

Orchestra, the Washington National Opera, and the Smithsonian Council for American Art. In New York City, Ms. Wolf served on the Rockefeller University Council and was a benefactor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Finally, Mr. President, no description of Diane Wolf would be complete without recognizing the generosity of her spirit, the strength of her character, and the cheerful nature of her personality. She met everyone with a bright smile, and very often she humbly and quietly lent a hand to others, asking nothing in return. She was respected by Members of Congress and their staff, not only for her knowledge and advice, but also for her genuine friendliness, gracefulness, and humor. She was much admired and appreciated by everyone in the Capitol community, including secretaries, doorkeepers, elevator operators, and Capitol Police alike.

Diane Wolf will be missed. I join my Senate colleagues in conveying to her family deepest condolences, and with great respect repeat here the words of Adon 'Olam, one of the most familiar hymns in all of Jewish liturgy:

ADON 'OLAM

The Lord of all, who reigned supreme Ere first Creation's form was framed; When all was finished by His will His Name Almighty was proclaimed.

When this our world shall be no more, In majesty He still shall reign, Who was, who is, who will for aye In endless glory still remain.

Alone is He, beyond compare, Without division or ally; Without initial date or end, Omnipotent He rules on high.

He is my God and Savior too, To whom I turn in sorrow's hour—My banner proud, my refuge sure—Who hears and answers with His power.

Then in His hand myself I lay, And trusting, sleep; and wake with cheer; My soul and body are His care; The Lord doth guard, I have no fear!

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that my following statement appear in the RECORD as if read contemporaneous with consideration of the resolution honoring the life of Diane Wolf.

The Senate was deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Diane. Her passion for art and philanthropy lead her to devote her considerable talents to the service of countless organizations and causes. Diane was an attorney, teacher, and civic leader. Much of her work was dedicated to the preservation of the very building in which we meet.

My wife, Catherine, and I worked closely with Diane on her efforts to preserve and restore the U.S. Capitol. Diane was passionate about the Capitol's history and symbolism. She enjoyed the pomp and circumstance of the Presidential inauguration and the annual tradition of the President's State of the Union Address. Her contributions as a member of the board of trustees of the U.S. Senate Preservation Commission were invaluable. It was her support and guidance that led to the development of the commemorative coins which marked the bicentennial of the U.S. Capitol.

President Reagan appointed Diane to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in 1985. Her father, Erving, says Diane considered that appointment as a full-time job. Diane demanded high quality in all endeavors. She believed a thing worth doing is worth doing well.

During her tenure on the Commission she strongly advocated redesigning our coins to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights and update the Presidential portraits. She believed that American coinage could recapture our imagination and become highly prized by collectors. This is just one example of how Diane used her creativity, intelligence, and boundless energy to promote art in America.

Her vision has been realized in recent years, as the Mint produced new designs for the quarter with images representing each of the 50 States.

Diane's energy and passion for public service will be missed. The institutions she served and the lives she touched benefitted greatly from her dedication, generosity, and lively spirit.

Catherine and I are fortunate to know Diane's wonderful family. She cherished her relationships with her parents, Erving and Joyce, and her brothers Daniel and Matthew. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their loved ones.

WELCOMING SENATOR ROGER WICKER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we said farewell last year to our friend, Senator Lott. Today, we welcome his successor, ROGER WICKER.

Senator WICKER is no stranger to Washington, DC, having served the people of Mississippi's First Congressional District since 1995.

In the House, he served as the Republican deputy whip, and he served on his party's policy committee for some 6 years.

His distinguished history in the U.S. Air Force has informed his advocacy on behalf of veterans health care and pensions, as well as military construction projects throughout the world. He has also been a strong supporter of health care research and has received numerous awards for his advocacy in this regard.

His background and expertise on these and other issues will surely make him a welcome addition to our Senate. So on behalf of all Democratic Senators, I extend my congratulations to him.

DEMOCRATIC STAFF CHANGES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is good to be back in the Senate. The past 4½ weeks have been very pleasurable for me. Since I have been the Democratic leader—which has now been for 3 years—it was the longest period of time I have been able to spend at home, and it was a great experience for me. Every day I was able to spend it in my home in Searchlight.

