

were unable to attend. Why? Because of age or infirmity, or other reasons. Indeed, at 10 minutes before 1 o'clock on July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson, principal drafter of the Declaration, passed away.

John Adams, too, breathed his last on the same day. In his 90s and gravely ill, he had determined to hold on until the 50th anniversary of independence. That morning, he roused long enough to confirm to a servant that he knew that "it is the glorious Fourth of July. God bless it. God bless you all," before fading into unconsciousness. Rousing later that afternoon, he confided unknowingly as he passed on to that other shore that "Thomas Jefferson still survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died earlier that day.

James Monroe, who fought in the Revolutionary War and became the fifth President of the United States, also died on July 4, in 1831. James Madison, the fourth President, died a week short of the 60th anniversary of Independence Day, on June 28, 1836.

The last living Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll, performed one of his last public acts on July 2, 1828. He participated in a ground breaking ceremony initiating construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, the first important railroad in the Nation. He died in 1832, at the age of 95. Also in 1828, President John Quincy Adams led an unusual 4th of July parade, up the Potomac River and the old Washington Canal to the site where construction was to start on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. These two acts underscore the vital link between the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution which followed it, and the vibrant economy which has made and kept the United States economy vibrant and strong for so many years.

Our Nation is a union of disparate States, each of which has considerable power within its boundaries. But across those boundaries, linking the Union into a seamless web of bustling commerce and economic might, is the national infrastructure. Just as the Constitution provides for the common defense, so it promotes the common good by linking markets and people across States. Over the Years, Federal support for great infrastructure projects, from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to the National Highway System, have woven the Nation into a unified economic structure. Federal support for rural electrification and rural telephone and Internet access have spread opportunity and progress from border to border and coast to coast, just as John Adams foretold in 1776.

This 4th of July, as we all visit national parks, tour Federal monuments, drive on interstate highways, call friends and family around the country, and buy picnic goods grown all over the United States—as we celebrate a national Federal holiday under the protective watch of the U.S. military and Federal law enforcement agencies—we unconsciously enjoy the benefits of the

Federal Government and of belonging to a union that is the United States.

Each star on the flag, the flag beside the Presiding Officer's desk, we salute so proudly represents a single state, but only when they are aligned together in the constellation of 50 do we feel the strength and the glory that were won for us, beginning on July 4, 1776. This Independence Day, we would all do well to read and cherish the Declaration of Independence. Even more, we would do well as a Nation to study and cherish our Constitution, by which our freedom, so dearly won and so cost-ly held, lives on.

Too often in recent years and months have I seen unwise attempts to erode the checks and balances of the Constitution, unknowing or unthinking efforts to dissolve the institutions and practices established to make our Nation the free and representative government by our Founding Fathers. Attacks on the United States from without are met with instant, unhesitating defense by all Americans, but we are not so knowledgeable vigilant against the insidious weakening from within, even within this Chamber. We are all of us, with our voices and our votes, the last, best guardians of American freedom and independence. We lack only the weapons of knowledge and awareness.

I close with a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, entitled "O Ship of State."

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel!
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee.
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee—are all with thee!

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THANKING SENATOR BYRD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish that I were able to express myself in a manner that is worthy of my feelings about the Senator from West Virginia. I can't do that, but I can do the best I can.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't recognize personally how fortu-

nate I am to live in this country and to represent the sovereign State of Nevada and to be a Member of the Senate. It is a blessing that I have had, for whatever reasons. Whether I am worthy or not, that is for someone else to determine. But one of the most important aspects of my life has been my association, my friendship, my service with the Senator from West Virginia, a man who served in the Congress for more than 50 years, who, like clockwork, comes to the Senate floor on special occasions like the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving, and makes us all feel better for having had the opportunity to listen to a speech by the Senator from West Virginia.

As I look back over the time I spent here on the Senate floor, listening to the Senator from West Virginia, I am drawn to a number of things I will never forget. I remember the speeches—and I sat with every one of them. I missed a couple of them, but I watched them in my office—the speeches on the fall of the Roman Empire that were based on the line-item veto. The Senator from West Virginia was indicating the line-item veto would be the beginning of the end of the Senate.

The Senator delivered those speeches without a note. I didn't realize at the time, but the Senator knew every word he intended to say. They were not extemporaneous in the sense I would give an extemporaneous speech. He knew before he gave the speech, beforehand, every word he was going to deliver.

I was so impressed with that series of speeches that I sent them to the head of the political science then at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Andrew Tuttle. Tuttle was so impressed—I sent him the speeches so he could watch them—he started a course at UNLV based on the lectures of Senator BYRD.

I am not going to go on, other than to say our country is so much better as a result of the service granted by the people of West Virginia to the Senator from West Virginia. People may not always agree with the Senator from West Virginia, but no one can take away the fact he is the epitome of the Senate. And when the history books are written—and they will be written—there will be a place where they will list the great Senators of this body, and in the top two or three will be the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank my dear friend, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, who is also the Democratic whip here in the Senate.

Tennyson in Ulysses says:

I am a part of all that I have met.

Mr. President, I don't know how long the great God of the universe will spare me. But however long it may be, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, will always be a part of me.

HONORING SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to say a few words in

honor of Strom Thurmond, our friend and former colleague, who passed away today.

From the moment Strom Thurmond set foot in this Chamber in 1954, he has been setting records. He was the only person ever elected to the U.S. Senate on a write-in vote. He set the record for the longest speech on the Senate floor, clocked at an astounding 24 hours and 18 minutes. He was the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. He was also the oldest serving Senator. Many of my colleagues will recall the momentous occasion in September of 1998 when he cast his 15,000th vote in the Senate. With these and so many other accomplishments over the years, he has appropriately been referred to as "an institution within an institution."

