

NORWOOD. He died yesterday. CHARLIE was a “tell it like it is” guy. His motivations were always altruistic. They were never self-centered.

He had never been in politics. He was a dentist, and he got fed up. He came here and had a tremendous impact in terms of his voice of common sense, reason, and compassion. The House of Representatives is going to miss that voice, but more important, the American people are going to miss one of the few voices of common sense that we have in Congress today. He leaves a wife, Gloria, and two sons, all supportive of his sacrifice to serve here.

There are a lot of stories told about CHARLIE. I won't go into that. He was always fun to be around. He was always invigorating. And he never quit believing in this wonderful thing we call the American dream.

He fought hard for what he thought was right on immigration. He recognized that if we build a wall, it is not to keep people in; that the opportunities here are so great, what has been created by our Founders and grew through the years is so tremendous, that we ought to continue to take advantage of it.

What I really liked about him was that he was a true citizen legislator. He abandoned his practice and his easy life and came to do the hard work of representing the people of Georgia with common sense and down-home, plain family values. He will be sorely missed. But he leaves a legacy, a legacy to everybody who is out there today who thinks we need to change the Congress of the United States. The legacy he leaves is this: If you are willing to sacrifice and get into the fray, you can come here and make a difference. That is what he proved. His life was not that of a career politician—although that is a wonderful service, and we have dedicated people throughout both Houses of Congress who have dedicated their lives to public service. But he brought a freshness and he brought ideas because his experience was what everybody else in the country was experiencing, not what is experienced among the political elite in this country.

The challenge that CHARLIE leaves for all of us who are not in Congress, who do not like things the way they are, is to actually get involved. That legacy will live on for a long time—I know in his district in Georgia, and also through the State of Georgia—but also for those of us who will continue to remember him and the sacrifices he made.

HARD WORK YIELDS WISE INVESTMENTS FOR AMERICA

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, the Senate today gave final Congressional approval to a comprehensive \$463.5 billion funding resolution. The vote today was the culmination of many weeks of determined effort by Senators and Members of the House from both parties, and from their talented staffs.

I take a moment to thank Senators for their support for this legislation, and to the members of the Appropriations Committee, Democratic Senators and Republican Senators, for their determination and effort to reach this milestone.

This was not easy legislation to craft. Members and staff took on the difficult task of wrapping the funding of every domestic department and agency into a single bill, without Congressional earmarks and within very austere budget limitations. It was one of the most complex processes that the Appropriations Committee has undertaken in recent memory. But it was a challenge that we met in a smart, innovative way.

I thank the Appropriations Committee staff: Staff Director Terry Sauvain; Deputy Staff Director Charles Kieffer; Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA clerk Galen Fountain; Commerce, Justice, Science clerk Paul Carliner; Defense clerk Charlie Houy; Energy and Water clerk Doug Clapp; Financial Services clerk Marianne Upton; Interior clerk Peter Kiefhaber; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education clerk Ellen Murray; Legislative Branch clerk Nancy Olkewicz; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs clerk Christina Evans; State and Foreign Operations clerk Tim Rieser; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development clerk Peter Rogoff; their associate staffs; Communications Director Tom Gavin and Communications Coordinator Cindy Huber; Deputy Chief Clerk Elnora Harvey; and professional staff members Jack Conway and Bob Knisely. Senators know the value of a strong staff, and this staff is, in my opinion, the best on Capitol Hill. Each of these men and women devoted long hours to this legislation. But it was not just a commitment of time; it also was the application of their years of experience and their dedication to this country that helped to craft this funding resolution and help see it through the Senate.

This was a bipartisan effort, and I want to pay tribute to Senator THAD COCHRAN, the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, his staff director Bruce Evans, and the Republican subcommittee staffs. They were partners in producing this balanced funding legislation, and their ideas and input were invaluable.

Not only was the writing of this legislation a bipartisan process, but it also was a bicameral one. House Appropriations Chairman DAVE OBEY and his staff, and Ranking Member JERRY LEWIS and his staff, were integral to the success of this legislation.

