

of a civil action or claim against the United States under this chapter after such administrative remedies as required under section 8983(d) have been exhausted, but only to the extent judicial review is not precluded by any dispute resolution or other remedy under this chapter.

“§ 8992. Administrative functions

“(a) The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this chapter. The regulations may exclude an employee on the basis of the nature and type of employment or conditions pertaining to it.

“(b) The Office shall, as appropriate, provide for coordinated enrollment, promotion, and education efforts as appropriate in consultation with each qualified company. The information under this subsection shall include information relating to the vision benefits available under chapter 89, including the advantages and disadvantages of obtaining additional coverage under this chapter.”.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

The table of chapters for part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 89 the following:

“89A. Enhanced Dental Benefits 8951
“89B. Enhanced Vision Benefits 8981”.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION TO POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

Section 1005(f) of title 39, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by striking “chapters 87 and 89” and inserting “chapters 87, 89, 89A, and 89B”.

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT TO STUDY HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHO ARE FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress a report describing and evaluating options whereby benefits under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, could be made available to an unmarried dependent child under 25 years of age who is enrolled as a full-time student at an institution of higher education as defined under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to contracts that take effect with respect to the calendar year 2006.

AMENDING TITLE 21, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4302, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4302) to amend title 21, District of Columbia Official Code, to enact the provisions of the Mental Health Civil Commitment Act of 2002 which affect the Commission on Mental Health and require action by Congress in order to take effect.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4302) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes talking about the Senators who will not be here when the Senate starts over again this January. The first I ever heard about Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS was while watching a TV program where Senator HOLLINGS was running for President, and he said, during a Presidential debate, when the issue of the day was whether there should be a nuclear freeze, which had been propounded by Alan Cranston, another candidate, when asked about the nuclear freeze, Senator HOLLINGS said, “Until a few days ago, I thought this was a new kind of dessert.” That wit is typical of FRITZ HOLLINGS.

Mr. President, FRITZ HOLLINGS is a man who is, as far as I am concerned, the epitome of what it means to be a Senator. He is a person who looks the role and is everything that I am not—tall, handsome, with flowing white hair, and very articulate. This is a man who was one of the original southern politicians who thought it was appropriate to start talking about the evils of segregation. FRITZ HOLLINGS is tall, handsome, with a great voice, a great sense of humor; and he is somebody for whom I have the greatest respect. I will miss him so much.

He, Peatsy, and I have traveled. He is someone who has been so good to the State of South Carolina. I have been to his home. He has given me a tour of Columbia, SC, where he is a legend in his own time. He showed me the place where he was born.

I want to extend through the magic of this television to everyone within the sound of my voice the fact that FRITZ HOLLINGS is a great Senator and will go down in the history of the Senate as one of the great Senators.

I also want FRITZ and Peatsy to know how much I care for them, and I appreciate very much their generosity and friendship to Landra and me over these many years.

JOHN BREAUX

JOHN BREAUX and I came to the Senate together. We served in the House together. He comes from a State that, of course, is famous for unpredictable politics, and JOHN has done every bit of his work to make sure that tradition is upheld.

When he was running for the Senate, as only JOHN BREAUX could do, his op-

ponent raised a question, and his opponent, who was somebody who also had served in the House of Representatives, said JOHN BREAUX can be bought. They would rush out to JOHN BREAUX and would say: Your opponent said you could be bought. How do you respond to that? JOHN BREAUX said: Well, I can be leased but I can't be bought. Who else, other than JOHN BREAUX, could get away with something like that?

He is a great person, a person of integrity, a person who came to the House of Representatives way back in 1972. He served in the Congress for 32 years. There is no one who is better at making a deal than JOHN BREAUX. I say this in the most positive way. Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building, and JOHN BREAUX understood that to a T. We need more people such as JOHN BREAUX with the ability to reach across the aisle.

We will miss JOHN BREAUX, Mr. Problem Solver. I appreciate his and Lois's friendship over these years. I will miss him very much.

BOB GRAHAM

BOB GRAHAM and I came to the Senate together in 1986. He first ran for Governor 26 years ago. Since that time, and even before, he has spent hundreds of days working with regular Floridians in their jobs.

The thing we all see in BOB GRAHAM is the little notebooks he carries and everything he does he writes down. I am sure some day after we are long gone, a historian will review those, and BOB GRAHAM will be well known in the history books because he wrote the history of everything he has done for the last 25 or 30 years.

He was a great Governor for the Sunshine State. He has been a tremendous Senator. I served with him from the time we came here on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has certainly been tremendous on that committee. He is a detail man. He is a person, for example, who worked on the Everglades. He was tireless, persistent, and so smart. He has become an expert on foreign affairs and foreign intelligence. He served as chairman of the Intelligence Committee. He has written a book on the subject. His knowledge and contributions in that area will be hard to replace.

I certainly will miss the Senator from Florida. It is just too bad he decided not to run for reelection.

JOHN EDWARDS

I ask everyone to pull out this week's People magazine, if they have one—if not, get a copy of it—because that tells the story of JOHN and Elizabeth EDWARDS. The story is directed toward Elizabeth because she has now been stricken with breast cancer, but it tells in some detail about this wonderful family.

He was the Vice Presidential candidate and is someone who has tremendous ability. I am a trial lawyer. He is a trial lawyer. He has made such a distinct impression on the country with his oratorical skills. We know why he was a great trial lawyer.

People magazine is so filled with information and inspiration. The last sentence in that People magazine article talks about Elizabeth Edwards. She knew she had breast cancer in the last week of the campaign. She did not tell anybody, but she tells in this People magazine article that was so well written that somewhere at a place she stopped, they were having a cancer survivor program, and one of them asked her: Are you a cancer survivor? She did not answer but, of course, thought to herself, as the article says: We'll see.

We will see. We certainly hope for the Edwards family, which has already had a lot of personal problems due to the death of their 16-year-old son, we really do hope—all of us, all Americans hope for Elizabeth Edwards, this wonderful woman, to recover.

I will miss JOHN EDWARDS in the Senate. He only served here 6 years, but he certainly left his mark as a great Senator from the State of North Carolina. North Carolina is going to benefit, however, from the defeat of the Kerry-Edwards ticket because he is returning to North Carolina.

DON NICKLES

DON NICKLES and I have done some things together in the Senate that I will always remember. There are laws on the statute books of this country. One of the things we did, and people said we could not do, resulted because we were concerned about regulations and how burdensome and overbearing they can become. So we introduced legislation that basically said if the administration promulgates a regulation that we do not think helps the country, then we can overturn that regulation. That is the law.

We have overturned regulations that have been burdensome to this country. I have not always liked the result of the legislation that has been overturned, but it is my law along with Senator NICKLES'. He is a great legislator.

We worked together on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Branch. We really did some things that have changed what goes on. We have changed things a great deal, such as how Members of the House and Senate do their franking. We changed that.

Senator NICKLES and I were the first to talk about how bad the east front of the Capitol looked, and we did a number of things. We got the automobiles removed from the east front of the Capitol. This was what first got me interested in doing something about having a visitor center on the east front of the Capitol, which is now in the process of being completed.

I have so much respect for Senator NICKLES. He and I have a different political philosophy, no question about that, but I think the work we have done together sets an example of how Democrats and Republicans of totally different political philosophy can work together for the betterment of this country.

DON NICKLES is a good man. He is a young man. He has a great future in

the private sector. I personally will miss him a lot. I care a great deal about DON NICKLES and wish him the very best.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Everyone has heard me talk about Searchlight, NV, the place of my birth and where I still live. The only Senator who has ever been to my home in Searchlight is BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL one day called my wife and said: I will be in Searchlight and want to come visit you. I will be there in about 40 minutes.

I was out doing a little jog. I thought something was wrong when I came back. She said: NIGHTHORSE is on his way.

He had a vehicle that was so big—I live a little bit off the beaten path—it could not get into my yard. We went up and met him and brought him back to my home. We had a wonderful visit.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is, among other things, a great artist. He makes jewelry. I wanted to get my wife something very special for Christmas a couple years ago, and I went to BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL to see if he could do something unique. He said he was making his daughter a belt, and he would make one just like it for my wife.

He did that. It is a beautiful piece of jewelry. There are two of them in the world. My wife has hers, and if you go to the Museum of the American Indian, which is right down the way and just opened, you will see my wife's silver belt in the museum. Actually, it is not hers, it is his daughter's, but there is only one identical to my wife's. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is a great guy, a tremendous athlete.

I have great admiration for his physical prowess. I have always disagreed with his motorcycle riding but he believes he should continue doing that. He is a man who has written a book. I have read his book. It is a wonderful rags-to-riches story. He will be missed and that is an understatement.

TOM DASCHLE

There is no way I can, on the Senate floor in the few minutes I am going to take, convey to my colleagues and the people within the sound of my voice the feelings I have about TOM DASCHLE. He and I came to the Senate together 18 years ago. We served in the House of Representatives before that. The last 6 years we have worked together daily. There may be a day or two that went by without our talking but they were rare. We spoke even during the time we were on break. We have virtually been together every day. The only time we really did not spend a lot of time communicating is when he was in South Dakota and I was in Searchlight. Our BlackBerrys would not work. My BlackBerry now works in Searchlight. His still does not work in South Dakota.

