

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I will be happy to yield to the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Iowa be recognized upon the completion of the remarks of the Senator from Florida.

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

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, while the Senate is holding in abeyance for the final Omnibus appropriations bill that the House is getting ready to file sometime tonight, I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to our retiring Senators: TOM DASCHLE, FRITZ HOLLINGS, DON NICKLES, JOHN BREAU, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, JOHN EDWARDS, PETER FITZGERALD, ZELL MILLER, and BOB GRAHAM.

I wish to make a speech about each one of these Senators who has become a dear friend, in some cases, over the years, such as FRITZ and Peatsy Hollings, who took special interest in me as I came to the Senate and made sure I got on his Commerce Committee, which has been just an extraordinary experience with him as chairman, as well as with the present chairman, JOHN MCCAIN.

DON NICKLES, whom I have known over the 24 years he has been in the Senate, for I was in the House at the time, has been a regular in our Wednesday morning Senate prayer breakfast. He is a good friend.

JOHN BREAU, the very mention of his name brings a twinkle to your eye as you recall the wonderful good times and the great sense of humor that JOHN BREAU has. He is the most popular politician in the State of Louisiana. He is going to be sorely missed as the dealmaker of the Senate.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL has this wonderful new museum for Native Americans which would not have happened—just a stone's throw from this Capitol—had it not been for his leadership. There is, as you go through this museum, a special display on the artwork of BEN. I commend it to our colleagues.

PETER FITZGERALD is a very active member of our Commerce Committee, who, in the comments by his colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, today said it very well, could work so well with Members of both sides.

A southern icon, Senator ZELL MILLER, will go down in southern history as one of the great progressive Governors of the new South. He is one who has always extended wonderful courtesies to me.

I wish to say a special word about JOHN EDWARDS, for he came to the Senate in a seat that was already held by an incumbent Senator, and they said it could not be done. They said a Democrat could not win in North Carolina. Of course, JOHN did and took the national stage by storm.

I spent several days with him over the course of the past several months in the campaign. I can tell you it was a wonderful inspiration to see the amount of energy, focus, discipline, and intelligence he brought not only as a Senator but as a candidate for Vice President of this great country.

And then, of course, we all know the story of how on the very day that JOHN had to concede the election, along with our colleague, the Senator from Massachusetts, his wife told him that she had breast cancer. I want Elizabeth and JOHN to know that our prayers are with them and that we are all sharing a great deal of optimism about her complete recovery.

I had the wonderful privilege of observing their three loving children on the campaign trail—their daughter Kate, and then, of course, the two young ones, Jack and Emma Claire, as they would bounce with such boundless enthusiasm on that campaign plane.

There is a special part in my heart for TOM DASCHLE. We came to the Congress together in 1978. Among the freshman class in the House of Representatives that year, we knew TOM as "Landslide" DASCHLE. He won his race for Congress by 14 votes. Of course, he says that was a big percentage of the total vote in South Dakota at that time.

We saw him grow over the years into a great Democratic leader, both minority and majority leader of the Senate, and we saw the pressure that TOM was under.

Who here would not remember exactly where you were and what you were doing on September 11, 2001. We were in a leadership meeting only a few feet from here on the West Front of the Capitol watching the television of the World Trade Center, and had tried to resume our meeting when someone burst through the door and said: The Pentagon's been hit.

We leapt to the window looking west across the Mall in the southwest direction of the Pentagon and saw the black smoke rising.

People went their separate ways. I leapt to a telephone to try to get word to my wife because we had just moved into an apartment overlooking the southwest corner of the Pentagon.

That day I remember so vividly seeing the Constitution at work, because as I came back into the room and saw the people pouring out of the majority leader's office, under the orders of the Capitol Police to get out of the building, evacuate immediately, I saw the security people of the Capitol Police take TOM in a different direction to an undisclosed location where he, along with the rest of the congressional leadership, was to be sequestered as a protection of this constitutional government and its continuity.

TOM grew a lot in those ensuing days. That was in the morning, sometime right after 10 on September 11. I remember that evening, as dark fell, Members of the House and the Senate

of all parties on the east front steps of the U.S. Capitol holding hands and singing "God Bless America" to demonstrate in what little way we could that those who sought to strike us down were going to see the resolve and the unity of the Government of the United States.

I could keep going on about TOM, but we heard his comments today. Of course it is with a heavy heart that we see TOM leave this Chamber. It is under circumstances that I hope we never see replicated.

There has to be civility in this body. There has to be a mutual respect. There has to be a respect for the truth. There has to be respect for the dignity of individuals and their families. Have we lost our compass? Have we lost our anchor? Have we lost our sense of human beings?

This Senator can do something about that, as I have tried in the past, by the way I conduct myself with regard to my relationship to other Senators in wanting to treat others as I would like to be treated. Now that the fractiousness and the divisiveness of this highly partisan, highly ideological, rigid time of debate is behind us, it is my hope this Senate can start to come together for the good of the people, even as we approach another election time. It is for the sake of the Nation that we must do this.

