevelt, once remarked that:

Politics is the practical art of self government and someone must attend to it if we are going to have self government.

And he made the cogent observation:

The principal ground for reproach against any American citizen is that he is not a politician. In representative America, every citizen counts.

Heaven knows, STROM THURMOND of South Carolina has counted at every particular turn, during illustrious service of some 70 years. I think he is the living example that the best politics is no politics. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him now. I am sure I am going to have the opportunity many times hereafter as we both move along. But it has been a distinct pleasure to serve as his junior Senator.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I have listened attentively to every word that has been spoken today about this colleague of ours. Those words have been true. I well remember when I first came to the Senate, I remember STROM THURMOND's late wife used to sit in the gallery up here and listen to the debates. She was a beautiful woman. I remember very well the day she passed away. I remember coming to the Senate and seeking out STROM THURMOND, and here he was, sitting in the back row. I walked up to his desk, and he stood, and I said:

STROM, I'm so sorry to hear about your great misfortune.

And he stood with that stoic way of his and thanked me and sat down.

I also remember when Erma and I lost our grandson Michael. It was 20 years ago. I remember the funeral service, and I remember who was there. I recall who came to share in the greatest sorrow of my life.

Some of my colleagues were there. Howard Baker was there, the majority leader. The then-Governor of my State of West Virginia, Jay Rockefeller, was there. Who else? Who else? No other Senator, with the exception of one—STROM THURMOND. He came.

I have seen him at funeral homes of others who were the relatives of Senators and some who were not relatives of Senators. I have seen STROM THURMOND there.

I shall never forget when STROM met with tragedy in his life not many years ago when he gave up the prized possession, a daughter. I went to South Carolina to be with STROM and to share his sorrow.

Then, just a few days ago, a message came into my office. STROM had called my wife. She had an operation—appendectomy. Who called to express concern for her and to wish her an early recovery? That man—STROM THURMOND.

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,

The touch of your hand and mine.

Which means far more to the fainting heart Than shelter and bread and wine.

For shelter is gone when the night is o'er

And bread lasts only a day,

But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice

Sing on in the soul away.

STROM THURMOND, in a few more weeks, will be the first sitting United States Senator to become a centenarian.

What an amazing record. What an amazing man. In his 100 years on this Earth, he has been a teacher, a coach, an attorney, a judge, a Governor, a soldier, a college professor, an author, a lawmaker at both the State and Federal levels, a delegate at six Democratic National Conventions and six Republican National Conventions, and a U.S. Senator who has served 47 years in this Chamber and cast more than 15,000 votes.

That is more votes than soldiers that Flaminus lost at the Battle of Lake Trasimeno in the year 217 B.C.

Senator THURMOND was born into the Old South. His hometown of Edgefield was the home of the cane swinging Representative Preston Brooks, who gained a place in history for beating a northern Senator who had insulted his family and his state. Senator THURMOND's grandfather, George Washington Thurmond, was with General Lee at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant. His father, Judge J. William Thurmond was a lieutenant of the legendary South Carolina Senator "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman, whom I used to read about before I came to the arena of politics. A product of the Old South, Senator THURMOND emerged to become an important leader in the New South.

Senator THURMOND's amazing life has spanned twentieth century America. When he was born, the Wright brothers had yet to make their historic, heavier-than-air manned flight. He has lived to see manmade vehicles reaching the outer limits of our universe. What a change in a single lifetime. Perhaps an even greater, more monumental change took place right here in the U.S. Senate. When STROM THURMOND was born, on December 5, 1902, U.S. Senators were not elected by the people of their states, but selected by their state legislatures. The Senate had no permanent office buildings; Senators had no professional staffs. Boy, what a change STROM THURMOND he has lived to see here.

Even more amazing is how his life and career have mirrored so much of the history of twentieth century America.

In 1928, STROM THURMOND, a Democrat at the time, was elected to his first political office, superintendent of schools, Edgefield County, South Carolina—when Calvin Coolidge was president. Those were the days of mechanically-sliced bread.

In 1932, he was elected to the State Senate of South Carolina—that was the

year Franklin Roosevelt was elected President of the United States.

How well I remember the days when the coal miners of West Virginia marched—over 100,000 strong. John L. Lewis, the leader of that great United Mine Workers Organization, had his picture in every miner's home. STROM THURMOND was there.

It was Roosevelt's Administration that marked the emergence of the Democratic Party as the majority party. I remind my colleagues that Senator THURMOND was a Democrat in those days.

In 1942, STROM THURMOND volunteered for service in World War II—the war that marked the emergence of the United States as a superpower. I might point out that Senator THURMOND could have stayed safely on the sidelines of that conflict. He was beyond draft age and, as a judge, he held a draft-exempted status. Yet he volunteered to put himself in harm's way and heroically served his country.

On June 6, 1944, paratrooper STROM THURMOND took part in the D-Day invasion that began the Allied liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny and the defeat of worldwide fascism.

In 1946, like so many other World War II veterans, including Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy, STROM THURMOND returned home to a career in public service. While Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Nixon were elected to Congress that year, Mr. THURMOND was elected governor of his beloved South Carolina.

In 1948, Governor STROM THURMOND ran for president as a States Rights Democrat, carrying 4 states and winning 39 electoral votes. This means that President Harry Truman's great upset victory over Thomas Dewey in the 1948 presidential election included the defeat of STROM THURMOND.