This final funding package is an example of how the Congress can work together, without regard to party lines or partisan positions. This legislation focuses not on Democratic priorities or Republican priorities, but rather on national priorities of health care; law enforcement and counterterrorism ef-

forts; education, medical care for our troops and our veterans; and energy independence. We invest resources wisely in an effort to meet the country's needs today while building the foundation for a stronger America tomorrow.

I thank Senators for their support of this legislation, and I look forward to continuing this bipartisan effort on the Fiscal 2008 appropriations legislation.

CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the Centralia High School boy's basketball team for 100 years of remarkable success.

The Centralia High Orphans have earned the distinction of being one of the “winningest” high school basketball teams in America. The Centralia basketball program began its winning career with a 2-and-2 record in its inaugural 1906-1907 season, less than a decade after the sport had been invented. In this their 100th season, the Orphans have amassed more than 1,975 career wins.

During the past 100 years, Centralia High has witnessed many legendary coaches and players. Coach Arthur Trout led the team to three State championships as well as an impressive 1941 season of 44 wins and only 2 losses. Coach Trout has an honored place in Centralia High's history where the new school gym bears his name today. Even now, many fans fondly recall the Orphans' all-time leading scorer, Dwight “Dike” Eddleman, who played for the team in the 1940s. Eddleman went on to letter in three sports at the University of Illinois, won the silver medal in the high jump at the 1948 Paris Olympics, and played in the NBA. Other Orphans that represented Centralia in the NBA include Bobby Joe Mason, Ken McBride, and Dick Garrett.

I am proud to be able to offer my congratulations to the Centralia High basketball team, Coach Randy Lincoln, and the town of Centralia, IL on reaching their 100th season, and I look forward to cherring on many more successful seasons of Orphans basketball in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor a great Kentucky institution, Campbellsville University, as it celebrates 100 years of academic excellence.

Campbellsville University was originally founded in 1906 as the Russell Creek Academy and has proven itself to be an outstanding institution of higher education over the last 100 years. It has had an immeasurable impact on thousands of young men and women and has helped add to the academic excellence of our fine Commonwealth.

In the beginning, the Russell Creek Academy began with training departments for teacher and pastor training. In 1907 the Russell Creek Academy provided classes in music, art, and a diploma program for an enrollment of 200 students. Campbellsville University has now grown to 2,300 students as of last fall, with 38 undergraduate programs and 9 graduate programs, all while encompassing 75 acres of beautiful land near Campbellsville, KY.

To make sure that the university will continue to grow and progress for the next 100 years as it has this past century, many improvements are being made across the campus to add to its beauty and improve life for students. For instance, great progress is being made on the 800-seat Ransdell Chapel and the new Heilman Student Center. With the new School of Nursing, new tennis courts and the 48-bed addition to the Resident Village, Campbellsville University is looking forward to many new projects to keep up the demand and growth of this institution.

Academically, the School of Nursing program began this year and is off to a great start. Campbellsville University has also expanded its master of business administration program, moving along with the technological revolution by offering the program online in addition to the traditional MBA classes that the University has offered and been so well-known for over the years.

The students enrolled at Campbellsville University are proudly preparing a time capsule to commemorate this centennial celebration that will be opened in another 100 years, in 2107. The capsule will enable students 100 years from now to look at a time before they became students at Campbellsville University and compare its first 100 years to the next.

According to Dr. Michael V. Carter, the school's president, "at Campbellsville University, faculty encourage students to grow stronger spiritually and find their true purpose in life, which is the greatest discovery of all." I hope that the history and tradition of this great school, encapsulated in the time capsule that they are preparing, will aid in that discovery for the students of today and a century to come.

Madam President, I ask that the entire Senate join me in congratulating Campbellsville University on this auspicious occasion; with 100 years of excellence in education behind us, we look forward to the next 100 with high hopes and anticipation.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST RAYMOND "NEAL" MITCHELL, III

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to the life of Army SPC Raymond "Neal" Mitchell III. Specialist Mitchell gave his life serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although he may no longer be with us, his legacy and spirit will live on through the lives he touched and the example he set for others.