BOB GRAHAM

I conclude my comments about my colleague from Florida, my mentor, my friend of many years. It is hard to believe BOB GRAHAM has been elected to serve almost 40 years—38 years to be exact. From when he was first elected to the State legislature in 1966, he has been in elected office ever since—two terms in the State house, two terms in the State senate, two terms as the Governor of Florida, where he had a magnificent record, where he has put his stamp as one of Florida's great Governors, starting programs to save the Florida Everglades, the River of Grass, the Kissimmee River, and the Everglades restoration that has now started that is an \$8 million project shared half and half between the State and the Federal Government. That is a great legacy for BOB.

Then, of course, his three terms in the Senate, 10 years of which he served on the Senate Intelligence Committee, the last 2 of which he served as chairman of that committee. Of course, with that great knowledge and expertise, in the course of the debates here, BOB has given us great insight and wisdom.

Finally, some of his fellow Senators convinced him that he ought to sit down and write a book and that book is entitled "Intelligence Matters." It is my hope that with other Senators on this floor that we are going to be able to help BOB fulfill one of his dreams, which is that in an intelligence service that has been decimated from time to time as a result of the whims of appropriations, that a professional core of

career intelligence officers can be enhanced by starting an ROTC for intelligence officers.

We are going to try to get the appropriations to start that and to do it at one of our Florida universities named for BOB GRAHAM. Let that little incubator show the way to see whether that is a system we can adopt around the country to give an ample supply of officers who are ready for service in the intelligence service.

So it is again with a heavy heart that I see my colleague, Senator GRAHAM, retire after a distinguished career. He will not be retiring as a public servant, because whether it be from the position of a university—and it is my understanding he will be going to Harvard for a year at the Kennedy School—or whether it be back in our State affiliated with several of our universities in Florida, BOB will be rendering public service to the people of this country for some period of time.

So for all of these names I have mentioned, in the great poem "Ulysses," he says, "I am a part of all that I have met," and I am a part of all these great Senators. I am much richer for it and for having been their friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in these final working days of the 108th Congress, as so many speakers before me have said, we are saying farewell to a number of our retiring colleagues. I intend to speak about a couple of them this evening and will have more to say about some of the others tomorrow.

A most painful farewell will be to my good friend Senator TOM DASCHLE. I do not know that I have heard a more heartfelt, soul-searching, and inspirational speech about what a Senator should be, ought to be, and must be than the speech given by our great leader Senator DASCHLE earlier this evening.

As I sat and listened to that speech, especially when he talked about Dick Reiners, my mind went back to 1978 when I was just a second-term Congressman from the State of Iowa and I was asked to go campaign in South Dakota for this young guy running for the House whose name was TOM DASCHLE. His former employer, Senator Jim Abourezk, came to Iowa to campaign for me and asked me to reciprocate. Because I had been active in some farm issues and agricultural issues, he asked me to campaign in South Dakota, and I did.

I struck up a friendship with TOM DASCHLE at that point that endures to this day and will endure forever. So I would go out and campaign for him and then he would come and campaign for me and I would campaign and we would go back and forth from Iowa to South Dakota. Of course, we shared a common border up at Sioux City. Much of Sioux Falls's television comes into Iowa. Much of Sioux City's goes into

South Dakota. So we have shared kind of a common area there of constituents, constituencies over all these years.

So it is a painful farewell to my good friend TOM DASCHLE. These days, there are fewer and fewer bipartisan agreements in this body. But I sense today that there was bipartisan agreement about TOM DASCHLE. We respect his decency, his fairness, his courage and leadership, his extraordinary capacity for hard work. I cannot imagine a more difficult job in the Senate than being leader of the Democratic caucus. We have all heard Will Rogers quip that he belonged to no organized party, he was a Democrat.

Those independent, hard-headed habits flourish within our caucus. For the last decade, TOM DASCHLE's amazing skills and unlimited patience have brought us together as a team. That is an accomplishment of which he can be very proud.

The President of the United States, it is said, has the persuasion of power. But the leader of our Senate Democratic caucus has only the power of persuasion. I cannot imagine anyone more persuasive than Senator TOM DASCHLE. He has always been willing to talk with us, accommodate us whenever possible, to do whatever it takes, however long it takes, to forge a consensus and move us ahead. We are grateful. I am grateful for his leadership, his diligence, for his grace that he has unfailingly brought to this job as our leader. I cannot emphasize enough this fairness and this underlying grace of this wonderful human being. Unfailingly fair to all.

When Democrats were in the majority, Majority Leader DASCHLE was respectful of the rights and the prerogatives of our Republican minority. Conversely, as our minority leader, he has steadfastly defended the rights and the prerogatives of the Democratic minority. In the heat of a partisan campaign, some have labeled this "obstructionism," but that characterization is incorrect. The duty of the opposition party is present compelling alternatives, and to do so fairly, forthrightly, and within the rules of the Senate. The duty of the leader of our opposition is to protect the rights of the minority so that our voice and our votes can be heard; so that we can speak out and offer a different way, a different path. That is our duty as opposition. Senator DASCHLE protected the rights of the minority, so important in our country, not just in the Senate, but important for us as a country.