TOM's legislative record is certainly there. It is apparent. He has done wonderful things for the State of South Da-

kota and this country. I could, but it is really unnecessary, explain what he has done for the farmers, the environment, the military, including the veterans, but what I can try in a very inadequate way is to express to him, through this manner, the things I have tried to say personally to him in the last couple of weeks, and that is express my appreciation to him for the opportunities he has given me.

TOM DASCHLE is a totally unselfish person. I can remember about 6 years ago when I was selected by my peers to be assistant leader I went to Senator DASCHLE and said: What is this job going to be? He said: Whatever you make it.

I took him at his word, and this job is what I thought the assistant leader or the whip should be. I could never have done what I have done and had the good fortune of being in the places I have been and had the freedom to do things on this Senate floor but for the support and authorization of Senator DASCHLE.

I do not think I have ever raised my voice to Senator DASCHLE. We both grew up with three brothers. We are the first to really go to school of any depth in our families. I have learned a lot from Senator DASCHLE.

As I have told everyone, I am not TOM DASCHLE and I am going to be a different kind of person in the new duties I have beginning at the first of the year.

I told TOM DASCHLE earlier this week that earlier this year I lost my best friend. His name was Mike O'Callaghan. He was someone who taught me in high school. He taught me how to fight in the ring and in other places. When I went to law school, he helped me. He was a disabled Korean veteran but he gave me part of his pension money to help me through tough times in school. I was allowed to take the bar before I graduated from law school. I was married and had two children, was desperate for money. I came back to Reno and there was Michael O'Callaghan. He gave me a \$50 bill. That was in the fall of 1963. He gave me a \$50 bill. I had never seen one before but he gave that to me. He knew I was desperate for money.

Then I held a few offices, and as a very young man I ran for Lieutenant Governor. People kind of thought I was going to win that. He moved back from California to Nevada to run for Governor because there was no Democrat to run sitting for Lieutenant Governor. They knew O'Callaghan had no chance, but he did. He became the Governor of the State of Nevada.

I am trying to paint a picture for this man and how close he was to me. He was so good to me, able to give me advice and counsel. He told me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear, and I did not make a decision important in nature unless I discussed it with my friend Mike O'Callaghan.

He went to church early one morning this summer and died. It was a very

painless death. He went to church every day. He was a devoutly religious man, and somebody whom I have missed more than words can describe.

I told my friend TOM in his office a day or two ago that he was now my Mike O'Callaghan, that I have somebody I will call just as I did my friend Mike, that I will call him often. He said: That is fine. You could not call me too many times.

So TOM DASCHLE and I have developed a relationship that can best be described as two brothers. I have three brothers, one of whom is dead. So TOM replaces my brother Dale. I will call TOM and I will talk to him when I feel it necessary, knowing he will continue to give the advice and counsel to me that he has for the last 6 years.

There are additional things I would like to say, but I will suffice to say that for the 22 years I have known TOM DASCHLE, which has been culminated in the 6 years of intense personal contact where we have dealt with the problems of the country and the world in great depth, that there will never be an opportunity and an experience like that again. I am grateful to TOM and to his wonderful wife Linda for their friendship and TOM's service to our country.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to departing Senators for their service and devotion to the United States Senate. They are not only my colleagues but my friends as well.

The reality of elections for the Senate is that every two years we experience change—current members depart and new members are welcomed. At every transition I am reminded by the reality that life is more than just politics. I am certain the departing Senators—are experiencing a tremendous feeling of sorrow, yet anticipation of things to come, as they leave their friends, colleagues, and this great nurturing institution.

Though we may fight hard during campaigns, we return to the Senate after the election to realize that we are not just losing Senators—we are losing friends. There is a bond—a collegiality and friendship—in the Senate that crosses party lines. We face long hard battles on the campaign trail and sometimes things can get ugly. But after all is said and done, after election day, we must all come back to Washington and work together to do what is best for our country.

I will certainly miss my colleagues with whom I have worked for several years. I have had the honor to serve on the Finance Committee with four of my distinguished retiring colleagues, including Senator JOHN BREAUX and Senator DON NICKLES. Both of these men were instrumental in leading the fight to reform Medicare.

Senator JOHN BREAUX and I have worked side by side on Social Security issues. He is a good friend and he has always been willing to compromise. He is the master of a very noble craft that of bringing people together from both sides of the aisle.

Senator DON NICKLES has been a valuable comrade in protecting intellectual property rights of pharmaceutical companies and reforming health care, specifically working hard to pass the Patients Bill of Rights. He also sponsored commendable legislation to create the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, which I cosponsored. Senator NICKLES as whip and chairman of the Budget Committee has done more to advocate fiscal conservatism than any other Senator during my tenure. He has a true expertise in these issues, and I thank him for his guidance and leadership.

More importantly, Senator NICKLES befriended me when I first came to the Senate and encouraged me to get involved in the National Prayer Breakfast and the Senate Bible Study. If it were not for his friendship, my time in the Senate would have been drastically different.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is a very kind and humble man and I have had the honor to work with him to assure that nondemocratic forces are unsuccessful in undermining movements for democracy in the Ukraine. But what I remember most about Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is a story he told me once about his decision to vote for the ban on partial-birth abortion. While in the hospital recovering from a motorcycle accident, Senator CAMPBELL was touched by the immense effort of doctors to save the lives of babies that weighed only a couple pounds. He was convicted by the significance of doctors going to such great lengths to save babies only a couple minutes old. This picture made him question partial-birth abortions: Why would we not do everything in our power to save babies who were still in their mother's womb? I thank Senator CAMPBELL for his honesty on this issue and for sharing that story with me. I will never forget it.

ZELL MILLER

I had the privilege of getting to know Senator ZELL MILLER as we traveled around the country together this past fall. Senator MILLER and I have worked hard on education issues including the Paperwork Reduction Act. He is a man that believes in the ideals of this nation and understands that we must sometimes take a stand if we want to be heard. I treasure the friendship that Senator MILLER and I have formed during our service together. I want him to know how much I admire him. He is a man with the courage to stand up for his convictions. He did the hardest thing for any man to do—he endorsed the opposing party's nominee in this year's election. I cannot thank him enough for his support. I will always have undying gratitude for him.

Our departing Senators have been lights of inspiration and men who went above the call of duty to serve our country in their congressional capacities. They each have their own unique

political perspective that has served the Senate well. Although my philosophies may differ from some Senators, we do not disagree on the greatness of America. We can all agree that we live in the greatest nation in the world, and we all believe that without democracy, life, liberty, and justice cannot flourish.

My departing colleagues are great men and great Americans. They have contributed immensely to our country—making their states and our country significantly better than when they first stepped foot on the Senate floor.

We are all going to miss their presence and wisdom here in the Senate. Their departures will surely leave a hole in expertise and leadership that will be hard to fill. I wish them health and happiness in their future endeavors—wherever the road may take them. May God continue to bless them and their families.

Come January, as we face another transition, I welcome in the new members and look forward to forging new relationships as we continue to work towards making Americans safer, healthier, and more financially secure.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor my good friend and colleague, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado. BEN is my best friend in the Senate. I know every one of my Senate colleagues would join me in expressing how much we care for Senator CAMPBELL and how much we will miss him here in the Senate.

I have always considered BEN to be larger than life, someone you would read about in a novel about the Senate than someone actually serving in the Senate. He is a high-school dropout who became a United States Senator, a veteran of the Korean war, captain of the U.S. judo team, and an extremely successful horse breeder and jeweler. He doesn't conform to any stereotypes. No other senators—let alone Republicans—wear a ponytail, ride a Harley-Davidson to work, or stubbornly refuse to wear any neckwear more formal than a western bolo tie.

But I am sure I am not surprising any of you by saying BEN is not your typical politician. One of my favorite stories about BEN's independent streak is from a town meeting he held back when he was a Member of the House.

A constituent asked BEN a question, and BEN did his best to answer it. The gentleman didn't like the response, so he tersely rephrased the question and BEN answered it again. The man got very upset, and said "You have not answered my question!" BEN firmly told him, "Look, you asked a question, I answered it. You asked me again, and I answered it. Now I can't help it if you don't like the answer you got, but these other folks are waiting to ask questions of their own, so you and I are just going to have to agree to disagree."

BEN started to call on another person when the man jumped out of his chair

and yelled to BEN, "I don't believe you are taking all of the facts that I've stated into account, and you are not going to simply dismiss me like that. I am a taxpayer, and I pay your salary, and I demand an answer!"

BEN, through gritted teeth, said, "You know, I hate it when people feel that because you're an elected official, they somehow own you. Do you realize that my salary costs every man, woman and child in this country about one-half of one cent each year?" At that point, BEN reached into his pocket, pulled out a penny, flipped it to the man, and said, "Here's your refund!" He turned to the audience and yelled, "Next question!" The audience cheered and the man left the meeting.

Now that is a good description of the BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL that I have come to know and love.

Most of you know that I have sat next to BEN during policy lunches ever since he saw the light and switched parties so many years ago. I still love to tell the story of when he decided to move over to the right side of the aisle.

BEN and I became good friends soon after he joined the Senate, and we repeatedly discussed his growing disillusionment with the policies and politics of those on other side of the aisle. I would point out that power, its accumulation and retention, seemed to be of greater importance to some on his side than finding the right answer, that the worth of an issue should not always be measured simply by political advantage. He would disagree, but over time his protests would grow fewer and less heartfelt.

