

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

EVAN BAYH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague and friend of mine—Senator EVAN BAYH—who will be retiring from the U.S. Senate when the 112th Congress convenes in January. I would like to take this moment to thank EVAN for his service, and wish him, his wife Susan, and their twin boys Beau and Nick, the very best as they embark on the next chapter in their lives.

EVAN comes from a family tradition deeply rooted in public service and committed to improving the lives of our fellow citizens. Our fathers, Birch Bayh and Tom Dodd, served together in the U.S. Senate, and instilled in both of us the desire to serve as we grew older.

EVAN has dedicated the better part of his adult life to serving the people of Indiana. He began his career in public service when he was elected Indiana's Secretary of State in 1986. He then served as Governor of Indiana for two terms starting in 1988. As Governor he focused on fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, job creation and lean government. In 1998, Hoosiers once again demonstrated their faith in EVAN BAYH by electing him to the U.S. Senate.

Throughout his career in public service, EVAN has been particularly vocal on issues related to our national security, economic competitiveness, and job creation. He has demonstrated his willingness to work hard, a fact underscored by his membership on six Senate committees—Aging, Armed Services, Banking, Energy and Natural Resources, Intelligence, and Small Business. He has developed a broad range of subject matter expertise, and has time and again demonstrated his willingness to reach across the aisle to get things done for the people of Indiana.

This Congress, as chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, I had the opportunity to work with EVAN on several vital issues, such as his contributions to the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure, CARD, Act and Wall Street reform.

When EVAN leaves the Senate in just a few short weeks, I believe he will be remembered as a public servant who was devoted first and foremost to advancing the interests of Hoosiers, and who was willing to work across the aisle whenever he saw an opportunity to do the right thing for our Nation.

Once again, I would like to thank EVAN for his years of service, and wish him well as he leaves the Senate. It has been a pleasure working with him over the years, and I firmly believe that this body will not be the same without him.

BOB BENNETT

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and longtime colleague Senator BOB BENNETT who, like me, will be departing from the U.S. Senate in just a couple of weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to

wish BOB, Joyce, and the rest of his family the very best as he leaves the Senate and embarks on this new chapter in his life.

Since he was first elected to this body in 1992, BOB has served the people of Utah well as their Senator. BOB comes from a long line of individuals dedicated to public service, and it is no surprise that he himself decided to go down that path. BOB's grandfather, Heber J. Grant, was the seventh President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. And BOB's father, Wallace F. Bennett, represented the state of Utah in this very Chamber between 1951 and 1974, serving alongside my father, Tom Dodd.

Throughout the time that I have known and worked with him, I have always found BOB to be receptive to the ideas of others and careful and deliberate in his own evaluation of complex policy questions.

Of course, that is not to say that BOB BENNETT isn't also a determined partisan. Indeed, throughout his three terms here, BOB has been one of the Senate's most consistently conservative voices. But in spite of that, BOB has frequently reached across the partisan divide to seek out areas of common ground and mutual interest with Democrats.

That willingness to engage and cooperate with colleagues has perhaps been most evident in his work on the Senate Banking Committee. Throughout our years of service together on that panel, BOB and I have frequently been among the first to reach out across the aisle and search for solutions to the challenges facing our Nation's financial services sector. And from our work together during the savings and loan crisis, to passage of legislation that provides a safety net for our economy in the event of a devastating terrorist attack, we have achieved some important results.

BOB chaired and I served as vice chairman of the Y2K Committee, to ensure the integrity of our Nation's financial services sector. More recently, in the fall of 2008, when the global financial system was on the verge of collapse and our country was standing at the precipice of an economic depression, BOB took a significant political risk by supporting the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, which established TARP. I realize that this was an incredibly difficult vote for BOB and every other Member of this Chamber at the time.

But I am convinced that without elected officials who are willing to cast those kinds of tough, yet necessary votes, this country would be a very different place.

So I would like to once again thank BOB for his 18 years of service in this body and for his willingness to listen to and work with colleagues with whom he hasn't always agreed. And I would like to once again wish BOB and his family the very best as he leaves the Senate this January.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Arkansas, BLANCHE LINCOLN, who, like me, will be leaving the U.S. Senate in the coming weeks. I would like to take this moment to thank BLANCHE for her service, and wish her, her husband Dr. Steve Lincoln and her two twin boys Bennett and Reece, the very best as they embark on the next chapter in their lives.

As a seventh generation Arkansan, BLANCHE has dedicated the better part of her adult life to serving the people of Arkansas. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992. After two terms representing Arkansas's first district she retired briefly to give birth two her twin sons. However, the call of public service led her to run for a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate and in 1998, at the age of 38, the people of Arkansas elected her to serve them as their U.S. Senator the youngest woman ever to be elected.

As a young woman growing up on her family farm in the small town of Helena, AR, BLANCHE developed a strong appreciation and understanding for American farmers and ranchers and the important work they do for our country. She carried the lessons she learned, and the values they instilled in her, with her to Congress. Throughout her career in public service, BLANCHE has been particularly vocal on issues related to agriculture, hunger, working families and children.

In 2009, BLANCHE became the first ever woman to chair the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. She played the key role in brokering the compromise that led to passage of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the farm bill, which reauthorizes U.S. agriculture policy every 5 years and is of vital importance to farmers and food producers across the country.

Senator LINCOLN and the Agriculture Committee also played a vital role in shaping the derivatives provisions in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill. These were difficult, highly complex matters, and Senator LINCOLN worked tirelessly to lead her committee throughout the process. Her seriousness and hard work were a tremendous asset to the overall process, and I commend her and her committee for helping to shape the legislation.

In addition to her work on the Agriculture Committee, BLANCHE has been focused on our country's children. She formed the Senate Caucus for Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and the Senate Hunger Caucus. She recently worked to pass the child nutrition bill, which will improve the lives of millions of children in our country.

After BLANCHE leaves the Senate, I believe she will be remembered as a tireless public servant who was devoted first and foremost to advancing the interests of the people of her beloved home State, Arkansas.

Once again, I would like to thank BLANCHE for her years of service, and

wish her well as she leaves the Senate. It has truly been a pleasure working with her over the years, and I firmly believe that this body will not be the same without her.

KIT BOND

Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes today to pay tribute to a longtime colleague, the senior Senator from Missouri, who like me will be leaving this body in a few short weeks. It has been an honor to serve with him, and I wish him, his wife Linda, and his son Samuel—who is bravely serving his Nation as a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and the rest of his family the best of luck in the future.

Senator BOND, or “KIT” as many of us know him, knew at an early age that his calling was public service. After earning his law degree and practicing for a few years here in Washington, DC, he returned to Missouri to run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1968. While he was unsuccessful in that first run, at the young age of 29 he caught the eye of the then-Missouri Attorney General John Danforth, who hired him as an assistant attorney general.

After heading the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection, KIT was elected in his own right to serve as Missouri's State Auditor, and later went on to two terms as Governor of Missouri. He still holds the distinction of having been the youngest Governor elected in his State's history at the age of 33.

KIT was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986. During his time in this body, he has established himself as a strong advocate for the people and interests of the State of Missouri. He has also established himself as a national leader on issues that are important not only to his State but to our Nation as a whole.

For years, as a member and later chairman of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, he has served as a leading voice for small businesses.

As the vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator BOND has worked continuously to ensure our Nation's intelligence community has the tools and resources necessary to keep us safe. Throughout his career in the Senate, he has also been a knowledgeable, leading voice on matters of importance to veterans, and has time and again proven his unwavering support for our men and women in uniform.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, and chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Housing Subcommittee, he has played a significant role in advocating for improvements to our nation's roads and other vital infrastructure.

These are just some of the areas which Senator BOND will no doubt be remembered. But I would like to take a moment to speak to an issue which he and I have worked together for many years, for which he may not receive the

attention he deserves—his strong advocacy for the health of our nation's children and families.

Senator BOND and I have worked together on these issues for many years. In 1991, his support was vital to gaining enactment of a piece of legislation of which I am most proud—the Family and Medical Leave Act. To date, this bill has been used more than 100 million times to ensure that workers can care for ailing loved ones, or care for a new child, without the fear of losing their job. This seems like common sense now, but it took 7 years, and 2 Presidential vetoes to finally see this important law enacted.

That wouldn't have happened without the involvement of KIT BOND.

He was also one of the key supporters of the successful effort in 2009 to ensure that airline workers have full access to their Family and Medical Leave Act benefits.

Senator BOND and I have also partnered over the years to improve maternal and child health and end preventable birth defects. I was proud to be a cosponsor of the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998, which he authored. I was also honored to partner with him and others again in 2003, when we were successful in passing the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act. These measures helped to establish, and then expand, the role of the Centers for Disease Control in researching and developing solutions to the problems posed by birth defects and developmental disabilities.

He was also a key Republican sponsor, along with Senator HATCH of Utah, of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which I authored in the 110th Congress. This legislation is the next step in our work together, and seeks to educate every parent, and provide access for every newborn, to a battery of life-saving prenatal tests. This landmark legislation helps build on the successes which we have had on this issue in the past, and I was pleased that Senator BOND was a supporter yet again, as he has been throughout his career in the Senate.

While we did not always see eye-to-eye on every issue, Senator BOND was always someone with whom those policy disagreements were never personal. He has been an honorable legislator, and a valued colleague during our time serving in the Senate together.

Once again, I would like to wish Senator BOND, his wife Linda, his son Samuel and his family, and all their extended family the very best in all their future endeavors.

SAM BROWNBAC

I would like to say a few words in honor of Senator SAM BROWNBAC, my colleague from Kansas for these past 14 years. Like me, he will be ending his service in the U.S. Senate at the conclusion of this Congress. I would like to congratulate him on his election as Governor of the State of Kansas, and I wish him and his family the very best in his new endeavor.