In 1954, STROM THURMOND was elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. Imagine that. No other Senator was ever elected as a write-in candidate to this body. This made him the first and only person in U.S. history elected to the Senate in this manner. He is the only person ever elected to any major office in the United States in this manner.

In 1957, Senator STROM THURMOND set a record for the longest individual speech ever delivered in the Senate—24 hours and 18 minutes, from August 28 to August 29, 1957.

In 1964, Senator THURMOND switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party—our loss, your gain—a move that marked the beginning of the “southern strategy” that has reshaped the Republican Party.

In 1981, when Ronald Reagan became President, Senator THURMOND was chosen as Senate President pro tempore, placing him third in the line of succession to the Presidency. And in the early days in the history of this country, it would have been the Vice President and then STROM THURMOND, because he would then have been second in line of succession to the Presidency.

On March 8, 1996, Senator THURMOND, at the age of 93, 93 years and 94 days—oh, to be 93 years again—93 years and 94 days, became the oldest person ever to serve in the Senate.

On May 25, 1997, he became the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate, surpassing the record of 41 years and 10 months held by Carl Hayden.

He is a man with whom I have never had a cross word in this Senate—never.

On December 31, 1997, Senator THURMOND's colleague, Senator ERNEST HOLLINGS, became the longest serving junior Member of the Senate, 31 years and 53 days, surpassing the “junior” record of Senator John Stennis.

In 1998, Senator THURMOND became the second Senator ever to cast 15,000 votes.

As I have said, what an amazing life. What an amazing life. What an amazing career. There is none other like it.

But I am pleased and I am proud to point out that throughout it all, Senator THURMOND has always remained a man of his word, a devoted father, and a Senator ready to defend his State, his country, and his values, as a distinguished leader, who is revered in his home State of South Carolina—a State that has built statues in his honor, a State that has named buildings in his honor, a State that has named roads and dams and lakes in his honor.

Foremost, Senator THURMOND has remained a southern gentleman of the first order: charming, polite, optimistic, friendly, courteous, and enduring.

May God bless you, Senator THURMOND. May God bless you always.

This is a man. Whence cometh another?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I am sort of humbled to be following my great friend from West Virginia and the statement he has just made.

When I came to the Senate 34 years ago, this true southern gentleman was among the first to make me welcome. I came from a fairly new State. Senator THURMOND had already served for 14 years as a Senator when I joined the Senate. He was generous with his time, helping this young Westerner to become familiar with the traditions of the Senate, sharing his knowledge of procedures, and some of the pitfalls, and emphasizing the importance of maintaining a sense of dignity.

I soon learned that the gracious STROM THURMOND was extending to me friendship, which is part and parcel of this man. His courtly manners and his helpfulness were legendary even then.

Today, all these years after he gave me that first crushing handshake, he remains the dignified, gallant gentleman of whom I became a friend in 1968. He continues to demonstrate the spirit that has given him the courage to beat the odds, overcome obstacles, and deal with some of life's toughest challenges.

As he prepares to leave us, after almost a half century of serving the people of South Carolina and our Nation, I just want to take a few moments to look back on the personal relationship I have had with Senator THURMOND.

While we share a bond of serving in the military during World War II, Senator THURMOND far surpassed any of my experiences. He landed, as people have already said, on D-day in Normandy. He served in both the European and Pacific theaters. And he earned an astounding 18 decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for Valor.

When my first wife Ann died in a plane crash that I survived, STROM's helping hand was there, ready to assist always. The counsel and support he offered were born from the experience of his own tragedy 8 years earlier, when he lost his wife Jean. While he understood the importance of dealing with my grief, he lobbied me to find a new partner in life, as he had done.

When Catherine and I were married, STROM made sure she had a great welcome as the Senate's newest spouse. And when our Lily—now a senior at Stanford, who visited the Senate from time to time when she was a toddler—returns to these halls, she always makes sure to see Uncle STROM. As a matter of fact, there is not a day goes by that STROM does not ask me: How is Lily? And last night, Madam President, Lily, now a senior at Stanford, sent me an e-mail. I would like to read from it. I quote:

When I think about some of my earliest memories, I always come back to images in my head of entering the big white Capitol to see you and your friends. Because, of course, I didn't know anything about the important roles of the people I knew or the grandness of the Capitol. What I really remember is going to see friends like “Uncle Strom” and running in circles around the patterns of the tiles by the entrance to the floor. I can't think of how many times I saw Strom's familiar face and ran to give him a big hug, hearing his voice calling, “Lily, look how big you've grown,” or, “Miss Lily, you're such a pretty girl!” Seeing Uncle Strom was always a highlight of my trips to the Capitol, and once I got to know Julie, being with her also made some long nights of political gatherings much more fun! Julie, like her father, is such a generous, caring, and warm person, and I feel lucky to have gotten to know her, Nancy, and Uncle Strom.

Madam President, Lily had a great many birthday parties here in the Senate. At that time, I was the whip, the assistant leader, and Uncle STROM was always at the top of her guest list, which she prepared herself.

I think we can all testify to STROM's sweet tooth. He never saw a birthday cake or a scoop of ice cream he did not like.