I was surprised when BEN stopped me one day nearly 10 years ago and said, "Orrin, you're right. I can't stand it anymore over here." He asked whether I could arrange for him to see Senator DOLE, and I said, "I believe I can"—3 minutes later we were in Bob Dole's office.

Bob had the biggest smile on his face I had ever seen and gave BEN a warm hug. He commented about the courage and principle it took to make such a decision, but he didn't need to make a hard sell. It was obvious BEN had already made up his mind to become a Republican.

I can vividly remember when BEN attended his first Republican policy luncheon. BEN and I had discussed how disappointed he was with the direction and tone of the Democrat policy meetings. He said they had devolved from honest discussions of differences into angry, one-sided shouting matches dominated by some of the most senior and well-known members. If you didn't agree with their liberal positions, your view wasn't welcome.

I assured BEN that the Republicans were different. We showed great respect for one another and there was always considerable deference given to differing points of view.

When BEN and I took our places at the back of the room—where we have sat together since that day—a quiet

discussion soon broke out into bitter argument. One person jumped up, anger seething from his face, stared at another very senior member with a snarl on his face, and then called him a derogatory name. Everyone started shouting, and it took Bob Dole several minutes to restore order.

BEN's eyes got larger and larger as he watched what was happening, then without turning his head, he gave me a quick jab in the ribs. "Gee, Orrin," he muttered, "it's sure good to see how well we Republicans get along compared to those darn Democrats!"

Thankfully, BEN's decision to join the Republican Party wasn't solely based on policy lunches.

I have plenty more stories to tell of my good friend from Colorado, but I will close by saying that I will miss BEN dearly and wish him the very best as he starts the next phase in his life. I know him too well to think that this is really a retirement from public service. This is just the end of one phase of service that will open up several other ways for him to reach out and make a difference in the lives of those around him.

ZELL MILLER

Mr. President, I am grateful for the chance to take a few moments to recognize my good friend from across the aisle, Senator ZELL MILLER of Georgia. ZELL is one of my best friends in the United States Senate. I know every one of my Senate colleagues would join me in expressing how much we care for Senator MILLER and how much we will miss him.

It is no secret that ZELL is his own man, someone who does what he believes is right, not what is politically expedient. His values were shaped while growing up in the South, raised by his strong mother and reinforced through his service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

And for those who say you cannot be a successful politician without sacrificing some of your principles, I point to my good friend from Georgia. When he finishes his Senate term this year, he will complete nearly six decades of publicly elected service, starting with his first election as mayor of his hometown of Young Harris, Georgia, in the late 1950s.

ZELL was a popular two-term Governor of Georgia in fact, he was named the most popular Governor in America by *The Washington Post* in 1998. His popularity came from his successful programs that found national acclaim among them was passing the Nation's first "two strikes and you're out" law against violent felons, starting the Nation's only voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds, and creating the nationally acclaimed HOPE scholarship that has had such tremendous success in Georgia.

My good friend swept into the Senate to complete the remaining 4 years of the late Senator Paul Coverdell. Many political observers call ZELL the last of the Southern conservative Democrats

to serve in the Senate. He has certainly established himself as a strong voice for the conservative, commonsense approach to issues, reaching across the aisle to support tax cuts, improve education, confirm judicial nominations, and strengthen national security.

ZELL is widely known for his straight talk on the issues you know where he stands and what he stands for, and everything he says comes straight from the heart. I can't tell you how many times a constituent from my home State of Utah will write to tell me how inspired they were by a speech that ZELL had given on this Senate floor.

I am sorry to see ZELL leave, but I am grateful for the service he has given these last 4 years. He is beloved by Georgians, and I know he would have easily been reelected, and he is beloved by millions in America. And, last but not least, he is beloved by his colleagues here in the Senate.

PETER G. FITZGERALD

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment of the Senate's time, as we near completion of our duties for the 108th Congress, to honor the work and contribution to Republican Party, the Senate, and the Nation of my friend, the Senator from Illinois, Senator PETER FITZGERALD. Senator FITZGERALD has chosen to take his youth and talents and serve in other areas outside of the Senate. Our loss will be, no doubt, the gain of others.

Senator FITZGERALD provided a good, youthful, and modern face to the Republican Party. Our party will only stay strong if we maintain within it our own diversity of perspectives, and I am grateful for the contribution of Senator FITZGERALD.

Elected to the Senate in 1998 at the very young age of 38, the Senator immediately added his vigor, intelligence, and experience in financial markets to address many of the complicated issues faced by your Government and society as the Nation turned into the 21st century.

When corporate scandals erupted early in this century, threatening to undermine confidence in markets, the Senate was, indeed, fortunate to be able to turn to Senator FITZGERALD for his thoughtful and informed guidance. As a former commercial banking attorney, he used his expertise in his positions on the Commerce and Governmental Affairs Committees, particularly his chairmanship of the subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget and International Security, to chair or support numerous hearings to illuminate the problems and necessary legislation we needed to return probity to financial dealings and confidence in our markets. The modern capitalist system is what provides growth and wealth to all the societies of the world, and the American markets are the most dynamic in the world. They are also the most diversified, and the vast majority of our citizens depend on them for employment, security and retirement. We owe a

great deal of appreciation to Senator FITZGERALD for his work on corporate fraud issues, and I would like to thank him, once again.

Senator FITZGERALD is a reformer, through and through. It is his dedication to our system of Government and economy that drove him to find ways to improve it. He applied his drive to reform to consumer issues, Government affairs, financial management, and the complicated mesh of revenue collection that is the current tax system of this country. And he quite deservedly received numerous acclamations from groups advocating for consumer and tax reform.

Through this all, he never lost his focus on his home State. He didn't work for Illinois to get re-elected, he worked for Illinois because of his dedication to his State and his high standards of public service. A column in the Chicago Tribune, a good paper not known for being ragingly Republican, commended him for "elevating courage and honesty to new heights." That sounds right to me.

I will miss the presence of Senator FITZGERALD, his thoughtful floor statements before this body, and the impeccable manners of a gentleman that are so naturally his. His State can be proud of the Republican they sent to serve too briefly in this body. We will miss his intelligence and dedication, and I will miss a good Senator and friend. I expect that, with his relative youth, we will hear much more of PETER G. FITZGERALD.

DON NICKLES

Mr. President, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve with Senator DON NICKLES, and to wish him the very best as he retires from the Senate.

A lot of descriptive words come to my mind when I think of DON NICKLES. Among the most prominent are courageous, knowledgeable, and engaging. All three of these, as well as many other of DON NICKLES' qualities, will be sorely missed in the United States Senate.

I can think of no other Member of the Senate who has been a more rock solid beacon for conservatism than DON NICKLES. His is the kind of courage that leads him to speak up alone against the whole world, if necessary, for what he believes. No matter what the issue or whether it is brought up on the floor of the Senate, in one of his committees, or in some other forum, DON NICKLES is willing to speak up in his earnest yet friendly manner to ask questions, raise concerns, and stand up for conservative principles. Senator NICKLES has been one of the most articulate Senators I have seen in my 28 years of service in the Senate. His voice, in defense for what he and many of us believe to be right, will be noticeably absent in the months and years to come.

Senator NICKLES is also one of the most knowledgeable Members of this body. I have long been impressed with

his grasp of minute details of economic, tax, and budget issues. His major committee assignments, Budget, Finance, and Energy, all cover complex issues that can take a huge amount of effort to master. Yet, DON clearly does his homework and seems totally at ease in discussing details of the budget or a comprehensive tax bill. As chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator NICKLES has served with distinction. With all the challenges facing the budget in the recent past, DON has presided over that committee in particularly trying times. Yet, he has exhibited patience and perseverance in the midst of a number of very difficult problems. Every citizen of this country owes him a debt of gratitude for his service on our behalf.

DON NICKLES is also one of the most engaging individuals I have had the privilege of knowing. His quick smile and friendliness to not only other Senators, but also to Senate staff and to everyone he meets marks him as a genuinely fine individual. I know Don has a deep faith in God and strives to do his best to live according to his convictions.

As Senator NICKLES moves on toward the next stage in his impressive career, I wish him the very best and hope that we have the opportunity to see him regularly and to have the benefit of his wisdom and knowledge for many years to come.

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. President, I am grateful for this opportunity to say a few words about our friend and colleague, the distinguished minority leader, Senator TOM DASCHLE.

TOM's commitment to public service, on behalf of the people of South Dakota and America, is an example I hope more citizens will follow. He served here as a Senate staff member before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1978. South Dakota is one of just seven States with a single House member, which required TOM to run a statewide race. That was familiar territory for him when he ran for and won his Senate seat in 1986. TOM is one of 49 Senators who previously served in the other body, experience which I believe enhances their service here and makes the Senate more effective in serving all Americans.

Yesterday, our colleague Senator DURBIN said that it is hard to imagine the Senate without TOM DASCHLE. Some might merit that compliment because of the sheer length of their tenure. TOM merits it because of the presence he quickly established, both as a Member and as a leader in this body. He was only 2 years into a second term when his fellow Democrats elected him their leader by just one vote. Only Lyndon Johnson became his party's leader more quickly.

