

could not have drawn the focus more narrowly than he did. A \$3.1 billion drought package to address the devastation of a drought this extensive inevitably leaves out people who need help to make it through the disaster.

The State of Nebraska will possibly receive about 8 percent of what we need. We asked for \$6 billion; we got \$3.1 billion. The way in which it is being distributed to those who have severe needs and those who may have some needs but in a uniform manner robs those who really are most affected because they are going to be left with virtually nothing compared to what they need.

Richard and Cecelia Carnes of Marquette, NE, which is very close to Sargent, in the middle part of the State as well, also wrote to me regarding true drought assistance. These two truly represent the family farmer. They have been in the farming business for the last 40 years, with some of their land having been in the family for over 100 years.

Richard and Cecelia are afraid of losing their farm because of the drought. They are going to sell half of their cow herd to pay for the expenses they incurred during the drought last summer. The expenses are ongoing, even though the income is not forthcoming. They have even gone so far as to invest their retirement savings into keeping their farm afloat, but without significant Federal assistance they cannot prevail, either in the short term or in the long term.

In their letter, they made a particularly good point that I will express at this time:

This drought is affecting everyone in the country. Whenever there is a disaster for flooding, hurricanes, tornados, and snowstorms the Government is there helping right away. A drought is much worse since the farmer is the one producing the food for the country.

People might take issue with whether a drought is worse than other disasters, but I do not think anybody would disagree that a drought that adversely affects the output of food is a disaster that we can ill afford.

They concluded the letter by saying that everyone needs to try farming to truly understand what it is like. The Senate needs to realize the seriousness of the problem and put themselves in the shoes of family farmers and ranchers like Richard and Cecelia. Perhaps then we could provide real and substantial drought relief.

Yesterday, I spoke with my good friend and colleague TOM OSBORNE about some concerns raised by House members on the fairness of the drought package passed by the Senate. The Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee indicated that the Senate plan would provide "relief" to farmers and ranchers who suffered no losses. The package treats equally farmers and ranchers who did and did not suffer losses.

That's right. In a time of budget deficits and fiscal calamity, the Senate

package squanders scarce resources and provides assistance to those who actually need it. Farmers and ranchers in my State of Nebraska are not pleased. Nebraska, perhaps, is one of the States hit hardest by Drought David. For two years, we have suffered under dry conditions and dwindling herds and crops. Some estimates say 20,000 of the remaining 55,000 Nebraska family farms are likely to go under this year because of the drought. The drought is a crisis—like a tornado, a hurricane, a flood, or a fire—and the climatologists indicate there is no relief in sight and it may be moving in an easterly direction.

Congressman OSBORNE has worked tirelessly to provide comprehensive drought assistance. He left no stone unturned in his effort to find adequate funding. He knocked on every door, he made every phone call, did everything that could be required of someone in his position. But the message he received in return was that farmers and ranchers suffering from drought needed a budgetary offset to receive Federal assistance. In the end, the Senate version found an offset, but didn't find enough.

But we are practical people in Nebraska and around the country—\$3.1 billion is better than nothing; but it is not enough. Ask the people of this country; people such as Bill Lueck and Richard and Cecelia Carnes, who have seen this drought dry up their livelihood, and they will tell you it is not enough. I hope my fellow Senator will join me in seeking to provide comprehensive drought relief in this Congress.

Nebraska State climatologists recently predicted we are about to face a perfect drought this summer, sort of an oxymoron, but I think it requires an explanation. It is the worst of all factors converging. If our family farmers and ranchers are going to survive this perfect drought, we must provide better comprehensive drought relief now to take care of the past losses and prepare them for the bump ahead they are going to face.

I have sent a letter to the House Agriculture Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE, encouraging him to revisit the drought package. I know he is looking very carefully at it. I would love to see the House pass a better drought assistance bill, devoid of special interests, set-asides, devoid of wasteful payments to those who need it least, and one that provides real and comprehensive drought assistance to farmers and ranchers who are teetering on the brink of disappearing forever, never to return. We need to provide the most assistance to those who need it most.

In the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, the President delivered a speech of 5,050 words. In that speech the word agriculture never appeared. I know he had a lot to say and he could not say everything.

