our committee deliberations, a great many changes were made to improve and perfect the bill. These improvements included changes on the key issues of enhancing patent quality, clarifying rules on infringement and compensation of inventors, and improving the ability of the Patent and Trademark Office to do its job well.

Mr. HATCH. I am proud to be a leading cosponsor of patent reform. The inventiveness of our citizens is the core strength of our economy. Our Founding Fathers recognized the critically important role of patents by mandating in article 1, section 8, of the Constitution that Congress was to enact a patent law. The Congress has periodically seen fit to update the law to ensure it meets the changing needs of both science and our economy. But the current law has not seen a major revision since 1952. Much has changed since then. The courts have struggled valiantly to interpret the law in ways that make sense in light of change. but that piecemeal process has left many areas unclear and some areas of the law out of balance. So action by the Congress is needed, and needed urgently.

Mr. LEAHY. I agree with my distinguished colleague that now is the time to enact patent reform, and we are in good company in that belief. Our leadership has committed to taking up S. 1145 as early in the new year as possible, and we commend that commitment. I fully recognize that when the bill was reported by the Judiciary Committee, a number of members expressed a strong view that the bill should be further perfected before it comes to a vote on the floor of the Senate. I made a commitment to the members of the Judiciary Committee at the markup that I would work closely with each of them, and other Members of the Senate, to make further improvements in the bill. I reaffirm that commitment.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you. I was among the members of the committee who expressed the view that while I believed we were reporting a very sound bill, further improvements should be considered. I very much appreciate your willingness to work with me and other Senators and very much appreciate your commitment.

Mr. LEAHY. As you and I have discussed, successful enactment of patent reform requires the input of all Senators. Over the past months, since the committee reported the bill, I have had numerous meetings with both members and affected interests. I know you have too. My staff has had literally hundreds of meetings and discussions about this legislation. In the course of those meetings, it has become clear to me that several issues are on the minds of most people: ensuring compensation for infringement is fair and adequate; clarifying rules on venue; and improving the ability of parties to challenge the validity of granted patents through administrative processes.

Mr. HATCH. I agree with my colleague, further improvements should be considered to key provisions of the bill, including damages, postgrant review, inequitable conduct defense, and venue.

Let me just say a few words about the need to make further reforms to the inequitable conduct defense. I commend Senator LEAHY for working to develop an effective solution to the problem of the inequitable conduct defense during committee deliberation in July. No doubt he has done a good job in initiating this process. We certainly share many perspectives on how to reform this area of the law, but I believe more must be done to change the use of this defense as an unfair litigation tactic.

I know some have opposed any meaningful changes in this area because of how it would affect the generic pharmaceutical industry. As a coauthor of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Restoration Act, informally known as the Hatch-Waxman Act, I certainly understand the generic drug industry, but S. 1145 is an innovator's bill. Unless we promote and protect a structure that fosters a strong and vibrant environment for innovators, there will be fewer and fewer drugs for the generics to manufacture—and all, including patients, will suffer.

Much like Senator LEAHY, my staff and I have met with many interested stakeholders and individuals about these provisions, and they have stated that further refinements to these four key provisions would garner even greater support of S. 1145. I firmly believe that compromise on each of these provisions is achievable, and I know that my good friend from Vermont would agree.

Mr. LEAHY. Over the course of early January, I invite you and our colleagues to work with me to find viable solutions. It is my intention to seek and hear the views of any and all parties and to include all interested staff and Senators. This will continue to be an open and deliberative process, with the goal of favorable Senate action as early as the floor schedule permits. I am committed to a strong and effective balanced bill. I know there are some out there who would rather see us do nothing and leave the systems now in place or merely codify current jurisprudence. I believe that following this course would be shirking our responsibility to ensuring the economic strength of our country that is built on inventiveness.

Mr. HATCH. I agree with your intentions and applaud your plan. I stand ready to work with you and each of our colleagues. I also agree that this should not become an excuse for further delay or for doing nothing. Unfortunately, some would like to play political football with this bill to pursue other agenda items. Make no mistake: this bill is far too important and should not fall prey to such partisan tactics from either side. The Senate has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to further strengthen our Nation's competitiveness through meaningful patent reform.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JULIA CARSON

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, in remembrance of Congresswoman JULIA CARSON, who died on December 15, 2007, I have printed in the RECORD a column written by former Representative Andy Jacobs Jr. of Indiana.