His election to the governorship should come as no surprise—he has proven time and again that his first priority is serving the people of Kansas. He has a long track record of service, beginning with his 1986 election to the position of State Secretary of Agriculture. At the time of his election, he was only 30 years old, the youngest person ever to hold the position.

After serving as Agriculture Secretary, SAM was elected to the House of Representatives as part of the famous Republican class of 1994. He quickly ascended to the Senate in 1996 with the departure of a Senate and Kansas legend, then-Majority Leader Bob Dole. SAM had some big shoes to fill, and he has done so admirably.

Senator BROWNBAC will be remembered for many things, his conservatism and his passion to name a few, but perhaps the most important is his dedication to his faith. His religious values provided an anchor for everything he did, and led to his pursuit of issues that provided assistance for those in need.

Senator BROWNBAC's commitment to ending the genocide in Darfur is an example of one of those issues. Tragically, more than 200,000 people have died in Darfur and more than 2.5 million have been displaced as a result of the unrest in Sudan. Senator BROWNBAC's expertise and dedication to this critically important issue has made a real impact on the fight to end this horrific crisis. With his retirement, the Senate will lose one of its great human rights champions.

Senator BROWNBAC and I may not have always seen eye-to-eye, but no one ever questioned his commitment to principle, or his commitment to the people of Kansas.

I wish him, his wife Mary, and their five children all the best. While the Senate will miss him, I wish him luck as he embarks on his next journey as the Governor of Kansas.

JAMES BUNNING

Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words of farewell to my colleague from Kentucky, Senator JIM BUNNING. We will both be retiring from this Chamber when this Congress concludes, and I wish him and his wife Mary Catherine, their sons and daughters and the rest of their family the very best in the future.

As we all know, prior to becoming a politician JIM BUNNING was a world-class baseball pitcher. He had a distinguished career primarily with the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies, during which he became the second pitcher in Major League history to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 wins in both the American and National Leagues. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Of course, after such a distinguished career he could have simply hung up his cleats, moved back to his home state of Kentucky, and enjoyed a quiet retirement with his family.

Instead, he decided to take the work ethic and competitive spirit that drove

him in baseball and use his energy to give back to his community as a public servant. In 1977, he ran for and won a city council seat in Fort Thomas, KY. He was then elected to the Kentucky State Senate in 1979. After serving in the State Senate as Republican leader, he ran to represent Kentucky's 4th Congressional District in 1986. He also won that election, and served for 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1998, JIM ran to replace Senator Wendell Ford, who was retiring. He kept his winning streak alive, not only winning that initial Senate contest, but also reelection in 2004. When he retires this year, JIM BUNNING will have amassed an impressive winning streak in politics, just as he did in baseball.

As you know, life in the U.S. Senate is about working out disagreements through deliberation and debate. This process of lawmaking has served to ensure that the voices of a broad range of Americans are heard as we work to craft the laws and policies we must ultimately all abide by.

As a Senator, JIM BUNNING has always stood up for his beliefs, and fought for what he thought was right. As a member of the Senate Banking, Budget, Energy, and Finance Committees, Senator BUNNING has been a staunchly conservative voice on economic policy.

While he and I seldom have seen eye to eye on these matters, his deep convictions have given voice to the concerns of citizens who share his point of view, and thereby have helped to shape and enrich our debates on the important questions we have faced over the years.

I wish him further success in whatever endeavors he pursues, as well as many happy, healthy years to come with his family.

RUSS FEINGOLD

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime colleague and friend of mine, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, who will be leaving the Senate this January after 18 years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to wish RUSS and his family the very best as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

Born and raised in the city of Janesville, WI, RUSS has dedicated the better part of his career to serving the people of his home State. Prior to his first election to the U.S. Senate in 1992, RUSS served as a Wisconsin State senator for nearly a decade. Throughout his career in public service, RUSS has proven to be a passionate and articulate advocate for the people of Wisconsin and their needs.

Since he first entered the Senate, RUSS has perhaps become best-known as one of this body's most stalwart progressives. Indeed, on any number of issues, from campaign finance reform, to the Iraq war, to our work together during Senate consideration of legislation reauthorizing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, RUSS has

demonstrated a strong commitment towards ensuring that respect for human rights, the rule of law, and democracy remain cornerstones of American policy, both at home and abroad.

Over the course of his three terms in the U.S. Senate, RUSS has perhaps become most closely identified in the minds of many Americans with his work on campaign finance reform with Senator MCCAIN. In 2002, when the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill was being considered, RUSS took a very courageous position in pushing legislation that, at the time, was relatively unpopular with some of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I was proud to join those efforts as the floor manager of McCain-Feingold, and would like to express my gratitude to RUSS for his strong and consistent leadership on that issue.

I have long appreciated RUSS's strong, principled stands on those issues, and have welcomed the opportunity to work with him over the years. I know that RUSS's commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law will be missed come January, and I would once again like to wish him the best as he leaves this institution.

BYRON DORGAN

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime colleague and friend of mine Senator BYRON DORGAN who will be retiring from the U.S. Senate when the 112th Congress convenes in January. I would like to take this moment to thank BYRON for his service, and wish him, his wife, Kim, and the rest of his wonderful family the very best as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

BYRON has dedicated the better part of his adult life to serving the people of his State. When he was just 26 years old, BYRON became the youngest constitutional officer in North Dakota history when he was appointed to serve as the State's Tax Commissioner. In 1980, BYRON once again demonstrated his commitment to public service when he was elected to the State's lone House seat. Twelve years later, after six terms in the House, the people of North Dakota once again returned BYRON to Washington, this time as their U.S. Senator.

Throughout his career in public service, BYRON has been particularly vocal on issues related to U.S. agricultural policy. As a young man growing up in the small town of Regent, ND, BYRON developed a strong appreciation for American farmers and ranchers and the important work they do to keep our country fed. Indeed, BYRON's own family worked in the farm equipment business and raised cattle and horses. As a result, he has been a consistent advocate for greater economic security and opportunity in rural America.

Since 2005, BYRON has also served as chairman of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, where he has played an important role in helping to craft the Senate Democratic policy agenda over the last several years. But after

BYRON leaves the Senate in just a few short weeks, I believe he will be remembered as a public servant who was devoted first and foremost to advancing the interests of the people of his beloved home State, North Dakota.

Once again, I would like to thank BYRON for his many years of service, and wish him well as he leaves the Senate. It has truly been a pleasure working with him over the years, and I firmly believe that this body will not be the same without him.

JUDD GREGG

Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to my colleague, a fellow New Englander and Banking Committee member, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, JUDD GREGG.

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving with him in this body for the past 18 years. As we both prepare to leave the Senate this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Senator GREGG has been an ardent advocate for his home State of New Hampshire, and a knowledgeable legislator. Time and again, during floor debate and committee proceedings, he has demonstrated his sharp intellect and deep knowledge of a broad range of issues—particularly on economic and budget policy.

He is a deeply committed public servant, who has been elected by the people of New Hampshire to serve them for 9 years in the House of Representatives, for 4 years as Governor, and as their U.S. Senator for the last 18 years. In fact, they returned him to the Senate in 2004 with the highest number of votes in New Hampshire history. It is clear that his constituents have a great deal of faith in this man, and during his time in Congress, he has represented them and their values extremely well.

As one would expect from a man of New Hampshire, Senator GREGG has always demonstrated his independence, commitment to hard work, and self-sufficiency. Yet he has also been someone that has sought compromise and has been ready to collaborate with those willing to tackle the difficult problems facing our Nation.

In 2001, he was one of the lead Republicans working on the No Child Left Behind law to improve education across the Nation for generations of Americans. In 2003, he and I worked together with Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, and Senator SUSAN COLLINS to craft the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act, which updated our nation's laws to meet the serious problem of child abuse.

Of course, improving education and ending child abuse are issues on which both liberals and conservatives broadly agree, so bipartisanship and collaboration on these matters is easy.

Of course, in the fall of 2008, our Nation was faced with a nearly unprecedented economic collapse—and the

views of liberals and conservatives on how to respond could charitably be described as divergent, at best.

It was at that moment, when our Nation faced a calamity of historical proportions, that Senator GREGG grit his teeth and set to work, negotiating with me, Treasury Secretary Geithner, Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke, and others, to fashion a legislative response to the crisis.

Despite the heavy criticism that came with being a party to those discussions, he remained a key negotiator, and in the end, the House and Senate approved the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. Today, our economy, though far from recovered, is far better off than it would have been without this bill and many of the institutions which received assistance have repaid the Treasury with interest.

Let me be clear that was a bill that none of us ever, in our wildest dreams thought we would have to write, or vote to pass. However distasteful, it would have been wrong to allow our financial system to go into full cardiac arrest, with little chance of survival.

The politically expedient route to take would have been to walk away, vote against the bill, and join the pundits, commentators, and bloggers who've said "It never should have passed, and we would have been fine without it anyway."

But that wouldn't be leadership. That wouldn't be statesmanship. And that isn't the type of legislator that JUDD GREGG is.

I would also like to thank Senator GREGG for his work as a member of the Banking Committee. He joined the committee late in his tenure, but his deep knowledge of the economy and expertise in financial matters was greatly appreciated. He played an important role in helping to craft what became the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Though he was a staunch opponent of some of the bill's provisions, he didn't see that opposition as an impediment to continuing to offer ideas and thoughtful debate in order to shape the legislation into what he thought was a better product.

Yet, as fierce a partisan as Senator GREGG is, he is also a consummate legislator. He knows that the people of New Hampshire sent him here to work hard, and work with the other members of this body. He has shown that at the end of the day, even if you work hard on something, you may not be able to support it—but you will know that you have done your best to advocate for your positions and shape the debate.

The Senate will miss his knowledge and work ethic, and I hope that newly elected members—of both parties—will follow his example.