If there is one thing that is pervasive in our Constitution and our Bill of Rights, it is just that; it is the protection of the minority so the minority can be heard. That is so the minority's voice and votes will be counted. That is exactly what Senator DASCHLE has done. There is not one hint of obstructionism. What he has done is to protect and enhance the rights of the minority,

and he did it with skill and persistence, with fairness and with grace.

Over all these years of service with TOM DASCHLE in the House and in the Senate, I have always respected how he fought and advocated for his constituents in South Dakota. No one has fought harder in the House and in the Senate for the revitalization of rural America than TOM DASCHLE. No one has fought harder to bring health care and good schools and economic opportunity to Indian country. No one has fought harder to increase the income of family farmers and give them a fair shake in the marketplace.

Another jewel in the crown of TOM DASCHLE's legacy is the emerging ethanol industry in the United States. Since TOM arrived in Congress in 1978, he has been a relentless champion of ethanol. He mentioned that in his farewell speech today. I know he was a relentless champion because I was there, too, during those early years. People said those of us who were advocating the expanded use of ethanol didn't have a chance against big oil. But Senator DASCHLE persevered. He used the 1990 Clean Air Act to put in place policies that gave birth to the ethanol industry in our country. He continued to promote tax incentives and a renewable fuel standard to advance ethanol and to move our country towards energy independence.

No doubt about it, Senator DASCHLE's leadership on ethanol brought us to where we are today in the production of this renewable and clean fuel in America. His leadership on ethanol will be greatly missed in the future.

It has been a privilege to serve in this body with TOM DASCHLE. I will miss him as a colleague. I will miss his leadership, that fairness, that gentleness of nature, but that steely determination to make sure that our views and our votes were counted; that steely determination to make sure that people who live in small towns in rural America are not forgotten, that their interests are protected here. I will miss him as a friend. Oh, I am not going to lose contact with TOM and Linda. My wife and I will continue to count them as good friends. But I will miss him as a friend here in the Senate.

As TOM DASCHLE said today, he has always been an optimist. I have never known TOM DASCHLE to ever utter a pessimistic word. For him the sunrise was always better than the sunset. So the Sun rises on a new chapter in TOM DASCHLE's life. That Sun is going to be bright. It is going to be bright because of who TOM DASCHLE is, what he is. So there are going to be some new days and important chapters ahead written in the life of TOM DASCHLE. Both Ruth and I wish TOM and Linda and his family the very best in the years ahead.

We will continue to look forward to his input into the political life of America and into the common wheel that binds us as a country.

JOHN EDWARDS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would also like to express my respect to and

admiration for the retiring senior Senator from North Carolina, Senator JOHN EDWARDS, who also spoke earlier. We will miss his unique, skillful, and persuasive voice in the debates here on the Senate floor. Time and again we have seen his knack for taking complex arguments and making them accessible and persuasive to ordinary people. Time and again his skills have carried the day.

I fully understand the advice uttered by one of my Republican colleagues one time, when he said, "Never yield the floor to JOHN EDWARDS."

Over the last year and a half, people in my State of Iowa have gotten to know JOHN and his wonderful wife Elizabeth very well. As I have often said, JOHN EDWARDS was the only person to run for national office as a Vice Presidential candidate who visited each one of Iowa's 99 counties. He has been all over our State, in our schools, in our coffee shops, and in our living rooms. In fact, we have often said in Iowa if it weren't for that southern accent, you would think JOHN was born and raised in Iowa.

I can say that we on the Democratic side, we Democrats in Iowa and all over the country, are proud of his race to secure the nomination of our party, which he did not get, which went to another of our colleagues, Senator JOHN KERRY. But we were proud of how JOHN EDWARDS sought that nomination. And we are doubly proud of his conduct as our nominee for Vice President of the United States.

He always comes across as just folks, which is what you would expect from a person raised in very modest circumstances, the first in his family to go to college. That humble background was an enormous strength for JOHN EDWARDS. It is a strength we saw on that campaign trail that allowed him to understand people and to communicate powerfully with ordinary people. People responded in kind. All over this country, people just plainly liked JOHN EDWARDS. They trusted him because he spoke to them in a language they understood.

But if Iowans and other Americans see just plain folks in JOHN EDWARDS on the campaign trail, Senators here have been privileged to see a different side of him, hard at work in this Senate. He has only been here one term. He surely made his mark. He made his mark first by challenging an incumbent Senator, and took on the Jesse Helms machine in North Carolina, and he beat it. That is no small feat in North Carolina.

He made his mark here as lead co-sponsor of the Patients' Bill of Rights, along with Senators KENNEDY and MCCAIN. He managed the bill on the floor. He was the lead negotiator in hammering out a bipartisan consensus on the bill.