I will leave it to others, who will also pay tribute to STROM today, to tell of his many accomplishments. They will note he has many titles in his 100 years: From teacher to coach to superintendent of education; from second lieutenant to general; from attorney at law to judge; and from Governor to

Senator. Those titles were all earned through dedication and hard work, and they are hallmarks of his distinguished career. I respect those titles. But there is one that is more important to me than all the others, and that is the title I used first: Friend. We are all the richer for having STROM THURMOND in our midst. To be able to count him as a friend is the greatest privilege of all.

So I am here today, Senator THURMOND, to say thank you for your dedication, your patriotism, your generosity of spirit, but, most of all, on a very personal basis, for your friendship.

Thank you, STROM.

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, there are some times even in the Senate when enough words cannot be said. Senator THURMOND has probably made more history than many of us will ever see. He has experienced more history than most of us will ever know. Every member of the Senate would be proud to tell our grandchildren that "I served with STROM THURMOND." Because the senior Senator from South Carolina has been such a force in politics for over 50 years, I would like to tell my grandparents that I served with STROM THURMOND.

He always did his duty and he spent the better part of a century shaping the greatest nation on earth.

There isn't a history teacher alive who wouldn't like to bring their class to Senator THURMOND's office to see a portrait of history laid out on his walls. One would think that to live and perform at the ripe young age of 99, one would be wise to pace oneself. Instead, Senator THURMOND has put in a professional marathon, but at the pace of a 100-yard dash. He is the Lance Armstrong and Cal Ripken of public service with over 15,000 votes. Alternatively, I would rather say that Cal Ripken is the iron man STROM THURMOND of Major League Baseball.

In his book, "Great Political Wit," our former colleague Bob Dole described Senator THURMOND's 90th birthday. At that festive event, Senator THURMOND noted that, "all evening, people had been coming up to him to express the hope that they would be present for his 100th birthday. To which Senator THURMOND replied, "if you eat right and exercise regularly, I don't see any reason why you shouldn't be around to see it."

In terms of ethics and duty, he remains old fashioned. He believes that the real "woman's place" is sitting next to him testing his charm, and his grip.

If there is a more extraordinary resume in a Congress full of honor and achievement, I cannot imagine. In his career, he has responded to the titles of: teacher, coach, Lieutenant, Counselor, superintendent Judge, General, Governor, Senator and President Pro Tempe.

When Ted Williams set down his bat to go defend his country during World

War II, Judge THURMOND set down his gavel, at age 40, to join the 82nd Airborne that landed on Normandy Beach. Before he returned to the bench he had battled his way across France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, and Germany and finished in the Philippines.

Few in the history of this country have dedicated so much energy on behalf of the country they loved. And through it all, it seemed that the senior Senator had energy in reserve.

I had my staff dig up the Senator's first floor statement which occurred on January 28, 1955. He spoke directly after Senators Long and Humphrey. He was speaking eloquently but directly and succinctly on the need to meet the threat of communism head on. This was in relation to an authorization of force to protect Formosa, requested by President Eisenhower. Let me read his final paragraph: "Our earnest prayer is for peace. If war should come, it would not be the result of any aggressive act on the part of the United States. But war might come as a result of any display of weakness, of disunity, or of hesitation. I shall cast my vote on the side of firmness, for unity and for decision."

As near as I can tell, his approach to and commitment to the security of free people has not deviated since that first floor statement.

We are all grateful for the distinguished tenure of Senator THURMOND; grateful to the people of his State for sending him here, and grateful to his family for sharing him. His retirement is well-deserved and I hope he now has more surplus time to build up his push-ups and pull ups so he can return to fighting shape again.

Additionally, after 36 years in the Senate, some of us are getting tired of calling Chairman HOLLINGS "junior."

It is my high honor and privilege humbly to thank our still young-of-heart STROM and wish him a busy retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, after hearing the remarks of the Senator from Alaska, I have to say I am very sorry that my children, Bailey and Houston, will not have the chance to have birthday parties with STROM THURMOND since he will be leaving this year. I know it was a rich part of Lily Stevens' heritage and probably why she is a student at Stanford today. She had such an upbringing and she learned a lot throughout her early life.

It is a privilege to be able to add to the accolades to Senator STROM THURMOND. So much has been said already today, but it is fitting that the first retiring Senator in this cycle who does get floor tributes be Senator STROM THURMOND. There is no one like him. There never has been, and there never will be.

On December 5, STROM THURMOND will celebrate his 100th birthday. To give you some perspective, STROM

THURMOND was born the same year as Thomas Dewey, Charles Lindbergh, and the nation of Cuba, which gained its independence from Spain. STROM was 14 when Lenin overthrew Czar Nicholas in Russia. STROM was 15 when a young, left-handed pitcher named Babe Ruth led the Red Sox to their last World Series victory. STROM was 17 when women earned the right to vote, and now he has served with 24 of the 31 women to ever hold a seat in the Senate.

On November 3, 1954, STROM became the only Senator ever to be elected as a write-in candidate. He is the oldest sitting and the longest serving Senator in U.S. history. I doubt his record will be broken in the near future—maybe never.

During my own tenure in the Senate, a mere 9 years by comparison, I have been touched by STROM THURMOND's presence. South Carolina and Texas hold a rich heritage together. STROM often reminds me that William Barret Travis, a Texas hero who commanded the forces at the Alamo, hailed from STROM's home county in South Carolina.