I wish him, his wife Kathleen, his children and granddaughter the very best.

GEORGE LEMIEUX

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, the Senator

from Florida, GEORGE LEMIEUX, who will be leaving the U.S. Senate before the 112th Congress convenes. I would like to take this moment to thank GEORGE for his service, and wish him, his wife Meike, and their four children the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

GEORGE is a native Floridian who has served as deputy attorney general, and later as Governor Charlie Crist's chief of staff.

When Senator Mel Martinez retired in 2009, GEORGE was appointed to fulfill the remainder of the term. Since then he has worked to help the people of Florida through his work as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging.

Though he has only been in the Senate for a short time, Senator LEMIEUX has been an engaged and hard-working Member of this body. He has emerged as a strong advocate for solving our long-term Federal debt concerns, and a devoted advocate for the people and businesses of his home State of Florida.

While we did not share the same views on a number of issues, Senator LEMIEUX proved that he was a man of deep conviction who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed. He spoke often on the floor to advocate for his positions. However, he showed that he was a serious legislator, and leader, on issues of vital importance to our Nation.

For example, he was the lone Republican to cast a vote in favor of the Small Business Jobs Act. This legislation was designed to expand access to credit, and provide tax incentives, for small businesses. GEORGE recognized that these were two things that Florida's businesses desperately needed—much more than partisan gridlock.

After GEORGE leaves the Senate in just a few short weeks, I believe he will be remembered as a public servant who was devoted first and foremost to advancing the interests of the people of his home State, Florida.

Once again, I would like to thank GEORGE for his service, and wish him well as he leaves the Senate. It has been a pleasure working with him.

ARLEN SPECTER

Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and longtime colleague, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, the longest serving U.S. Senator in Pennsylvania history.

As many of you know, ARLEN and I were freshmen Senators together 30 years ago. I was the only Democrat newly elected to the Senate in 1980. Senator SPECTER was one of 12 new Republicans elected that year, in the so-called "Reagan Landslide," that gave his party the Senate for the first time in 28 years.

I bring this up because, even though I was a new Senator in the minority, we quickly began working on a bipartisan basis. For those listening today, the idea of a bipartisan Senate may

seem strange. Back then, it was commonplace and I know that ARLEN and I both hope that newly elected Members of this body will revive this tradition in the coming years.

Early in our Senate careers, ARLEN and I started the Senate Children's Caucus. We believed that as the largest nonvoting constituency in the country, children had the greatest need for champions to advocate on their behalf. The Children's Caucus has provided strong leadership on early childhood education, funding for childcare programs, and making passage of the Family Medical Leave Act reality. I want to thank Senator SPECTER for being one of my partners on these critically important issues for almost 30 years.

Senator SPECTER's accomplishments carry beyond his defense of children. Over the course of his career, he has served as the chairman of three important and influential Senate committees: the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary. In each of these capacities he has worked to ensure that America's legal system is true to our best traditions and ideals, while ensuring that we have the tools to prevent terrorism and protect our citizens. He has also used his role on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to increase research funding for the National Institutes of Health. His work here in the United States Senate has improved the lives of countless Pennsylvanians and countless Americans.

Of all of Senator SPECTER's achievements, I have yet to mention the most impressive: Since 2005, he has continued to serve while fighting Hodgkin's lymphoma. Twice since being diagnosed, ARLEN has undergone chemotherapy for the disease. Yet he continued serving the people of Pennsylvania.

I have worked with Senator SPECTER both as a Democrat and a Republican, and I can tell you this his commitment to bipartisanship and independence should be a model for all current and future Members of the U.S. Senate.

I would like to thank ARLEN for his many years of service, and wish him and his wife Joan well as he leaves the Senate. It has truly been a pleasure working with him over the years. I know the State of Pennsylvania will miss their senior Senator and I firmly believe that this body will not be the same without him.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

I rise today to honor Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, my colleague from Ohio who has served with me in this body for 12 years. Senator VOINOVICH has had a distinguished career in Ohio politics, spanning every level of government. His work as a public servant began when he was a bright young assistant attorney general, and has taken him through the Ohio House of Representatives, the mayor's office in Cleveland, the Ohio Governor's Mansion and the U.S. Senate.

Not only will Senator VOINOVICH be remembered for the more than four decades of service to his fellow Ohioans but also for his bipartisanship. He was never afraid to put his beliefs ahead of party, opposing President Bush's \$750 million tax cut proposal in 2003 for example.

I was especially proud to work with Senator VOINOVICH on legislation to help ensure the United States' continued dominance in the world aeronautics industry. Our bill, the Aeronautics Competitiveness Act of 2007, increased research funding, technology transfer, and workforce development, all of which are vital to maintaining the United States' competitive edge. I was also proud to have served on the Foreign Relations committee with him for 5 years, working to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO.

Senator VOINOVICH was known as the resident Senate "debt hawk" and has long stood for fiscal responsibility at the local, State and Federal levels.

It has been a pleasure to serve with Senator VOINOVICH. As we depart the Senate, I know this body will miss the presence of one of its more esteemed members and the people of Ohio will miss one of their most dedicated servants. I wish him and his wife Janet many more years of happiness.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a number of our friends and colleagues who are ending their service in the Senate. Their contributions are too numerous to mention, therefore I would like to take just a few minutes to highlight some of the memories of the Senators I came to know personally.

Some of the departing Senators I have served with for decades. Others were here for only part of a term. All of them worked hard for their constituents and our country.

TED KAUFMAN

Senator Ted Kaufman served for the past 2 years on my Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia.

Throughout Senator Kaufman's time with the subcommittee, he made a remarkable effort to honor the critical work of Federal employees. His regular statements on the Senate floor highlighting their work were an inspiration and I know were greatly appreciated by the dedicated Federal employees in Delaware and across this great Nation. I also appreciated Senator Kaufman's strong leadership on addressing longstanding shortcomings in Presidential transition planning, culminating in the enactment of the Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act this year.

ROLAND BURRIS

Senator Roland Burris served on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which I have the honor of chairing. Throughout his months with the Committee, he made time in his busy schedule to attend and participate in numerous committee hearings and

meetings. His participation played an important part in the committee's ability to conduct oversight and, ultimately, to improve benefits and care for our Nation's veterans. Senator Burris's work on the committee was a great service to the men and women of Illinois who wore the Nation's uniforms, as well as to servicemembers, veterans, and their families nationwide.

CARTE GOODWIN

Senator Carte Goodwin handled a tough assignment and filled in like an experienced professional. He is a gentleman who knows about and cares for West Virginia deeply, so much so that he moved to Washington to serve and advocate for his State in an emergency situation. Senator Goodwin was friendly and cordial and made himself as helpful as possible during his short tenure.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

My good friend Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN was a passionate advocate for Arkansas throughout her Senate service. She is recognized as a fighter who speaks her mind. She cares deeply about American families. She worked hard on her committee assignments. She has been a champion for farmers, veterans, seniors, and Americans of all stripes. She can be proud of her service. I thank her for her contributions to this institution and her friendship.

EVAN BAYH

Senator EVAN BAYH served with me on the Committees on Armed Services and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. He showed his commitment to our national security when he took over the Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee at the beginning of this Congress. He was a strong moderate voice for the people of Indiana.

ARLEN SPECTER

I served with Senator ARLEN SPECTER for many years on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He twice served as the committee's chairman, and, in recent years as I chaired the committee, he remained a strong and vital force working on behalf of our Nation's veterans, on both sides of the dais. He has been an institution in the Senate for many years, and it has been a genuine pleasure working with him. I appreciate and applaud his long, dedicated service to those who have worn our Nation's uniforms.

SAM BROWNBACK

I will miss my good friend Senator SAM BROWNBACK. Despite sitting across the aisle from me, he was always approachable and friendly. I know him to be committed to helping people in Kansas and across the country. He felt so strongly about ending homelessness that I remember him spending the night on the street with a group of homeless people to experience first hand the obstacles they face. That is dedication. He cares about people. Senator BROWNBACK should feel proud about all that he has accomplished to make life better for people in our country.

RUSS FEINGOLD

I want to thank Senator RUSS FEINGOLD for his 18 years of service in the U.S. Senate and his time in public service before that. Senator FEINGOLD has worked with me as an outspoken advocate for so many of the issues that I hold dear, such as protecting Americans' personal privacy and good government.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, there was a rush of strong executive branch moves for authority. Senator FEINGOLD repeatedly joined me and other Members in ensuring civil liberties and privacy protections of all Americans were observed. He was a leader in protecting liberties during debate over reforming the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. When the Department of Homeland Security was established, we worked to ensure that it had a strong official dedicated to protecting privacy. In 2007 I authored the POWER Act, which provided the Homeland Security Chief Privacy Officer with additional powers, and Senator FEINGOLD was a strong supporter, cosponsoring that bill which then became law in 2008.

I must also mention how proud I was to support Senator FEINGOLD on perhaps his most lasting accomplishment—campaign finance reform. The election process can be opaque, and it is full of more money than ever. However, in the last decade, many of the new campaign finance rules championed by Senator FEINGOLD have curbed many abuses which used to be common. While much work is left to be done in this area, especially with the recent Citizens United ruling, this country and voters owe a tremendous thank-you to Senator FEINGOLD.

BYRON DORGAN

It has been a pleasure to serve with Senator BYRON DORGAN of North Dakota, and I will miss him greatly. I have had the honor to work alongside Senator DORGAN on two committees of great importance to both of our States, the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Senator DORGAN and I served on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs together beginning in the 104th Congress. During his tenure as chairman during the last 4 years, I saw firsthand the leadership skills and compassion he possesses. Chairman DORGAN has shown his dedication to all of our Nation's indigenous people: American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Thank you Senator DORGAN for your efforts to improve the quality of life for America's native people.