He made his mark by sponsoring and passionately advocating for a bill to speed up the approval of generic drugs.

As I said in my State of Iowa, JOHN EDWARDS made his mark and won peo-

ple's hearts with his big smile, his friendly manner, and his boundless optimism.

He won our respect with a campaign that was always positive. Even under provocation, even when stakes were the highest in the final weeks of the campaign leading up to the caucuses, JOHN never wavered from his positive message of hope and opportunity for ordinary Americans.

We are proud of our colleague Senator EDWARDS, and we know we will not hear the last of him as he leaves this body.

We say farewell to Senator JOHN EDWARDS. I know and I hope and I trust we will hear more from him in the future. We wish him the very best. Of course, we all hope—and our prayers are with him and with Elizabeth—for a full recovery for his wonderful wife Elizabeth. We will miss them both here. But our friendship endures, and I know that Senator EDWARDS, Elizabeth, and his family will be heavily involved in the course of our political life and our Democratic Party in the future.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in saying thank you to a great senator, a great American, a wonderful leader, and a dear friend, Senator TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota. In Hawaiian we say, mahalo nui loa. "Mahalo" means thank you; "nui" means large; and "loa" means wide. It is used to convey profound and deep gratitude. I want to say mahalo nui loa to TOM DASCHLE for his great service to our country and to the Senate as an institution.

During his 26 years in the House and Senate, TOM DASCHLE has epitomized the ideal that we can disagree without being disagreeable. His prairie optimism and can-do attitude served his constituents well and served our Democratic caucus well.

I have always marveled at the fact that despite his responsibilities as majority leader and Democratic Leader, TOM DASCHLE always kept the needs and interests of South Dakotans as his top priority. He never lost sight of the people back home. Perhaps that is best reflected by his annual "unscheduled driving" tour, when he drives across his home state, visiting every county, with no staff and no schedule, just TOM, stopping to visit his constituents and hear what is on their minds.

As Senator DASCHLE has said, these visits remind him of where he came from, and why he came to Washington—to put the priorities of America first. For that, and for so much more, I say mahalo nui loa, TOM DASCHLE. Godspeed. God bless TOM and his wife Linda.

This comes from me and my wife Millie. Aloha.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, our colleague from Alabama was gen-

erous enough to step aside and permit me to make a few remarks. I deeply appreciate it.

I talked before about TOM DASCHLE. I also will discuss the rest of our colleagues who are leaving the Senate.

When the 109th Congress convenes in January, nine of our current colleagues will not be here. I take a few moments to pay tribute to them. Collectively, our colleagues have served in the Senate for 144 years. We will miss them.

FRITZ HOLLINGS

First of all, FRITZ HOLLINGS, the most senior Member leaving the Senate at this time, had a distinguished career in public service. It started in 1942, the same year I joined the Army. After he graduated from the Citadel and he received a commission from the U.S. Army, he served as an officer in the North African and European campaigns in World War II. He had a lot of time in combat. He got the Bronze Star and seven campaign ribbons.

In 1948 he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. Ten years later, and still only 36, FRITZ HOLLINGS was elected Governor of South Carolina. As Governor, he showed his fearlessness and independence as a progressive southern Democrat, especially when he integrated Clemson University.

In 1966, FRITZ was elected to the Senate. I don't have time to list all of the things he has done in 30 years in the Senate or 56 years in public office, but early in his Senate career FRITZ focused on poverty and hunger that gripped the rural South and urban areas of the country. In 1968, he embarked on his now famous hunger tours. In 1970, he wrote about what he saw in a highly acclaimed book entitled "The Case Against Hunger: A Demand for a National Policy." What a wonderful program that was.

He followed up by coauthoring a bill that created the special supplemental food program for Women, Infants and Children. We call it WIC.

In 1972, continuing this very active campaign of writing legislation, he wrote the National Coastal Zone Management Act, the Nation's first land use law designed to protect coastal wetlands. He played a pivotal role in establishing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Ocean Dumping Act, and the Fishery Conservation Management Act.

Perhaps he is best known for his tireless fight for fair trade and being a true fiscal conservative. Who can forget Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. I served with him many years on the Committee on the Budget and I can attest to his determination to put our Nation on the pay-as-you-go path rather than burdening future generations with escalating Federal deficits and debt.

On a parochial note, I thank the Senator from South Carolina on behalf of the people of New Jersey. After September 11, he made our ports safer by helping to get security funding for our

ports. FRITZ HOLLINGS gallantly laid out an inspiring vision for the future of passenger rail service in our country. Through it all, FRITZ HOLLINGS has always been a southern gentleman and a Senator's Senator.

FRITZ's remarks in committee and his speeches in the Senate have always been worth listening to even if some of us had difficulty deciphering them. He has been a true original and the Senate will be poorer for his departure.

I know he wants to spend more time with his beloved Peatsy, his four children, and his seven grandchildren.

