

fields and the mill of his family's small agricultural business in Yellow Springs, OH. It is those principles that have guided him throughout a stellar career in public service, in which he has served as prosecutor, an Ohio State Senator, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and as Lieutenant Governor.

As a Senator, Mike made his mark in a number of policy areas. He was a strong proponent of education and children's health care. In particular, he advocated for children's hospitals because he understands that these hospitals are important centers for pediatric research.

During more than a decade of service on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Mike worked doggedly to investigate intelligence failures and revamp our intelligence community. As the chairman of the Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee of the HELP Committee, he focused his efforts on modernizing our Nation's pension system. And as the first Ohio Senator in six decades to serve on the Appropriations Committee, Mike was committed to ensuring that our Nation's first responders have the resources they need. On the Judiciary Committee, Mike took the lead on a number of antiterror and anticrime initiatives, such as the Patriot Act, as well as proposals to curb drunk driving, to help keep all Americans safe.

Perhaps what I admire most about Mike is that this terrific father of eight, and grandfather of nine, always puts his family first. As a public servant, Mike has used his positions to contribute to the greater good, and he has brilliantly served the people of Ohio throughout his career. May God bless Mike DeWine, his wife Fran, and their family for many, many years to come.

RICK SANTORUM

It goes without saying that it pulls at my heartstrings to bid farewell to Senator Rick Santorum. On issue after issue—tax relief, education, affordable health care, national security Rick has stood tall for Pennsylvanians and all Americans.

Rick is a man of conviction, deep faith, and integrity—qualities instilled in him growing up in Pennsylvania as the son of an Italian immigrant. He doesn't beat around the bush, and you never have to wonder where he stands. His word is his bond, and he expresses his views with great passion and expertise.

Since his early days in the Senate, Rick was an inspirational leader. One of the qualities I admired most about him as a legislator was that he never was one to dodge the tough issues; in fact, he readily took the lead on those issues and set out to find solutions to very serious challenges. For example, he spearheaded the passage of welfare reform in 1996, which to date has helped more than 1 million Americans go from receiving welfare checks to paychecks. Rick fought hard for No Child Left Behind, and as a result,

today math and reading scores in Pennsylvania schools are on the rise. He also fought hard to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to high quality, affordable health care. He is a strong supporter of Federal cancer research, including increased funding for breast cancer research. And he led the charge to reform our medical malpractice laws to curb lawsuit abuse and ensure that patients continue to receive the critical care they need. Rick also recognizes that hard-earned dollars belong to families and small businesses, not Uncle Sam.

In addition, Rick was one of Congress's most dedicated and knowledgeable Members when it came to developing antipoverty initiatives. He was the driving force behind legislation that would provide a tremendous boost to charitable-giving through a series of targeted tax incentives aimed at helping the homeless, the drug addicted, and the less fortunate in our society. And he committed himself to working to eradicate the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. In short, Rick Santorum is the embodiment of what it means to be a compassionate conservative.

Rick was so attentive to the needs of those he represented and always put Pennsylvania first. For example, he helped secure \$100 million to build America's first ever coal to ultra-clean fuel plant in Pennsylvania, which not only creates jobs but also provides more affordable energy and benefits the environment. I often joked with Rick that he should hold another title, the "Mayor of Pennsylvania." It's no surprise that he made it a point each year to visit all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. On so many issues, Rick has been a principled advocate for his constituents.

While Rick works incredibly hard, there is no question that he is first and foremost a dedicated family man to his wife Karen and their six children. It has been a privilege indeed to work closely with Rick—sometimes literally, as our offices were on the same hall. He is an all-around class act, and with his numerous accomplishments and exemplary record of service to his constituents, he will certainly be a tough act to follow.

JIM TALENT

Senator Jim Talent has been an outstanding representative of the people of Missouri. A dedicated public servant, he served for 8 years in the State House of Representatives, as well as 8 years in the U.S. House. Jim was the lead author in the House of the landmark 1996 welfare reform bill that has moved more than a million Americans off welfare and into work and self-sufficiency.