I am grateful that Chairman DORGAN has been a strong ally to Hawaii's indigenous people, the Native Hawaiian people. He has stood with Senator Daniel Inouye and me as we have worked to have the United States fulfill its obligations to all of its Native people, including Native Hawaiians. Mahalo, Chairman DORGAN, for your aloha to the people of Hawaii.

Senator DORGAN is a great statesman and a gentleman who has served the people of North Dakota in the U.S. Congress for three decades. During our combined service on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, I repeatedly saw Senator DORGAN's passion for the people of North Dakota as he worked to make his State a pioneer in renewable energy efforts. For those of us who serve in the Senate, we work tirelessly to advance the needs of not only our home States, but the whole Nation. Senator DORGAN has proven himself both a great North Dakotan and a great American.

The Senate will be a much different place without his leadership, and I know that I am joined by many of my colleagues in wishing him many successes in the future. Many of my constituents in Hawaii will miss his leadership just as his own constituents in North Dakota will.

Mahalo for your friendship and for your service to our Nation. On behalf of Millie and our family, I send our aloha to you and Kim and your family. We wish you the best as you begin a new chapter in your lives.

CHRIS DODD

I am proud to express my great appreciation and gratitude for Senator CHRIS DODD's service to our country. He brought extraordinary leadership to the Senate that enabled us to make meaningful improvements to the education and economic security of Americans.

I traveled with Senator DODD to South America early in my tenure here in the Senate. Although I enjoy traveling, each time I go abroad I worry about my ability to communicate with my foreign hosts. But, on that trip, the language barrier was not an issue because, as I quickly found out, Senator DODD is fluent in Spanish.

Senator DODD recognizes the importance of language skills and cultural knowledge, not only to survive in the world but to prosper in it. I have truly appreciated his great respect for other cultures and passion for learning. Senator DODD has lent tremendous support to my national foreign language coordination bill, which aims to equip Americans with foreign language skills and knowledge of other cultures. It is just one example of Senator DODD's outstanding work to provide our children with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve prosperity and economic security.

I would also like to thank Senator DODD for his leadership in the 111th Congress. We are making historic and substantial improvements to the health care delivery system and the regulation of our financial system, and neither would have been possible without Senator DODD's guidance, persistence, good judgment, and support.

Senator DODD has been selfless and generous in his efforts to increase access to health care services everywhere in our country, including Hawaii. I am grateful that Senator DODD has always

recognized the unique health care needs and challenges of my home State. His contributions have been vital to the protection of Hawaii's system of employer-provided health insurance and ensuring that health care providers in Hawaii are more capable of meeting the uncompensated costs of providing care for the poor and uninsured.

I am proud to have served alongside Chairman DODD on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, where he has been a tireless leader and an outstanding consumer advocate. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act rightfully bears his name because no one has done more to educate, protect, and empower consumers and investors. Through his support, the act makes significant investments in financial literacy and education, and it provides meaningful disclosures and protections that will allow consumers to make better financial decisions. Americans are now better protected against abusive, predatory, and anticonsumer business practices than they were because of Senator DODD's unmatched contributions. Senator DODD is a great champion of consumers, investors, and financial literacy, and I am honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to work together with him on the Banking Committee.

Since I joined the Senate 20 years ago, Senator DODD has been a great colleague and ally. More importantly, he is kind, generous, trustworthy, and a loving family man, and I am proud to call him my brother and my friend. Although I am saddened to bid him farewell today, I wish Senator DODD well in all of his future endeavors.

Before I close, I would also like to thank and applaud Senator DODD's family Jackie, Grace, and Christina. They have been a source of strength, happiness, and calm for their husband and father.

Mahalo nui loa, CHRIS, for your service and friendship. Millie and I send our warmest aloha to you and your family, and we wish you well as you begin this new chapter of your lives together.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my dear friend and brother, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, as he prepares to retire from public life after more than 40 years of dedicated public service.

Senator VOINOVICH's retirement is a sad occasion for me, and it is difficult to put into words what Senator VOINOVICH's friendship has meant to me over the years. Senator VOINOVICH and I have worked so well together on the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia for many years, where we have both had the honor of serving as chairman. It has truly been a pleasure to serve with him as we have addressed so many difficult government management issues.

Senator VOINOVICH's background as the Governor of Ohio and the mayor of the city of Cleveland provided him with a unique perspective on the Federal Government's management and workforce challenges, and I believe his vast experience made our subcommittee more effective. On a light note, I know that one of Senator VOINOVICH's proudest moments as Governor was watching his beloved Cleveland baseball team reach the World Series for the first time in over 40 years. I am sure that Senator VOINOVICH will enjoy having more time to spend in his hometown of Cleveland during his retirement.

Senator VOINOVICH can take his grandchildren to see parks, buildings, and other improvements he helped bring about in Ohio during his time as mayor and Governor, but there are few similar opportunities in Federal Government oversight and management. The tough management issues we have tackled seldom make front-page news. But that is what makes Senator VOINOVICH remarkable he chose to focus on the details of the government's toughest management challenges rather than more glamorous issues.

Like me, Senator VOINOVICH has always recognized that the Federal Government's most valuable resource is its workforce of dedicated men and women. I often refer to him as the "father of human capital." We have worked closely together on a large number of workforce initiatives, with the common goal of making the Federal Government the employer of choice in this country. I am especially proud of our work to reform the broken Federal hiring process. I will keep fighting in Congress for our bill—the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act, S. 736. In the meantime, I am pleased that our joint oversight on this issue has spurred considerable progress in the executive branch.

Senator VOINOVICH and I also worked together on an amendment to last year's National Defense Authorization Act, which included my Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act, along with several other Federal workforce provisions. I cannot overstate how much Senator VOINOVICH's support for providing retirement equity has meant to the thousands of Federal employees in my home State of Hawaii.

Senator VOINOVICH simply has too many Federal workforce accomplishments to discuss all of them today. However, I would like to point out that he authored the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act to modernize Federal human capital planning, pay, and benefits; the Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act; the Senior Executive Service Performance Improvement Act; and many other important bills that have improved the government's ability to provide services.

In addition to his focus on important workforce issues, Senator VOINOVICH

has worked tirelessly on complicated management challenges. Our subcommittee has held a total of seven hearings on reforming the security clearance process. This work has been a tremendous success, eliminating the clearance backlog, dramatically reducing processing times, and improving investigation quality. These improvements enhance our national security and help the Federal Government hire the right people for the right jobs.

I am also proud of our work together in establishing Chief Management Officers at the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. It is vital that we maintain strong focus on management at these critical departments. I could easily point to so many other things that Senator VOINOVICH has accomplished during his Senate service.

I want to express my deep appreciation to Senator VOINOVICH for his friendship and partnership over the years. He has been a model public servant, and our country is a better and safer place because of his work. I wish Senator VOINOVICH, his lovely wife Janet, and his entire family joy and happiness during his richly deserved retirement.

In closing, the end of this Congress is bittersweet, with so many talented and dedicated public servants leaving this institution. All of them made a lasting impact on the Senate and on our country. Mahalo nui loa, thank you, for all your work.

JIM BUNNING

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JIM BUNNING. After 12 years in the U.S. Senate, Senator BUNNING is retiring from this chamber at the end of this session.

JIM has led a remarkable life. As a baseball fan, I am especially envious of his first career as a Major League pitcher. He was a classic, hard-nosed competitor, which foreshadowed his style as a public servant later in life. My favorite story about Senator BUNNING's baseball career is that he was the only pitcher to strike out Ted Williams three times in a single game. He is also one of only seven pitchers to throw a perfect game and a no-hitter. Senator BUNNING retired from the sport in 1971 with 2,855 career strikeouts, which, at the time, was the second highest total of all-time. He was rightfully inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1996.

Following his outstanding baseball career, JIM went into politics. And, once again, he was a winner. He has held office at the local, State, and Federal level. After serving Kentucky's 4th District for 12 years in the House of Representatives, Senator BUNNING began his service in this Chamber in 1999. I have served with him on the Budget and Finance committees, and have always known him to freely speak his mind and ask tough questions. He remained true to the fierce style he first demonstrated as a young pitcher

who was not afraid to brush back a hitter.

Nor was Senator BUNNING intimidated by the often arcane and technical issues we confronted as members of the Finance Committee. Over the years we have served there as colleagues, we have worked productively on a wide range of legislative proposals that included the taxation of life insurance companies, shortening the depreciation period for farm equipment, and capital gains treatment for songwriters, just to name a few. He was always willing to reach across the aisle to help achieve a common objective a long-standing Finance Committee tradition.

Senator BUNNING will now enter a new phase in his life, and I am certain he will now have the luxury of spending time with his wonderful family. JIM has the good fortune of being married to his childhood sweetheart, Mary. They met in grade school, and I am impressed that JIM knew at such a young age that he found a truly special person. I find Mary to be an absolutely lovely woman and admire their lasting love for each other. Mary is the mother of their nine children, and JIM and Mary now share 40 grandchildren. I wish JIM, Mary, and their entire family many years of health and happiness.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to recognize one of our departing colleagues, the senior Senator from Arkansas, Mrs. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN.

A 7th generation Arkansan and a native of Helena, AR, Senator LINCOLN grew up on a cotton and rice farm. She spoke often of her experiences on the farm, and fondly recalled how she was a farmer's daughter. It was her experience helping her father work the land that taught her the same core values she brought to the Senate—honesty, fairness, hard work, and common sense.

Senator LINCOLN is the kind of colleague you want to have in the Senate. She is pragmatic. She is rational. And she is reasonable. If you ever had an issue with her you needed to resolve, you could count on her to be someone you could work with. In fact, she is well known as someone who tried to bridge the partisan divide. She even co-founded and cochaired an organization dedicated to working across the aisle to bridge differences and create practical solutions.