TOM's 10 years as Democratic leader included periods as both majority and minority leader. Those positions, especially in a narrowly divided chamber, are each very challenging and each

very different. TOM served in each post with class and determination, unifying his caucus and working to achieve their agenda. Needless to say, we have not agreed on every element of that agenda. But in this political world, it is really a compliment to say that TOM effectively and skillfully used whatever tools were available to fight for what he believed and for what his caucus wanted to achieve. Even when we were at loggerheads, when it seemed like the irresistible force was meeting the immovable object, civility has always marked TOM DASCHLE's presence in this body, as a Senator and as a leader.

I was gratified to hear Senator DASCHLE's comments on this floor yesterday and a few things really stood out. First, I was struck by the fact that he his number in the chronological list of United States Senators is 1776. TOM offered the valuable reflection that he is, as we all are, part of the broad sweep of American history, from the American revolution to the 108th Congress and into the future.

Second, TOM asked a very important question, whether our power comes just from military might or also from wisdom, compassion, tolerance, and willingness to cooperate. Everyone who serves in this body should maintain that perspective.

Third, TOM spoke of what he called the politics of the common ground. Individual Senators, as well as the two political parties, have certain bottom-line issues, certain fundamental principles or positions on which they just find little room to give. But on others, and I sometimes wonder whether this list is longer than we might think, we must practice the politics of common ground. Reminding us of that was, by itself, an act of leadership by the minority leader.

And finally, he told us of a note he wrote on one of his famous unscheduled driving trips across his State. He wrote, "Everything was worth doing." Each of us who has worked alongside TOM DASCHLE, whether on the same or opposing sides, knows that this is his approach to, and attitude about, public service. That sets a good example for us all.

BOB GRAHAM

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the close of the 108th Congress, the Senate will lose to retirement one of our most respected and admired Members, Senator BOB GRAHAM of Florida.

I remember how impressed we were in 1987 when BOB came to the Senate after two terms as an enormously popular Governor of Florida. From the start, he made his mark in this body as a serious and diligent legislator—a classic workhorse Senator rather than show-horse Senator.

One of his greatest accomplishments was the passage, 4 years ago, of comprehensive legislation to restore and protect the Florida Everglades. This was BOB GRAHAM at his very best: forging a bipartisan consensus, and crafting a unique partnership among

Federal, State and local governments as well as private industries and land-owners. This will be a living monument to Senator BOB GRAHAM: a restored and revitalized Everglades.

I first got to know BOB GRAHAM back in 1977, a decade before he came to this body. At the time, he was a state senator down in Florida, planning to run for Governor the following year. He had heard about my work days, an idea that I originated when I was running for Congress in 1974. I had spent dozens of work days—as a cop on the beat, construction worker, farmer, nurse's aide, and many other professions. It was a great way to get in touch with ordinary working Iowans and their concerns.

I remember BOB coming by my office over in the Cannon House Office Building. He was a very serious man, very analytical and thorough. He asked all the right questions. And a couple weeks later, he sent me his plan to conduct 100 work days during his campaign for Governor. I told him, as tactfully as I could, that was way too many, that he would never be able to do it. But BOB went ahead with his plan. He did, indeed, conduct 100 work days. He did, indeed, get elected Governor of Florida. And I learned never to underestimate BOB GRAHAM.

By the way, BOB's work days didn't stop there. As Governor and United States Senator, he went on to complete nearly 400 work days, serving as police officer, teacher, garbage man, busboy, hurricane relief worker, you name it. BOB swears by the value of these days—as I do. In fact, in 1997, he spent one work day as a U.S. Customs inspector at the port in Tampa. This opened his eyes to the extreme vulnerability of our ports to crime, drug trafficking, and terrorist strikes.

And the work days continue. Last month, Senator GRAHAM spent a day as a high school civics teacher in Miami. And just this past weekend, he spent a day as a bookseller in Coral Gables.

All of which is typical of BOB GRAHAM. He may be retiring from the Senate, but he is not a retiring man. He continues to be a workhorse and a whirlwind of activity. His new book, *Intelligence Matters*, has stirred up controversy by shining a spotlight on the Saudi royal family's connections to terrorism.

The fact is BOB is leaving the Senate at the very top of his game, especially in the field of intelligence and homeland security. After the September 11 attacks, it was Senator GRAHAM who proposed the creation of a joint House-Senate inquiry into the intelligence failures leading up to the attacks. Senator GRAHAM ended up serving as co-chair of that historic effort, and he did just a brilliant job of keeping the inquiry bipartisan, focused on the facts, focused on solutions.

Meanwhile, events have vindicated Senator GRAHAM's principled stand as one of only 23 Senators to vote in October 2002 against the resolution to au-

thorize the use of force against Saddam. At the time, he argued passionately that the war on terrorism should be our highest priority. He insisted that al Qaeda was the real threat to America, and that an attack on Iraq would be a detour and distraction from the war on terrorism. And, as usual, BOB GRAHAM was exactly right. The Senate failed to heed his warnings. I failed to heed his warnings. And, as a result, Osama bin Laden remains at large, al-Qaida and the Taliban are reconstituting themselves, and our Armed Forces are bogged down in a quagmire in Iraq.

So, no question, with BOB GRAHAM's retirement, the Senate is losing one of its most talented and respected members. Over the years, BOB and Adele have become wonderful friends, and those friendships will continue. But I will miss the day-to-day association on the floor with BOB.

As I said, you have to respect the fact that BOB GRAHAM is leaving the Senate at the very top of his game. I wish BOB and Adele all the best.

JOHN BREAUX

Mr. President, there are not many things on which all Senators agree. But on one thing, there is universal, bipartisan agreement in this body: We are going to miss Senator JOHN BREAUX when he retires at the end of the 108th Congress.

Make no mistake, JOHN BREAUX is a tremendously accomplished Senator, with scores of legislative achievements and accomplishments. He is a Senator's Senator. But when I think of JOHN BREAUX, I think first and foremost of his character, his unique way with people, and his wonderful good nature.

You can disagree with JOHN, but you can never dislike him. He has a knack for taking disagreements and disputes, and turning them into deals to move people forward. This is a priceless talent—a special skill—and I have never met another politician who could match JOHN BREAUX's gifts in this regard.

For JOHN, politics is not something you do with clinched teeth. Politics is a joy. Politics is fun. They used to call Hubert Humphrey the "happy warrior." And that is very much the spirit that JOHN BREAUX has always brought to his work in the Senate. However, JOHN would rather not make war on other Senators; he would rather cut a constructive deal that gets things done for ordinary people.

Of course, these personal qualities have allowed JOHN BREAUX to be an amazingly effective Senator for his State of Louisiana. When JOHN comes to you, when he tells you he needs help on a measure critical to his State, it is mighty hard to say no. Frankly, many times I have had a preconceived notion against the oil and gas industries, and I have opposed what they are trying to do on this or that bill. But JOHN BREAUX would come to see you, he talks it through, and next thing you know, you find yourself supporting

him. He is just so effective in that kind of one-on-one persuasion. And, time and again, Louisiana has been the big winner.

Another hallmark of JOHN BREAUX in the Senate has been his commonsense centrism. JOHN is a man of strong principles, but he is not rigid and he certainly is not an ideologue. The questions JOHN asks are, "What is practical?" "What is going to work in the real world?" "What can we bring people together on, in order to make a positive difference?"

Typical of Senator BREAUX was his proposal a couple years ago to address the problem of 54 million Americans without health insurance. He called for universal health care. But he kept it practical. He proposed that all Americans have access to a basic, government-defined insurance package similar to what members of Congress and our staffs get from the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. And he proposed tax credits to make premiums more affordable for middle- and lower-income citizens.

Perhaps it is symbolic that JOHN BREAUX is leaving the Senate at this time. As we saw this week in the conference on the FSC bill, the spirit of compromise and the art of constructive accommodation seem to be dying in the Senate—and even more so in the House. Increasingly, the attitude around here is "my way or the highway." And that is not the Senate that I have loved over the years. That is not healthy for our democracy.

The shame is that JOHN BREAUX is leaving at exactly the time when we need his talents more than ever. In fact, we need a dozen JOHN BREAUXS around here to heal this body, to show people how to rise above partisanship in the best interests of the country.

So I will miss JOHN's presence in the Senate. We will all miss him. But JOHN BREAUX is the youngest 60-year-old person I have ever met. And you can bet that he has many challenges and opportunities still ahead of him. JOHN and Lois have been, and will continue to be, wonderful friends. And I wish them all the best.

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in tribute to Senator ERNEST "FRITZ" HOLLINGS. I will miss my good friend from South Carolina who in 2003, at the age of 81, finally became his State's senior Senator—after 36 years as a junior Senator.

In addition to being remembered as a coauthor of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation that cut tens of billions of dollars from the Federal budget deficit, FRITZ HOLLINGS has left an indelible mark on our Nation in the areas of health care, environmental protection, resource conservation, technology development, job creation, transportation security, and law enforcement, to name a few.

Immediately after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America,

Senator HOLLINGS worked to protect the safety of our traveling public by authoring the Aviation Security Act which created the Transportation Security Administration. Similarly, recognizing that America's ports and borders were our Nation's weak security links, Senator HOLLINGS championed legislation to increase security at America's ports.

As the father of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Senator HOLLINGS recognized the extent to which the ocean environment sustains us—from human uses in commerce and recreation to being the original cradle of life on our planet. He knew the importance of taking appropriate steps to be responsible stewards of this rich, yet fragile resource.

