

As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama from 1981 until 1992, I had the opportunity to practice before Judge Butler and saw first hand that his experience gained from having been a former prosecutor, a former public defender, and a former private practitioner were extremely valuable to him.

During several years of Judge Butler's service, the Court was understaffed by one or more judges. During this time, Judge Butler worked very hard not only handling his own caseload, but handling a great deal of extra work caused by the shortage. While doing all of that, he also found time for the many demanding duties of his position as chief judge and as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

In describing his service to the Southern District, I would like to quote from his letter of nomination for the 2003 Judicial Award of Merit, which he received: "Despite the overwhelming demands on his time, Judge Butler worked tirelessly to reasonably maintain the civil and criminal docket of the Court. Judge Butler routinely held hearings on criminal matters before civil trials commenced, during his lunch hour, and after civil trials concluded for the day. As Chief Judge, Judge Butler further worked to improve the administrative efficiency and user-friendliness of the Court. During his tenure, court rooms have been updated with cutting edge trial presentation technology.

"All the while, Judge Butler has served with the dignity and decorum deserving of our Federal courts and he has given his undivided and thoughtful attention the myriad and varied matters routinely presented to him."

Judge Butler brought a natural courtesy to the courtroom that made all feel at ease. While he was a strong judge who never, ever lost control of his courtroom, his ease of manner facilitated a courtroom atmosphere most conducive to fair outcomes. His strong faith and character reflect the essence of who he is. He was raised right and his faith has deepened over the years. While he routinely imposes sentences according to the guidelines on wrongdoers, he is compassionate and felt for those he sentenced. Indeed, he is an active backer of his wife, Jacque, and her faith-based outreach to women prisoners and their families. They are active Episcopalians and strong believers that every human being is precious and worthy of compassion.

I also have been pleased and proud to watch Judge Butler's active and important leadership role on the Judicial Conference of the United States. He has served as a member and on its executive committee. Judge Butler's experience in a wide variety of trials and his personal knowledge of a working courtroom have been most valuable to the Judicial Conference.

Finally, I would like to commend him for his stewardship of and leader-

ship of my courthouse and its remarkable family. For many years, the court family, in which I include the Magistrates, the Clerk, the Probation Officers, and the security personnel, has worked together closely and harmoniously over the years, committed always to the highest ideals. Judge Butler inherited an excellent court family and has raised their teamwork for justice to an even higher level. I wish all courts could operate so harmoniously. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama has a proud record of integrity, industry, legal skill and collegiality. Judge Butler has been an outstanding judge under some demanding circumstances. His dedication and commitment to duty have greatly benefitted this court.

My appreciation and respect for the service of Judge Butler is unbounded. He has served the people of the United States and the rule of law with fairness and integrity. I am glad that he remains fit and active. While he deserves to catch his breath, I am sure that he will continue to reward the citizens of this great country by carrying an active caseload. That will be a blessing indeed.

On March 28, 2005, Judge Butler took senior status and on June 17, 2005, his portrait presented by the Mobile Bar Association, was unveiled in the ceremonial courtroom of the John A. Campbell Courthouse in Mobile, Alabama. I was honored to have a place on that program.●

TRIBUTE TO SID HARTMAN

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, while the Senate is in recess next month, a remarkable event will take place in Minnesota, the Sid Hartman "Close Personal Friends" Celebration. It is worth a few moments of the Senate's time for me to honor this great Minnesota personality.

They say that history is just the biography of very significant people. Individuals create history with their words, their style, and their accomplishments. Sid Hartman never ran a company or held elective office. But he has had an impact on Minnesota just by being who he is: a hardworking, opinionated, and irrepressible sports journalist for more than 50 years.

Sid's life began the way most great lives start: with humble beginnings and hard work. He worked his way up from being a newspaper delivery boy, to copy boy to reporter. He helped run the original Minneapolis Lakers NBA team. He had a hand in the start of two of Minnesota's other major sports franchises: the Twins and the Vikings.

And to this day, his column appears in the Minneapolis Star Tribune every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday. It is full of news, speculation and prophesies about the world of sports, and everything that touches it.

Sid Hartman's popularity and impact comes from three sources we should all tap into:

First, he works harder than anyone else. He frequently reminisces that he develops news stories the way he sold newspapers: start early, keep moving and be aggressive.

Second, he understands the power of relationships. He is a "Google" of first hand sports information about the main figures of sports over the last 50 years. Just mention Bud Grant or Bobby Knight or George Steinbrenner or any famous player to him and you get a fascinating personal download. He builds and maintains relationships.

And third, Sid is just who he is: nothing more, nothing less. I don't know if Bill Cosby is a "close personal friend" but he sure describes his life with this quotation: "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody." In an era of carefully measured words and hypersensitivity, Sid Hartman just speaks his mind.

Half the fun of sports is talking about the games after they are over and anticipating them before they begin. Sid has livened up the conversation. He has made us laugh, made us angry and some times made us wonder where in the world he was coming from. But he always added spice to our lives.

Sid Hartman is being honored on August 7, 2005, in Minneapolis. But the event is not about him: it is about bringing people together to support the scholarship fund of the University of Minnesota, Sid's great love. Despite his sometimes gruff exterior, Sid has a soft spot in his heart for the athletes of the U and all Gopher sports. His love and support and his encouragement, public and private, has made a big difference in hundreds of young lives.

Growing up, I heard the expression: "Hearts that are tender and kind and tongues that are neither make the finest company of all." Sid has been great company for thousands of ardent and casual sports fans of the Upper Midwest. He has helped make Minnesota the fun, interesting place it is today.