Another South Carolinian who made his way to the wild west of Texas was Thomas Jefferson Rusk. Thomas Rusk was the first Senator from Texas to hold my seat. He was one of the heroes of the battle of San Jacinto which liberated the Republic of Texas. Senator Rusk's family was living in a rented home in South Carolina when he was born. The home, which belonged to John C. Calhoun, would later become the site of STROM's alma mater, Clemson University.

An even more important connection is our States' contributions to the Nation's Armed Forces. I have been proud to stand side by side with STROM in supporting our men and women in uniform and ensuring that they have every available resource to do the job we ask them to do.

In his almost 50 years in the Senate, STROM THURMOND has accomplished a great deal. But his greatest legacy is his enduring support for those who serve in uniform. I was privileged to work with STROM when he was chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He focused on a host of important issues, such as military health care and quality of life for service members and their families. In 1998, we named the Defense authorization bill the STROM THURMOND Defense authorization bill in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the defense of our Nation.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, STROM was a 40-year-old circuit judge who would have been forgiven most certainly if he had decided to spend the duration of the war guarding the homefront. Not STROM. Even though he was exempt from the draft, he volunteered for combat and went on to become a highly decorated officer.

At the age of 42, LTC STROM THURMOND became the oldest man to help take the beach of Normandy on D-day.

His unpowered glider was shot down behind enemy lines, and he survived by taking shelter in an apple orchard.

Given the casualties on that dreadful day on Normandy's beach, STROM THURMOND probably considered a long and fruitful life to be measured in days, not decades. Soldiers who survived the horrific days at Normandy or Guadalcanal or Iwo Jima often say that every day thereafter is a free day.

Fifty years later, in defiance of every insurance actuary who ever built a calculator, or more aptly a slide rule, STROM THURMOND skipped the 50th anniversary celebration of that brief but memorable flight. I remember because I was here at the 50th anniversary of Normandy. There was a huge celebration of the Members of Congress who had participated in that particular part of our war effort. But, there was one Senator missing from that 50th anniversary at Normandy. It was STROM THURMOND. STROM THURMOND, who was 92 at the time, missed the 50th anniversary because that was the weekend of his son's graduation from high school. Think about it.

STROM has always known what matters. He has always focused on what is important. He continues to do that today.

He continued to serve after the war in the Reserves, rising to the rank of major general. His whole life has been a tradition of service. From World War II to the Governor's mansion and ultimately to the halls of the Senate, he has always made public service his top priority.

In the final scene of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," the movie's namesake returns 50 years after that battle to the grave at Normandy of the captain who gave his life to save Private Ryan. In one of the movie's most touching scenes, Ryan tells the long-dead captain that he has tried to honor his sacrifice by living a good life. That scene captures the essence of what we as a nation owe to those who have fought for our country and our freedom: to honor their sacrifice by trying to lead a good life and by doing everything we can to keep our country free and at peace.

STROM has truly honored his comrades who fell that dreadful day and all those who have worn the uniform since. He has been good, as he has also been great. He has led the Senate to keep our military strong through the generations.

For those of us who have served with STROM in the Senate, he has been the senior Senator from South Carolina during our entire careers, including of course, FRITZ HOLLINGS. FRITZ must be the oldest, longest serving junior Senator in the history of the Senate. That will surely change.

And that change is going to take some getting used to. Having STROM THURMOND gone, will make this a different place for all of us, particularly the Senate pages. STROM THURMOND has always been particularly attentive

and sweet to the Senate pages, probably throughout his career. I have seen it time and time again where he has taken the pages for lunch or for ice cream to talk to them so that they can ask him questions. I truly believe if you ever took a poll of the Senate pages, their favorite Senator would always be STROM THURMOND.

He is a legend. He is an institution. More important, STROM THURMOND is the heart and soul of the Senate. We honor him today.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague, STROM THURMOND. I am proud to be his colleague and friend. What a great American. After my election to the Senate, he was there to greet me.

When we think about institutions, we think about established organizations that are dedicated to public-service and advancement of science or culture. Institutions are created not by single people, but rather by the collective group that share ideals and values which are inherent to their cause. But while institutions are defined by the ideas that created them in the first place, it is individuals that truly identify the institution.

Just as John Glenn personifies the achievements of NASA, just as Martin Luther King Jr. embodies the Civil Rights movement, just as Albert Einstein represents the science of physics, the U.S. Senate is symbolized by Senator STROM THURMOND. Today we honor the gentleman who has spent nearly half his life in the Senate, a man who people cannot help but mention whenever the Senate is brought up in conversation.

While his accomplishments in this body merit enough attention, what took place before his foray into national politics is just as noteworthy. From graduation at Clemson University, to becoming a State Senator in South Carolina followed by confirmation as Circuit Judge, Senator THURMOND dedicated his life to public service. After signing an age waiver so that he could parachute onto the beaches of Normandy, STROM continued service in the U.S. Army as a reservist to eventually gain the rank of Major General after 36 years in the military. Somehow he even found time to run for governor of South Carolina and serve for 6 years.