FRITZ, we will miss you. I never stop being surprised when FRITZ HOLLINGS recalls things he did 20 or 40 years ago and recall them with fairly precise detail. He always has colorful language—except in places like the Senate—that attract attention and yet he completes his serious mission with humor, candor, and courage.

I ask unanimous consent a press release entitled "38 Years in the Senate, 38 of His Greatest Hits" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2004]

38 YEARS IN THE SENATE, 38 OF HIS GREATEST HITS

WASHINGTON, DC.—In 38 years in the U.S. Senate, Fritz Hollings has compiled one of the most remarkable legislative records of any Senator in the last century. From his first days in office to his last, he has written legislation that has changed America. Following are 38 ways the nation will remember him:

1. Started the Women Infants Children (WIC) program, one of the most successful government health care measures ever undertaken. It has reduced infant mortality, low birth rates, and premature births. Today, WIC provides nutritional counseling and access to health services for low-income women and children in 10,000 nationwide clinics. Impetus for the program came from Senator Hollings' 1970 book "The Case Against Hunger."

2. Championed the Community Health Center Program to bring medical care to low-income Americans. In 1969, South Carolina opened one of the first community health centers in the nation, and today the centers nationally provide primary and preventive health services for 10 million patients in under-served communities.

3. Initiated the nationwide breast and cervical cancer screening program. Begun in 1990 as a project in South Carolina and five other states, the program quickly expanded to a highly successful national effort. Through the years, Senator Hollings also has led efforts to significantly boost funds for cancer research and to double the National Institutes of Health's budget.

4. The father of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, Senator Hollings wrote the law in 1975 forcing automakers to build more fuel efficient cars. Thirty years later, CAFE standards save more than 3 million barrels of oil per day.

5. Authored the Aviation Security Act, immediately after September 11th. It created the Transportation Security Administration and set up the screening system now underway for airport passengers. Always a strong believer in the need for security, Senator Hollings knew the aviation system, and

America's economy, would not recover without government's help. He authored the legislation at age 80.

6. Authored the Maritime Security Act, also immediately following September 11th. Concerned for many years that ports and borders were the weak link in America's security system, he pushed the legislation through—the first ever aimed at increasing security at America's ports.

7. The father of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), he established the agency in just his fourth year in office. He did it at a time when the ocean was not the popular topic it is today. In 2000, he created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, to help Congress determine the future of the nation's oceans.

8. Authored the National Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, which established federal policy for protecting coastal areas. It also authorized grants to states to establish and operate coastal zone management programs.

9. A friend of marine mammals, he wrote the legislation in 1972 to protect whales, dolphins, sea otters, and other mammals. It became the model for other countries.

10. Authored the Ocean Dumping Act of 1976, which extended federal authority over previously unregulated dumping of pollutants in the ocean. It banned dumping by U.S. vessels, or vessels sailing from a U.S. port.

11. Wrote the Oil Spill Bill in 1990, following the disaster of the Exxon Valdez. Senator Hollings led the Senate investigation of the oil spill, and pushed the legislation requiring more effective clean-up, and forced oil companies to use double-hull ships, which are less likely to have a spill.

12. At the forefront of promoting American technology, he created the Advanced Technology Program in the Commerce Department, which invests in high-risk research projects that promise big payoffs and widespread benefits to the nation.

13. Co-authored Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, the landmark legislation that broke budget gridlock in the mid-'80s. By making automatic spending cuts, it reversed 20 years of increased federal spending and cut tens of billions from the budget deficit.

14. Was the first Senator to decry the practice of looting Social Security, and made truth in budget reporting a priority. In 1990, his legislation required that the President and Congress, when reporting a budget, do not count Social Security surpluses to mask the true size of the deficit.

15. Has been the voice for fiscal sanity on the Senate floor for three decades, but too often the lone voice. Twenty-two years ago, he was the first to offer a budget freeze, and has offered them many times since. He has slammed tax-cutting Republicans for voodoo economics. He promised he would jump off the Capitol Dome if ever there was a balanced budget, but because too few listened to the only original member of the Senate Budget Committee, the country has a \$600 billion deficit, and Senator Hollings retires without jumping.

16. The Senate's loudest voice on trade issues, he opposed NAFTA, GATT, and trade deals with China and Africa—all of which have sent massive jobs overseas. Time has proven him right. He opposed giving the President fast-track negotiating authority, constantly reminding his colleagues of Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution: "Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with Foreign Nations."

17. Textile's best friend in the Senate, he has pressured every President since Lyndon Johnson to protect the industry so important to South Carolina.

18. Created the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers, in 1988 to help small

manufacturers survive and grow. Now with 350 locations around the country, they annually help almost 20,000 companies. In honor of the Senator, federal legislation was passed to rename them the Hollings Centers.

19. A friend of the consumer, he created a competitive telecommunications industry through the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the first major rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934. He fought to ensure it provided new services to consumers at affordable rates.

