

because of the honor of our soldiers. It is serious because it casts doubt on the future of whatever plan there is in Iraq. It is serious mostly because it is an inhumane and nasty comment that negativizes all the sacrifices our people have made.

I hope our President will act. He has been silent today. There is no clarification. There is no discussion of a phone call. There is no expression of outrage from the White House. I hope that will change and change soon. If it doesn't, it has to call into doubt everything we are trying to do over there. This was not a happy day for what is going on in Iraq because of that awful newspaper story this morning and what it reported. I hope, I pray, things will change.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support unanimously the resolution offered by my colleague from Florida and my colleague from New Jersey, that I am proud to support, asking for that change.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I understand the Senate is in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business with 10-minute grants.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, earlier in the week, on Monday to be exact, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, our very distinguished colleague, became the longest serving Senator in the history of the U.S. Senate. It is obviously a moment to celebrate and recognize his accomplishments in the service of the Nation. Our celebration is tempered only by the fact that his beloved wife Erma, with whom he spent nearly 69 years of marriage, passed away recently.

I want to join my colleagues who, in the course of this week, have paid tribute to the senior Senator from West Virginia. Senator BYRD this year completes his eighth Senate term, having first been elected to the Senate in 1958. Prior to that, he served 6 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and, before that, 6 years in the West Virginia legislature.

In his now almost 48 years in the U.S. Senate, he has held an extraordinary range of committee and subcommittee assignments and has served in leadership positions as secretary of the majority conference, majority whip, minority leader, majority leader, and President pro tempore. His vote has

been recorded on nearly 99 percent of all Senate rollcalls since 1958. Indeed, he has cast far more votes than any other Senator in our Nation's history.

It is not for his longevity, however, that we honor our colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia. It is, rather, the manner in which he has faithfully carried out his responsibilities as a U.S. Senator and his abiding dedication to the Constitution of the United States and the system of government it created. No Member of the U.S. Congress understands better than Senator BYRD the Constitution's role in framing our lives as Americans. As he has written:

Only the Constitution's genius affords our people the powers and prerogatives that truly keep us a free nation, most centrally through maintenance of the checks and balances and separation of powers.

Over many years, while vigorously and effectively representing the people of West Virginia, Senator BYRD has made the study, exposition, and defense of the Constitution his life's work. In so doing, he has spoken not only for West Virginians but for us all. If, as Senator BYRD has said, the Senate functions as the central pillar of our constitutional system, then I would say that Senator BYRD himself is the central pillar of the Senate. His commitment to the Senate and its history, its custom, and procedures is equaled only by his commitment to the State of West Virginia, our Nation, and our Constitution.

No one is more keenly attuned to the Senate's role in assuring the proper functioning of our constitutional system. He has studied the Senate's origins in Roman and British history. He has, as he puts it, "ponder[ed] the lives of the framers and founders and set down a four-volume history of the Senate." And he has read the journals and other writings of the early Members of this body. He has mastered the Senate rules to a degree that few, if any, others have ever attained. Even in the most contentious debates, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD remains a steady voice for courtesy and civility. Indeed, his is the voice of courtesy and civility.

Senator BYRD begins his autobiography, "Child of the Appalachian Coalfields," with an observation by William James:

The best use of life is to invest it in something which will outlast life.

This certainly is what he has done.

It was not foreordained that he would some day be a U.S. Senator from West Virginia. Born in North Carolina, he lost his mother in the great influenza epidemic of 1918, when he was a year old, whereupon he was adopted by an aunt and her husband and moved with them to West Virginia. His adopted father was a coal miner, and he grew up in company towns. He was an excellent student, valedictorian of his high school class, "a self-styled sort of somebody," one high school teacher later said, but his prospects were few. As another teacher observed:

Knowing the background and how hard it would be to move out from that background, I picture him as being an office man or a scrip clerk at one of the mines.

In those years of the Great Depression, there was obviously no money for college. ROBERT BYRD took what jobs he could get: Shop clerk, butcher, a welder in a Baltimore shipyard during World War II. We were honored to have had him in our State.