We have ceremonies for men who were veterans in World War II and were involved in the D-Day invasion in France. We have ceremonies for former Governors who are elected and serve their states with distinction. We even hold ceremonies for those fortunate enough to serve in the armed services for 36 years. And today we hold a day of celebration for a man who accomplished not one but all of these feats, and then was elected as a write-in candidate on his way to serving in the U.S. Congress longer than any other human being. Yet many of his past accomplishments are overlooked because of his remarkable service in his nearly 50

years in the Senate. It is a testimony to his nature and the impact he has had on American politics that we sometimes fail to mention the first part of his life.

As we honor STROM THURMOND today, I would like to thank him personally for not only his dedication to serving the people of South Carolina, but also for his leadership in the Senate and for being a friend. It has been a privilege to serve on the Armed Services Committee with Mr. THURMOND, and we all know about his hard work and commitment to our military that he has displayed over the years. Thank you also, Senator THURMOND, for your dedication to this institution that we serve in today, an institution that will bare your mark for years. But more importantly, thank you for your service to the United States; you certainly are a centenarian for the ages.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to join in paying tribute to Senator STROM THURMOND. Senator THURMOND will celebrate his 100th birthday on December 5 and has the most remarkable record of longevity in the Senate of any Senator in history.

I was disappointed when STROM decided not to run for reelection last year, but I can understand his views on the subject. He has been really a paragon of agility and sturdiness, taking steps two at a time, coming up to the Senate Chamber—until very recently. Strom continues to have a very firm handshake and he continues to have an agile mind and he continues to make all the votes. So that is one of the reasons why I questioned his decision not to run for reelection. I had watched Senator THURMOND over the years, and when I was elected to the Senate in 1980, I looked forward to meeting him. But I did not have to await my arrival in the Senate to have my first contact with Senator THURMOND because one day late in November, I was sitting in my den and the phone rang. There was a deep southern voice: I would like to speak to Senator SPECTER.

I said: This is he.

He said: This is Senator THURMOND.

I said: What a great pleasure to hear from you, Senator THURMOND.

He said: I called to ask if you would be willing to support me for President pro tempore.

I said: Senator, I thought the position of President pro tempore was automatically the senior member of the party in power, and I know that is you, sir.

He said: That is true, but I do not like to take anything for granted.

I said: Senator THURMOND, you may be assured I will support you for President pro tempore. And I did.

I would like another chance to do that. Maybe we will have a chance to support him for President pro tempore after the November elections.

When I joined the Senate, I selected the Judiciary Committee, which is right in line with my own training and interests. Senator THURMOND, of course, was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Regrettably, when there were efforts to form a quorum, members were usually very late. I made it a point to arrive on time. When I did that the third time in a row—the chairman has to arrive on time—when I did that the third time in a row, Senator THURMOND asked what I was doing there on time. Then he thanked me, congratulated me, and said I might even start a precedent.

In 1982, when there were two Pennsylvanians up for confirmation, Judge Mansman and Judge Caldwell, I was there to present them to the committee. Senator THURMOND was presiding as chairman. He asked them a question. He said to them: If confirmed, do you promise to be courteous? I thought to myself: Why would he ask the question, If you are confirmed, do you promise to be courteous? Not surprisingly, both nominees said yes.

Then Senator THURMOND said: Because the more power a person has, the more courteous a person should be. I have not heard a more profound statement in my 22 years in the Senate. Not that there is a whole lot of competition for profound statements around here.

When Senator THURMOND does not appear at Judiciary Committee hearings, I ask the question. I have had many nominees comment to me after a number of years how they thought that was a very significant question. If any judge is listening now, that is the hallmark of a judge. Judges have a lot of reasons to be out of sort with lawyers who are not prepared, or witnesses who are unresponsive, but there is enormous power in that black robe with a lifetime appointment, and Senator THURMOND had his finger right on it.

There are a lot of vignettes I could tell, but Senator ALLEN has come to the floor, so I will limit myself to a couple more.

When Senator Howard Baker was the majority leader, we used to have all-night sessions, a very stark contrast from now when we hardly have day sessions. One evening we had a finance bill before us. It was 1982. It was 11:45 p.m. The floor was crowded with Senators. Nobody had any appointments left at 11:45 p.m. Senator Baker stood behind that podium and said: Amendments, like mushrooms, grow overnight, so we are going to stay and finish the bill. I have consulted with the chairman—Senator Dole of the Finance Committee—and we worked through the night. There were maybe three, four rollcall votes, a lot of amendments

taken, a lot of amendments dropped. We walked out at 6:30 in the morning into the sunshine with a complete complex finance bill.

If we did that tonight, we would finish homeland security by morning. In any event, that is one of the occasions I went down to the restaurant, which was kept open. I made it a point to find Senator THURMOND's table and have a bowl of soup and to hear great stories about Senator THURMOND's career in Washington, DC. He talked about Lyndon Johnson as a Senator, and that young fellow, John Kennedy, who came to the Senate, about the heroes and the legends of the Senate, because he has seen them all.

One story he told, which I thought was especially interesting, was about the inaugural parade on January 20, 1949. Senator THURMOND had run for President and had carried four States and almost threw the election into the House of Representatives. In the parade, after President Truman was elected and Vice President Alben Barkley was elected, STROM came down with his wife riding in an open-top car, probably dressed in a cutaway. I am not sure about that. Maybe I will ask STROM to yield for a question here. When he passed the reviewing stand, he stood up and tipped his hat. Vice President Alben Barkley started to raise his hand and, as STROM told the story, Truman grabbed his hand and pulled it down and said: Don't you wave to that SOB. I might be more explicit but somebody might want to have it stricken from the RECORD as being an inappropriate statement.