20. Strengthened on-line privacy and gave Internet users control over their own personal data with legislation he authored in 2000 and 2002.

21. Gave millions of Americans freedom from telemarketers, by co-authoring the do-not-call list law in 2002, and the law that banned computer voiced telephone calls and restricted junk faxes in 1991. Calling it "telephone terrorism" Senator Hollings has given tens of millions of Americans quiet evenings at home.

22. Reined in the cable TV monopolies, as the driving force in the early 1990s for the Cable and Consumer Protections Act. Persistent service and rate abuses by TV cable companies around the country prompted Senator Hollings to lead the charge in giving the Federal Communications Commission authority to regulate basic cable TV rates and set minimum service standards.

23. Authored the 1990 Children's TV Act, requiring stations to carry educational programming for children and limiting the amount of commercials aired during children's programming.

24. Wrote laws to drug-test transportation employees and military enlistees. By requiring mandatory random drug and alcohol testing for safety-sensitive transportation employees, he has made America's roads safer. The law has allowed the military to confront drug abuse in uniform and has significantly increased overall readiness.

25. Was one of the first to re-build America's defense in the '80s, authoring amendments in the 1980 budget that provided the first significant increase in defense spending in the post-Vietnam era.

26. Saved the Department of Education through budget amendments, after Ronald Reagan took office with the express purpose of abolishing the Department. In the mid-1990s he stopped House Republicans from radically cutting student loan programs.

27. Authored energy conservation standards for federal buildings, during the 1970 energy crisis, resulting in millions of dollars of savings for taxpayers.

28. Led the efforts to fund innovative law enforcement programs, such as Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) that put more than 100,000 police officers on the streets in 13,000 communities across the country.

29. To prevent crime that has hit American schools, he steered through the Senate his Safe Schools Initiative, putting police officers on patrol in schools nationwide.

30. Authored legislation to nail criminals involved in church burnings, by strengthening federal authority to prosecute them.

31. For the first time in American history, he got the full Congress to give its highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to a farmer, gas attendant, maid, and preacher for the hardships they faced in desegregating South Carolina's schools. The medals were presented in 2004, the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

32. Champion for American Embassies across the world, he fought hard to ensure government preserves their historic significance.

33. The longest serving junior Senator in American history, he served 36 years as a

junior Senator before becoming South Carolina's Senior Senator at age 81 in 2003.

34. As governor of South Carolina from 1959-1963, he was the first modern southern governor to bring about economic and social progress. He started South Carolina's technical education system that now trains 235,000 students annually; balanced the state's budget for the first time in 65 years; obtained the state's first AAA bond rating; traveled 200,000 miles around the world to bring industry to South Carolina; and peacefully integrated Clemson University while other southern governors resisted the civil rights movement.

35. Was the Senator with no poll in his pocket. He gave unforgettable floor speeches, where he spoke his mind and told the truth. No one dared debate him, because they'd lose.

36. He brought different points of view to complex situations and identified solutions long before others recognized there were even problems.

37. Though many of his favorite bills never passed, he never stopped pushing for what he believed. He is still calling for tax hikes to pay for the War on Terrorism; legislation to protect children from violence on television; and a constitutional amendment permitting limits on campaign expenditures, preventing wealthy candidates and their friends from buying elections.

38. He leaves at the top of his game, writing meaningful legislation for America and working for his constituents until his last day in office.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. It is amazing to see how many things FRITZ HOLLINGS has touched in his life. Once again, he will be sorely missed.

JOHN BREAUX

Another dear friend from the south, JOHN BREAUX, senior Senator from Louisiana, probably the Senate's consummate deal maker. I don't think anyone in this Chamber has ever worked harder to bring the two parties together on taxes, on health care, and especially our two biggest entitlement programs, Social Security and Medicare.

He is the logical choice to chair the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare and the cochair of the National Commission on Retirement Policy. He has always been an effective champion for Louisiana's oil and gas, agriculture, and tourism industries, which is why his constituents have sent him to Washington with 60, 70, or even 80 percent of the vote. He was only 28 when he first won a seat in the House in 1972. With 14 years in the House and 18 years in the Senate, he spent more than half of his entire life as a Member of Congress doing the public's mission.

We will miss his Cajun humor, his legislative savvy, and his tireless dedication of bringing Republicans and Democrats together for the good of all America.

BOB GRAHAM

Another esteemed colleague from the South, Senator BOB GRAHAM, the senior Senator from Florida, is clearly one of the State's most popular elected officials. He won two terms as State representative, two terms as a State senator, two terms as a Governor, three terms as a U.S. Senator, with a 9-9

record. For a short time he put his hat in the ring in the recent Presidential race. He had a 9-9 record of elections dating back 38 years.

Like Senator BREAUX, BOB GRAHAM has worked diligently to forge bipartisan solutions to the most pressing problems. He is a fiscal conservative, dedicated to strengthening and improving Social Security and Medicare. Bob Graham is the author of a comprehensive, bipartisan plan to restore the Everglades, a plan that created an unprecedented partnership among Federal, State, and local governments and private industries to reverse the damage done by fragile "River of Grass" decades of dredging, dumping, and destruction. He has fought hard to protect Florida's coastline from oil and gas exploration.