He made a strong case in his remarks for the need to stimulate the economy,

both with short-term and long-term implications with tax cuts and other economic incentives. I am sure I will be supporting a number of those. How can we give a tax cut to farmers and ranchers with no income? How can we stand by and watch the agricultural sector of the economy wither under drought conditions? The best economic stimulus for a rural state such as Nebraska and many other States right now is a comprehensive rural development program coupled with real emergency drought relief. Anything short of that will be a failure to our farmers, our ranchers, and our Nation.

When it comes to making decisions, I will come down on the side of Nebraska every time. If I have to choose between the White House and the farmhouse, I choose the farmhouse. If I have to choose between the White House and the Statehouse, I choose the Statehouse. If I have to choose between the White House and the schoolhouse, I will choose the schoolhouse. If I have to choose between the White House and the average family house in Nebraska and throughout our country, I choose the house of each and every Nebraskan and each and every American every time.

My point is the Congress is here to make decisions, not just accept what is dictated as appropriate from the administration. The case of agriculture could not be a better example. Every Member in the Senate knows very well, better than any bureaucrat in the Office of Management and Budget, what is right for our States, our communities, and our constituents.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

COMMEMORATING DAVE HOPPE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today marks the last day in Congress of one of the most remarkable people I have had the pleasure of meeting in my entire life, one of the most decent, clearly one of the most outstanding individuals, and that is Dave Hoppe, who will be leaving Congress to go on to some other line of work after today.

We all got to know Dave as chief of staff of Senator LOTT. He has labored in the vineyards of the Senate and the House for 27 years. Without ego, without a desire to go out and seek public office, like many of us have done, Dave Hoppe devoted himself to improving America and to advancing the causes in which he believed by working through elected officials.

Dave is originally from Wisconsin. He graduated from Notre Dame in 1973. By the way, his birthplace was Baraboo, Wisconsin, which also happens to be the place where the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey circus began.

Dave came to Washington after graduating from Notre Dame to have an impact on his country. As he ends his public service today, there is no question that he has had an enormous impact on the lives of all Americans

through his work both in the House and the Senate.

There was a fascinating article in USA Today back in 1997 about the impact Dave had on the reauthorization of the IDEA legislation that year. He had a particular interest in it because his son, Gregory, suffers from a disability. Dave, raising that son and living with the disability his son had, had a particular awareness of how to adapt that legislation to the needs of not only his son but a lot of other youngsters who found themselves in the same dilemma.

This is a quote from Dave in the article:

Every night when I came home and every morning when I got up, I saw who it could help.

He was talking about the IDEA reauthorization.

Referring to his son:

I know his horizons are not unlimited, but I want them to be as great as they can be.

What a marvelous way to put Dave's hopes and aspirations for his son. Dave and his wife, Karen, met in a carpool 21 years ago as conservative idealists. He worked for the House Republican study committee and she for the Heritage Foundation. They were engaged 3 weeks after their first date and married December 30th, 1976—a truly remarkable family.

I expect others might want to include this USA Today article, but it is so interesting and so important I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From USA Today, June 27, 1997]

A LAW THAT TRANSCENDS POLITICS

(By Richard Wolf)

WASHINGTON.—Six-year-old Gregory Hoppe climbs up on the bench installed for him in his father's office and peers out on the nation's capital.

But this isn't just any office. It's for the chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, perhaps the USA's most powerful Republican.

And Gregory isn't just any child. The framed Senate roll-call vote that hangs over his bench attests to that. Still two weeks shy of his 7th birthday, Gregory already has played a quiet but crucial role in overhauling the law that guides special-education policy for 5.6 million disabled children in America's public schools.

His father, David Hoppe, was the one who worked out the final agreement between Congress and the Clinton administration last month. But Gregory, born with Down syndrome, was the new law's guiding light.

Call it Gregory's Law.

"You had somebody who brought a deep life experience to the whole process," says Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind. "It's a piece of legislation with a lot of heart in it."

The roles played by David and Gregory Hoppe demonstrate the powerful influence of private lives in public policy. Their impact on the nation's special-education law is emblematic of how elected and even non-elected officials work behind the scenes here, using personal experiences to set the legislative agenda and guide the political process.

And David Hoppe's role was significant for another reason: at a time of public dismay

over how Washington works—or doesn't—in the glare of partisan politics and harsh publicity, he became the rare individual to emerge heralded by all sides.