One more short story. In a Judiciary Committee hearing on one occasion, STROM did not want to see a quorum reached because he did not want legislation to be passed out of the committee. So he stood right outside the Judiciary Committee door over in 226. He wanted to be right there poised to go into the room in the event there was a quorum so he could obstruct whatever it was he did not want to happen.

Ralph Yarborough, a Senator from Texas, came up and grabbed hold of STROM and tried to pull him into the hearing room. STROM—I do not know exactly what the wrestling maneuver was, but Yarborough ended up on the floor in a STROM THURMOND scissor. STROM did finally agree to release Senator Yarborough with Yarborough's promise he would not go into the hearing room.

As the story goes, Yarborough went into the hearing room. STROM should never have released him. He probably would still be there if STROM had not been so generous.

Senator THURMOND has been an example in many ways as his political philosophy has advanced. He is a great advocate for African Americans, constituents—the wall of his office ought to be memorialized and left intact. He has so many plaques and commemorative memorabilia.

It has enabled me to tell a story on the stump which has been somewhat

useful both from a political and humorous point of view, and that is, when running for reelection, I say: If I am reelected in 2004 when I am next up and decide to run again 6 years later in 2010, and decide to try again 6 years after that in 2016, and run again in 2022, and then run again in 2028, at that point, I will be younger than Senator STROM THURMOND is today.

People are always amazed at the thought of running in 2028. So they think it is not too bad to run in the year 2004 for a fifth term. They are always very much impressed by Senator STROM THURMOND.

So, STROM, I join my colleagues in saluting you for a fabulous career and wish you 100 more years of continued good health.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, three score and 10 years ago our colleague, STROM THURMOND, first won elective office when he was chosen to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He has been figure of influence in—and on behalf of—his home State ever since.

The longest-serving Senator in the history of this body, he will be retiring at the end of this Congress, and today we have the opportunity to recount our own experiences with this American legend.

Senator THURMOND had been in the Senate 26 years when I arrived in 1983, a brand-new member of the Armed Services Committee. He never treated me as the neophyte, just-learning-the-ropes newcomer that I was. From the start, I was his colleague, and he was mine. His long history of work on national defense is based on his love of this country, and his own experiences on the battlefield. Somebody thought he was too old to be a paratrooper for the Normandy Landing. It is part of his extraordinary resume that he got an age exemption, and parachuted in on D-Day.

There is no one quite like him. I have appreciated his friendship from my first day here, and, with my colleagues, will feel a great pang of loss when the new Congress opens in January and he will not take his seat as a Senator from South Carolina.

I think all of us recall those lines from "Hamlet" when we think about our friend and his remarkable life. "He was a man, take him for all in all/I ensure shall not look upon his like again."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for as much time as I may consume. I estimate I will need 10 minutes.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in saluting the senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, as he prepares to celebrate his 100th birthday. JAMES STROM THURMOND is not just a man who is loved by

the people of South Carolina, who elected him to a remarkable eight terms to the Senate, but he is a man who is respected and admired by this body and institution in which he serves.

Others who have spoken, who are much more senior to me, have recounted his distinguished careers, stories, the elections, the changes in our country over the years, and also the positive changes in Senator THURMOND as he has moved forward with America and the times, in making sure that all Americans have opportunities in education, to compete and succeed in life.

I find it interesting that he was the first person in 1954 to ever be elected to a national office by a write-in vote. The people of South Carolina elected STROM THURMOND to the Senate by a write-in vote. At that time, I was not paying too much attention to politics since I was only 2 years old when he won that election.

There are a lot of stories to tell and a lot of impressions have been made in the short time I have been in the Senate. I knew I had come to a very special place when the first meeting of the Republican Senate caucus was singing happy birthday for Senator THURMOND's 98th birthday, and I was thinking of all the stories of STROM THURMOND, this living legend. That day we also had a very rancorous debate on different positions, the policy chairman, the Senate Republican chair. There were people giving nominating speeches and seconding speeches, and it was tough to choose among friends, but we finally decided who the policy chair was and the Republican Senate chair. There were all of these contests and seconding speeches.

At the end, Leader LOTT said: We have to also elect the Senate President pro tempore and, of course, that is going to be STROM THURMOND. There were no nominating speeches and no seconding speeches. Everyone rose and said "aye."

STROM then stood up, and this was the extent of STROM's speech: Thank you all. You are darn smart people. And that is how STROM was easily elected.

There are so many memories of STROM THURMOND in the Allen family. I remember my mother always talking about dancing with STROM THURMOND. Whenever we bring up the Senate, she says: I danced with STROM THURMOND. She says it every time I bring up the Senate, and this was back in the 1970s. I know there are a lot of ladies' hearts that have fluttered over the years with the wonderful privilege of dancing with STROM THURMOND.

My wife's family, the Brown family, is from South Carolina. Of course, he is revered as a hero in South Carolina, as he is all across the country but especially in South Carolina. Any time any of that family in South Carolina had a wedding, a birthday or a birth, STROM THURMOND was there congratulating them on that wonderful event.