His oceans legacy includes authorship of the National Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, which established Federal policy for protecting coastal areas, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which also became the model for other countries, for the protection of dolphins, sea otters and other mammals. In a continuing effort to do what is best for our ocean environment, Senator HOLLINGS created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in 2000, to review the accomplishments of the last 30 years, and recommend actions for the future. Upon the issuance of the report, Senator HOLLINGS laid the groundwork for legislation to adopt the recommendations of the Ocean Commission. I am the proud cosponsor of two of those measures, S. 2647, the Fritz Hollings National Ocean Policy and Leadership Act, and S. 2648, the Ocean Research Coordination and Advancement Act.

Beyond the oceans, Senator HOLLINGS worked to make our communities and schools safer, through 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. The COPS program is also the largest source of dedicated funding for interoperable communications for public safety officers.

Senator HOLLINGS brought competition to the telecommunications arena which resulted in new services to consumers at affordable rates.

I will miss Senator HOLLINGS' wisdom, vision, and wit, but, most of all, his friendship.

I wish FRITZ and his wife Peatsy a fond Aloha.

DON NICKLES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, DON NICKLES first came to the Senate in 1980 as a young man of 31 with a vision. He now leaves us, 24 years later, with a record we all can envy and a reputation we all should emulate. There are a lot of words that can be used to describe this man. Perhaps these five describe him best: "As good as his word."

In his eloquent eulogy to Ronald Reagan this summer, DON said that those who came to Washington after the watershed election of 1980, "consid-

ered ourselves part of the soldiers in the field trying to get an agenda done to expand freedom."

There is no more noble an agenda than the expansion of freedom, and he has been a devoted soldier to that cause. He has been a strong advocate for our Armed Forces, dedicated to the defense of our Nation and to the expansion of liberty around the world.

He has been equally devoted to the freedom that comes from responsible, less intrusive and more accountable government. He is a champion of effective economic-growth policies, and of tax reform that encourages investment and helps build strong families and communities. DON NICKLES has always been of the side of the American people. His tenure as chairman of the Budget Committee will long be held up as a model of effective leadership, a co-operative spirit wedded to rock-solid principles.

DON comes from a small State and from a background in small business. That we have not always agreed on every issue is insignificant. What does matter is the values we share and the friendship that is the result.

DON is much more than just an especially effective legislator and a very good friend. When Oklahoma City was struck by a heinous act of terrorism in 1995, he was there for the people of his State, offering comfort and support. The rebuilding, both material and spiritual, would not have been so quickly and thoroughly accomplished without the strength of DON NICKLES.

He came here as a young man and, despite the passage of 24 years, leaves as a young man. And, I might add, as a pretty fast man. In the New York Marathon last weekend, Oklahoma's senior senator finished in the top half of a field of more than 36,000 runners. If there was a caucus for Senators able to run more than 26 miles in less than 4½ hours, I believe it would be the smallest in the history of the republic.

Thank you, Senator DON NICKLES, for your service to this institution and to this country. Whatever path the future sets before you, I know you will be at the front of the pack.

ERNEST HOLLINGS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend of a man who has spent his career dedicated to working for the great people of South Carolina. There is nothing small about Senator HOLLINGS. From his height, to his storied career, to his large booming voice and southern drawl you can always hear calling "yea" or "nay" during rollcall votes, Senator HOLLINGS is a giant. A reporter once said that if you sent to central casting for a Senator, you got FRITZ HOLLINGS. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator HOLLINGS for all 30 of my years in the Senate and during that time he, and his wife Peatsy, have been dear friends.

Before setting foot in this Chamber, Senator HOLLINGS had amassed a career that any man would be proud of.

He attended the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and upon his graduation in 1942 accepted a commission in the U.S. Army. He served our country honorably in the campaigns in North Africa and Europe during World War II, and received a Bronze Star for his valor. Senator HOLLINGS began his political career when he was 26 as he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. During his second term he was voted Speaker pro tempore and a short 4 years later he was elected lieutenant governor. In 1958 at age 36 was elected as Governor, the youngest Governor of South Carolina in the 20th Century.

Senator HOLLINGS was first elected to Senate in 1966 and has subsequently been re-elected to six additional terms, making him the ninth longest serving Member of this body. Throughout his entire career the Senator has been a leader, fighting to protect our ports, our neighborhoods and American manufacturing jobs. He has been an outspoken advocate for fiscal responsibility, civil rights and against hunger.

In 1974, he led the creation of the Women, Infants and Children—WIC—nutritional assistance program. In 1978, he sponsored legislation and helped secure funding for South Carolina's first National Park, Congaree Swamp. He has stood tall in protecting our oceans and coasts, he authored the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Oceans Act of 2000, which created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Since 1967 Senator HOLLINGS has been a member of the Commerce Committee and from his coauthorship of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that deregulated the telecom industry to his work on the FTC "Do Not Call List," he has consistently looked out for the best interest of consumers. In 2000, Senator HOLLINGS and I, along with Senators SARBANES and WYDEN, were successful in beating back the wholesale federal preemptions of State consumer protection laws during negotiations of the E-Commerce bill which I sponsored.

Senator HOLLINGS is the longest serving Democrat on the Budget Committee, and is the only Democrat to have served on the committee every year since its creation. In 1984 Senator Hollings collaborated with Senators Phil Gramm and Warren Rudman to establish the Gramm-Hollings-Rudman deficit reduction legislation that helped reduce the deficit by \$70 billion in its first year of enactment.

I have had the pleasure to serve with Senator HOLLINGS on the Appropriations Committee, where he has served since 1971, and is currently 3rd highest ranking member. From this position he has helped important initiatives both in South Carolina and nationally, such as a cause I have always strongly supported, the battle against cancer. Senator HOLLINGS helped create a nationwide program to screen women for breast and cervical cancer and worked to establish a cancer center at the Medical University of South Carolina that bears his name.

Earlier this fall more than 600 friends came together to celebrate Senator HOLLINGS's career in the Senate, an event that raised \$2 million for the Hollings Cancer Center. We toasted his accomplishments and his incredible career of public service that has spanned more than five decades in State and national politics. I joined this body in 1974 and I immediately learned that Senator HOLLINGS is a man that always speaks his mind. His straightforward manner, dynamic personality and unwavering integrity are qualities that make me proud to call him my friend. I have valued his friendship and his camaraderie over these past 30 years, and I wish FRITZ and his wife Peatsy the best of lives in their beloved South Carolina.

JOHN BREAUX

Mr. President, the State of Louisiana has a proud history of sending remarkable public figures to serve in the Senate. Louisiana has elected leaders that have been influential in guiding the direction of our country. Our colleague JOHN BREAUX is a man from this same mold. For more than 30 years the senior Senator from Louisiana has represented his State in Washington, with 18 years as a Member of this body, and 14 years of service in the House of Representatives. In that time, he has always been willing to reach across the aisle to bring our colleagues together and his leadership has produced a list of impressive legislative accomplishments.

As chairman and then as ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging, Senator BREAUX has fought tirelessly for the rights of older Americans, working to reform and protect both Social Security and Medicare. The senior Senator from Louisiana has also provided strong leadership within the Senate during his 8-year tenure as deputy chief whip. His repeated election to this position speaks to the respect that our colleagues have for Senator BREAUX's ability to routinely bring together Members with differing opinions to build a consensus.

One of Senator BREAUX's lasting legacies will be the leading role he has taken with regard to environmental conservation. In 1990, the Senator authored the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, which provides for the restoration of the vital coastal wetlands of Louisiana and has since become known as the Breaux Act. This legislation was passed during his first term in the Senate and has since been renewed. More recently, Senator BREAUX has supported legislation that would help protect coastal regions from the impact of offshore oil and gas exploration.

In our many years of service together, Senator BREAUX and I have had the opportunity to work closely on a wide range of issues. We both have been actively involved in telecommunications legislation, and collaborated on legislation that authorized reform of the telephone industry. I am particu-

larly appreciative of Senator BREAUX's unwavering support for legislation opposing the use of antipersonnel landmines, an issue of great significance to me personally and to the safety of millions of people around the world.

I am proud of the body of legislation that Senator BREAUX and I advanced together throughout our shared time in the Senate. I commend Senator BREAUX for his dedication to being a watchdog for American seniors, for his legacy of environmental protection in Louisiana, and for his record of public service on behalf of his fellow Louisianans. The Senate and the people of Louisiana are losing a dedicated public servant and exceptional leader. I congratulate the Senator on a remarkable congressional career and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

On a personal level, JOHN and Lois BREAUX are good friends. Marcelle and I share the joy of telling grandchildren stories—and even of borrowing Mardi Gras costumes. I quickly realized in wearing one that you needed the special Cajun flavor of Louisiana to carry it off. JOHN can do that one day at a Mardi Gras party and the next day handle on the floor the most complex issue facing the Finance Committee. He is a Senator's Senator.

BOB GRAHAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at the end of this Congress we will bid farewell to distinguished members of this body who have served their States and their country with honor. I rise today to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Florida, a man who has been a leader in the Senate on national intelligence issues, prescription drugs and the environment and has been a strong voice in this body on behalf of the interests of his fellow Floridians.

For more than four decades Senator GRAHAM has been a leader in Florida politics, serving his State as a State representative and Senator, as Governor and as a United States Senator. For 18 years Senator GRAHAM has compiled an impressive record of leadership while serving as chairman and ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, chairman of the Intelligence Committee, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and as a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee.