"This was a fair, decent, caring soul who was not going to sell anybody down the river," says Robert Silverstein, the Senate's top Democratic expert on disability issues.

But without Gregory's disability and his dad's doggedness, President Clinton and Congress still might be embroiled in emotional debate over the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), signed into law earlier this month.

For two years, the bill had been caught between two seemingly immovable forces: Leaders of the Republican revolution, who wanted to help schools cut costs and curtail classroom disruptions caused by disabled students, and advocates for the disabled, who wanted expanded educational opportunities.

It took a deeply religious, conservative Republican and a highly motivated advocate for the disabled to bring the two sides together. David Hoppe was both of those. And Gregory was his inspiration.

"Every night when I came home and every morning when I got up, I saw who it could help," Hoppe says of his son. "I know his horizons are not unlimited, but I want them to be as great as they can be."

Says Paul Marchand, director of The Arc, which represents the mentally retarded: "He might have been thinking, 'Everything that I do here may someday affect my child, and if not my child, hundreds of thousands like him.'"

A STRONG FAMILY THAT WEATHERS CRISIS

David and Karen Hoppe met in a car pool 21 years ago as conservative idealists. He worked for the House Republican Study Committee, she for the Heritage Foundation think tank. They were engaged three weeks after their first date and married Dec. 30, 1976. He would go on to work for a future vice presidential nominee, Jack Kemp; she would go on to work for a future vice president, Dan Quayle.

David rose through the Capitol Hill ranks, but Karen quit when their first child, Katie, was born in 1981. Geoffrey arrived two years later. The Hoppes—David is 45, Karen, 44—are devoted parents to both "big kids," as they call them now. But it was Gregory's arrival in 1990 that gave the suburban Burke, VA., couple a whole new outlook on life.

The night before Gregory's birth, the Hoppes happened to pick up a copy of a Sesame Street parents guide featuring a story on Down syndrome. "I remember sitting on the edge of the bed and saying, 'I hope we don't have to deal with anything like this,'" Karen Hoppe says. They had forgone prenatal testing that could have determined Gregory's disability, caused by an extra chromosome, because they do not believe in abortion.

The next night, the Sesame Street story came to life. "He was four minutes old," she recalls. "They came and told me right away that they thought he had Down syndrome."

Those first few minutes in Fairfax Hospital are etched in the Hoppes' minds. With doctors buzzing around Gregory, the couple made hasty plans to baptize him, in case he died. But Gregory was tough; he overcame many of the complications that accompany Down syndrome births.

Karen reacted emotionally, but her husband was then what he has been ever since—a rock. "I got one tear out of David," she says, "and that was it."

Sen. Coats, Hoppe's boss at the time, recalls getting the call from the hospital concerning Gregory's obvious disability. "I think the birth of Gregory was one of those defining, life-changing experiences that open

people's eyes to a whole other world," he says. "I don't think unless you experience that, you can fully identify with that world."

Today, the pain of that first realization is overwhelmed by two other emotions common to families of disabled children—exhaustion and achievement. The physical and mental challenges can seem never-ending. Gregory didn't walk until age 2½, didn't run until last summer, and only now is learning to jump. Typical of children with Down syndrome, his cognitive and language skills are significantly delayed.

But just as distinctive is his unconditional love for his family. While his father helps run the country, Gregory rules the roost at home. He's a ham, singing and dancing to his favorite videos. Ask a question, and he taps his temple as if deep in thought. He speaks in two- and three-word bursts packed with meaning: "Throw the ball!" "My turn!" And the every-welcome, "Thank you, Mommy."

Says Karen, "I wouldn't have missed this for the world."

PERSONAL LIVES, PROFESSIONAL LIVES

For David Hoppe, plunging into the middle of a two-year-old battle over the IDEA law was a deeply personal crusade that made use of his education, experience, philosophy, Catholic faith and fatherhood.

The law was first enacted in 1975 to guarantee disabled students equal access to public schools, no matter how profound their afflictions.

Over the past 20 years, the number of students classified as disabled has soared to 12.4% of the public-school population of 44.7 million, including those with behavioral and emotional problems. About 70% of them are taught in regular classrooms, alongside non-disabled kids.

The costs are high: more than \$32 billion, only \$4 billion of which comes from the federal government.