One of the things that made BOB GRAHAM so popular has been his determination to spend time working side by side with people he represents. Over 30 years he has worked 400 workdays. On those workdays—and most have seen him in costume—he has worked as a police officer, railroad engineer, construction worker, fisherman, garbage man. I don't think I would have taken all the jobs he did, but he did them wonderfully and endeared himself to his constituents. He was a factory worker, busboy, teacher. If BOB does not want to retire, I am sure he will be able to find some kind of work. He is experienced in so many fields.

JOHN EDWARDS

The senior Senator from North Carolina, JOHN EDWARDS, has streaked across the political firmament like a shooting star. Six years ago, he was a trial lawyer who won a Senate seat in his first try at elected office and 2 weeks ago he was very nearly elected Vice President.

JOHN EDWARDS, like TOM DASCHLE, was the first person in his family to graduate from college. His father worked in the textile mills. His mother held several jobs, working in a post office, running a furniture refinishing business. After he graduated from the University of North Carolina Law School, he put his formidable legal skill to work for ordinary people as a trial attorney. He was good at it. In 1997, he won the largest personal injury verdict in North Carolina history, \$25 million, for a 9-year old girl injured by a swimming pool drain the manufacturer knew was faulty.

JOHN proved if there is injury or damage, take it to a jury of your peers. Let them make the judgment regarding careless operation of a piece of machinery or automobile. The damage is incalculable in terms of a monetary value. So JOHN EDWARDS did what he ought to do. He protected those who had recourse for terrible damages that they incurred.

JOHN knew what it was like for that little girl's parents I just talked about because he and his wife lost their 16-year-old son. His name was Wade. He died in a car accident.

When he got to the Senate, JOHN continued to fight for working-class Americans, and despite being a freshman Member, he was a principal author of a Patients' Bill of Rights bill which passed the Senate in June of 2001.

He also fought hard for his constituents, securing more than \$250 million in disaster funds following Hurricane Floyd in September 1999.

I don't know what the future holds for JOHN. One looks at that face, and sees such a young man. He is only 51 years old, and to me that is like a child. But somehow or other I do not think we have seen the last of him.

Of course, his first task is to help his wife Elizabeth get through her bout with breast cancer. We send our prayers to both of them, for her quick and complete recovery. He and Elizabeth have the good wishes and prayers of each and every one of us here in the Senate.

Mr. President, I will talk about a couple of my friends on the Republican side.

DON NICKLES

I have had my differences with DON NICKLES. We both have served on the Budget Committee, and it is hard to believe that he, at his tender age, has been here for 24 years. He is still so youthful looking. As a matter of fact, the two Senators from Oklahoma at one point in time did not equal the age of one of the Senators from South Carolina. They are both very young. But he was so young when he came here in 1981. He was barely 32.

On the subject of age, if I might digress, after 30 years of business I never dreamed I was going to be here 24 years, Lord willing. And for my friends on the Republican side, don't count me out at the end of 24 years.

I worked with DON NICKLES for many years on the Budget Committee. He has been a passionate, articulate spokesman for conservative causes, but he has always been a good opponent, a gracious opponent. The Senate is going to miss his energy and his knowledge.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Another friend from the other side of the aisle is BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, the senior Senator from Colorado. He is one of the true originals in the Senate. He is one of 44 chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. He served our country in Korea. He is a renowned jewelry designer, athlete, trainer of champion quarter horses. He participated in the 1964 Olympics as a member of the U.S. Olympic judo team.

He was elected to the Colorado State legislature in 1982, serving for 4 years before coming to Washington. He has lived up the place with his string ties, beautiful jewelry, and his Harley Davidson motorcycles. And he has been our conscience when it comes to meeting our treaty obligations to Native Americans.

PETER FITZGERALD

PETER FITZGERALD, the junior Senator from Illinois, like me, came to the

Senate after a good business career. He has been here only for one term but in those 6 years he established a solid reputation as an independent Member, committed to doing what he thinks is right, even if it puts him at odds with other members of his party.

He and I serve on the Governmental Affairs Committee, and I have been impressed by his willingness to hold hearings on scandals and malfeasance in the mutual fund and insurance industries. Perhaps because of his business background, he understands the importance of effective oversight by the Federal Government.

I regret he is leaving. He has been a gentleman, and it is too bad that we do not have more like PETER FITZGERALD. He is a wonderful person to work with. He has got a ready smile, and he is a gentleman at all times.

I close my remarks by noting that these men have made remarkable contributions to our society, and all Americans should be grateful. I would tell those who are retiring, I retired 4 years ago, and I did not like it. So here I am. Perhaps there is hope for any of them who want to rejoin. If you want to come back, I am here to tell you it can be done. Just make sure that you get to keep your seniority.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and thank my colleagues for their indulgence while I made my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say—this is probably the first and only time I have ever said this—I have been listening carefully to my friend from New Jersey, and I agree with everything he said.