Senator LINCOLN first came to Congress in 1992 as a Representative for Arkansas's First Congressional District, serving two terms. Following the birth of her twin boys, Reece and Bennett, she made a successful run for the Senate in 1998.

During her time here in the Senate, she served her home State of Arkansas with great distinction, serving in the same seat as the late Senator Hattie Caraway, the first woman ever elected to the Senate. Like Senator Caraway, who also made history for being the first woman ever to be chairman of a

Senate committee, Senator LINCOLN made history in 2009 by becoming the first woman in the 184-year history of the Senate Agriculture Committee to be named chairman.

Senator LINCOLN and I were able to collaborate on many issues during her time in the Senate because we served together on two committees—Agriculture and Finance. On the Agriculture Committee, she was a fierce advocate for her State's agriculture interests, particularly rice and cotton producers. Since farm bills tend to be more regional than party driven, she always represented her producers with vigor. She was a key player in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills, both of which have been widely popular throughout the countryside in the North and the South.

She also looked out for those who are less fortunate, making hunger in our country a signature issue of hers. This year she pushed through the Senate a landmark bill to improve school lunch programs. The child nutrition reauthorization bill she authored contains almost 10 times more new funding than the 2004 child nutrition reauthorization. It includes \$3.2B for the first school lunch program base-level reimbursement increase since 1973. I hope the House will follow the Senate's lead and pass this important bill yet this year.

She also served as the chair of Rural Outreach for the Senate Democratic Caucus. It was in this role that we collaborated to introduce the Rural Revitalization Act, a bill to boost the economy in rural America in the wake of the recent recession. This bill made significant investments in rural development priorities, including infrastructure projects, energy programs, housing assistance and rural health care.

Senator LINCOLN also has been a champion for rural health care issues as a valued member of the Senate Rural Health Caucus. During her time in the Senate, she successfully fought to protect small businesses, health care providers, and, most importantly, seniors in rural communities. Because of Senator LINCOLN's dedication, critical improvements to the Medicare Program were enacted into law. In particular, senior women now have improved access to bone density tests, osteoporosis screenings, and other preventive services.

Senator LINCOLN also authored the Elder Justice Act, legislation enacted into law this year which authorizes new efforts to prevent, detect, treat, and prosecute elder abuse and exploitation. Her work as a lead author of the SHOP Act led to the adoption of tax credits and small business health insurance exchanges in health reform. These legislative accomplishments and many others will leave this country with a lasting legacy of Senator LINCOLN's commitment to improving the health of Arkansans and of all Americans.

On the Finance Committee, Senator LINCOLN was a strong and effective advocate for working families. She worked hard to make sure that the full child tax credit was available to as many low-earning workers with children as possible. She knows how valuable that benefit is for parents who really have to struggle to support their families.

Senator LINCOLN and I share a commitment to promoting savings for retirement. She shares my concern that retirement income security is a growing challenge for the baby boomers who are beginning to head into retirement right now as well as the generations that are following. An important focus for her has been the promotion of employee stock ownership plans, which not only help small businesses—including many successful ones in my State of North Dakota—to grow but also help the employee-owners build a separate pool of retirement savings that they can use during their retirement years.

It is unfortunate that we are losing such a capable and pragmatic colleague as Senator LINCOLN. It will be sad to see the Senate without her next year, but I know nothing but good things await her in her future. I wish her the best.

RUSS FEINGOLD

I would like to pay tribute and recognize the accomplishments of my good friend Senator RUSS FEINGOLD of Wisconsin, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

Senator FEINGOLD has faithfully served the people of Wisconsin for the last 28 years, serving three terms in the Wisconsin State Senate and three terms in the U.S. Senate. During all of that time, he has never forgotten who put him in office. Every year, Senator FEINGOLD has held listening sessions in all 72 counties of Wisconsin. The input he received in those sessions was his guide for every issue he worked on in the Senate.

RUSS FEINGOLD has also been guided by his tremendous intellect. After growing up in Janesville, WI, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to receive a Rhodes Scholarship from Oxford University and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

To say that Senator FEINGOLD has been independent-minded in the Senate is an understatement. He has been a true maverick. He never let party or political pressure influence his efforts here.

The clearest example of this was his work on campaign finance reform with Republican Senator JOHN MCCAIN. After years of struggle, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, known to most as the McCain-Feingold Act, was enacted in 2002. Although the Act continues to evolve and face challenges, it will forever change the landscape of political campaigns in this country. And Senator FEINGOLD has led other efforts to promote clean government, such as moving to electronic filing of campaign

finance reports and fighting against lobbyists' gifts to lawmakers.

Senator FEINGOLD has also been an independent voice in the area of foreign policy. He spoke out eloquently against the Iraq war and was one of 21 Democratic Senators to vote against the Iraq war resolution. And, as a member of the Intelligence Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee, his opinion on matters related to Africa have carried an added weight.

Of course, I have known Senator FEINGOLD best from his work with me on the Senate Budget Committee. Since he joined the panel in 1997, he has been a powerful voice on the committee for fiscal responsibility. He was one of the leading advocates for restoring the paygo, or pay-as-you-go, requirement to ensure any new mandatory spending or tax cuts are fully paid for. And, in 2009, he introduced a comprehensive Control Spending Now Act, including several important spending reforms that have since been adopted.

It has been a true honor to serve alongside Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. He has made a tremendous contribution to this body, to his State of Wisconsin, and to our Nation. He will certainly be missed. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

KIT BOND

Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator BOND as he prepares to leave the Senate.

Senator BOND and I came to the Senate together in 1987. While we have not seen eye to eye on some issues, I have admired his passion and convictions as he worked to faithfully represent his State.

Even before coming to the Senate, Senator BOND had a distinguished career in public service for the State of Missouri serving as assistant attorney general, State auditor, and later as Governor. He cares deeply about his home State, which is evidenced by his long list of accomplishments in the Senate—a robust highway bill, targeted investments in public housing and infrastructure, and a strong national defense to name just a few.

Senator BOND and I have long shared a common interest in the Missouri River. Though we disagree on how it should be managed and the ability of our State's to utilize this resource, I have enormous respect for my colleague for his passion in defending Missouri's claims to this resource.

In particular, I deeply appreciated Senator BOND's work with me on the Dakota Water Resources Act. This legislation was critical for the economic future of North Dakota. During discussions on the bill, he was a tenacious advocate for his State's interests. His diligence in representing his State, coupled with his willingness to gain a better understanding of the water needs of my State, ultimately helped us reach a compromise acceptable to both States. The people of Missouri can

be proud of his work fighting for their interests.

Senator BOND has been a man of his word who served his State and country with distinction. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize our retiring colleague from Ohio, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH.

GEORGE VOINOVICH has led a remarkable life of public service, stretching across all levels of government. Beginning in 1963, Senator VOINOVICH has made the people of Ohio his priority, serving as an assistant attorney general in Ohio, a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Cuyahoga County commissioner, Lieutenant Governor of OH, Mayor of Cleveland, Governor of Ohio, and finally, U.S. Senator.

Throughout his career, Senator VOINOVICH has been a steady hand, guiding Ohio through difficult times. As mayor, he led the city of Cleveland out of bankruptcy and mismanagement through smart budgeting and pragmatic governing. As Governor, he led Ohio out of a recession and into more prosperous times, holding the State budget's growth to its lowest level in 30 years and overseeing the state's lowest unemployment rate in 25 years.

As Senator, he continued his commitment to fiscal responsibility, focusing on this country's exploding debt and long-term challenges. Senator VOINOVICH also fought for reform of our tax and entitlement systems as author of the SAFE Commission Act and cosponsor of the Conrad-Gregg Bipartisan Task Force for Fiscal Responsibility Act. Warning about our Nation's fiscal crisis at a Budget Committee hearing in 2009, he testified courageously: "We must find a compromise and we must act now. Many people believe that this generation of Americans will be the first whose standard of living will be less than those before them. Our failure to act now will guarantee that they are right." With Senator VOINOVICH's retirement, the Senate is losing one of its strongest and clearest voices on the importance of fiscal responsibility today to keep our country strong and growing into the future.

I was also pleased to join with Senator VOINOVICH in introducing the Truth in Budgeting Act. Our bill would have put a stop to the fiscally reckless practice of using trust fund surpluses to pay for tax cuts and other spending priorities. Senator VOINOVICH always recognized that our current fiscal policies are putting future generations in the position of having to borrow trillions of dollars to make good on our Social Security, Medicare and other commitments.

I have always respected his commitment to principle and his willingness to take independent positions, regardless of popularity or political expedience. He has rejected the knee-jerk partisan politics that unfortunately

have taken hold of Washington over the past decade, opting instead for reasonable, level-headed discourse. Always willing to reach across the aisle, Senator VOINOVICH has spent his 12 years in the Senate being an honest broker and a true public servant. He will be greatly missed.

I wish a happy and healthy retirement to GEORGE and his wife of 47 years, Janet, and congratulate him on an outstanding career.

JUDD GREGG

Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to pay tribute to Senator JUDD GREGG of New Hampshire, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

Although I am happy for JUDD and his wife Kathy, as they set off on the next stage of their lives, JUDD's retirement represents a great loss for the U.S. Senate, for the people of New Hampshire, for the entire Nation, and for me personally.

Simply put, JUDD has been an outstanding public servant. He has worked tirelessly and effectively on behalf of his State, first as a Congressman, then as Governor, and then as a Senator. The people of New Hampshire rewarded his faithful service by repeatedly electing him by wide margins. When he was reelected to the Senate in 2004, JUDD received the highest number of votes in New Hampshire history.

JUDD has been a true leader in the Senate. Few Members have the breadth of knowledge and insight that he holds on the key issues that come before this body. Whether it be the budget, education policy, or banking reform, he has been at the center of the debate, and Members on both sides of the aisle seek out and respect his judgment.