Since taking control of Congress in 1995, Republicans had tried to change the law, motivated partly by anecdotes about students with disabilities causing harm to others. One teacher in West Virginia wound up in an emergency room; another in North Carolina broke an arm.

But during the 104th Congress, a deal proved elusive. Not even Bob Dole, a disability-rights advocate and master dealmaker, could do it. On his final day as Senate GOP leader before resigning to run for president last June, Dole implored his colleagues to pass an IDEA bill.

"Some issues transcend politics, foster a bipartisan spirit and result in legislation that makes a real and lasting difference," Dole said on the Senate floor. "Disability has always been one of those issues." But not in 1996.

Enter David Hoppe. Already one of the busiest staffers in Capitol Hill as Lott's top deputy, he saw the chance to break the logjam over a law that will guide his son's education into the next century and "give kids born 20 years from now even more opportunities than Greg has."

Hoppe came with a rare advantage: knowledge of how to write laws, drawn from 21 years on Capitol Hill, and knowledge of how to help the disabled, drawn from nearly seven years as Gregory's dad.

"I was uniquely placed. I was a conservative, and I had a child with a disability," he says. "I looked at everything . . . through a parent's eye: 'Let's put Greg in this situation.'"

That was easy. In many cases, Gregory already had been there.

"I was at the meeting where Gregory was given his label," Hoppe recalls, with a rare, small show of emotion. That was in 1995,

when Gregory was 4 and aging out of pre-school. He was labeled "MR." for mild retardation. His father, who knew it was coming, still took the official designation hard. "This is a landmark," he says, "and I knew it was."

Hoppe's familiarity with the world of the disabled helped turn theoretical debates into practical ones.

"He made people think about the long-term and child-specific implications of the policies," says Katherine Beh Neas, senior government relations specialist at the National Easter Seals Society.

Occasionally during the closed-door negotiations and open town meetings he organized, Hoppe would mention the bureaucratic hoops he and Karen had to jump through to get services for their son. Several times, he interrupted meetings to take calls from his family—at least once from Gregory, who wondered when Dad was coming home.

"The perspective of a parent (with a disabled child) would have been completely missing" without Hoppe, says Rep. Matthew Martinez, D-Calif.

Adds Bruce Hunter, director of public affairs for the American Association of School Administrators: "Nobody could say to him the way they could say to other Republicans, 'Oh, you guys just don't care.'"

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES

What Hoppe found as he waded into the legislative thicket were school administrators who feared soaring costs, educators who feared for their safety and advocates for the disabled who feared losing hard-won rights. "It was fairly obvious how emotionally charged the issue was," he says. "You're dealing with vulnerable people."

The flash point was discipline. Teachers, principals and school administrators wanted more flexibility to punish disabled students in much the same way they did others, even if it meant segregating them or stopping their education. Advocates for the disabled refused to go along.

Hoppe did not play the Gregory card to sway the negotiations.

"I'm sure that everybody in that room knew that David had a disabled kid," says Judith Heumann, the Education Department's assistant secretary of special education and rehabilitative services. "But he didn't wear it on his sleeve."

Where he wore it was on his computer. When other parents of disabled children first came to Lott's office last fall to voice their concerns, they had no idea of his personal interest. Then they noticed the image of Gregory on his computer screen.

"I looked over and saw on the screen his little one," recounts Madeleine Will, mother of a 25-year-old son with Down syndrome and a disability activist. She figured she was imagining things. "I thought, I'm overtired here and distraught, but . . . I'm seeing the face of a child with Down syndrome on that computer."

Despite his advocacy on behalf of Gregory's interests, Hoppe never forgot the interests of his other children. Katie, 16, and Geoff, 13, attend public schools in Virginia and know well the other side of the disability coin, when students with behavioral problems disrupt classes or won't leave them alone. They think disabled students should be disciplined—but not blamed for all that goes wrong.

"I just don't see the point of people complaining that all disabilities ruin class," says Geoff. Adds Katie: "The more we integrate these kids, the more accepting and understanding people will become with them."

Out of this stew of colliding interests emerges David Hoppe's philosophy: "I believe in limited government," he says. "But

I think government is there to protect rights and opportunities."

The IDEA law attempts to do that. The overhaul makes it easier for schools to discipline disabled students, but doesn't let states cut off their education. The law also upgrades teacher training, gives parents a greater role and improves planning and mediation.