In 1902, the year Strom Thurmond was born, life expectancy was 51 years—and today it is 77 years. Strom continued to prove that, by any measure, he was anything but average.

He saw so much in his life. To provide some context, let me point out that during his lifetime, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii gained Statehood, and 11 amendments were added to the Constitution. The technological advancements he witnessed, from the automobile to the airplane to the Internet, literally spanned a century of progress. Conveniences we have come to take for granted today were not always part of Strom Thurmond's world. Perhaps this explains why, during Judiciary Committee hearings, he was often heard asking witnesses who were too far away from the microphone to "please speak into the machine."

The story of his remarkable political career truly could fill several volumes. It began with a win in 1928 for the Edgefield County Superintendent of Schools. Eighteen years later, he was Governor of South Carolina. Strom was even a Presidential candidate in 1948, running on the "Dixiecrat" ticket against Democrat Harry Truman.

I must admit, he came a long way in his political career, given that he originally came to the Senate as a Democrat. I was happy to say that wisdom came within a few short years when Strom saw the light and joined the Republican Party.

When I first arrived in the Senate in January of 1977, he was my mentor. As my senior on the Judiciary Committee, it was Strom Thurmond who helped me find my way and learn how the committee functioned. He was not only a respected colleague, but a personal friend.

During his tenure as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Strom Thurmond left an indelible mark on the committee and the laws that came through it. He became known and respected for many fine qualities and positions—his devotion to the Constitution, his toughness on crime, his sense of fairness.

He was famous for his incredible grip. Many of us in this Chamber had the ex-

perience of Strom Thurmond holding our arm tightly as he explains a viewpoint and asked for our support. I might add that this proved to be a very effective approach.

Strom was also known to have a kind word or greeting for everyone who came his way, and for being extremely good to his staff. Despite his power and influence, he never forgot the importance of small acts of kindness. For example, whenever he ate in the Senate dining room, he grabbed two fistfuls of candy. When he returned to the floor of the Senate, he handed the candy out to the Senate pages. Unfortunately, it was usually melted into a keleidoscope of sugar by then. I have a feeling that the pages preferred it when Strom took them out for ice cream.

Strom Thurmond was truly a legend—someone to whom the people of South Carolina owe an enormous debt of gratitude for all his years of service.

Clearly, the people of South Carolina recognize the sacrifices he made and are grateful for all he did for them. In fact, you cannot mention the name Strom Thurmond in South Carolina without the audience bursting into spontaneous applause. He truly was an American political icon.

Abraham Lincoln once said that "The better part of one's life consists of friendships." With a friend like Strom Thurmond, this sentiment could not be more true. I am a great admirer of Strom Thurmond, and I am proud to have called him my friend.

One final note about Strom Thurmond. He was a great patriot. A decorated veteran of World War II who fought at Normandy on D-day, Strom Thurmond loved this country. Let me close by saying that this country loved him, too.

A SALUTE TO PAUL GALIS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the great State of West Virginia has produced numerous individuals who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Nation. These sons and daughters of West Virginia have contributed to the betterment of their communities, their State and their country. One such public servant is Paul L. Galis, who for 35 years has served admirably in the Federal Aviation Administration, and has contributed to the development of an aviation system unsurpassed in the world.

Mr. Galis retires in July as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports in FAA. In this position as well as his previous position of Director of the Office of Airport Planning and Program, Mr. Galis has overseen the planning and development of over 3,000 airports in the national plan for airports. This has been no small task and Mr. Galis has served with distinction.

All of us in the State of West Virginia salute Mr. Galis for his career and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Our country is better for the work he has done and the example of

public service he has provided. His able leadership and steady hand will be missed.

OREGON'S TANF WAIVER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on June 12, 2003, I published a notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of my intent to object to moving to H.R. 2350, a bill to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or "TANF," our Nation's welfare program. My good friend from Oregon, Senator SMITH, joined in this effort because the legislation does not contain a provision critical to Oregon's welfare program: a waiver of certain provisions that gives Oregon flexibility to operate a successful welfare program. Because of its waiver, which expires on June 30, 2003, Oregon has reduced its welfare rolls nearly 60 percent since 1994. It is clear that the waiver has allowed Oregon to meet local needs and craft what has been heralded as one of the best welfare programs in the country.

Since Senator SMITH and I announced our public holds, the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, and the ranking member, Senator BAUCUS, have worked closely with us to find a way so that Oregon can continue to operate under its waiver until TANF is fully reauthorized. They have helped obtain a letter from Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, myself and Senator SMITH assuring us that Oregon can continue to operate without penalty under its waiver. I believe this letter provides Oregon the assurances necessary to continue to operate as if the waiver were still in place, and ask unanimous consent to insert the letter in the RECORD.

Mr. SMITH. I join Senator WYDEN in expressing deep pride in Oregon's TANF program and in thanking the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, on which I serve, for their cooperation. I share his assessment that this letter will enable Oregon to maintain its TANF program without penalty until the program is reauthorized.

I also express my appreciation to Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS for their efforts on TANF reauthorization. We have been working together for months to ensure that all TANF proposals, including those elements which have made Oregon's TANF program so successful, are carefully considered as we move toward TANF reauthorization.

Oregon's TANF program, often called the Oregon Option, works because it recognizes local barriers to work and works with individuals to assess their needs and get them onto a path toward independence. For example, Oregon allows individuals with severe substance abuse problems to seek treatment. This helps people address the root of their problems—not just the symptoms. The