Searchlight, even though it is 60 miles from Las Vegas, is much different in temperature. It rains twice as

much—not a lot but 8 inches a year compared to 4 inches in Las Vegas—but it is much colder. It is 3,600 feet high. It has had a number of days in the recent past where the temperature has been 8 degrees. That is the lowest it has ever been, but it has hit that low degree on a number of occasions. This trip home, the lowest it got was 18 degrees, but that was on the same occasion when we had 40-mile-an-hour winds, so it was bitter cold.

But that is one reason I so love Searchlight. The air is pristine and clean and pure. It is refreshing for me to be able to go home. Out my window, on one side of the house, I have set up two little ceramic water dishes, and water comes on there four times a day. Those little animals have it made.

Even though it is wintertime, the quail still come and need a drink of water now and then. If you are lucky, you see a coyote—which I saw on a couple of occasions. As wily and as elusive as they are, you still see them out wandering around—and all kinds of different birds of different hues and colors.

It may not be very exciting to most people, but for me, one of the exciting events of my trip home was the opportunity to see an animal you rarely see. My wife and I were working in a little study I have there, and we heard three distinct knocks. We didn't know what it was. We got up and looked out the front door—nothing there; we looked out the back—nothing there. I went back to work and a minute or two later my wife says: Get down here. Hurry. So we go to these windows, some picture windows, two large rectangular windows that look out on the area where the ceramic dishes are, and there was a bobcat. For those of us who live in the desert, seeing a bobcat is really almost akin to seeing the Abominable Snowman. Rarely does anyone see a bobcat. They do most of their hunting at night. They are very secretive in everything they do. But this afternoon, this bobcat was there drinking water, very thirsty. I had never seen a bobcat before. Having been born there, raised there, I had never seen a bobcat before. This little animal finished its water, was walking around, saw me in the window and, boy, that little animal hit that window. It was after me and whatever it could see through that window. That was the knock on our window the four times. We have these shutters that when we are not there are down so you cannot see in the house. On this day, the shutters were up and he was looking around and saw inside and he wanted to nose around a little bit and he couldn't do that. Similar to all animals when they are frightened, they jump to protect themselves. Fortunately, even though the animal weighs about 30 pounds, he would have at least took a bite or two out of me. It was great to see. Finally, I got to see a bobcat, but enough of my travel log.

The Senate is going to be forever different for me now. For more than a quarter of a century, part of my workplace has evolved around one of the Senate employees: Martin Paone. First, as I was a new Senator, he was always here to help me feel more comfortable and answer, I am sure as we look back, dumb questions we all ask as new Senators, but he was always a gentleman, always willing to give us the information. For the 9 years I have been involved as Democratic leader, he has been available. During the 6 years I spent on the floor as Senator Daschle's assistant and whip, Marty was always there giving me guidance and advice. He was always so very helpful. It is important to have someone who understands these complicated rules we have in the Senate. He has been a terrific coworker and a good friend and I am going to miss him tremendously. As I have said, the Senate will never be the same with Marty not being here.

So it is bittersweet news that Marty is going to be leaving—retiring. He has served the Senate for 30 years. His story is a remarkable success story. He began his career in the House Post Office to help pay his way through graduate school at Georgetown. Later he moved to the Senate Parking Office before joining the Democratic cloakroom in 1979. With his tremendous intellect and vast knowledge of procedure, it was no surprise that he moved up the ranks to become Secretary for the minority in 1995. It is no exaggeration to say that every single Democrat and a number of Republicans rely upon Marty's expert advice. That has ended. I have been, as I have indicated, one of those who has depended on his expertise. Nothing has happened on the Senate floor, no legislation was considered, no parliamentary procedure enacted without his influence. Countless staff have come and gone over the years, but he has been a constant, steady presence. I am grateful beyond words and express gratitude for his exceptional service. Ruby is someone we see as we come to work every day. She has worked here for many years herself. Marty has three beautiful children: Alexander, Stephanie, and TJ. I have followed their high school athletic careers over the last several years. But he is moving on to new things, new challenges. We will all miss him. We wish him nothing but the best and know he will be a tremendous success.