I also have the privilege of being assigned to an office in the Russell building that is in the same hallway as STROM THURMOND. I see STROM as he makes it to every vote. I see him on the elevator as we go to the trolley to get to the Chamber. He is always smiling. He is always cheerful. He is always in a good mood.

This year we all were blessed with those good South Carolina peaches to make sure we are all getting a good healthy diet. I was commenting about the great peaches and I said, most of my staff took those peaches, and STROM said: Well, get that boy another bag of those South Carolina peaches. So our family was able to enjoy those wonderful peaches.

Last year, we had the national D-day memorial in Bedford County, VA, which had the highest per capita loss of life in the D-day invasion. It was a wonderful event. The President was there. The Ambassador from France was there. It was a wonderful ceremony. STROM THURMOND was there. STROM THURMOND was one of those brave soldiers who obviously stormed those beaches and fortunately survived the Normandy invasion on D-day. I will say the President received a slightly bigger cheer, but every single person who was there, those thousands and thousands of people loved seeing STROM THURMOND, a true American hero, in Bedford for that celebration and dedication of the national D-day memorial.

The point is, STROM THURMOND is an inspiration to many of us for many different reasons. While we all aspire to achieve such longevity, we admire STROM THURMOND for a life lived fully and in the advancement of public service. As Senator THURMOND reaches his centenarian status later this year, on behalf of all the good people of Virginia, I offer my best wishes to him, his family, and his constituents.

There will never be another STROM THURMOND. Nevertheless, I hope and pray God will continue to bless America with people who have STROM THURMOND's cheerfulness and devotion, and I surely hope we are blessed with people of his character.

It is great to be a Senator from Virginia, but it is truly an honor to serve with Senator THURMOND. I shall always and forever cherish the memories of your smiling, twinkling eyes which reveal your happy heart. You have been a great soldier, a great Senator, and a great leader. I thank God for blessing us with people of your character.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Is consent required to make my remarks?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed for 7 minutes in my tribute to our retiring Senator, Mr. THURMOND.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, what is perhaps more amazing than

STROM THURMOND's record length of service in the Senate is how he made it here in the first place.

STROM THURMOND was the first and only American ever elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. The dizzying prospect of waging a write-in campaign strikes fear into any aspiring or incumbent politician. After all, getting voters to the polls is one thing. Getting voters to go the extra mile and write in a name not listed on the ballot is a wholly different beast.

So once one knows that in 1954, STROM was able to inspire a majority of South Carolina voters to write him into the Senate, and into the history books, it makes perfect sense why he also ended up as our Nation's longest serving Senator.

Today, of course, it is STROM's record-setting tenure that has captivated American political and popular culture. Turn the page of any magazine or the dial of any radio and, eventually, you will find Americans holding up STROM as the benchmark to near-immortality.

For years, Senator THURMOND has attributed his age-defying achievements to "diet, exercise, and an optimistic attitude." Well, I dug a little deeper reading old clips on the advice he has given to friends and colleagues so I could try and piece together a more specific and exhaustive answer.

After sleuthing around a bit, here is the "simple" formula I can pass along: Begin your mornings with 20 minutes of calisthenics, 50 pushups, 10 minutes of weightlifting, and 20 minutes on a exercise bike. Oh, and swim a half mile twice a week; eat half of a banana, four prunes, a handful of grapes, blueberries, peaches, egg whites, a glass of Orange Juice, and a glass of prune juice; inherit good genes; abstain from fried or fatty foods. But eat lots of chicken, fish, and all kinds of seafood; abstain from caffeine; abstain from sugars; abstain from smoking.

But beneath all the rubble surrounding "STROM's Secrets," one ingredient stands out above all others. In an editorial celebrating the Senator's 99th birthday, the Rock Hill Herald revealed STROM's secret to longevity as "his determination to serve South Carolina as long as he's able."

I believe that this sentiment more than the prune juice or the push-ups best explains STROM's record-setting service to South Carolina, from a small-town school superintendent among the peach groves of tiny Edgefield, SC, to almost a half a century in the Senate.

Mr. President, as I said, the year Senator THURMOND came to this body on a write-in—a most astonishing thing because no other Senator in American history has ever been elected to the Senate by a write-in—I was playing Little League baseball in Augusta, GA, across the Savannah River from Senator THURMOND's hometown of Aiken. I confess I was not following politics all that carefully at age 12, but

I do remember my parents talking about Senator THURMOND's astonishing accomplishment right across the river in South Carolina, having been elected to the Senate on a write-in ballot.

As I grew older and began to pay attention to Government and politics in America, I began to realize STROM THURMOND was something quite special. When I came to the Senate in 1984, 40 years after my parents telling me about Senator THURMOND winning on a write-in, I knew instantly I was in the presence of a legend, as we all have been who have had the privilege of being a Member of this body at the same time as the senior Senator from South Carolina.

There will literally never be another American like Senator THURMOND. We all know he was too old for World War II, he did not have to go, but at age 42, as Senator ALLEN just made reference to, Senator THURMOND was there on D-day. In fact, he was in one of those gliders the night of D-day. Last year, we had an opportunity to see "Band of Brothers" on HBO about the 101st and its experience from D-day through the end of war. I watched every segment of that. In addition to what I was viewing on the television screen, I thought mostly about our colleague and his harrowing experience of going in the night of D-day on a glider. He did crack up, and as we all know, he was able to walk away and survive the crackup and survive the war and become an American hero.