Congratulations, Sid Hartman, for your example and your contribution to the quality of life of our State—and Go Gophers!●

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD BROWN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. Edward Brown of Albany, KY. In the winter of 2005, Edward won the Kentucky competition for the 2005 Voice of Democracy Patriotic Audio Essay Contest.

This nationwide competition is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and is now in its 58th year. The competition requires high school student entrants to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. The theme for 2005 is "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service."

Mr. Brown's accomplishment has also earned him the "\$1,000 Department of Wyoming and its Ladies Auxiliary

Scholarship Award." A student of Clinton County High School, Edward also finds time to pursue academic and cultural interests such as political science, music, and art.

The Albany Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1952 and its Ladies Auxiliary can be proud to sponsor Mr. Edward Brown. Being recognized by this organization is truly an honor. I congratulate Edward for his hard work and achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN D. WASON

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer of the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wason, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Wason has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. During his time as—a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Wason on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the U.S. Army and this great Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wason was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, after graduating from California State University-Sacramento in 1985. His first assignment was as a Company Fire Support Officer, Battery Fire Direction Officer, and Battery Executive Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, 5th Infantry Division at Ft. Polk, LA from 1985 to 1989. He commanded B Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1990 to 1992. Following his assignment in Germany, LTC Wason spent 28 months as a Recruiting Company Commander in Northern California from 1992 to 1994. In 1994, LTC Wason was selected as a member of the Army Acquisition workforce. From 1994 to 2001 LTC Wason served in a variety of Army Acquisition positions at White Sands Missile Range, NM and Picatinny Arsenal, NJ working on major Army weapons programs such as the Army Tactical Missiles System, Crusader, and the LW 155 Artillery system.

In 2001, LTC Wason was selected as a Department of Defense Congressional Fellow. His selection was followed by a 1 year assignment working on my personal staff. Following his Fellowship, LTC Wason served in Programs Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. Lieutenant Colonel Wason maintained a constant liaison with Professional Staff Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues relating to Army

Procurement programs focusing on Army Aviation, Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles.

Throughout these varied and demanding assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Wason provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. John's counsel and support were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of their decisions on these important issues.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Wason, his wife Betsy, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military service. I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel John Wason on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career, and wish him blessings and success in all his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY CLUTTER, NSF

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to honor Dr. Mary E. Clutter who will be retiring in August from the National Science Foundation, NSF. To say that Dr. Clutter has had a distinguished career at the NSF would be an understatement due to her countless achievements in the area of biological science. Today's biological science has not only been assisted by Dr. Clutter but in many respects, it has been defined by Dr. Clutter, and her leadership in this important scientific area.

Dr. Clutter personifies the model public servant with a career at the NSF that spanned almost three decades. Dr. Clutter began her career as a temporary program officer at the NSF. Over the ensuing years, she has served with distinction in many important leadership roles at NSF: as the division director of Cellular Biosciences, Senior Science Advisor to the NSF Director, acting deputy director, and assistant director for the Directorate for Biological Sciences. She has served four Presidential administrations beginning with President Ronald Reagan to our current President George W. Bush. As a member of the Senior Executive Service, Dr. Clutter has received numerous awards, including the Meritorious and Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Awards from Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and William Clinton.

During her career, Dr. Clutter has worked to develop a long-term and forward-thinking strategic vision for the biological sciences within NSF covering plant biology, environmental biology, computational biology, biodiversity research, long-term ecological research, and nonmedical microbiology. Further, these areas of research have influenced other scientific research areas and will continue to influence the biological sciences for years to come.

In my opinion, Dr. Clutter's most important achievement has come in the area of plant genome research. It is without question that what we now know and will know about plant genome research would not have occurred without Dr. Clutter's vision, leadership, and hard work. In 1997, I asked the Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, to create an interagency working group to develop a new national plant genome initiative. OSTP wisely appointed Dr. Clutter to cochair the working group and, under her leadership, a plan for the national plant genome program was born in June 1997. Under the new National Plant Genome Initiative, Dr. Clutter brought together key Government research personnel from NSF, the Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, and others to develop and implement the plant genome program.

The plant genome research program at NSF has grown from an initial \$40 million in fiscal year 1999 to \$95 million today and Dr. Clutter has ensured that every penny has been spent wisely and, with this investment, the United States is the world leader in plant genome research. The plant genome program has already yielded tremendous results that will eventually contribute to better agricultural products that will improve human health and nutrition. For example, Dr. Clutter's leadership has contributed to the completion of the Multinational Arabidopsis Sequencing Project. This project was completed 3 years ahead of schedule and produced the first complete sequence of a higher organism. This work has further contributed to the sequencing work of other plants such as maize, soybeans, and other economically significant crops.

With this research, scientists are now beginning to understand the basic mechanisms underlying important plant traits such as cold tolerance, disease resistance, and seed development. Dr. Clutter's leadership has created a new scientific foundation on plant biotechnology that will eventually yield major breakthroughs in our understanding of plants, which will eventually lead to the development of new advances in agriculture, energy, and the environment. I strongly believe that the impressive research being done with plant genomics, led by Dr. Clutter, can eventually be a very powerful tool for addressing hunger in many developing countries such as those in Africa and Southeast Asia.

While Dr. Clutter's contributions to plant biology and genomics are extremely distinguished and too numerous to list in this tribute, I do want to emphasize the role she has played in broadening the participation of women and minorities in the fields of science. Countless number of today's scientists and our future scientists have been positively influenced by Dr. Clutter. She has promoted and emphasized international research collaboration between U.S. and foreign scientists and