Everyone had to compromise.

"We kind of held our noses and supported it," says Sally McConnell of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, which wanted the measure to go farther. But, she adds, "Emotions run high on this issue, and I think he did a really good job."

Ironically, Gregory won't use all his rights. Despite the law's goal of educating disabled children in the least restrictive setting, the Hoppes aren't seeking full inclusion just yet.

Beginning this fall, Gregory will be in a self-contained first-grade class for academic subjects with other mildly retarded kids. He will be mainstreamed a half-hour each morning and also for art, music and gym. Demanding inclusion when it might not be best for their child isn't what the law intends, they say.

His hopes for Gregory are high. "I want him to be able to live by himself, to have a job that he likes, to be able to go to that job by himself, to sit and have conversations with people who work where he works . . . to have him involved with his church," Hoppe says. "My big dreams for him are things that seem very normal."

But his value won't be defined by his achievements. Says Karen Hoppe: "Greg is a worthwhile individual right now, just the way he is."

CELEBRATING A SUCCESS STORY

Gregory Hoppe was heard about but not seen until the Senate voted 98-1 on May 14 to send the bill to President Clinton. Then it was time for this coming-out party.

From his vantage point in the vice president's office off the Senate floor while the votes were being cast, Thomas Hehir, director of the federal Office of Special Education Programs, looked outside and saw a child with Down syndrome walking into the Capitol with his mother.

Only after the vote, when Hehir joined a celebration in Hoppe's office featuring chocolate-chip cookies made by Karen and Gregory, did he figure out who that special child was.

"To me, it was kind of symbolic," Hehir recalls thinking at the time.

Three weeks later, the Hoppe family was in the audience on the White House's South Lawn to watch President Clinton sign the bill into law.

At Secretary of Education Richard Riley's suggestion, Clinton invited Hoppe up to the front; he brought Gregory. Photographs show the two of them just behind Clinton, amid the usual assortment of politicians. "Staffers never get in those kinds of photographs," marvels Erik Smulson, an aide to Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., who worked on the new law.

In this case, however, even the lawmakers say it was justified. "He was the hero of the ultimate passage of the bill," says Sen. William Frist, R-Tenn. "He was uniquely placed, uniquely committed."

Hoppe sums it up as a dad: "I think I did something good for Greg."

LAWS GET PASSED WHEN THE POLITICS IS PERSONAL

Major changes in policy have come about because lawmakers were affected personally.

Take the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, among the most far-reaching civil rights laws. Former congressman Tony Coelho,

ho, a California Democrat, says it was easy to win converts.

"I didn't have any trouble," recalls Coelho, whose epilepsy made him a leading advocate. People "were already on board because of personal experiences."

The same was true last year when three senators with family stories of mental illness—Pete Domenici, R-N.M., Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and Paul Wellstone, D-Minn.—tried to improve mental health insurance coverage.

The personal touch can be key in turning legislation into law, personal cause into public crusade:

Vice President Gore has used his sister's death from lung cancer to push for tobacco regulation.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., whose sister is mentally retarded and whose son lost a leg to cancer, has been a leader in health and disability issues.

Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, voted against increasing highway speed limits after his 22-year-old daughter died in a car crash.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., sponsored an alcohol labeling bill after losing his daughter, 22, to a drunk driver.

"All of us are touched by different circumstances," says Kennedy. "It heightens your sensitivity and your awareness of the issue and how it impacts people."

Mr. MCCONNELL. We will miss Dave Hoppe. Senators come and go. Members of the staff come and go. Frankly, about most of us, I expect it will be said we did not in the end have footprints that lasted very long. But having watched Dave Hoppe and his extraordinary accomplishments over the years I have known him, I would say he has made an enormous difference in the life of the Senate and in the life of our Nation.