Jim is a man of impeccable character and a natural leader, and in the Senate he held a number of leadership posts in his freshman term—as the chairman of the Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee, as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection, and Product Promotion, and as a deputy whip. He also dem-

onstrated a remarkable ability to make things happen legislatively, with many of his bills passed by Congress and signed into law. Jim's amazing legislative record reflects not just his abilities but also the respect he earned from his colleagues.

Jim delivered on his promises to Missourians to help create jobs, grow the economy and strengthen our national defense. He also worked to improve health care, and he advocated on behalf of those who suffer from sickle cell disease and breast cancer.

It has been my pleasure to serve with Jim on the Senate Armed Services Committee. I have seen him in action and know that there is no one more committed to ensuring that our country's defenses remain strong. I was proud to work closely with him to enact legislation to prevent predatory lenders from targeting our brave men and women in uniform and their families. There is no question that he is a steadfast supporter of our service members, their families, and their livelihood.

This Chamber needs more members like Jim, who understand that the only way to really make a difference is to put partisan concerns aside and work across the aisle. Throughout his public service career, Jim Talent has certainly made a positive difference, and he will surely be missed in the U.S. Senate.

As these men—Bill Frist, George Allen, Conrad Burns, Lincoln Chafee, Mike DeWine, Rick Santorum and Jim Talent—conclude their service in the U.S. Senate, let me say that I am so proud to have worked with individuals of such character, strength, and intellect. Our Nation is grateful for their many contributions. And as they each will undoubtedly continue to contribute to our country's greatness, their leadership and vision will be missed here in the U.S. Senate.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A TRAGIC LOSS FOR IDAHOANS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with sadness I recognize the passing of Dan Harpole, former executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, president of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and dedicated father and friend. I had the pleasure of working with Dan in recent years as he promoted arts in Idaho and truly changed the face of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Dan successfully worked to integrate art appreciation and education into Idaho communities through local, State and Federal collaboration efforts. Dan's spirit has transformed the arts in Idaho, bringing them to a place of cultural and community preeminence. I respectfully submit a portion of his obituary, written by his good friend and fellow Idaho artist, Cort Conley, that describes, in detail, Dan's remarkable achievements in Idaho.

In November 2000, Dan was unanimously singled out from a field of 36 distinguished candidates as the new executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Although chosen for his reputation and recognition earned elsewhere, he was also selected for his optimistic, companionable disposition and pragmatic views, his ability to build bridges and get things done. Chair Marilyn Beck's estimate that he was the perfect person for the job proved astute. He came to inhabit Idaho arts the way paint does a painting. Dan thrived on the lives and challenges around him on what is now called networking. His attitude and leadership led to a legacy of accomplishments on behalf of the arts in Idaho. Not a little of it was his talent for consensus or accord, which he once attributed to being the seventh of ten children: When you're in a big family, you learn to negotiate for your life, he quipped. While in Idaho, Dan served on the executive committee of the board of directors for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and was elected president in 2005. He also served as trustee for the Western States Arts Federation. Among the exceptional achievements of his legacy: uniting the Idaho Congressional Delegation not only in support of the budget for National Endowment for the Arts, but for its first increased appropriation in over a decade; bringing the annual conference of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies to Boise, 2005; statewide Arts Matter conferences; pursuit of strategies for a cultural trust and for art in public places; more recently, the unanimous support of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee and the Idaho Legislature for a significant one-time increase in the Commission's budget; and, finally, being awarded, in memoriam, the Chairman's Medal from the chair of the NEA for serving the National Endowment for the Arts and arts in America with distinction.