I have had a chance to talk a little bit about some of these people who are retiring, and at some length about Senator NICKLES, and I certainly appreciate the Senator's remarks about him.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE SECRETARY JAMES G. ROCHE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we have been paying a lot of tributes to retiring Members of the Senate, and I think it is appropriate to pay tribute to at least one of our retiring public servants, and I would like to do that right now for the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche.

I know Secretary Roche has been attacked from time to time. That goes with the job. It is a tough job. He knew that when he came. I think we can put that aside and pay tribute for the things he has done that are not as controversial but have been good for the Air Force and for our country.

You have to keep in mind that Secretary Roche left a lucrative career in private life to take this job as Secretary of the Air Force. He brought a lot of savvy with him from his private business career. I remember so well when he was first confirmed, his first trip was to go with me to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. After visiting

that base, he returned to Washington with Secretary Gibbs and immediately put in place a plan to revitalize the depots using the existing Air Force budget. This is something that previous administrations have never accomplished. They seemed to be more interested in letting the depots rust away.

Secretary Roche invested money, time, and industrial know-how into the depots, and he did it in a partnership arrangement where he actually stimulated the communities to pass very large bond issues to exercise the private participation. He started a program where depots were benchmarked off similar commercial enterprises and started informal competition that drove maintenance days down ever lower. He brought LEAN manufacturing processes to the depots and other similar commercial practices that revitalized the workforce, decreased the failure rates, raised readiness standards, and decreased overall costs at the depots.

I look at the record he had. In fiscal year 2003 alone, AMC reported that the mission-incapable aircraft part hours decreased by 37.6 percent, the percentage of hours grounded. It bettered the goal by 922,000 hours. The mission-incapable aircraft part incidents decreased by 23.4 percent, which bettered the goal by 4,400 incidents. Logistics response time was reduced 20.4 percent. Stockage effectiveness increased by 5.5 percent. It goes on and on.

His record is there. He has done a magnificent job at applying his business practices in making our scarce dollars in the military go a lot further.

I was very impressed with his focus on depots, but his ability to guide the Air Force through the troubled waters after 9/11 were equally impressive. He restructured the force and focused training to support new missions: homeland defense, renewed focus on Close Air Support, close partnering with the Army in joint operations and Space support to warfighters.

He expanded the role and support for special operations. He accelerated the delivery to the battlefield of Armed Predators and Global Hawks, bombers in support of close air support, tactics enabling engagement or the Time Sensitive Targets, networked Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, and advanced Combined Air Operations Center capabilities.

Secretary Roche and General Jumper have done a remarkable job. I remember, back in the late 1990s, after we downsized and downgraded and had done away with a lot of the modernization programs in our military under the previous administration, General Jumper had the courage to stand before our committee and say and admit we were going to have to do something about modernization, something about the F-22, something about the Joint Strike Fighter, because the Russians were making the SU series that was actually better than our best strike vehicles, which were the F-15s and F-16s.

And this was done. This is the type of courage that came forth during Secretary Roche's administration.

The investigation into the tanker lease continues, and it will continue until all individuals who acted inappropriately are held accountable. That is appropriate. However, we must move forward on recapitalizing our tanker fleet, fighting the war on terrorism, and getting back to the business of supporting the warfighters, specifically, moving forward on confirmations of senior military leaders so our troops in the field have the leadership they deserve.

I think it is time to allow the investigations to find out who is guilty of wrongdoing. Yes, it was wrong to take the tanker deal to the Appropriations Committee and skip the authorizers. But that was fixed. We held hearings. We compromised, and it looks like we have killed the tanker deal. We have investigations underway, some complete, and those who committed crimes are going to pay for their crimes. So let's not overreach this subject and bring innocent men and women under public attack.

Let me say that Secretary Roche has been innovative. He has tirelessly pressed new ideas. I thank Secretary Roche for the very fine contributions he made to the U.S. Air Force and to the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

PETER FITZGERALD

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share a few remarks about our friend and colleague PETER FITZGERALD. It has been a real honor for me to serve with him. We have had quite different backgrounds.

PETER grew up in suburban Chicago and attended very fine parochial schools. He attended Dartmouth College where he graduated cum laude with highest distinction majoring in Latin and Greek. He got his law degree from the University of Michigan and came from a very prominent family there.

He is a wonderful person, a person I got to know, although our backgrounds are different, I having grown up in south Alabama, the son of a country store owner, going barefoot and swimming in the creeks. We enjoyed talking with one another. He liked Bear Bryant, and we talked about a number of things.

One thing he shared with me on a number of occasions is his belief that there should be in government, in the business of the United States and the State governments, integrity. He talked with me about his recommendation to President Bush about a U.S. attorney appointment in Chicago. He wrestled with it and talked with me over a period of weeks about the fact