Although we are sad to say goodbye to Marty, I am pleased to announce we have chosen Lula Davis as our new Democratic Secretary. She is a longtime veteran of this Chamber. Lula has had more than 25 years of Senate service, which began in the office of the legendary Russell Long of Louisiana. Since 1993, she has been a member of the Democratic floor staff. In 1997, she was elected as the first woman ever to serve as Assistant Democratic Secretary. Much like Marty, Lula has risen to become indispensable for all of

us. She has big shoes to fill, but I can't think of a more capable person to take on this crucial role.

Replacing Lula as Assistant Democratic Secretary will be Tim Mitchell. Tim is quiet, always available, so important to me. I appreciate his attention to me on so many different occasions. He has served as floor assistant to the Democratic leader, where he has become a leading expert on floor procedure and legislative process. With 16 years of Hill experience and as a policy adviser for the Democratic Policy Committee, research director for Senator Daschle, and a legislative assistant to the Senate Banking Committee, Tim could not be better prepared for some of these new responsibilities.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Jacques Purvis, a member of our floor staff, will take on Tim's role as floor assistant. A Howard University fellow, Jacques began his career in my personal office. He is a wonderful, fine young man. He has shown enormous skill and has a bright future ahead of him.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a moment?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would like to extend my appreciation for the service Marty has given your conference. I have found him invariably to be a straight shooter and somebody we could work with to try to make the Senate function. I think he and Dave have enjoyed a good working relationship. I, too, want to wish him well and thank him for his many years in the Senate and congratulate Lula on her appointment.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to join in this chorus. Prior to my election to the House of Representatives, I served as parliamentarian of the Illinois State Senate for 14 years. It is a very important role in that body, as Marty's role has been here. You don't spend much time before a microphone, but you spend a lot of time preparing the Members to say the right things before the microphone, and Marty has done that I think in the best possible tradition of the Senate.

Time and again, Members on our side of the aisle, and I believe on the other side as well, knew they could trust his word, trust his judgment, that he understood this institution, not just the rules but the history and the tradition. He served this institution well, as his wife has, and I wish him the very best in his new endeavors.

I am also happy to hear Lula Davis is going to replace Marty in his position. She has a tough act to follow, as has been said, but she is an extraordinary woman, who has served this Senate well for 25 years, and I am certain she will continue on in this fine tradition.

Mr. President, I yield back to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REFLECTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Benjamin Franklin once said:

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

This year, I know all 100 Senators will work to enable the words of Franklin to be meaningful, to make us each a better person and, in a cumulative effort, a better Senate.

Having come back from my time in Nevada, I think it is an opportunity for me to reflect briefly upon 2007, the first year of the 110th Congress. This past year made one thing clear: We in the Senate are at a constant crossroads, with two paths from which to choose. One path is bipartisanship. The other is obstructionism. One path leads to change, the other to more of the same. This is not directed toward Republicans only but certainly Democrats also. Bipartisanship is a two-way street and we have to understand that. One path leads to change, the other to more of the same; the other to finger pointing.

When we chose bipartisanship last year, we made real progress. For whom did we make real progress? We made it for the American people.

With bipartisanship, we passed the toughest ethics bill in the history of our country to ensure a government as good and as honest as the people we represent. With bipartisanship, we finally passed the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to support our first responders and secure our most at-risk cities. With bipartisanship, we provided our veterans with the largest health care funding increase in history.

When we sought and found common ground, we passed the first minimum wage increase in 10 years to help the hardest working Americans make ends meet. When we sought and found common ground, we helped struggling homeowners, a few—we have a lot more to do—to at least be aware of and avoid foreclosure. When we sought and found common ground, we enacted the largest expansion of student financial aid since the GI bill. When we sought and found common ground, we passed an energy bill that will lower gas and electricity prices and begin to stem the tide of global warming. Could we have done more with that Energy bill? Of course, we could, and we are going to try in the next few months to enlarge upon it.

Time and time again, we have proved that bipartisanship works. Far too often, unfortunately, others chose the other path—the path of being an obstructionist. We saw that on Iraq. Most Republicans chose to stick with the President's policy that has devastated our Armed Forces, compromised our security, and damaged our standing around the world. We saw it on Medicare drug prices. We were unable to get