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

REMEMBERING CONGRESS'S JEWEL NAMED JULIA

''Look where he came from and look where he went; and wasn't he a kind of tough struggler all his life right up to the finish?'' The words are those of Carl Sandburg in praise of Abraham Lincoln. The same praise could and should be said of our sister, the late Rep. Julia Carson (D–Ind.), who has passed beyond the sound of our voices into the sunset of her temporal life and into a dawn of history.

Where did she come from? Same place as Lincoln—Kentucky. And like him, she was born both to physical poverty and spiritual wealth, and moved to Indiana.

Another similarity: Julia also had an ''angel mother,'' Velma Porter, who put a lot of physical, mental and spiritual nutrients into the little flowerpot of her only child.

Fast-forward to a month after my first and improbable election to Congress. I was told by mutual friends that at the Chrysler UAW office, I could find a remarkable woman to join me as a co-worker in my Washington Congressional office. Remarkable? Understatement. Thus began my 47–year friendship and, eventually, virtual sibling-ship with the already honorable Julia Carson, one of the most intelligent, ethical, industrious and compassionate people I have ever known.

Check out her first Congressional brainstorm. It started a national trend. Why make constituents in need of Congressional assistance with bureaucratic problems travel all the way to D.C. to get it? Why not take that part of the office to them? So we adopted her suggestion and did our ''case work'' in Indianapolis with Julia at the helm. It set an example that has been followed by other Congressional offices all over the country ever since. OK, there was one other factor. She had two little kids she preferred to rear in Indianapolis, doing well by her kids by doing good for her country.

Later, my refusal to bring home a particularly pernicious piece of political pork earned me a severe gerrymander that, together with the Nixon landslide, ejected me from Congress. Nothing is all bad; the beneficiary of the gerrymander was my much-admired friend, Bill Hudnut (R). That was the year I had to talk Julia into running for the state House of Representatives. She thought it would be disloyal to our friendship because it would take her away from my campaign, which was a campaign of futility that year.

She was elected to the state House, where she served with distinction and, in time, she became a state Senator, again gaining friends and admirers on both sides of the aisle.

Still later, she became the Center Township trustee and produced real ''welfare reform,'' not with ignorant histrionic speeches and braggadocio, but with hard, quiet and meticulous work. It was reform that broke no poor child's heart, nor sent such a child to bed hungry. She not only ferreted out welfare cheats, but also sued them and got the money back for the taxpayers. Her reform wiped out a long-standing multimillion-dollar debt, moving the then-Marion County Republican auditor to say, ''She wrestled the monster to the ground.''

Julia was unique in that she was the only human being ever to be named Woman of the Year by The Indianapolis Star on two different occasions.

It was common parlance to say, ''Congresswoman Carson's people,'' a reference to poor black constituents. Rubbish. The 7th district is about 70 percent nonblack and ''her people'' were all the people of the 7th, regardless of physical or economic description. Millionaires can be treated unjustly by the federal government just as middle- and low-income citizens can. And wherever there was injustice, this Lincoln-like lady was there to redress it. Her political philosophy was a plank from the Sermon on the Mount: ''Blessed are they who thirst for justice.''

There's another one: ''Blessed are the peacemakers.'' She cast our vote against the conspicuously unconstitutional resolution that gave the Cheney gang a fig leaf to order our innocent military to the fraudulent and internationally illegal blood-soaked blunder in Iraq.

Julia called me just before she cast that vote and said that, in view of the dishonesty, panic and jingoism of the moment, she expected to lose the next election. ''Courage,'' my mother said, ''is fear that has said its prayers.''

Our Julia, who art in Heaven.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER GEORGIA HOUSE LEADER TOM MURPHY

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I want to associate the following comments with my distinguished colleague and friend, Senator ISAKSON, to honor the late former Georgia House Leader Tom Murphy, who passed away last night.

Tom, known by his friends as Speaker and others as ''Mr. Speaker,'' was once the longest serving State House speaker in the nation, serving Georgia from 1974 to 2002. In describing the life's work of Tom Murphy, one of our veteran reporters in Atlanta quoted an old 1960's western film and wrote, ''When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.'' The reporter goes on to say, ''There will be no such confusion over Tom Murphy, the tough-talking master politician whose gruff exterior concealed a heart that ached for the poor and helpless and in the Speaker's case, they were one and the same.''

He was a true champion for our great State, and all Georgians, from Rabun Gap to Tybee Light, will reap the benefits of Tom's work legacy for generations to come.

During the time Tom served our State, Georgia became one of the leading States to attract international business, our ports were expanded, the Quick Start program was created and expanded to help companies train new workers, and teachers salaries were given higher priority.

