

THE RETIREMENT OF GREG HARNESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished and respected career of Senate Librarian Greg Harness, who retires today.

Librarians serve as bridges, connecting information and resources with those who need it. They are charged not only as the keepers of knowledge but also as the distributors of it, and it is a duty that Greg has upheld in the most respectful, prompt, and accurate manner. Members of the Senate and their staff have come to rely on the vast resources that Greg oversees and know that each request for information, no matter how small it may seem, will be treated with the same courtesy and professionalism.

Greg came to the Senate Library as a reference librarian in 1975, intending to stay only 2 years. Instead, Greg found his niche in the Senate Library, where he has worked for 32 years. He served in a variety of capacities over his tenure, transitioning to an assistant librarian position in 1995 and finally to Senate Librarian in 1997. One of his most important contributions was moving the Senate Library from the Capitol Building to the Russell Senate Office Building in 1999. Greg not only helped facilitate the move, but he also oversaw the design of the new library.

It is also worth noting that over the course of Greg's career, the field of librarianship has been transformed by new technology. In 1975, the Senate Library was the first Secretary of the Senate office to receive computers, allowing researchers to access information more quickly. For the Senate Library, this necessitated the need for research librarians who are not only knowledgeable of traditional paper-based resources but are also masters of electronic resources. Greg understands this balance and has assembled a qualified staff to fulfill this need.

From personal experience I can attest that Greg's tenure has been a welcome addition to the Senate Library's distinguished tradition of providing legislative, historic, and general knowledge to all that it serves. The Senate has been privileged to have Greg's expansive wealth of intellect and wisdom. I thank him for all the services he has provided to me, to other Members of the Senate, and to Senate staff. His service will be truly missed, and I wish him the best in his new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about my friend and colleague, Senator Lott.

Senator Lott has compiled a long and distinguished career in public service on behalf of the people of Mississippi and our Nation. He has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the needs of his

State and its people, particularly in light of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Senator Lott also fought for our men and women in military uniform to ensure they have the best training, equipment, and technology available. Throughout his career, he believed that the American people should be able to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington. Finally, Senator Lott understood and appreciated the fact we need judges on the Federal bench who will uphold the law, not make the law.

During his time in the Congress, he has been an active participant in many important legislative battles. The votes he has cast and the policies he supported have made the State of Mississippi and our Nation a better place.

Senator Lott is in a select group of individuals who have held leadership positions in both the House of Representatives and Senate. He has served as House minority whip, Senate majority leader, Senate minority leader and Senate minority whip. His election to these important leadership positions in both bodies show a high level of trust and respect from his colleagues.

With his departure the Senate will lose one of its most effective Senators and the people of Mississippi will lose a powerful advocate. I truly appreciate his leadership, service in the Senate, and service in the House of Representatives, wit, wisdom, and friendship.

I wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY PAONE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a few words of appreciation and to say "Farewell" to one of the Senate's finest public servants, Marty Paone.

For our visitors in the gallery, and for our viewers on C-SPAN, it may look like Senators are running this place. Mr. President, we know better. We trust dedicated, professional staff like Marty Paone to make sure things get done.

As all of my colleagues know, Marty is the secretary for the majority, and when we were fewer Democrats around here, he was our secretary for the minority. He has held this position for the past 13 years. Before that, he served as the assistant secretary, worked as floor staff and in the cloakroom, going back nearly three decades. In short, Marty has spent close to his entire adult life here on the Senate floor, getting Senators where they need to be, when they are supposed to be there.

To do his job, Marty has to be a combination of traffic cop, diplomat, and parliamentarian—and he has to have the trust of the Senators who follow his direction. Marty has that trust, because he has earned that trust, and because he has all those other skills, too.

I have been here 35 years; it is hard for me to remember a time when Marty wasn't here. And I don't just mean year

in and year out. I mean any hour of the day and night. Whenever this place is open for business, Marty has been here, helping to maintain order and to get things done. We are indebted to his many personal sacrifices, when he was here instead of home with his family.

Indeed, it has been hard to get much done around here without relying on Marty's expertise on Senate process. I don't know how he has managed to juggle all the demands on him. He is the "go to guy" for help on moving amendments, overcoming objections, getting a place in line for debate, complying with Senate rules, strategizing passing or defeating a measure. If you want to know what is happening "behind the scenes," Marty is the person to look to. There isn't a vote that happens, there isn't a negotiation that takes place, there isn't a unanimous consent agreement—which is what makes this place function—that Marty hasn't helped to piece together or made sure it's done correctly.

And Marty works for each of us. While, technically, he works for the Democrats, I know that many of my Republican colleagues have turned to Marty for guidance. He is known for always being candid and straightforward. He has served us all with his honest counsel—you could always count on him for a straight answer. And, remarkably, he has never lost patience with any of us—no matter what we ask or how often we call.

It is hard to describe to those who haven't spent much time in the Senate how very important Marty Paone has been to the Senate, day-to-day life and historic moments. Mr. President, this is the end of an era. We all hope it will be the beginning of a new one for Marty, away from the heavy responsibilities he has met so well for so long. We wish him well. He will be missed very much.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007—SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator CORNYN as vice chairman of the committee, that the following "Annual Report for 2007—Select Committee on Ethics" be printing in the RECORD. The committee issues this report today as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007—SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the "Act") calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31 of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2007 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source [in 2007], including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 95. (This figure does not include 16 alleged violations from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 71. (This figure includes 5 matters originating in the previous year.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 15. (This figure includes 2 matters originating in the previous year.)