So, Dave, we wish you well and hope we continue to see you in the future in whatever capacity you may choose to serve. You are the best, the most kind, decent, honorable person many of us ever had the chance to meet.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to say thank you to the distinguished assistant majority leader for his comments about my good friend and our loyal servant over so many years, both in the House and in the Senate, in the person of Dave Hoppe. The Senator from Kentucky has had a chance to watch him in our leadership meetings, to hear him and work with him, and get to know him as a human being. He is quite a guy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a resume of Dave Hoppe's accomplishments. It is a very interesting record of not only achievement, but sacrifice for his country as well.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOHN DAVID HOPPE

Professional experience: Chief of Staff Senate Republican Leader, Trent Lott (R-MS) June 2001–Present; Chief of Staff Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott (R-MS) June 1996–2001; Staff Director Senate Majority Whip, Trent Lott (R-MS) January 1995–June 1996;

Staff Director Republican Conference Secretary, Trent Lott (R-MS); January 1993–December 1994; Administrative Assistant, Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) January 1989–December 1992; Vice President, Government Relations, Heritage Foundation, September 1988–December 1988; Administrative Assistant, Honorable Jack Kemp, October 1984–June 1987; Administrative Assistant, House Republican Whit, Trent Lott (R-MS) January 1981–October 1984; Republican Platform Committee Assistant to Chairman Trent Lott, January 1984–August 1984; Executive Director, House Republican Research Committee, January 1979–December 1980; Republican Platform Committee Assistant to Vice Chairman Trent Lott, January 1980–July 1980; Consultant, Hoppe & Associates (political research firm specializing in tax issues), September 1978–November 1978; Contracted by National Republican Congressional Committee to provide special tax research package to over 50-targeted candidates; and Energy & Environmental Specialist, House Republican Study Committee, January 1976–August 1978.

Education: The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC (1973–1976)—Masters degree, International Relations (May 1976); The Bologna Center, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna, Italy (1973–1974)—Certificate; University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana (1969–1973)—BA., Government, Cum Laude (Concentration in International Relations); and University Laval, Quebec City, Canada (July–August 1975)—Masters course work for foreign language requirement.

Mr. LOTT. Also, I want to call attention to a 1997 USA Today article on Dave Hoppe which correctly called Dave the critical architect behind getting the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education (IDEA) Act passed in 1997. The article recounts how much that act meant personally to Dave and his family, and particularly to his youngest son, who will benefit from this law in large part because he was also an inspiration for it. Gregory Hoppe is a special person, and the USA Today article, which Senator McCONNELL has already asked to be printed into the RECORD, recounts Gregory and Dave's and their family's remarkable story.

First, let me just comment on some interesting facts about Dave. While Dave Hoppe has worked for me off and on for over 27 years in the House and the Senate, he is not from Mississippi as you might expect. No, he is from Baraboo, WI, which happens to be the birthplace of the Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus and we have never let Dave forget that over the years.

He is a graduate of Notre Dame, class of 1973, which has made for some interesting kidding over the years about athletics, football, basketball, and bragging rights. But that is just the beginning of his impressive resume. He went on to study at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and received a master's degree in International Relations. As part of the Johns Hopkins Program in Advanced International Studies Dave spent the better part of a year in Italy. He also did foreign language

coursework in Quebec City, Canada, under the auspices of the University of Laval.

Over his almost three decades in Washington, Dave has served several different Congressmen, Senators, and organizations, going way back to when he first came to Washington. From 1976 to 1978 he worked for the Republican Study Committee in the House of Representatives. He actually, for a while, had his own firm doing political research called Hoppe & Associates. Then he started his public service career in Washington that has covered an amazing number of professional experiences.

He returned to Capitol Hill in 1979 as the executive director of the House Republican Research Committee. Later he moved up to be administrative assistant to the Republican whip in the House when I had the pleasure of serving in that position. He also worked for me as the director of the Republican Platform Committee efforts in 1984 when I was chairman of the Platform Committee. In 1984 he went to work in the office of Congressman Jack Kemp as the chief of staff and of course was involved in his Presidential campaign in 1988. Dave then joined the Heritage Foundation where he served as a vice president. And then went to work in the Senate as the chief of staff for Senator Dan Coats of Indiana. In 1994, I was able to tempt him away from Senator Coats to work for me again as the chief of staff in my position as the Senate majority whip, then as the majority leader, and finally as the Republican leader.

In all, this outstanding individual and person has devoted 27 years to Congress and the American people.

Now, admittedly with some degree of trepidation I suspect, Dave is going out into the private sector—the real world—to provide for his two oldest children who are presently attending Notre Dame and for Gregory who I mentioned earlier. Anyone would be a little anxious about not knowing exactly what their new role will entail—and after the financial sacrifices over 27 years he probably will not know what to do with the extra money he will be earning in the private sector.

