

I voted for many other amendments to strengthen the drug benefit in this bill but they failed. I voted to make the drug benefit more attractive to seniors by closing the "coverage gap" that exists in S. 1. This gap may penalize sick seniors. Once a senior's total drug spending reaches \$4,500 for the year, the benefit shuts down until her total drug expenditures reach at least \$5,813, unless the senior qualifies for low-income protections. I voted to allow employer-sponsored retiree health plans contributions to count in this gap. I voted to eliminate the coverage gap altogether. I voted to prevent seniors from paying premiums when they are in the coverage gap. Unfortunately, all these amendments were defeated. I will seek to work with my colleagues to close this coverage gap before the benefit starts.

I also voted for amendments to contain the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. One measure that I supported, which passed, seeks to increase access to more affordable and equally effective generic drugs. I also voted for an amendment, which failed, to help consumers better compare the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs. Finally, I voted for a successful amendment to allow wholesalers and pharmacists to import prescription drugs from Canada, which will provide substantial savings to consumers while ensuring their safety.

Another concern I have about S. 1 is its \$6 billion experiment that starts in 2009 to test whether private insurance plans are more efficient and less costly than Medicare. To me and many others, the evidence we have already speaks to the fact that Medicare is more efficient. The Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, and outside experts all agree that private, preferred provider organizations and managed care plans cannot achieve the efficiencies Medicare can due to their need to make profits. Given these findings, I wonder how much of the "savings" this demonstration project seeks to achieve will come from privatization and how much will come from shifting more costs to seniors and health care providers? More importantly, I wonder why we couldn't have used the \$6 billion to reduce drug costs to seniors by making the benefit better?

Medicare provides health care for a special population of Americans—millions of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with kidney failure—those who are uninsurable in the private market. Congress created Medicare in the first place because private insurance plans were failing to provide affordable health care coverage for this high-risk population. I wonder why we must turn back the clock and commit billions of taxpayer dollars to again test whether the private insurance market wants to insure this population.

In conclusion, much has been accomplished but more needs to be done. I

look forward to the deliberations of the conference committee and urge my colleagues to engage with me and others in the Senate who are eager to get a good bill signed into law. I hope my friends on the conference committee will retain the Senate low-income assistance provisions, for they are far superior to those in the House bill. This low-income assistance is of special importance to our nation's older women. Of the 19.5 million female Medicare beneficiaries over age 65, 12.4 percent or 2.4 million enrollees live on incomes that are below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Another 3.2 million, 16 percent, live on incomes between 100 percent and 150 percent of poverty. Of senior men, on the other hand, only 7 percent are below poverty and another 11 percent are between 100 percent and 150 percent of poverty. Medicare seniors are disproportionately women and disproportionately poor, and will be far better served by the Senate's low-income provisions.

Our parents and grandparents are depending on us, and we must not let them down once again. I hope that partisan politics do not stand in the way of a drug benefit that is available to all seniors under traditional Medicare.

STROM THURMOND: POLITICIAN AND PATRIOT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague and a friend, Strom Thurmond. We were all deeply moved by the recent passing of this gracious gentleman, and I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on his rich life and to honor his memory.

Strom Thurmond had a long and distinguished career. Over recent weeks we have heard many descriptions of the achievements of this remarkable man. But Senator Thurmond was distinguished for much more than the length of his Senate service or the number of "firsts" he achieved during his life. Rather, Senator Thurmond is distinguished by his love for America. For although Strom Thurmond was perhaps best known as a politician, he was first and foremost a patriot. His military service, his time as a governor, and his tenure in the U.S. Senate were all fueled by his deep and abiding love for America.

Just as deep as his love for America was his love for South Carolina and its residents. Senator Thurmond and his staff were well known for their accessibility and outstanding constituent service. He believed in hard work and service, and never shied away from his convictions.

That same accessibility and attitude of service carried over to his interaction with fellow members as well. I was honored to serve with Senator Thurmond on the Armed Services Committee, and I still remember the helpful guidance he gave me as a new member on the committee. His passion for our military members and his concern for their well-being was evident, and I

hope that I can emulate that same care.