The expressway system in Georgia was completed during his tenure, and if you live in the vicinity of Atlanta, you have Tom to thank for the widening of the connector in Atlanta; additional runways at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport; and the World Congress Center that was built and expanded to allow Georgia to compete for conventions and trade shows.

He was always supportive of rural Georgia and agribusiness, and he was part of a transformation of our state into a State that has a significantly more diversified and stronger economic base than ever before.

One of our former colleagues, former Senator and Governor, Zell Miller, one of our greatest Governors, describes his working relationship with Tom as one that was tumultuous, but mutually beneficial. They worked together for many years in the State legislature, and it is no secret that the two often dueled over many issues, but they always had Georgia's best interest in mind. Zell has stated, ''If there had not been a Tom Murphy, I guess I would have created one, and if there had not been a Zell Miller, I guess he would have had to create one. Because that's the way we rallied our troops.'' Both recognized that they could not survive without the other.

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

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Zell's interview.

Tom's integrity and fairness were his trademarks, and he will always be remembered for his longstanding commitment to Georgia values.

When we depart from this world, we all hope to leave it a better place. Tom Murphy left Georgia better than he found it.

''HE WAS A ONE-OF-A-KIND'' INDIVIDUAL

(By Dick Pettys)

Make no mistake: there was real respect and, yes, even affection between Tom Murphy and Zell Miller, though you would never have known it from the way Murphy introduced Miller on occasion as the ''extinguished'' lieutenant governor, or the way Miller referred to Murphy's House as the ''mausoleum'' for his legislative initiatives.

Murphy, who died Monday, and Miller came to the Georgia Legislature in the same year—1961—and their careers were forever entangled after Murphy became Speaker and Miller became lieutenant governor and later governor.

''I've often thought this as I looked back on (our) careers—we worked off each other to benefit what we were trying to get done,'' Miller said in a telephone interview Tuesday. ''If there had not been a Tom Murphy, I guess I would have created one, and if there had not been a Zell Miller, I guess he would have had to create one. Because that's the way we rallied our troops.''

At such times, it often took a woman's touch to keep them from doing each other a bodily harm, and Shirley Miller filled that role, Murphy used to say.

There was sadness in Miller's voice as he spoke of Murphy's legacy.

''He was a one-of-a-kind individual, and for four decades whatever happened in Georgia, he was right in the middle of it,'' Miller said. ''We will never see, I don't think, ever again one Georgia leader have the power that he had for as many years as he had it. It's really remarkable and I don't think the way politics is today that you'll ever see that again.''

Miller, who taught college history at an earlier point in his career, said Murphy came along at an historic time in the state's history.

''We were all the same. We were white male Democrats, mostly from rural Georgia. And then suddenly that all changed with the court rulings and the county unit system, reapportionment and all of that. And it became a very, very volatile time to be in politics.

And the fact that he could hold that House together like he did for so many years, it's really historic.

''Loyalty is the most important ingredient in legislative politics and he enjoyed that from his House like no one ever has before or will again,'' he said.

Why?

''They knew it was a two-way street; that he would look after them and he would be as loyal to them as they were to him. He, of course, very wisely would place people in various positions which would be of benefit to him later . . . Next to his real family, the House was his family.''

''The night I was elected (November, 1990), he was one of the first to come up to where we were, and I appreciated that. The next day, I went up to the third floor, sat down and told him I might could get elected without him, but I sure couldn't govern without him. That was the truth.

''We worked together and fought together for so many years, it's hard to believe what a long period of time it really was. I give him a lot of credit for the fiscal soundness of the sound and bringing along rural legislators on things like the World Congress Center, which was not an easy job. So many things. It's a shame he didn't get that reservoir, which was looked upon as sort of pork at the time. It would have helped today if we had had it.''

For both men and for the state, that remarkable period of time was quite a ride. ''I feel very, very fortunate to have been part of it,'' he said.

COMMENDING CINDY CHANG

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work of Ms. Cindy Chang, Senior Adviser for Budget and Appropriations at the State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

Cindy has worked closely with the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee for the past several years and has been an invaluable asset to the Congress. Cindy understands the appropriations and budget processes. She understands foreign policy, whether the complexities associated with the Middle East or the nuances of Southeast Asia. Cindy is also extremely responsive to the subcommittee's many and frequent requests for information.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should understand that in the opinion of the Appropriations Committee, Cindy Chang is among the brightest stars at the State Department. As the year draws to a close, my staff joins me in recognizing and thanking Cindy for her outstanding support of the subcommittee in 2007.

SPECIAL THANKS TO WALLY RUSTAD

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to an outstanding friend and advisor, Wally Rustad, who will be concluding his time as chief of staff on January 10, 2008.