In 1946, he was elected to the first of three terms in the State legislature. Of the decision to run for office he has said:

I grew up in a state where we didn't have much hope. I wanted to help my people and give them hope . . .

He did not abandon his hopes of continuing his education. Upon his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952, he enrolled in law school. When he learned that he would be denied a law degree because he had never received a college degree in the law school in which he had enrolled, he transferred to the Washington College of Law at American University where he went to night classes for 10 years and received his law degree cum laude in 1963—a remarkable achievement. By that time he had been a Senator from West Virginia for 5 years. ROBERT BYRD is the only person ever to have served in either House of Congress to begin and complete a law degree while serving.

Twenty years later, the College of Law at American University honored him as the First Distinguished Fellow of the honor society established by the late dean of the college, a most fitting tribute. Eleven years later, in 1994, he received his bachelor's degree in political science from Marshall University in recognition of the credits accumulated there and other places over a period of many years.

Of the many awards he has received in the course of his long and distinguished career, Senator BYRD has said that none means more to him than the tribute from the Governor and legislature of his State in naming him "West Virginian of the 20th Century."

As his colleague here in the Senate for the past 30 years and as one who has the deepest respect and admiration for him and cherishes his counsel and friendship, I submit that he will be remembered not only for his service to his State but for the courage and dedication and tenacity he has shown and continues to show every day in the service of our Nation. It is a privilege to be his colleague here in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, it is indeed a privilege and honor for me to join my colleagues in commemorating and honoring my friend and colleague, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, on the occasion of his becoming the longest serving Senator in the history of our country, passing the old mark of 17,326 days on June 12, 2006. The fact that West Virginians have returned him to the

Senate in eight prior elections speaks volumes of the love and affection and respect they feel for him as their Senator who serves them most effectively.

When I first came to the Senate in 1990 from the other side of the Capitol, Senator BYRD was one of the first Senators I met with to get advice and counsel, which he generously shared with me. Of course, he gave me a copy of a pocket edition of the Constitution, the document upon which our country is based and one that is ever-present in his pocket. Over the years, he has been most generous with his friendships, and indeed I feel a sense of kinship and aloha with him. In Hawaii, this feeling of kinship is often referred to as being part of the ohana, or family, and used with love and endearment.

With stewards like Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, we can rest assured that our country is in good hands. I look forward to his continuing friendship and serving with him for many years to come.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I do want to talk for a minute about Senator BYRD and recognize he has set a record in the Senate, as many of my colleagues have noted on the floor.

He marked his 17,327th day in office yesterday and became the longest serving Senator in history. That is truly a remarkable accomplishment, and I personally have many fond memories of working with Senator BYRD and look forward to many more.

I remember well when I came here as a freshman Senator 13½ years ago. Senator BYRD at the time brought in all of us freshmen Senators to sit across from him in his very important office and looked down at us and told us that we would be presiding, as is the Presiding Officer today, and told us about our responsibilities and made it very clear he would be watching from his office, and if we were reading any other material or talking to anyone, it would be noted.

I certainly did remember that during the many hours I spent in the Presiding Officer's chair because I knew he was watching. But I think it was a simple reminder to all of us as to the importance of the office we hold here and the respect we have to have for our colleagues.

I remember as well that he invited me to lunch several months later with the Senator from Oregon, Mr. Hatfield, a Republican, to sit down and talk with me about the responsibilities I had as a Senator. And I was so impressed sitting in the room with Senator BYRD and Senator Hatfield, never in my life expecting to have that kind of opportunity. At that meeting they impressed upon me the importance of working across the aisle and respect for the minority and how important everybody's voice is here. It was an important lesson and one I think we all should be reminded of more often.

But just that simple act of inviting me to lunch with two incredible leaders in the Senate is a memory I hold dear,

and I thank my colleague for doing that.