I also remember how generous Senator Thurmond was with his personal time. Obviously as a senior Member of the Senate and the Senate President pro tempore he had a number of responsibilities. However, he still made time to serve this member. Several years ago I was honored when he graciously agreed to speak at the Capitol Conference I hold for Colorado constituents each year. To this day I am deeply appreciative of the time that he spent making remarks, fielding questions, and taking photos with my constituents. Many of the participants later remarked on his wit and vitality, remarkable for any member, but especially for one of his years. Even in their short time with him they were able to see the courtesy and conviction that we witnessed each day.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know Strom Thurmond as the person behind the military hero and political legend. To see the small ways in which he expressed his interest in and appreciation for those around him, such as taking the Senate pages for ice cream. He also expressed personal concern about the health and well being of his staff and Members, which was perhaps necessitated in some part by the candy he was always handing out. I only hope that we can all learn from and retain some part of his charm, confidence, depth of conviction, and commitment.

Although Strom Thurmond may no longer be here with us physically, his legacy will live on. The United States Senate and America are better for his strength, service, and self-sacrifice.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Senator Thurmond's family and friends. He was a proud father, and recently, grandfather. His love for his family was well known, and our thoughts and prayers are with them. My wife Joan and I hope that they are able to find comfort and peace during these difficult days.

I am proud to have called Strom Thurmond my colleague and friend, and today I join the rest of America in honoring this great service and mourning his passing.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today as we remember the Honorable Senator from South Carolina, Strom Thurmond. The accomplishments of this man in his 100 years of life were truly amazing. All that he did for his State and our Nation make all Americans proud. He was a vigorous, positive person who unrelentingly worked for a better America.

Senator Thurmond was born on December 5, 1902 in Edgefield, SC. He received his undergraduate degree from then Clemson College, now Clemson University, in 1923. He studied law under his father, Judge William Thurmond and, in 1930, was admitted to the South Carolina Bar. For 8 years, from 1930 to 1938, he served as the Edgefield

Town and County attorney, and during that time, from 1933 to 1938, he served as South Carolina State Senator, representing Edgefield County.

A true patriot, Senator Thurmond joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a 2nd lieutenant in 1924. He landed in Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. For his military service, he earned 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart, among others.

His political ambitions flourished when, in 1947, Senator Thurmond was elected Governor of South Carolina. In 1948, he decided to run for President of the United States as the States Rights Democratic candidate. He carried 4 States and received 39 electoral votes, the third largest independent electoral vote in U.S. history. However, the most memorable moment for Senator Thurmond came in 1954, when he was elected to the United States Senate as a write-in candidate! To be elected to any position as a write-in candidate, much less to the United States Senate, is a true testament to one's political prowess. He was the first person to ever be elected to a major office in the United States by this method.

Senator Thurmond served on many committees during his service to America in the Senate. The duty and patriotism he displayed is a fine indication of all that he devoted to our Nation's military. It is quite fitting that Senator Thurmond served on the Senate Armed Services Committee and used his role to help enhance our military in every way possible. He served as chairman of this committee from January of 1995 to January of 1999 and was bestowed the great honor of being named chairman emeritus in 1999. The time I spent with Senator Thurmond on this committee was a wonderful learning experience for me and the Senate Armed Services Committee will miss Senator Thurmond. His military service provided him with an excellent background to understand the intricacies of our military and, without question, helped in his decision making ability for the betterment of America.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of serving with Senator Thurmond on the Judiciary Committee, where he was a member from 1967 until his retirement. He served as chairman of this committee from 1981 to 1987 and served as chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights from January to June of 2001. With a background as a judge and lawyer, Senator Thurmond cherished his role on this committee and always sought to ensure fairness on many issues, including that of appointing qualified judges to our Federal benches. I particularly remember his strong support for me when I was an unsuccessful judicial nominee in 1986. Senator Thurmond was a supporter, friend, and advisor.