I have come to know JUDD best for his work on the Budget Committee. He has been on the committee for all of the 18 years he has been in the Senate. He served as chairman in 2005 and 2006, after Senator Nickles retired, and has been the ranking member ever since.

I could not have asked for a better partner on the committee. It has been a pleasure to work closely with him. Our staffs have also worked very well together, which is a testament to the leadership of JUDD and the example he set in his work with me.

And JUDD has tremendous integrity. His word is his bond.

Although we haven't always agreed on policy, JUDD has always upheld the highest standards of the Senate by knowing how to disagree without being disagreeable. We have had fierce debates over the years, but we have never let that affect our ability to work together.

Of course, the highlight of our work together came in our legislative effort to adopt a bipartisan fiscal task force to address the country's long-term debt crisis. That joint effort was truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my career in the Senate. I will never forget the days we spent discussing the proposal during a trip in 2006.

While we were not able to pass our legislation in the Senate, our effort resulted in the creation of the President's fiscal commission. It has been an honor to work alongside JUDD in this fight. Like me, JUDD cares deeply about our nation's fiscal future and understands the danger of rising Federal debt. He has been a tenacious advocate of fiscal discipline and putting the budget on a sustainable long-term path.

JUDD is a true-blue fiscal conservative. But that has never stopped him from reaching across the aisle to work with Democrats. In addition to working with me, JUDD teamed up with Senator Ted Kennedy in 2001 to co-author the No Child Left Behind Act. More recently, he teamed up with Senator WYDEN to write the first major bipartisan tax reform legislation in decades, the Bipartisan Tax Fairness and Simplification Act.

Notably, JUDD also played a key role in the bipartisan negotiations that led to the creation of the TARP legislation. TARP was widely criticized during this past election season, but the results are now in, and it is clear that the TARP program was successful in stabilizing the financial sector and helping to prevent the economy from dipping into a full-blown depression. The success of the program and the repayments now coming into the Treasury can be attributed, at least in part, to JUDD's insistence on including provisions in the legislation to protect American taxpayers.

Finally, JUDD's retirement means more to me than just losing a great partner on the Budget Committee. I am also losing a great friend. At a time when Washington is filled with so much partisan rancor and disagreement, we need more individuals from across the aisle to form friendships like ours.

JUDD, I wish you all the best in your retirement. You will truly be missed.

BOB BENNETT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator BOB BENNETT.

Senator BENNETT understood the perspectives of America's small business owners. After all, he was one of them. As CEO of Franklin Quest, BOB grew the company from 4 employees to over 1,000. During his tenure the firm became one of the best known providers of time management seminars and products, and became listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Reducing obstacles for small business owners has been one of Senator BENNETT's top priorities in Washington. In his first 6 months of service, he took to the floor to identify three ways the Federal Government was growing at the expense of the entrepreneur. Those three obstacles—increased regulation, increased taxation, and increased difficulty in capital formation—remain challenges to job creators today, and BOB has never stopped voicing their concerns.

Senator BENNETT was elected to the U.S. Senate from his beloved State of Utah, which his father, Senator Wallace Bennett, represented for many years. And by the time I was elected to the Chamber, Senator BENNETT had already been one of the "wise ones" in his own right for many years. I have long admired BOB's sincere appreciation and respect for the traditions and history of the Senate—to which he and his father have both contributed tremendously.

Throughout his service here in Washington, BOB's family has helped keep him grounded—all 6 children and 20 grandchildren. Sandy and I wish the best for BOB and his wife Joyce.

SAM BROWNBACK

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator SAM BROWNBACK.

SAM's commitment to public service grew out of the farmlands where he was raised and where his parents still reside. As a student, SAM earned the respect of his peers as State president of the Future Farmers of America and student body president at Kansas State University. The people of Kansas have put their trust in SAM multiple times: as their Secretary of Agriculture, as one of their members in the House of Representatives, and for 14 years in the U.S. Senate.

SAM drew upon his experience in Kansas to shape legislation here in Washington. He offered legislation to create more opportunity for America's farmers, and to reduce foreign trade barriers to their products. In time SAM rose to become a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

SAM also has a heart for victims of disease and human rights violations all over the world. He proposed incentives for drug companies to offer discounts for life-savings medications for people of developing nations. He boldly called for the end to human rights violations in Darfur and Iran. I have been proud to stand with him on numerous pieces of human rights legislation, including the Iran Democratic Transition Act in this Congress.

SAM's tenure in the Senate has come to an end, but not his service to the people of Kansas. They overwhelmingly called him back home to serve as their Governor, and begin the next chapter in his remarkable career. Sandy and I wish him and his family all the best.

JUDD GREGG

Mr. President, today I would like to join with my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator JUDD GREGG of New Hampshire.

JUDD is a native of New Hampshire and after practicing as an attorney in Nashua, where he was born, he began a devoted career of public service to his State. Before coming to the Senate, JUDD served as a member of his State's executive council, as a Representative, and then on to become, as his father Hugh Gregg had been before him, Governor of the Granite State.

JUDD was a successful and accomplished Governor. When he left Concord to join the Senate, he left his State with not only a balanced budget but a surplus as well. His leadership and record of fiscal responsibility has served as an example for our entire Nation to follow.

His expertise on budgetary and fiscal issues has benefitted all his fellow Senators on the Budget Committee. As both chairman and ranking member of the committee, JUDD put together both excellent staff and the resources necessary to advance our goals of cutting spending, balancing the budget, and reducing our nation's debt. With steps such as his successful sponsorship of the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution, which reduced mandatory spending for the first time in years, hard-working American taxpayers have saved billions thanks to Senator GREGG's efforts.

Senator GREGG and I worked hard together in fighting to reduce our government's burden on taxpayers and the excessive spending that fuels it. We have both fought hard for our government to take our financial future seriously and to make the tough decisions necessary for it to be secured for our generation and for many more to come.

I would like to thank Senator GREGG again for his leadership on these important issues, and his extensive service to the people of New Hampshire. My wife Sandy and I wish Senator GREGG, his wife Kathy, and their family all the best.

KIT BOND

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator KIT BOND. Kit has been a faithful public servant to the people of Missouri for many years. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve alongside him in the U.S. Senate.

Before being elected to this body, KIT made a strong impression as a student, a lawyer, and a public servant. He graduated Cum Laude from Princeton University, and was first in his law school class at the University of Virginia. He practiced law as an assistant attorney general for the State of Missouri under John Danforth, who himself was a future Senator from the "Show-Me State." His colleagues at that time included John Ashcroft, who also went on to serve in this Chamber, and future Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

KIT often jokes that he transitioned from the second most hated career—a lawyer—to the first: a politician. The people of Missouri have repeatedly affirmed that he made the right choice. They elected him to be their State Auditor. They elected him as the youngest Governor in Missouri's history. And they have elected him four times to represent them in the U.S. Senate.

Senator BOND brought many of his passions as Governor to this Chamber, including his longtime support for Missouri's successful Parents as Teachers

Program. He also kept a special place in his heart for issues relating to children. In time he rose to become a senior member of the Appropriations Committee as well as the Environment and Public Works Committees.

Senator BOND and I worked most closely together on issues relating to national defense and foreign affairs. In this Congress alone, he and I jointly introduced the Military Voting Protection Act of 2009, the Iran Democratic Transition Act of 2010, and a resolution affirming Israel's right to self-defense. His leadership as vice chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence has been a lasting contribution to the security of our Nation.

KIT has helped shape legislation that will govern our Nation for years to come, but his spirit is what I will miss the most. As he has said: "Serving Missouri has been my life's work. I have walked the land, fished its rivers and been humbled by the honesty and hard work of our people. The highest honor is to receive and safeguard the public trust."

In his retirement, KIT will now have the opportunity to focus his time on his other loves: his wife Linda, his son Sam, and his new daughter-in-law Margaret. The Mizzou Tigers and the St. Louis Cardinals will also likely see him in the stands more often. Sandy and I wish both KIT and Linda the very best as they continue their journey together.

JIM BUNNING

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator JIM BUNNING.

Millions of American baseball fans know JIM as one of the most accomplished athletes of his generation. JIM pitched for both the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies during his 17-year career. He was the second pitcher in history to notch 100 wins and strike out 1,000 batters in both the American and National Leagues, and when he retired he was second on the all-time strikeout list. His impressive career earned him a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

While he wore the uniforms of teams in Michigan and Pennsylvania, JIM's heart never left his native Kentucky. Six years after retiring from baseball, JIM decided to run for public office and won a city council seat in Fort Thomas, KY. He was later elected to the Kentucky State Senate and became the Republican leader. Kentuckians then elected JIM to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 4th District of Kentucky where he served until 1998. During his time in the House, JIM committed himself to defending Social Security as chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee. His unwavering stance on protecting Social Security contributed to the establishment of the Social Security Administration as a separate agency.

JIM was elected to the Senate in 1998 and quickly became a strong voice for fiscal responsibility. He became the

first native Kentuckian on the Finance Committee in 40 years, and also served on the Budget Committee—and in both capacities I had the opportunity to work with him. JIM also served as chairman of the Banking Committee's Economic Policy Subcommittee, where he authored legislation that reformed the National Flood Insurance Program and made it possible for millions of Americans to protect their homes affordably.

JIM's passion for policymaking has helped him shape legislation that will govern our Nation for years to come, but his greatest legacy is his family. He and Mary raised 9 children and have 35 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Sandy and I offer our best wishes to the entire BUNNING family, and we thank him for his years of service to our great Nation.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH.

Senator VOINOVICH represents the great State of Ohio—and in some sense he has never left. He was born and raised in Cleveland, earned a bachelor of arts degree in government from Ohio University, and received a law degree from the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University. After more than four decades of public service, he and Janet still live in Cleveland with their family.