Not many of us are ever going to be legends, and almost none of us are going to be legends in our own time. The Senator from South Carolina has lived long enough to observe his own legendary status, which is a truly remarkable thing. We will never, ever, see another STROM THURMOND. He is unique in the annals of American history.

I want to say to you, Senator THURMOND, as a son of the South myself, somebody who was born in Alabama and then migrated north to Kentucky—most people think of Kentucky as south, but for us it was north—and having lived in Georgia when you were first elected on a write-in, I want to say to you that you have been an inspiration to me and an inspiration to many of us in the deep South who have been so proud of you and your enormous accomplishments over the years.

I extend my congratulations to Senator THURMOND on his pending birthday, reaching 100 years of age. In fact, I had the Today show on this morning and Willard mentioned you, Senator THURMOND. He is working up to celebrating your 100th birthday in December and, of course, finishing up your term. You have had a truly remarkable career that will never be equaled in this body. My congratulations to you and our best wishes for the future.

So, Senator, today I raise my voice—joining the chorus of so many other voices—to pay my fondest farewell to your tireless and timeless dedication to

serving the families of the great Palmetto State.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I apologize. I was not able to be here this morning when the Senators expressed their words and thoughts about our wonderful colleague, STROM THURMOND, who is retiring from the Senate this year. I wanted to join in the particular tribute in saying to him and the people of South Carolina and the rest of our colleagues something we all feel, regardless of the disagreements we may have had on substantive policy matters, STROM THURMOND is truly an American institution in many ways.

I cannot even begin to imagine the U.S. Senate without this remarkable individual in our presence. For nearly 50 years—almost a quarter of the life of this country—through 10 Presidential administrations, STROM THURMOND has been an institution in the Chamber of the Senate. Eight Senators serving today were not yet born when STROM THURMOND was first elected to the Senate in 1954.

It is not the fact that Senator THURMOND has served the Senate longer than any other Senator in our Nation's history that makes him unique. It has been, in my view, STROM THURMOND's fascinating journey through life that makes him unique. His story is truly a unique American story.

In the course of his nearly 100 years, STROM THURMOND has been a teacher, judge, combat hero, Governor, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and, of course, a Senator. In more than 20 years of our serving together, I have not always agreed with Senator THURMOND, as I know many of my colleagues have not over the years, but he has always been a true embodiment of the "way of the Senate,"—always thoughtful, always respectful, and always deliberative. In short, he has been a great Senate colleague.

My father, Senator Thomas Dodd, served with Senator THURMOND for 12 years. I have served with him for 20. That is 32 of his almost 50 years. They, too, had their differences, but they had tremendous respect for one another and were very good friends. My family will always think of STROM THURMOND not simply as a friend but as a loyal friend to the Dodd family.

I believe that no matter what your ideology or political persuasion, one cannot look upon the life of STROM THURMOND without concluding that it is in so many ways so remarkable.

What else can you say about a man who, at the age of 42, took a leave of absence as a Circuit Judge in South Carolina to volunteer to parachute behind enemy lines with the 82nd Airborne Division during the Normandy D-Day invasion, for which he was awarded 5 Battle Stars for Bravery in Combat?

What else can you say about a man who has dedicated his entire life to public service, to the service of his country?

While never neglecting to be a stalwart in support of the state and people of his beloved South Carolina, there are literally dozens upon dozens of schools, buildings, parks, and streets in South Carolina named after their senior Senator. Senator STROM THURMOND has never failed to put America first.

He has always treated public service to America as a sacred responsibility. In this respect, STROM THURMOND is a very, very rare breed.

Senator THURMOND was born at the dawn of the 20th century, born to a very different time; to a very different America.

Over the past century, America has grown as a Nation. Over the past century, America has become a more free, a more fair, and a more compassionate nation.

And, over the past century, Senator THURMOND has also grown.

Senator THURMOND once said, "People evolve. They reach a higher truth in life."

STROM THURMOND lived through the entire 20th century, a century which began with two world wars and ended with a triumph of democracy.

It was a century of enormous political and social upheaval, but it was also a century of enormous progress and enlightenment.

STROM THURMOND was not just witness to the entire 20th century, he was a full participant.

His journey mirrored America's journey.

And now, at the dawn of a new century, STROM THURMOND is still a participant in America's journey.

In closing I would just like to tell STROM THURMOND that his lifetime of service to his country, and his nearly 50 years in the United States Senate, is greatly appreciated, and will be sorely missed.

STROM, it is an honor and a privilege working with you, and I will miss you very, very much.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, several of our colleagues made some remarks concerning our esteemed friend and colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND. I wish to join them in that effort.

STROM THURMOND, by the end of this year, will complete 48 years in the Senate—eight terms in the Senate. I will be completing four terms, and it is mind-boggling to think someone would complete eight, 48 years in the Senate. He was elected to the Senate in 1954 and has served this body with great distinction and honor during that time.

Prior to that time, he was also Governor of South Carolina. Even before that, he was one of the heroes, in my opinion, who actually helped liberate Europe going into Normandy. He actually parachuted into Normandy behind enemy lines. He earned 18 decorations for his service, including the Purple Heart.