(3) The number of alleged violations in which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 16. (This figure includes 9 matters from the previous year carried into 2007 and includes 5 inquiries continuing into 2008.)

(4) The number of alleged violations that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations that the Committee dismissed for lack of substantial merit: 11. (This figure includes 7 matters from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(6) The number of private letters of admonition or public letters of admonition issued: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2007, the Committee, through its staff, conducted 121 ethics educational briefings and seminars, including 72 sessions for individual Member or Committee offices and 37 sessions for a general Senate audience.

In 2007, Committee staff handled over 16,000 telephone inquiries for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2007, the Committee wrote over 1,000 ethics advisory letters and responses, including over 700 advisories concerning gifts or travel.

The Committee issued over 3,500 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates, including over 1,200 letters concerning required amendments to these disclosure filings.

REMEMBERING MONE LITTLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Monday marked the 1-year anniversary of the tragic death of Mone Little. On January 28, 2007, 19-year-old Mone, granddaughter of late Motown legend and lead singer of The Temptations, David Ruffin, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting while walking with three friends in Detroit. While Mone was not the target, she was the only one in the group who was shot. Those responsible for this heinous crime have not been caught.

Mone, a student at Oakland Community College, was in the process of exploring her dreams. The community continues to grieve the senseless loss of this young woman. Unfortunately, we experience too many of these tragedies. Each year approximately 30,000 Americans are killed by a firearm, an average of 10 children and 74 adults each day.

Many of us continue to urge the Senate to pass sensible gun legislation. Law enforcement officers have re-

quested help in their difficult task of keeping our streets safe. Those that have been personally impacted by gun tragedies have called for change in the hope of protecting others from the pain they have endured.

The American people have a right to expect better protection against gun violence. Until Congress acts, many more lives will be lost. I once again urge my colleagues to take up and pass sensible gun legislation so that we can help prevent such tragedies.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Robert Ball. Bob Ball has been a champion of America's elderly since 1939, helping to guide and strengthen our Social Security system for nearly 70 years. He was America's longest serving Social Security Commissioner, overseeing improvements to benefits such as the introduction of automatic cost-of-living adjustments. Today, about a third of our Nation's elderly rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income, and two-thirds count on it to supply at least half of their income. It has been America's most successful anti-poverty program ever, due in no small part to Bob's influence.

While he is little known outside Washington, Bob played a critical role in the origins of our most recognizable Government programs. His work led to the introduction of Social Security disability insurance, and now because of him more than 7 million Americans who can't work due to a disability can still live in dignity. He helped create our Medicare system, which now provides health care to more than 40 million elderly Americans. Even as he became a Social Security recipient himself, he continued to defend the program against benefit cuts and privatization proposals. There is no question that Robert Ball's work has improved the lives of millions of Americans. His character, wisdom, and leadership will be greatly missed.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, very sadly, Robert M. Ball, Bob Ball, passed away on January 29, 2008, at the age of 93. Bob Ball had a truly exceptional record of public service and his passing is a loss to this nation. Bob Ball served as the longest serving Commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 1962 to 1973 and played a critical role in all changes to the Social Security programs for the last half century. He was a champion of social insurance programs, and through his leadership, the Social Security Administration tackled many challenges and served millions of Americans in need. Few individuals have had as direct and profound an effect on the lives of our fellow citizens. And I would like to express my personal gratitude for Bob Ball's dedicated service.

Bob Ball began his career with Social Security in a New Jersey field office in

1939. At SSA's headquarters, he served in various positions with the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance. He left the agency briefly in 1945 to serve as staff director for the Advisory Council on Social Security to the Senate Committee on Finance, and returned 4 years later serving as assistant director of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, and eventually, deputy director and acting director.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed Bob Ball Commissioner of Social Security, a position he held under both Democratic and Republican Presidents—retiring in 1973. During his time at SSA, he helped establish the Disability Insurance Program, the Medicare Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Program. These programs now protect millions of Americans from what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the hazards and vicissitudes of life—disability that prevents work, and extended old age, both of which can cause severe poverty.

Following his retirement, Bob Ball went on to be one of the most active and prolific advocates for Social Security and social insurance programs. He was an influential member of the Greenspan Commission, which in 1983 reestablished Social Security on a sound financial footing, and has written and spoken on every proposal to improve Social Security's current financing difficulties, including the grossly flawed proposals to privatize Social Security. Bob Ball founded the National Academy of Social Insurance in 1986 to promote understanding and informed policymaking on Social Security and other social insurance programs through research, training, and public events for the exchange of unbiased information.

Bob Ball was a great American who dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is a great loss to this body and to all policymakers. I am sure my colleagues will join me in offering our deepest condolences to his family and to his friends and colleagues. I hope that we can keep his dedication in mind as we continue his life's work and secure our retirement and disability programs for the millions of Americans who benefit and will benefit from his service.

WILD MONONGAHELA ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places Act. This important piece of legislation sets aside over 47,000 acres of wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy the forest in its pristine state.

West Virginians have a proud tradition of mining and logging that provides needed resources for our entire country. I have no doubt that this tradition will continue for many decades