But I predict, as in everything else in his life, Dave will be more than successful, he will be superb at whatever endeavor he takes up next.

Far too often here, Senators take long, deep bows for our great public policy achievements and forget all the people who helped us get to that point: Our wives—in the case of Dave Hoppe, a wonderful lady named Karen—our families and mothers and fathers who helped raise us; our constituents who put us on their shoulders and turned an ugly frog into a prince; the elevator operators, the pages, the floor staff; and our personal staffs who work long and hard, helping write the speeches, helping draft the amendments, helping us regain our composure when we get a little out of control. Then, when they do move on, we forget to say just a

simple thank you and to remind them that they made a difference in the course of history and in the course of America—in many cases, just as surely as any Senator ever did.

Dave Hoppe certainly can rest assured that he has made a great difference in this Government, in the Congress, the House, the Senate, in politics, in the study of government, and in America. But the best thing about Dave Hoppe is he believes strongly in his principles, his ideals, and his faith—in fact, that is how he met his wife Karen. They were carpooling, and as they were going to work, they found they shared a lot of common values and views of government and life. Three weeks later, they were engaged, and then married, and have had three wonderful children over the years.

So, yes, the best thing about Dave Hoppe is not his educational background, not his expertise, not his knowledge of the Senate, not all the things he has worked on—the best thing about Dave is the kind of human being he is. He is a man who cares deeply about his family and his country, and he has sacrificed mightily to help make a difference for his family and for the people of America.

I just wanted to take a few minutes, as Dave enters his last day or two in the Senate, to express my appreciation for his dedicated service and for all he has done, and to wish him great success in the future. But especially, I thank Karen and Katie, Geoffrey, and Gregory for sharing him with me and the country, and for the work they have done to help their father do the tireless work Dave has done in turn to make this nation a better place for all of us. I am delighted to have had an opportunity to ensure his efforts over the past three decades are properly recognized before he turns this page and enters the next chapter of his life.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to yield to Senator REID.

Mr. REID. I was in my office and heard the Senator begin his remarks. I came here as quickly as I could to tell Senator LOTT, the distinguished Senator from Mississippi, what a tremendous person Dave Hoppe is and has been.

I believe in making deals. I say that in a positive sense. Legislation is the art of compromise. You have to build a consensus and make deals. That is not a negative term. And David Hoppe was wonderful to work with.

I say to the Senator from Mississippi, for the things we were able to accomplish in the Senate, we always had to go to Dave Hoppe. He was the go-to guy. I say to the Senator from Mississippi, he had really good judgment and showed a lot of wisdom by hiring Dave Hoppe. He not only served the people of the State of Mississippi and this institution but the country.

I commend the Senator from Mississippi for coming to the floor and acknowledging another fine public servant. Washington has a lot of people

who do good work. But Dave Hoppe is one who does work that is at the top of the list.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from Nevada for his comments. He is right. At those countless meetings we had in the back of the Chamber, the center aisle, the cloakroom, or in our offices, Dave Hoppe was always there, committed to his philosophy and principles, but always equally committed to getting results for the Senate and for the nation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. FRIST. Mr. President, others have spoken of their impressions and reflections on Dave Hoppe today, and I would like to take a moment to add my thoughts.

While our constituents rely on us as their voice and advocate here in Washington, we rely on our staff to be our voice and advocate. Under our guidance our staff investigate and learn about the many issues that confront us; they work with a wide variety of people in all branches of the government; they give us their best counsel and advice; and they help us perform a myriad of tasks that are vital to ensuring the institution of the Senate works well and effectively, and that we give our best on behalf of the people we serve. Our staffs amplify our work with our colleagues, our counterparts in the House, the executive branch, and our constituents.

For over a decade now, Dave has worked for all Senate Republicans in a variety of positions, in our conference secretary's office, the majority whip's office, and, for the past 6 years, as chief of staff in the Republican leader's office. This specialized role isn't for the faint of heart, and requires a unique blend of skills and attributes.

Dave's commitment, dedication, and hard work have generated quiet appreciation and deep respect from many different Members in the Senate and House over the years. His ability to faithfully and tirelessly represent our shared Republican ideas and ideals, working with all members of our conference to knit them together, is impressive. From the most major issues of war or impeachment, to the most mundane of haggling out unanimous consent agreements, his involvement and advice and leadership on countless issues over his tenure has served all of us well.