I was glad to hear of the NEA Chairman's Medal that Dan's family will receive on his behalf this month, but not the least bit surprised. I had the opportunity to recognize Dan's remarkable abilities and accomplishments in this Chamber almost a year ago when he was chosen to be president of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Dan fully deserved this and all accolades that he received over the years. His love of the arts, his work promoting their appreciation in Idaho and his ability to provide leadership, vision, insight, and compassion lives on unmistakably in his legacy. Cort Conley concludes his tribute to Dan's life by stating:

In summary, then: love, laughter, courage. All estimable indeed. Still, as a tombstone in County Kerry reads, "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal/Love leaves a memory no one can steal." Nothing more appropriate can be said.

My wife Susan and I offer our condolences to his family and especially to his young children, Hunter and Fiona, at this difficult time.●

PEACE OFFICER: KEN JORDAN

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to praise the service of a police officer from Colorado Springs: Officer Ken Jordan. Ken Jordan was killed in the line of duty early last month during a traffic stop. He was only 34.

As anyone in law enforcement can tell you, there is no such thing as a

"routine" traffic stop. Every time you pull a driver over, there is the risk that something could go wrong, that this could be the one that proves too much for even your training and judgment. And yet, Ken Jordan, like countless other peace officers around this Nation do every day, set these fears aside and carried out his job with professionalism and courage.

In the Colorado Springs Police Department, Officer Jordan was a DUI specialist. His work removed unsafe drunk drivers from our roads, saving lives every time he was on duty. He was an outstanding example of his job, known to sometimes have three or four suspects lined up at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, waiting to be tested for their blood alcohol level.

Ken Jordan was a native of Chicago, and graduated from Western Illinois University, where he studied law enforcement. In 2000, he joined the Colorado Springs Police Department and called Colorado his home.

Mr. President, I have every confidence that if Ken Jordan were here with us today, he would undoubtedly tell us of his love for the outdoors and adventure sports. He reveled in the joys of life, be it kayaking in Fiji or playing pranks on family members. His smile was as big as all the Rockies and just as ever-present.

One Denver police officer summed it up best: "He was the person you would want to have as a friend."

Every time we lose a peace officer, our entire Nation grieves for them, and for their families, and loved ones. To Officer Jordan's parents and sister Sue, and to his beloved Heidi, I know that no words can ease the pain you feel at this difficult time. But through your sorrow, I hope that you can find solace in this police officers' prayer:

Lord I ask for courage,
 Courage to face and conquer my own fears,
 Courage to take me where others will not go.
 I ask for strength,
 Strength of body to protect others and
 strength of spirit to lead others.
 I ask for dedication,
 Dedication to my job, to do it well, dedica-
 tion to my community, to keep it safe.
 Give me Lord, concern
 For others who trust me and compassion
 for those who need me.
 And please, Lord,
 Through it all, be at my side.

Officer Ken Jordan's service to his community will always be honored and never forgotten. Our entire Nation stands humbled by his sacrifice, in awe of his courage, honor, and character.●

TRIBUTE TO VERNON ASHLEY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the many and great achievements of Vernon Ashley. Vernon proudly served his country in World War II and later went on to graduate from Dakota Wesleyan College at the age of 34. He proceeded to be elected tribal chairman of the Crow Creek Indian Reservation and was later appointed South Dakota's Indian Affairs

Coordinator under three different Governors.

Mr. Ashley's achievements do not end there however. Vernon served as the executive director for Vista for both North and South Dakota and supervised all volunteer service during the recovery of the Rapid City flood disaster. Vernon was also a founding member of the American Indian Veterans Association and is a dedicated husband and the loving father of seven.

Mr. President, today with Vernon's friends and family, I congratulate him on his many and most recent accomplishments. I have known Vernon for many years. He is a man of impeccable character and integrity. Governor Rounds and the State legislature of South Dakota have rightly declared that in South Dakota, January 15, 2006, is Vernon Ashley Day. Today I join the Governor and members of the legislature in congratulating this great American.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 159. An act to redesignate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 11, resolving that the House of Representatives has learned with profound regret and sorrow of the death of Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States of America.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

S. 5. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 113. A bill to make appropriations for military construction and family housing projects for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007.