But, frankly, I think what I most will remember Senator BYRD for—and is a good reminder to all of us, too—is several years ago when my husband came out here to Washington, DC—he lives in Washington State. I go home every weekend. But he came out here because it was our wedding anniversary, and instead of me having to fly home, he flew out here. He was coming up the steps of the Capitol, and I met him as Senator BYRD was walking out to his car.

Senator BYRD saw my husband, and he said: Welcome. Nice to have you here at this end of the country. What brings you here?

And my husband said: Well, it is our wedding anniversary.

And Senator BYRD, who, as we well know, lost his beloved wife just a few short weeks ago, was about to celebrate I think it was his 67th wedding anniversary. He looked at my husband and said: Which anniversary is this?

And my husband said: It is our 32nd. Senator BYRD paused and said: Well, it is a good start.

I think the message of that is important for all of us in our everyday lives, in our responsibilities as spouses, and as Senators, to remember it is a good start every day, and you can't rest on your laurels and think back: Well, we have done this for 32 years. The next 32 will be easy. Every day you have to come out and work hard at whatever role you are in at the time.

I certainly say to my good friend, Senator BYRD, how much I respect him and admire him. And today, as he marks his 17,328th day in office, I say to him: It is a good start.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today the Chief Justice and associate Justices of the Supreme Court held a memorial observance honoring Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. It was a really grand event. I am sorry I could not be there the whole time.

At 2 p.m., resolutions in tribute to the Chief Justice were presented for consideration by members of the Supreme Court bar. There were presentations made by the Solicitor General and by the Attorney General of the United States during a special sitting of the Court, which commenced at 3:15 p.m. this afternoon. Following that, the Supreme Court held a reception for friends of the former Chief Justice.

I think one of the great joys of my life was to be able to say that I was a long-time friend of our former Chief Justice. He and I met here as young lawyers the year we got out of law school. We were very friendly. As a matter of fact, we double-dated during those days. And as the years went on,

as I went to Alaska and came back as U.S. Attorney and had various other functions, we kept in touch. We were divided by a continent, but we remained friends.

Years later, when I came to the Senate, he was with the Department of Justice. I can say it was one of the longest friendships I have had, and I was sad when he passed away. I am here really to ask that the Senate review some of the comments made about my friend and former Chief Justice of the United States.

I ask unanimous consent that the schedule of the Supreme Court for today, Thursday, June 15, 2006, and also the resolution of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in gratitude and appreciation for the life, work, and service of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist presented to the Supreme Court today be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST MEMORIAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006

Meeting of the Supreme Court Bar—Upper Great Hall, 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order—Paul D. Clement, Solicitor General of the United States.

Introduction of Speakers—Ronald J. Tenpas, Associate Deputy Attorney General, Clerk to Chief Justice Rehnquist (1991 Term), Chairman of the Meeting.

Remarks—Allen R. Snyder, Partner (retired) at Hogan & Hartson LLP, Clerk to Justice Rehnquist (1971 Term).

Remarks—James C. Rehnquist, Son of the Chief Justice.

Remarks—Maureen E. Mahoney, Partner at Latham & Watkins, Clerk to Justice Rehnquist (1979 Term).

Remarks—Courtney Simmons Elwood, Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Attorney General, Clerk to the Chief Justice (1995 Term).

Remarks—James C. Duff, Partner at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC, Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice (1996–2000).

Motion to Adopt Committee Resolutions—Honorable Steven M. Colloton, Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Clerk to the Chief Justice (1989 Term), Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions.

Call for Second and Closing Remarks—Ronald J. Tenpas, Chairman of the Meeting.

Special Session of the Supreme Court—Courtroom, 3:15 p.m.

Presentation of Resolutions—Paul D. Clement, Solicitor General of the United States.

Request to Accept Resolutions—Paul McNulty, Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Response—John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States.

RESOLUTION OF THE BAR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFE, WORK, AND SERVICE OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST, JUNE 15, 2006

Today, the members of the Bar of the Supreme Court honor the life and legacy of a