Since 1974, Senator GRAHAM has completed more than 400 "Workdays," with Floridians around his State. During these workdays the Senator spends working alongside his constituents, the personal interaction helps him understand the challenges that Floridians face. These visits clearly have provided Senator GRAHAM with an opportunity to recognize the community values and hard work that are exhibited and shared by his constituents. These jobs have gone everywhere from garbage loader to short order cook. No Senator has done anything similar.

From his position on the Senate Finance Committee, Senator GRAHAM has

picked up the torch for causes supported by another respected Floridian Claude Pepper, the former Senator and Congressman. He has supported providing affordable prescription drugs to Americans and has advocated for a common sense approach to Medicare that focuses on wellness and preventative health. Senator GRAHAM has increased access to the Children's Health Insurance Program and has pushed Congress to live up to its commitment to support social services.

Both as Governor and Senator, BOB GRAHAM has been dedicated to protecting the environment. He has helped direct millions of dollars to protect the Everglades, restore wetlands and promote responsible development. In the Senate, BOB GRAHAM has voiced opposition to drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf and for an end to the harmful practice of dredging in the Apalachicola River.

For those of us that have served with Senator GRAHAM in the Senate we have admired his hard work and dedication to his constituents. We join him now in celebrating his eighteen successful years in this body, a period of time that is one part of a career of service to the State of Florida. As Senator GRAHAM moves out of the public eye, he leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment that will be forever remembered by his fellow Americans and Floridians. He also leaves a reputation of integrity and insight. History will show that this country should have listened to his warnings about the failed intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq.

JOHN EDWARDS

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of Senator JOHN EDWARDS of North Carolina.

Because of his time on the campaign trail, Senator EDWARDS' biography is well known to most Americans. He is the son of a mill worker and was the first in his family to attend college. Before coming to the Senate, JOHN fought for victims' rights against insurance companies for more than 20 years in North Carolina. He enjoyed great success in that career, but seeking to do more for the people of his State, he decided to run for the Senate in 1998. JOHN ran against, and defeated, an incumbent Senator, Senator Faircloth. Immediately upon arriving in the Senate, Senator EDWARDS began to make an impact.

Only a few days after Senator EDWARDS was sworn in, I asked him to help depose witnesses in the impeachment trial of President Clinton. I wanted to make sure we had the best, and I thought he was. It was JOHN's career experience that made him an ideal choice to assist in the depositions, and he had recent experience working in the trenches. In that pressure filled situation JOHN won the respect of all of his colleagues, both on this side of the aisle and the other.

From his seat on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee,

Senator EDWARDS advocated for lowering the cost of prescription drugs for all Americans by improving access to generic medications. In 2001, he authored the Patients' Bill of Rights which would have guaranteed that people in HMOs and other insurance plans get the health care they pay for. Unfortunately, this was passed in the Senate but blocked by the White House. In addition to serving on the HELP Committee, Senator EDWARDS served on the Intelligence, Small Business, and Judiciary Committees.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator EDWARDS worked closely with me on a number of legislative efforts. He was a cosponsor of the Innocence Protection Act, the National Amber Alert Network, and a strong voice on judicial nominations. Senator EDWARDS has stood up to efforts by this President to pack the courts with people whose records do not demonstrate that they will be fair judges to all who come before them, rich or poor, Democrats or Republicans, or any race or background.

In September of 2003, Senator EDWARDS announced that he was running for President. JOHN ran a great campaign, raising issues important to the American people. He frequently referred to the division of America into two halves, that of the haves and that of the have-nots. JOHN focused on the struggles of the middle class and many of the same issues that he was a leader on during his time in the Senate. Throughout the campaign, JOHN was a positive voice for our party, and he was an excellent choice as a running mate for JOHN KERRY.

In an interview, JOHN once said that he had an ideal image of what a U.S. Senator should be. He said that "I think about a fiery advocate, someone who works passionately for his constituents." For the past 6 years, JOHN has been exactly that. Be it health or education reform, supporting farmers or North Carolina's economic interests, JOHN EDWARDS has been an incredible leader and advocate for his State. I will miss JOHN's friendship here in the Senate. I know that he has a wonderful wife and three beautiful children, and that whatever steps he takes next that he will be just fine as long as he has their support.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the past 12 years, the Senator from Colorado has served his State with distinction as a member of this body. Throughout that time, I have been pleased to join my friend and colleague in a number of legislative efforts. He has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Native Americans, for the protection of police officers, and for preserving public lands and natural resources. It is because of his leadership on these, and many other issues, that the presence of the senior Senator from Colorado will be missed in this Chamber.

In 1989, Senator CAMPBELL, then Congressman CAMPBELL, sponsored legisla-

tion to create a new museum that would ensure the recognition and celebration of Native American culture and history. I am thrilled that earlier this summer we were able to join in the celebration with Senator CAMPBELL as the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian opened in Washington, DC. I know that none of us will ever forget the sight of our colleague in full chief's regalia speaking on the Senate floor on the day the new museum opened.

Before serving his State in Washington, Senator CAMPBELL represented his country as the captain of the U.S.-Olympic Judo team, competing in the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics. While I have never had to witness him use these skills on a fellow member of the Senate, he once helped subdue a suspect that had shoved Senator Thurmond until the Capitol Police arrived.

One of Senator CAMPBELL's most noted passions is his enthusiasm for motor vehicles. Senator CAMPBELL has a well documented love of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and Washingtonians have occasionally caught a glimpse of the Senator riding around town on his motorcycle. As the Capitol Hill newspaper *The Hill* noted in April of 2003, the Senator added to his vehicle collection last spring when he replaced his 20-year-old Dodge Plymouth last spring with a brand new Mini Cooper. While most Americans may know how the Senator gets around town when he is in Washington, far fewer probably know that Senator CAMPBELL was behind the wheel for most of the trip when the 2000 National Holiday Tree was transported from Colorado to Washington, DC on a Mack truck.

Senator CAMPBELL and I share a background in law enforcement, he as a former Sacramento County sheriff's deputy in California, and I as a State's attorney in Vermont. This background helped bring us together to develop the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Acts of 1998 that has since been reauthorized in both 2000 and 2004. Since its inception in 1999, this highly successful Department of Justice program has provided law enforcement officers in 16,000 jurisdictions nationwide with nearly 350,000 new bulletproof vests.

Earlier this year, Senator CAMPBELL and I collaborated to produce the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, which will allow qualified active-duty law enforcement officers to travel interstate with a firearm, provided that officers are carrying their official badges and photographic identification. I was proud to team up with Senator CAMPBELL in writing and introducing the Senate version of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act that will enable law enforcement officers nationwide to be prepared to answer a call to duty no matter where, when, or in what form it comes.

Senator CAMPBELL has a long and distinguished legislative history as a Member of the United States Congress. I am proud to have served with him on the Agriculture and Appropriations

Committees, and I am proud of our partnerships to protect police officers, fight against landmines, and to provide funding for the WIC and Head Start programs. I applaud the Senator for his 12 years of service in the Senate and 6 years of service in the House of Representatives, and I congratulate him on a remarkable career.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to pay tribute to my friend and my colleague, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL.

Long before I arrived in the Senate, BEN had proven to be a trusted friend. In my early days as a Senator, our friendship was furthered as I sought wise counsel from veteran members like BEN. I found that his wisdom and insight on the rules and idiosyncrasies of Capitol Hill were invaluable to my adjustment here. And I must say, I just thoroughly enjoy his company. It goes without saying that having to say farewell to BEN certainly pulls at my heartstrings.

I also sought BEN's aid when I introduced my first legislation to finally offer the Lumbee Indian Tribe Federal recognition. This significant bill would not have moved forward without the strong assistance of the Senator from Colorado. I was moved by BEN's interest in the bill, and to this day, I am touched that he remains invested in something so close to my heart. I am eternally grateful for the role he's played in moving Lumbee recognition one step closer to becoming a reality. BEN's commitment to the Native American community is unparalleled and is certainly to be commended.

BEN's legacy will linger in the halls of the Senate long after he has shut the door to his offices. He leaves behind a record of service that one can only hope to emulate. Coloradans have benefited from BEN's character, conscientiousness and compassion for years, and I know they will welcome him home with open arms.

My warmest best wishes to my dear and treasured friend, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL. There is no doubt that he will be sorely missed, not just by me, but by all of us who have been blessed to call him our colleague and our friend.

DON NICKLES

Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to a good friend and colleague who has had such a stellar and effective career in the United States Senate. I am so proud to have worked alongside a man of such character and knowledge, and I am certain that I speak for all my colleagues when I say his leadership in Congress will be sorely missed.

DON NICKLES' career is the classic American success story. After working his way through Oklahoma State University by starting a janitorial service, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1980 at the age of 31. While serving in Congress, his peers have consistently shown their confidence in his abilities, electing him to

several leadership posts including senatorial committee Chair, chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, assistant majority leader and Budget Committee chairman.

The day after DON announced he would not seek a fifth U.S. Senate term, the Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman stated that his retirement "will leave Oklahoma without its most powerful Washington advocate." How true that is. Over his two-decades-long career, the good that DON has done for his constituency is immeasurable.

As a Senator, DON has amassed a tremendous record as an advocate for taxpayers. When our economy was in need of recovery because of a recession compounded by the events of September 11, DON was a leader in pushing the economic growth and tax relief package through Congress. Thanks to his efforts, today our economy is on the upswing with jobs being added, homes being built and small businesses expanding. DON gets great credit for his role in making that happen.