To list the numerous honors and awards Senator Thurmond received

would take hours. However, I would like to point out some of the accolades I find truly incredible. In addition to his undergraduate degree from Clemson College, he also holds 34 honorary degrees. In 1994, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Rangers Hall of Fame. In 1997, he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. In 1998, he was awarded the Spirit of Hope award, named after Bob Hope, by the United Service Organizations. Last year, he was awarded the Washington Times Foundation American Century Award.

His life covered a time of monumental change in the South. His movement from a champion of racial segregation to one who promoted equal rights reflected the change that occurred throughout the region. His personal actions helped lead others to reject the impermissible policies of the past.

One of the great memories I have of spending time with Senator Thurmond is the time he asked me to accompany him on a trip to China in 1997, as I began my term as Senator. On this trip, we had some time to climb the Great Wall of China. As is custom, an assistant is typically assigned to older individuals as they make their journey along the wall. Senator Thurmond declined any help and, at the time, was the oldest person to ever climb the wall unassisted. The Senator's ability to put things in perspective is illustrated by the fact that when, upon reaching the top of the wall, stated "This is a big wall. Let's go."

As the leader of our delegation and President pro tempore of the Senate at age 97, he handled every occasion superbly. He was particularly elegant when we met with Chinese Premier Jiang Zemin. I remember he concluded his remarks with the words "China and the United States are friends. We want to be better friends."

It is almost impossible to travel anywhere in South Carolina and not find Senator Strom Thurmond's name on a street, building, lake, highway, or monument. All that he did for South Carolina and for our Nation is a true testament to the caliber of man that he was. The lives he touched and the people he has positively affected are numerous. I know that his service to our Nation is sorely missed. You simply cannot put a value on the role he played as a true public servant. Senator Thurmond will be missed by many, many individuals in Congress, in South Carolina, and in America. A true southerner, a true American, and a true patriot, Senator Strom Thurmond will forever be remembered as a man whose beliefs, ideals, and character remained unparalleled for an entire century.

FRANK BROWN

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a trusted member of my staff, Frank L. Brown. Frank

is my legislative counsel for judicial nominations, minority outreach, immigration, civil rights and Department of Justice appropriations. He joined my staff on December 15, 1998.

Frank became a part of my staff after receiving his B.A. from Johnson C. Smith University and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina Law School. During his time with me, I have seen him grow into one of my most trusted advisers. He is a bright, articulate, and loyal young man with quite the personality. He has represented my office and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a most professional and caring manner. Unfortunately, the time has come for him to pursue other career objectives.

Frank is about to become the Assistant Director/Government Relations Specialist of Boys and Girls Harbor Inc. located in Harlem, NY. This organization is a non-profit that provides various educational services for over 7,000 low-income African-American and Hispanic-American children. I am confident that Frank will be a positive role model for those young people he will work with in New York City. Even though I regret his departure, I know that he will continue to be a part of the Arlen Specter staff family for many years to come. I wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE M. ADELA EADS

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant and friend, M. Adela Eads, who passed away on July 8 at the age of 83.

For years, Dell Eads was an indispensable member of the Connecticut General Assembly. She served for 4 years in the State House of Representatives, and then for 20 years in the Senate, including 2 years as President Pro Tempore—the first woman ever to be elected to that office for a full term.

If a casual observer walked onto the Senate floor in Hartford while Dell Eads was there, he might have been surprised to learn that the diminutive lady in the smart-looking suit and high heels was one of the chamber's most influential members. But for those 20 years, Dell Eads was indeed an imposing figure in Connecticut. She served her constituents, and her State, with commitment, distinction, and honor.

Dell Eads' life was devoted to working for the public good. Nowhere was that more evident than in her commitment to Connecticut's children. Before becoming a legislator, she chaired the Kent Board of Education for 26 years. She later served on the Connecticut Board of Education as well.

Many of her landmark legislative achievements were also devoted to helping children. Dell Eads was a chief architect of legislation which created our State's Office of the Child Advocate. Today, thanks to her efforts,