Before coming to Washington, Senator VOINOVICH established a long record of service to the people of the Buckeye State: as a member of the State legislature, a Cuyahoga County Commissioner, the Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, mayor of Cleveland and Governor of Ohio. As mayor of Cleveland, he helped turn around the local economy after the city declared bankruptcy in the 1970s. As Governor, George spearheaded economic recovery efforts after Ohio fell into a recession during the early 1990s. He helped reduce Ohio's unemployment rate to a 25-year low and maintained the lowest budgetary growth levels in 30 years. Along the way, he became the only person to hold the highest leadership positions in both the National Governors Association and the National League of Cities.

The people of Ohio sent GEORGE to Washington to serve in the U.S. Senate in 1998 and then reelected him 6 years ago in a landslide victory. Senator VOINOVICH's policy accomplishments reflect his dedication to maintaining fiscal responsibility, enhancing national security, increasing America's global competitiveness, and improving the federal government's efficiency. His Mortgage Relief Act of 2007 was the first piece of legislation to be signed into law that aimed to lessen the impact of America's foreclosure crisis.

Senator VOINOVICH has also been a strong voice for America's interests and values all over the world. He has been a strong proponent of NATO expansion, U.N. reform, and U.S. public

diplomacy efforts. He has also spoken out strongly against global anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance.

Sandy and I wish all the best to GEORGE and Janet, as well as their three children and eight grandchildren. And we thank GEORGE for his many years of service in the U.S. Senate.

JIM BUNNING

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to Senator JIM BUNNING, who is retiring after honorably serving the people of Kentucky for 24 years.

Throughout his political career, JIM has been a fierce taxpayer's advocate. A bold defender of life and protector of families. A small business ally. And, a courageous critic of bad government policy.

As the targets of his criticism have learned, JIM's words can sometimes be sharp. That is because cold, hard truths have sharp edges and JIM BUNNING speaks in cold, hard truths.

Even when it comes to his own party.

In the summer of 2008, shortly after a Republican Treasury Secretary obtained the authority to pump unlimited money into Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, JIM was rightfully upset. "When I picked up the newspaper yesterday, I thought I woke up in France," he told the Secretary in a hearing. "But no," JIM said, "it turned out it was socialism here in the United States."

JIM often asked simple questions that were easy to answer truthfully and didn't tolerate equivocation. In the case of the Fannie and Freddie bailouts, he asked the Treasury Secretary, "Where will the money come from?"

The Treasury Secretary said it was better to "be unspecified and enhance confidence in the market."

JIM asked again saying that "doesn't answer the question. Where is the money going to come from if you have to put it up?"

There was more waffling, but JIM finally pushed the Treasury Secretary to admit the money was going to come from the taxpayer. The taxpayers were going to pay.

He later called for the resignation of that Republican Treasury Secretary because he was, as JIM put it, "acting like the minister of finance in China."

"No company fails in Communist China, because they're all partly owned by the government," JIM noted.

JIM has also been a brave critic of the Federal Reserve. He has told the Fed Chairman, who was appointed by a Republican President and helped orchestrate bailouts for those considered too big to fail that, "You are the definition of a moral hazard."

"Your Fed has become the creature from Jekyll Island," JIM said. And then he asked for the Fed Chairman's resignation, too.

JIM has performed a great public service by bringing attention to the economic damage being caused by the Fed with cheap money when no one else would. He was there calling for

more oversight of the Federal Reserve long before it became a Tea Party cause and he deserves credit for driving the issue into the mainstream.

As Senator, you could say JIM's approach has been direct as the fastballs he threw that made him a major league, Hall of Fame pitcher. When the Democrats tried to pass off phony paygo rules as real reform, JIM exposed it as a trick pitch. It was a gimmick to fool Americans into thinking they would pay for their big-spending plans.

The Democrats said paygo would obligate Congress to offset any new spending with new revenues or spending cuts elsewhere in the budget. Soon after, they tried to pass \$10 billion in unpaid for unemployment extensions. Moreover, the Democrats wanted to pass it by unanimous consent. Meaning, no public debate. No rollcall vote. No accountability.

The Democrats bet no one would oppose benefits for the unemployed in this bad economy. They believed, as they continue to, that they can keep giving out money without paying for it and without any consequences.

JIM did not concede. He objected and stood his ground on the Senate floor. And by doing so, he showed everyone what a sham paygo is. The Wall Street Journal called it "his finest hour."

BUNNING announced his retirement in July 2009, more than a year ago. He could have taken it easy during his last years in the Senate. He didn't have to tackle the Treasury, the Fed or insist unemployment extensions be paid for.

But, he did. JIM BUNNING, the Hall of Fame Pitcher, the distinguished Senator, father of 9 and grandfather of 40 cared too much for this country to sit this one out.

He said in his farewell speech that he prays the Members of Congress will stop spending our future generations into higher taxes and a lower standard of living than we have now. I pray for that, too.

Finally, I express my gratitude to Senator BUNNING for supporting the new Republican from his state who will inherit his Senate seat next year. JIM campaigned for someone to take his place who would say no to bailouts, stop the takeovers, end the wasteful spending and bring down the national debt. The nation will benefit greatly by continuing to have a senator at JIM's desk who believes as much in the principles of free markets and freedom as JIM.

Thank you JIM for giving America your best until the very last inning.

SAM BROWNBACK

I rise in tribute to my good friend, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, who will soon be Governor SAM BROWNBACK.

Senator BROWNBACK leaves this Chamber as a man of character and success. He made a promise to the citizens of Kansas to only serve two terms in the U.S. Senate and he is honoring it.

He will continue to serve his constituents well, as he will soon join the

ranks of Republican Governors who are committed to saving freedom and free markets. SAM and his fellow Republican Governors will stand sentry in their state capitols, defending Americans from unaffordable mandates and unprecedented intrusions by the Federal Government.

The current Secretary of Health and Human Services, Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, left Topeka to come to Washington and impose an unconstitutional health care takeover on all Americans. I am confident Republican Governor-elect SAM BROWNBACK, who is leaving Washington for Topeka, will successfully fight for state rights in court and preserve freedom for Kansans.

SAM won on a platform of opportunity, accountability and responsibility—the very principles his State was founded upon.

His "Road Map for Kansas" is built on ideas to grow the economy, create private-sector jobs, improve education, reform the state government and support Kansas families. This is exactly the kind of leadership our nation so desperately needs. His five-point plan is a clear and bright as the tips of the stars on the Kansas flag.

In addition to the roadmap for Kansas, SAM has promised to institute a spending freeze for his State his very first month in office.

It has been an honor to serve alongside SAM, one of our nation's premier pro-life leaders. He knows no one should be denied the right to life—especially the unborn. As he said in a speech at the 2004 March for Life, "If we demean and degrade one human life, we demean and degrade all human life."

As a U.S. Senator, SAM relentlessly fought to protect the unborn. He was the principle sponsor of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, the Prenatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, and others. He has also worked to advance the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

SAM has increased awareness about the joy of adoption. He can personally attest to it. He and his wife Mary and three children Abby, Andy and Elizabeth have welcomed two children in need of a loving home into their lives. The BROWNBACK's youngest son Mark is from Guatemala. Their youngest daughter Jenna is from China, where families are subjected to grave and callous one-child policy.

Thank you SAM for fighting for a better life for all of God's children.

As we bid him farewell, I would like to reflect on one short passage from his book, "From Power to Purpose." In it, SAM wrote "The heart of the matter is the human heart, which is where human goodness begins."

That shows the kind of heart SAM has for public service. His tenure in the U.S. Senate is marked by his compassion and care for his fellow man.

He will be dearly missed here in Washington. But, as Jesus said, "There are many rooms in my Father's house." And SAM is just moving to another room where he will continue to serve God.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when GEORGE VOINOVICH came to the Senate in 1998, he brought with him a wealth of experience as a State legislator, county commissioner, mayor, and Governor. More important, he brought an independent mind, common sense, and a commitment to results.

Through more than four decades of public service, he has always been guided by the principle that a fundamental obligation of government is to honor its responsibilities to citizens. His goal has always been to ensure that those in public office "work harder and smarter, and do more with less."

But Senator VOINOVICH is revered here and at home for deeds, not words. As mayor, he brought Cleveland back from bankruptcy and led its transformation into a three-time All-America City. As Governor, he steered Ohio through the recession of the early 1990s, turned a State budget in the red back to black, and helped rebuild Ohio's industry and infrastructure for the 21st century.

From his executive background in local and State government, Senator VOINOVICH knew that any government is only as good as the people working for it. He has been a strong advocate for improved government management, and for recruiting, retaining, rewarding, and recognizing the best government workforce.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Senator VOINOVICH on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He is devoted to protecting our Nation and our people.

Our committee's work was aided greatly by his leadership of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Government Management, and his conviction that government works only when it ensures that the right people have the right resources to get the job done. He has been instrumental in virtually every major civil service issue for more than a decade and has championed 17 pieces of legislation to transform and improve our Federal workforce.

Since coming to Washington, the "Workforce Senator" has been a watchdog for the interests of the taxpayers and of government employees. Early in his service, the Senior Executive Service Performance Improvement Act and the Chief Human Capital Officers Act recognized that the Federal Government must compete if it is to attract the best. In this Congress, the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act addressed the need to streamline recruiting so that the right person can be hired at the right time.

And his efforts have been successful. A recent Federal employee survey on the best places to work found that the top three agencies—the Nuclear Regu-

latory Commission, GAO, and NASA—are the agencies with the personnel flexibilities Senator VOINOVICH worked to achieve.

I know how deeply GEORGE VOINOVICH cares about the men and women who serve as Federal employees because on many issues we have fought together. In particular, I want to recognize his role in pressing for pay for performance reforms in our Federal workforce. If we want an effective government, we must encourage excellence in our workforce, as Senator VOINOVICH clearly understands.