I will always remember DON coming down to Eastern North Carolina to campaign with me at a tobacco warehouse. Asked to speak on stage in favor of the tobacco quota buyout, which of course he did not support, he graciously spoke about how hard I would work to get this done for the State. DON demonstrated his character that day, as he did on so many other days during his many outstanding years as a servant of the public.

DON has always used the power of his office for good. I admire the way that he has stood for what he believes, no matter the challenge. He has brilliantly served the people of Oklahoma and all Americans with courage and conviction, a stellar example for those who follow in his footsteps. May God bless Senator DON NICKLES and his family for many years to come.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to a man who, in the President's words, "has left his mark on virtually every major issue" during his service in this body, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, the Budget Committee chairman, our colleague DON NICKLES.

For more than two decades, Senator NICKLES has served the people of Oklahoma and America with strength of conviction, wisdom, and hard work, every day. I have had the good fortune of serving with the Senator from Oklahoma for a decade, particularly closely on the Budget and Finance Committee, and for 6 years as his counsel while he was majority whip. I have gotten to know well Senator NICKLES' passion and insight, his firm understanding of policy matched with ability to plainly articulate it, and his generous sense of humor and warm personality that have made him a colleague no one will soon forget.

Oklahoma sent DON NICKLES to the Senate in the year of the "Reagan Revolution"—1980. In many ways—and I know the Senator has said so himself—

his start in public service was molded and defined by President Reagan's inspiring vision and love of freedom. Our new 69-year-old President projected a contagious, even youthful optimism. So did the new Senator from Oklahoma, but in DON NICKLES' case, it was the optimism of youth. At 31, he was the youngest Republican elected to this chamber in American history.

Senator NICKLES' contributions shepherding the Reagan agenda through Congress were immediate and his rise was meteoric. After 6 years he had served as NRSC chairman and was at the helm of the Republican policy council.

I must say that as Chair of the Small Business Committee, I think it is an invaluable asset to the Senate to have a colleague such as Senator NICKLES who has been there on the front lines of job creation as an entrepreneur—starting his own janitorial service to work his way through Oklahoma State. Before Senator NICKLES came to Washington, he was a small businessman from Ponca City, OK. He was already allergic to needless red tape and gridlock. So when Senator NICKLES sees a problem, he sets out to solve it—guided by his deeply held principles and informed by a firm grasp of the legislative process.

Like the leader he counts as his mentor, President Reagan, the Senator from Oklahoma brings to public life his firmly rooted beliefs, a can-do Heartland optimism, and that rare ability to disagree without being disagreeable. Senator NICKLES is a colleague I will miss, and I wish him, his wife Linda, and his family much happiness in the new endeavors that lie ahead.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in thanking and honoring Senator NICKLES for over two decades of distinguished service to the country he loves and the State he has made proud.

JOHN BREAU

Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and incomparable colleague in both the House and Senate for 26 years, Senator JOHN BREAU. The senior Senator from Louisiana leaves this institution stronger for having lent his voice and his leadership to these Chambers. Senator BREAU's commitment to bipartisan statesmanship has enriched the Senate, improved the lives of Louisiana families and resulted in landmark accomplishments for the American people.

Churchill said that "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." By that definition, none can doubt which camp Senator BREAU falls in. He is the Senate's most irrepressible optimist. He steps into the breach, not merely in words, but in countless efforts over his tenure in both the House and Senate to make the process work for the people it is intended to serve. Where some see hopeless gridlock, Senator BREAU always sees a glimmer of hope and acts on it. Never settling for complacency, he uses

his trademark tenacity and energy to move the deliberative process forward. His is a record of achievement over acrimony.

I personally was privileged to work closely with Senator BREAU for more than two decades. He and I have always shared a vision of politics and public life as positive and constructive endeavors. And we have a long history together, dating back to our days serving in the House of Representatives, of reaching across the aisle to reach consensus and produce results.

In fact, we worked together on such fundamental issues as the Federal budget when Senator BREAU was a member of a moderate, southern Democrat group called the Boll Weevils, and I a member of the northeast Republican Gypsy Moths. Some still wonder why both our groups carried the names of ravenous insects.

But it was fortuitous that Senator BREAU and I had this record of cooperation because it seemed only natural when we later teamed-up as co-chairs of the Senate Centrist Coalition, which Senator BREAU founded along with the late Senator John Chafee in 1995 during the Government shutdown.

So there is no question that I will miss him—we will all miss him—because we need more leaders such as Senator JOHN BREAU in Congress. He has proven that we can cultivate common ground even out of sometimes barren partisan landscape. And his ability to forge compromises has made possible many signature accomplishments of both Democrat and Republican administrations. Senator BREAU views public service as an opportunity to get things done for the people he serves, to make a difference in their lives—whether it was reforming welfare to help families move from public assistance to self-sufficiency, strengthening and saving Medicare and Social Security, preserving wetlands like the Louisiana Bayou, or providing tax relief to stimulate to job creation.

What has made Senator BREAU so effective is not only his legislative acumen, but also his personal bonds with colleagues. The Senator has brought people together with his self-effacing wit, his candid approach, and his eagerness to reach out to colleagues on both sides of the aisle. So it is not surprising that he departs the Senate with the respect, trust and affection of Senators across the political spectrum.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside Senator BREAU, and I wish him, his wife Lois, and their entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, nearly 26 years ago, I arrived in Washington as a newly elected Congressman with an urgent desire to help the people of my State but not nearly as much knowledge as I wanted about exactly how to do that.

Having good ideas and getting those ideas enacted into law, as my old friend Paul Wellstone used to say, are often

two very different matters. I decided to call on some of my heroes men who were serving in Congress then who had contributed greatly to the life of our Nation and whom I admired. One of those men was Claude Pepper. Another was Mo Udall. Both shared their time and wisdom generously with me and gave me advice that has guided me all these years.

In 1988, Mo Udall wrote a wonderful book entitled "Too Funny to be President." I recommend it to anyone, especially those who have the privilege of serving in elected office in our great democracy. The ability to see humor in one's own circumstances and to share a good-natured laugh with others is essential if you are going to last long in public office.

Mo Udall dedicated his book "to the 3,000 members of Congress living and dead with whom I served for nearly three decades." As I prepare to end my own nearly three decades in Congress, I, too, am deeply grateful to all of the Members of Congress living and dead with whom I have had the privilege of serving and from whom I have learned so much.

The list of such members is long. In addition to my early mentors, Claude Pepper and Mo Udall, it includes members who were gone long before I was born, but whose legacy is still felt today giants like Webster, Clay, and Calhoun.

It includes Senators such as Margaret Chase Smith, who had the courage to take on the red-baiting and bullying Senator Joe McCarthy in 1954 in her famous "Appeal to Conscience" speech not far from where I stand now.

The list includes two Senators who first inspired me to pursue a life in public service John and Robert Kennedy and it includes their brother and my friend, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, one of the finest, most capable Senators America has ever produced.

The list also includes earlier Senate leaders—men such as Lyndon Johnson, the "master of the Senate;" Mike Mansfield, one of my personal heroes, who showed that progress and bipartisanship are not mutually exclusive; and Howard Baker, a master of the art of principled compromise.

The list of those who have inspired me includes George Mitchell and Bob Dole, the two leaders who taught me the most about this job.

It includes my fellow South Dakotan, George McGovern; Mark Hatfield, who offered to resign from the Senate rather than cast a vote he could not square with his own conscience; and Jim Jeffords, who showed the world that one person can change history. It also includes Paul Wellstone, the soul of the Senate; ROBERT BYRD, as eloquent and determined defender of our Constitution as has ever lived; and many others.

Today, I would like to say a few words about eight additional Senators with whom I have served these last historic 6 years, all of whom will be leaving when this Congress ends.

Senator NICKELS, Senator CAMPBELL, Senator FITZGERALD, and Senator MILLER, it has been a privilege to work with each of you. You have each sacrificed much to serve our Nation and I am sure you will continue to serve America well in the years to come.

Six Democratic Senators are leaving at the end of this Congress. Among them is our friend, the senior Senator from Louisiana.

JOHN BREAUX

I was joking with another friend recently that the good thing about JOHN BREAUX retiring is that maybe now he will finally be able to loosen up a little.

JOHN's ability to make us laugh even in tough times is a gift we have all treasured. Another gift of JOHN's is his ability to find workable compromises on even the most difficult issues. He really is a master of the art of the compromise.

A couple of years ago, I read a newspaper article in which JOHN talked about what he might do if he ever left the Senate. He pointed out that Huey Long had actually served as Louisiana's Senator and Governor at the same time. I thought when I heard that that maybe John would never leave the Senate; he would just diversify. Regrettably, he is leaving now.

I know that serving as Ambassador to France has always been high on JOHN's list of post-Senate dream jobs. I understand that a few years back, JOHN asked President Clinton, "Do you think I could handle France?" to which President Clinton replied, "The question is whether France could handle you."

Whatever JOHN BREAUX decides to do next, I have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Louisiana and America. And I know he will have a heck of a good time in the process. JOHN and Lois are special members of our Senate family, and we wish them all the best in the future.

JOHN EDWARDS

We also say goodbye to JOHN EDWARDS.

I think it is probably no coincidence that JOHN EDWARDS holds Sam Ervin's old seat in the Senate. Like Sam Ervin, John has a brilliant legal mind and a deep love of justice.