While unflinching in his core beliefs and principles, his willingness to work with the Democratic counterparts is also noteworthy, for in the Senate, so often it is partnership, not partisanship, that ensures we make progress on behalf of the American people. For example, across the aisle, across the rotunda, and across various ideologies, he took a major leadership role in improv-

ing one of the flagship Federal programs for disable children. With round-the-clock work, good humor, and grace, he spearheaded a nearly unanimous Congress to make a program with worthy goals much more effective and consequential in the lives of parents and children around the country.

Through all challenges and controversies, though, what strikes me as admirable about Dave is his deep and authentic humility. Informed by his faith and essential humanity, Dave has never expressed a sense of entitlement or arrogance. He has never sought a limelight. He is quick to share credit, and always willing to take responsibility. Throughout his 27 years on Capitol Hill, over and over again, his example has inspired not just fellow staffers, but House and Senate Members as well.

We have all profited from Dave's work here in Congress. His public service is in the finest tradition expected by our Founding Fathers. The Senate is a better place for his time here, and I wish him and his family well as he moves to new opportunities.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I wanted to take a moment to pay my respects to Dave Hoppe, whose last day in the Senate is today. Dave has been a friend and counselor to many of us in the Senate, and we will miss him.

It would be fair to say that Dave Hoppe has been the consummate Senate staffer. While a strong partisan, he has always been fair. He is decent. He is respectful and considerate of everyone with whom he comes in contact, and of the institution as a whole. He understands and practices the comity that is invaluable in the Senate.

When I look back on the service of Dave Hoppe, I see him as the still center of the maelstrom. While the chaos that is, on occasion, the Senate swirled and howled around him, he was calm; his voice never hurried, never rose. His counsel was sound, very sound; sometimes tinged with humor, good humor; never malicious or mean spirited. Always timely, always mindful of the institution, always aware of the possibilities and the consequences of its actions.

David knows that the Senate, immutable as it is, will go on even though he is no longer a part of its daily operations. However, those of us who have worked with him, and will continue to work with him, know the imprint he has left on the institution, the national policies he has helped shape, and the example he has set for all in the Senate to follow.

I join my colleagues in recognizing Dave Hoppe for his achievements and contributions to the Senate, and sending my best wishes to him and his family as they begin the next chapter of a remarkable life.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I have had the good fortune of knowing and working with Dave Hoppe for the last 9 years. He has been a vital part of this institution and he will be sorely

missed. I first had the opportunity to know him as chief of staff for Senator Dan Coats. Senator Coats unfortunately lost Dave when Dave moved over to be chief of staff for Senator LOTT's Republican conference secretary's office, then his majority whip office and then his majority leader's office.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Dave on an issue that we both feel passionately about: special education. After 2 years of failed negotiations, Dave Hoppe almost single-handedly managed to get this critical legislation authorized. The manner in which Dave approached this reauthorization and his ultimate success provides a wonderful example on why Dave was so successful in the Senate. He managed to bring Republicans and Democrats together by working in a straightforward, open, and honest manner which allowed Members to feel confident that their concerns were being thoroughly considered. Dave has served in both the majority and the minority—always representing his boss effectively, while also working to ensure that the Senate accomplished its work.

Dave is esteemed in the Senate for more than the passion and principles he brought to bear on issues. He is respected first and foremost for his character as a person and as a leader.

This is an institution that is built on trust. Dave is a person whose word is his bond. He has been so effective as the leader's chief of staff for precisely that reason. Members on both sides of the aisle always knew they could depend on the promises that he gave and relied on his word without reservation.

It is also remarkable that he wielded such enormous influence without any trace of pretension or pride. He was accessible to members and staff alike, serving with grace, good humor and sound counsel.

I will personally miss Dave. He ranks among those men and women of honor who have shaped the best qualities of the Senate. He made it a better institution through his service and his character, and we owe him our gratitude.

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 ask unanimous consent that I may speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

TRIP TO EUROPE AND THE MIDEAST

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to report on a trip I made to Europe and the Mideast from December 23 until January 7.

The information I found bears on the current problems of the Mideast peace process and the Israeli-Palestinian issues, but also on the opinions of a variety of the countries we visited on the