He has been an effective voice for fiscal discipline, for comprehensive tax and entitlement reform, and for enhancing America's competitiveness in a global economy. All of these issues and so many more demonstrate his commitment to honoring responsibilities and achieving results.

When Senator VOINOVICH announced early last year that he would not seek reelection, the outpouring of tributes was heartfelt and bipartisan. As one Ohio newspaper wrote, "Once he latches on to an issue, he doesn't let go until he is satisfied with the outcome."

Senator VOINOVICH's determination, combined with wisdom, experience, and decency, made him an outstanding U.S. Senator and public servant. I thank GEORGE VOINOVICH for his years of service and for his friendship, and wish him and Janet all the best in the years to come.

RUSS FEINGOLD

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I take a moment to say a few words about the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session. We have served together in the Senate, working for the people of Wisconsin every day, since he was elected in 1992. But now Wisconsin is losing a powerful and thoughtful advocate that carried on the proud progressive tradition of Robert LaFollette.

RUSS came to the Senate by winning an upset election, running as an outsider. He famously wrote a promise to the people of Wisconsin on his garage door, and people responded to his sincerity. Keeping that promise has kept him close to the people of Wisconsin as he traveled to every county in the State once a year to hold a listening session. That kind of accessibility, and his pledge to raise his campaign money mostly from the people of Wisconsin, gives him a credibility and integrity that no one in the State can question.

Money and politics has always been an issue that RUSS felt passionately about. So it should be no surprise that his biggest legislative win was when he worked with Senator JOHN MCCAIN to put restrictions on campaign financing with the historic Bi-Partisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold bill. That legislation, like many of his stands over the years, didn't always make him popular with his colleagues, but it was the right thing to do to try and root out

corruption and roll back the influence of the special interests. The American people will never have confidence in our system as long as they believe that a politician's support can be bought and sold. RUSS worked to restore confidence in our government and he should be commended for that.

He took a lot of unpopular positions over the years. Most notable was his sole opposition to the Patriot Act. He stood up for his ideals when it would have been easy to brush them aside. But that is the kind of person RUSS is. He was never willing to sacrifice his principles to do the politically easy thing. Our country is safer because of his work.

RUSS also has been a tough budget hawk, working tirelessly to bring down spending and give the next generation a debt-free future. He also helped form the current lobbying rules that restrict gifts, employment, and perks that can be given to members and staff by special interest lobbyists. These policies didn't always make him popular around here—and sometimes caused problems inside his own party—but he was willing to buck the system when he felt he had to.

Janesville should be proud of their hometown son who has accomplished so much. He leaves the Senate, but I hope he doesn't leave public service. His character and intelligence are needed by his community, State and country. We will miss him.

CHRIS DODD

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, occasionally in the career of a U.S. Senator, one is given the opportunity to shape legislation that will bring historic change to our Nation. The Senators who have seized such opportunities stand among the Senate giants of our lifetime: "Scoop" Jackson, Hubert Humphrey, Everett Dirksen, Ted Kennedy.

As this Congress comes to a close, we must say goodbye to CHRIS DODD, a Senator who has seized such opportunities, one whose drive and dedication and wisdom have enabled us to bring great and needed change. Senator CHRIS DODD has been a good friend to me. He has been a leader to those who seek an America that is stronger, fairer and more just.

Senator DODD will be rightly remembered for his essential role in passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. In the aftermath of a financial crisis that brought the nation's economy to a halt and threatened a second Great Depression, the need for Wall Street reform was clear, but so were the enormous obstacles to passage. In addition to honest disagreements about how best to proceed, we faced determined opposition from Wall Street, which wanted to maintain a status quo that put profits ahead of economic stability. All of us who participated in the debate over that bill know how complex and difficult it was to craft it, and we all have enormous hopes that this landmark

bill will curb the excesses that cost so many Americans their jobs and homes and businesses in the financial crisis.

History also will mark Senator DODD's key role in passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a landmark step in the decades-long fight to ensure that every American has access to affordable health care. Taking up the baton for his dear friend, Senator Kennedy, Senator DODD provided strong and sure leadership, again in the face of obstacles that at times threatened the bill's very survival. Thanks to his dedication, health coverage is more secure and affordable for families who have it, and more accessible to families without it.

If Senator DODD had accomplished no other legislative victories than these two, he could rightly claim a place among the Senate's most effective legislators. But CHRIS DODD accomplished much more.

Millions of American families have benefitted from his work in enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act. Before this legislation became law in 1993, Americans faced wrenching choices between their responsibilities at home and at work. Despite two Presidential vetoes, Senator DODD continued fighting until he had succeeded. And today, American workers are able to give their families the time and attention they need without fear of losing their job.

Families and children have been at the heart of much of his work. The child care and development block grant program, which he fought to establish, has helped millions of low-income families get the child care they so desperately needed. The Head Start program has been a career-long priority, and his hard work to ensure that Head Start remains strong has made a huge difference in countless lives.

His work on behalf of families extends to protecting them from predatory credit card companies. I worked closely with him in the fight for passage of the Credit Card Accountability and Disclosure Act, which provided tough new protections against unfair practices in the credit card industry.

Part of the reason for CHRIS DODD's extraordinarily successful legislative career is that people simply like working with him. He is good-natured, open and non-defensive, willing to listen to differing points of view. His openness is accompanied by an infectious sense of humor that has eased tense moments and helped us all take ourselves a little less seriously, which in turn has helped overcome some mighty serious impasses.

A common thread runs through all his signature accomplishments. Throughout his career, CHRIS DODD has been dedicated to the idea that compassion has a place in this chamber; that as we do our work, we should keep in mind that real families, with real problems, are looking to us for solutions; and that a Senator, with hard work and resourcefulness and team-

work, can make a difference in the lives of those families.

As CHRIS DODD's Senate career draws to a close, speeches will be given, portraits will be hung, someday statues will be raised, but the ultimate monument to his Senate career will be the mother or father who has time to care for a sick child because of the Family and Medical Leave Act. It will be the parent who doesn't have to choose between putting food on the table or providing health insurance for his children. It will be the child who excels in the classroom because of Head Start. The monuments to CHRIS DODD will be the millions of Americans whose lives are safer, more secure and more prosperous because of the work he has done here. No Senator could ask for more meaningful tributes. I will miss his wisdom and his humor as we conduct business here, but I will continue to value his friendship. I wish him and his wonderful family the happiest of times in all the years to come.

RUSS FEINGOLD

Mr. President, true bipartisanship has been in sadly short supply in this Chamber recently. Sadly, at the end of this Congress, the supply of bipartisanship will be a little lower, because we will no longer have the benefit of RUSS FEINGOLD's presence in the Senate.

Senator FEINGOLD's service to the Senate demonstrates that one need not abandon strongly held convictions to reach bipartisan solutions. His example proves that disagreeing with someone on one issue need not prevent working with them on another issue. He has shown that one can act as a good steward of taxpayer dollars and a careful advocate for fiscal responsibility without leaving behind the working families who need us to stand up for them.

There are many examples of Senator FEINGOLD's search for bipartisan solutions, but justifiably, he is best known for the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation. The assault on this legislation in the courts should not distract us from its wisdom. This bipartisan legislation was based upon the inherently American and inherently democratic notion that elections should be decided by the will of the people, and not because of the influence of wealthy donors or moneyed interests. This is a notion that is not Republican or Democratic, not liberal or conservative. It relies not on party loyalty or ideological fervor, but on a sense of justice. That sense of justice is central to what Russ Feingold has brought to the Senate.

Likewise, the civil rights of American citizens are not a matter of party or ideology. I admire Senator FEINGOLD's unflagging commitment to those rights, and his efforts to find a reasonable balance between protecting our safety and preserving our freedom.

Now, Senator FEINGOLD and I have not agreed on every issue. While we both believed the Iraq war was a mistake, he believed we should respond by ending funding for the war. I disagreed,

and believed that such a move would harm our troops in the field whom we should support. But I never doubted that Senator FEINGOLD came to his conclusions only after giving careful consideration to the arguments opposing them.

We will miss RUSS FEINGOLD, miss his intellect, his independence, and his dedication. I will always call him my friend. The Senate will be poorer for his absence. But I know that the Nation will continue to enjoy the benefits of his service.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this week, with little fanfare, we completed work on an important bill, through a bipartisan process, by passage of S. 3984, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010.

This bill updates museum and library services funded through the Institute for Museum and Library Services, IMLS, to better meet the needs of Americans of all ages and in all types of locations.

The Museum and Library Services Act represents our national commitment to the institutions that are essential to building strong and vibrant communities. Through a relatively modest federal investment, this law helps build capacity to support and expand access to library and museum services at the State and local level.

We were able to complete this legislation because we worked together—across the aisle and across the Capitol, and with the input of the museum and library community.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our HELP Committee Chairman TOM HARKIN, Ranking Member MIKE ENZI, and Senator RICHARD BURR for working with me to craft this bipartisan legislation. I would also like to recognize our cosponsors, Senators COCHRAN, COLLINS, and TESTER. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to House Education and Labor Committee Chairman GEORGE MILLER and Ranking Member JOHN KLINE for quickly guiding this bill through the House.

No piece of legislation can be enacted without the diligent work of dedicated staff. I would like to thank Kristin Romero and Margaret Bomba of the office of legislative counsel who worked with us to draft the bill. I would also like to recognize the efforts of staff: Thomas Showalter, Pam Smith, and Bethany Little with Chairman HARKIN; Beth Buehlmann and Kelly Hastings with Senator ENZI; Celia Sims with Senator BURR; Lory Yudin with the HELP Committee; and in my office, Elyse Wasch, Moira Lenehan-Razzuri, Andrew Odgren, and Jason Kanter.

Additionally, all of us who worked on this bill appreciate the technical assistance and feedback we received from the staff of IMLS. Finally, I would like