In 2001, the first bill Democrats brought to the floor after we retook the majority was the Patients' Bill of Rights. I couldn't believe my luck: My first bill as majority leader—the Patients Bill of Rights and I was able to tap as floor leaders TED KENNEDY and JOHN EDWARDS. It was like looking down the bench and seeing Babe Ruth and Willie Mays. You just knew the Patients' Bill of Rights was finally going to pass the Senate. And it did—in large part because of JOHN EDWARDS' remarkable skill and deep personal commitment.

I think one of the great lines in American literature is the line near the end of "Death of a Salesman" where Willie Loman's wife Linda says

her husband wasn't famous or powerful, but he was a good man to whom respect must be paid. That same conviction is what has motivated JOHN EDWARDS' whole life: The belief that there is dignity and worth in every person, including people who work hard every day in mills, and factories, and farms.

In his race for the Democratic Presidential nomination and with JOHN KERRY as our party's Vice Presidential nominee, JOHN EDWARDS brought a sense of hope and optimism to millions and millions of Americans.

JOHN and Elizabeth Edwards both won places in our hearts immediately, and our hearts and prayers are with them and their wonderful children today as Elizabeth continues her recovery from breast cancer. We look forward to spending many more happy years with them. We also look forward to the good work we know they will do for our Nation in the years ahead.

BOB GRAHAM

The best way I found to stay in touch with the people who elected me was to drive through every county in South Dakota every year and just talk to whomever I ran into about whatever was on their mind. BOB GRAHAM found an equally effective way of staying in touch with average Floridians. He calls them workdays. He would spend a day working in another job.

This year, he worked his 400th workday. He spent that day the same way he spent his first workday 30 years ago: as a teacher. That is appropriate because, in fact, BOB's entire career has been a living lesson in public service.

A while back, I was looking over the list of BOB's workday jobs and I have to tell you, I am amazed! Think about all the things he has done: NASA payload specialist, firefighter, bagel maker, bullet-proof vest maker, pea picker, phosphate miner, Air Force Special Operations gunner, circus worker elf!

Clearly, it wasn't lack of other career options that has kept BOB in the Senate for 18 years. What is kept him here is simple. It is his love of Florida, and of this country. It is a sense of responsibility that he inherited from his father and that has animated his whole life.

BOB GRAHAM is a moderate with a capital M. And he is one of the nicest people you could ever meet. But when it comes to the people of Florida, when it comes to doing right by America, strengthening America's economy, creating good jobs, investing in children, and standing up for America's veterans and military families, BOB GRAHAM is a fierce fighter. And when it comes to protecting our Nation from terrorism, he is a heavyweight fighter. America is safer today because of his courage and tenacity.

I suspect the only people who could possibly be sadder about BOB's retirement than the members of our caucus are the people who make those Florida ties! We wish BOB and Adele the very best of luck in all their future endeavors.

ERNEST HOLLINGS

Another remarkable Senator who is retiring this year is FRITZ HOLLINGS.

I used to joke with FRITZ HOLLINGS that he is the real reason CSPAN first started its closed-caption broadcasts. FRITZ's deep Charleston accent, like the man himself, is an American classic.

When you look inside FRITZ HOLLINGS' desk on the Senate floor, you see the names of giants: John Calhoun, Huey Long, Russell Long, Wayne Morse—courageous men who never hesitated to speak their minds. FRITZ has earned the right to stand with those legends.

He was 36 years old when he was elected Governor of South Carolina. As Governor, he wrote the book on governing in the New South. He raised teacher salaries, invested in education and training, and laid the foundation for South Carolina's economic transformation from an agrarian State to a high-tech, high-wage State.

One of the amazing things about FRITZ HOLLINGS is how often he has been able to see the future before others—not just on matters of race, but on issue after issue.

He was the first Deep South Governor to acknowledge the existence of widespread hunger in his State. He was also the first southern Governor to understand that you can't create a modern economy simply by cutting taxes, you have to invest in education and training.

He has been a relentless advocate of balanced budgets and fiscal discipline since long before they became political buzzwords. In 1984—years before Ross Perot uttered the words FRITZ HOLLINGS made deficit reduction a central plank in his Presidential bid.

He has been fighting for fair trade, and against the export of American jobs, his entire career. He has been calling for a long-term, comprehensive energy plan since before the first OPEC oil crisis in 1973. He wrote America's first fuel-efficiency standards—in 1975.

He was in the forefront of the movement to protect America's oceans in the early 1970s. He saw the future of telecommunications before a lot of Americans knew what "surfing the Internet" meant. He was pushing for increased port and air security before September 11.

If some people have occasionally found FRITZ a little difficult to understand, I suspect it was not so much because of his wonderful Charleston accent but because he was so often ahead of his time.

Now FRITZ and Peatsy are moving home to live full time in their beloved South Carolina, but they will always have a special place in the Senate family. We wish them the very best.

I have to be honest, Mr. President, it was not my wish to depart with these fine Senators. But it has been my honor and a joy to serve with them, and one that I will remember all the days of my life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHARLES "CHUCK" KISER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, over a week ago we celebrated Veterans Day. In countless parades, ceremonies, and prayer services, Americans honored and remembered the service and sacrifices of all of those who have answered the call of duty. In the days that have followed, I continue to be reminded of something President Ronald Reagan said more than 20 years ago, something he said about the brave service men and women who did not return from the field of battle. This is what he said:

Their lives remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply. It has a cost; it imposes a burden. And just as they whom we commemorate were willing to sacrifice, so, too must we—in a less final, less heroic way—be willing to give of ourselves.

That is an important lesson, our willingness to repay the debts we who are left behind owe our fallen soldiers, this notion of giving of ourselves. It is a lesson the students of McNicholas High School in Cincinnati have taken to heart.

On June 24, 2004, 37-year-old Army SSgt Charles "Chuck" Kiser, an Ohio native and former McNicholas High graduate, lost his life in Iraq while saving the lives of his comrades.

The current students at McNicholas wanted to honor and remember Chuck Kiser this year on Veterans Day, so they went about raising enough money to hold a ceremony and fly Chuck's wife Deb and their two children, Alicia and Mark, from Wisconsin to Ohio, for the services. In their own way, these students gave of themselves. They reached out to the Kiser family and said we will not forget your husband. We will not forget your father. We will not forget him either.

Chuck Kiser was a loving husband, doting father, and courageous soldier. He grew up in Amelia, OH, in a home with his father Charles and six women—mother Glenda and sisters Chris, Denise, Patty, Teresa, and Joy. Some say that living with all those women is what toughened him up and made him into such an outstanding soldier. I imagine that is very true.

Their father passed away in 2002. Chuck and his dad were very close. Chuck followed in his dad's footsteps when he entered the military. The elder Charles had served in the Navy and was a Korean War veteran. Chuck's brother-in-law, Bill Grannen, said that "[Chuck's] father instilled that kind of love of country and commitment in him. I'm sure they're together now."

Chuck was a runner—and a good one, at that. He began his track career in the third grade at St. Bernadette School and continued running through college. At McNicholas High School and at the University of Cincinnati, he was a champion sprinter. As a high

school senior, he finished in second place in the 200-meter run at the state Class AA meet. In fact, he also holds the University of Cincinnati records for the 300 meter and the 300 yard dash indoors. His former coach, Brett Schnier remembered Chuck as his top recruit and that "he could run about anything."

After a year at the University, Chuck decided to join the Navy, where he would eventually meet and marry the love of his life, Deb. Chuck spent seven years in active duty in the Navy, stationed mostly in Italy. It was there that he met Deb, and they fell in love. They started a family while Chuck continued his military service.

Following his time in the Navy, he spent seven years in the Naval Reserves. Later, he entered the Army Reserve because the base was near their eventual home in Cleveland, WI.

Not only was Chuck Kiser a model soldier, he was a model father. He loved his children dearly. He was a great dad. He took joy in coaching Mark and Alicia in various sports. Last year, Chuck coached a Little League championship team and would often volunteer to work with youth at the Zion United Church of Christ in Sheboygan.

Chuck Kiser loved all kids and felt especially strong about helping the children in Iraq. According to his brother-in-law:

Charles really felt like he wanted to secure their freedoms so they could live without the fear they lived under during the dictatorship. He said that if the situation were reversed, he would hope people would come to liberate his children. He believed that in his heart.

That is why Chuck never hesitated when he and the rest of his Army Reserve unit—the 330th Military Police Detachment—were deployed to Iraq earlier this year. He wanted to defend our Nation, and he wanted the Iraqi people to have the same freedoms he and his family enjoyed. Chuck was proud to be serving his country. He was proud to help the Iraqi people in whatever way he could.

Staff Sergeant Kiser lost his life helping the Iraqi people and saving the lives of his Comrades. He was on guard duty in Mosul, Iraq when insurgents began firing from a truck loaded with explosives. Chuck returned fire, but was killed when the truck crashed and exploded. Army Major Mark Magalski noted that Chuck saved countless lives in his final act of bravery.

Upon Chuck's death, hundreds in his hometown of Amelia gathered to show their support for the Kiser family. At the Clermont County courthouse, signs hung that read, "God Bless Chuck and the Kiser Family." Flags were placed in yards and the community came out to help the Kisers in any way they could.

I had the privilege of meeting Chuck's family at the memorial service held in his honor, and I want to thank them for sharing their memories with me. The service was fitting for a man