Originally from Tennessee, Specialist Mitchell moved to West Memphis, AR, in 2002 to live with his grandparents and attend West Memphis Christian School. While going to school, Mitchell helped his grandparents with the business they had operated for more than 18 years. Teachers at West Memphis Christian School remember Specialist Mitchell for the tremendous strides they witnessed him make as a student and as a person. The quiet young man they knew came out of his shell and became involved in the school and the community. Specialist Mitchell clearly valued the company of friends and family and considered returning one day to coach baseball. Upon graduating in 2004, he enrolled at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 2005.

While serving in the Army, Specialist Mitchell became an infantry man. Despite the ever-present danger, he courageously devoted his skills where he felt they were needed most—becoming the point man, or lookout, for his patrol. When asked why he became a point man he said, "I'm not the best shot . . . but I'm the fastest." It was a testament to his bravery, desire to serve his country and devotion to his fellow soldiers. In August 2006, his unit deployed to Baghdad where he served as a driver and gunner for humvees while on patrol. Over Thanksgiving he had the opportunity to return home on a 2-week leave from Iraq. During his leave, he spent time with his family in Tennessee and had a chance to visit his old school in West Memphis. He told his grandmother that after completing his service in the Army, he planned to go back to Arkansas State University and try out for the baseball team.

Tragically, Specialist Mitchell died on January 6, 2007, from wounds sustained during routine security operations in Baghdad. On January 15, he was laid to rest in Smyrna, TN, with full military honors. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

The loss of someone so young and full of life, and loved by so many is a tragic reminder of the terrible consequences of war. While I could never find the words to adequately express the sorrow felt by friends and family of Neal Mitchell, I hope they can find some solace knowing that he lived his life with passion and with love. My thoughts and prayers are with his family members, friends, and all those who knew and loved him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE NORWOOD

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words about my close friend and colleague who passed away yesterday, Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD.

There is no doubt that with the death of CHARLIE NORWOOD the State of Georgia has lost one of her favorite sons. We were elected to serve in the House

of Representatives the same year and represented adjoining districts in Georgia and South Carolina.

CHARLIE was a dear friend of mine.

I have never met anyone in politics with more passion about what they believe than CHARLIE NORWOOD. He was a great representative for the people for the people of the 10th district of Georgia, and in his years of service he made a real difference in the Congress.

There is no doubt CHARLIE's leadership, his wisdom, and his wit will be sorely missed.

Now is the time to keep CHARLIE's family in our prayers. But we should also celebrate a life well-lived. Knowing CHARLIE NORWOOD like I do, I am confident he would not have wanted it any other way.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, due to inclement weather resulting in flight delays around the country on February 13, I was regrettably unable to arrive in Washington before the Senate voted on the motion to invoke closure on H.J. Res. 20. Regarding vote No. 46, I would not have voted in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on H.J. Res. 20. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

REGINALD JONES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to join with my colleague, Senator FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, and our House colleague Congressman DONALD PAYNE in honoring Reginald Jones, a distinguished and inspiring figure in African-American history. In recognition of Black History Month, we gathered with residents of New Jersey to pay tribute to Mr. Jones on Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the Newark Museum in Newark, NJ, during "A Salute to Heroes."

Raised in Newark, NJ, Reginald Jones has dedicated his life to serving our great Nation. First, as a proud marine, he defended the freedoms and liberties we all hold dear as Americans.

It was while stationed in Guantanamo Bay that Reginald discovered boxing, a sport which led him to win the bronze medal at the 1971 Pan-Am Games in Cali, Colombia. In 1972, Reggie was selected as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in Munich, Germany. In a boxing match that led to many changes in the sport, Reginald, a light middleweight, found himself in the ring with Valerie Tebugov of the Soviet Union. Judging discrepancies did not allow Reginald to advance to medal rounds, but Reginald received a good sportsmanship award for the dignity he displayed throughout the games, which he fondly recalled in a Star Ledger article as an "opportunity to make many friends."

Now, as a caseworker with the New Jersey Division of Children and Families Services for more than 20 years,