

I can remember speaking with him about this and the funding of it, and he reminisced more than once with me about how he was valedictorian of his class, and that he so wanted to go on to higher education but, because of his economic circumstances and where he lived, it wasn't available. So he wanted to make sure that young men and women today who exhibit that great excellence in academic performance were not denied the opportunity to go to college simply because of the circumstances of their birth.

Senator BYRD has something in common with Winston Churchill. Both were prolific writers, and both were major players in the events they chronicled in their writings.

Senator BYRD was also a great student of literature, and he loved to recite long poems from memory. I could never understand how he could remember all of the poetry he would recite here on the floor, in a committee meeting, or sometimes in a meeting when a subject would come up and he would remember a poem that perfectly fit the temper of what people were talking about.

I am sure Senator BYRD knew "The Canterbury Tales," a lot of it probably by heart. In "The Canterbury Tales," describing the Clerk of Oxford, Chaucer might just as well have been describing ROBERT C. BYRD. Chaucer wrote:

Filled with moral virtue was his speech;
And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.

"Filled with moral virtue was his speech; And gladly would he learn and gladly teach." Senator BYRD's speeches were a wonder to behold, full of eloquence and erudition and moral virtue. Senator BYRD never stopped learning and he never stopped teaching. Americans for generations to come will continue to learn from his writings and his example.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD was a great Senator, a great American, a loving and wonderful family man. He has both written our Nation's history and has left his mark on it. The United States of America has lost a patriotic son. We have lost a wonderful friend and a mentor. Tomorrow, here in the hallowed Chamber of the U.S. Senate, which he so loved and served for so many years, ROBERT C. BYRD will lie in state. We would do well to honor his memory by making a renewed commitment to making the U.S. Senate work and to work for all of the people of this country. May he rest in peace with his beloved Erma, and may the Senate always remember and honor his lifetime of service.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after I speak, Senator FEINSTEIN be permitted to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURRIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCIENCE EDUCATION IN DELAWARE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I spoke about Senator BYRD yesterday. One of the ways you measure anyone is by their friends. The manner in which Senator HARKIN just spoke about Senator BYRD shows what a great man Senator BYRD was, to have a friend as thoughtful and as caring as Senator HARKIN. They are both a credit to the Senate.

As we continue another school year, I wanted to take an opportunity to commend the excellent science instruction taking place in my State of Delaware. The science educators and leaders in the State have been working for 15 years to create a world-class science program encompassing standards and curriculum, professional development, and science material kits. I am honored to say that I believe world class is exactly the way to describe the science instruction Delaware students receive.

This is not something that happened overnight. It is a process that began in 1995, when a statewide survey was sent out to gather data on the status of science teaching and learning in Delaware. The results, unfortunately, showed that not much science was taught or being learned in Delaware schools. Consequently, several school districts banded together to form the Delaware Science Coalition. The coalition received extraordinary support from the DuPont Company in the form of time, money, and volunteer services. The group wrote and received a National Science Foundation grant, which allowed the districts to have an out-of-classroom science specialist provide science professional development for all teachers, assemble science materials, develop assessments, and meet as a group. Within 3 years, all school districts except one had joined the Delaware Science Coalition.

Today, the science coalition has come a long way. They have a statewide kindergarten through grade 11 science curriculum in place and have plans for a grade 12 curriculum. They have professional development for all science teachers in grades K through 11. They have cost-effective, kit-based science materials. They have assessments that are modeled after international science tests. They also have a systematic and comprehensive approach to reform that includes leadership from the State, district, and classroom, as well as corporate, community, and university-based partners.

Beyond all these coordinated measures, perhaps the most impressive example of how far the coalition has come is seen in the warehouse at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Dover. It is truly impressive. To get an idea of what it looks like, you have to think about what it is like to be inside a Home Depot or a Lowes—a warehouse with rows and rows of supplies and forklifts running about. This is what the science materials center looks like at the Collette Center, ex-

cept the industrial shelving and forklifts are transporting boxes filled with science materials to use in classrooms across the State. Science curricula and materials kits for grades K through 8 include resources developed by the National Science Resource Center, University of California-Berkeley, and homegrown and hybrid units developed with the aid of Delaware's very own teachers. These units are coordinated to introduce life, physical, and Earth science concepts each year and gradually increase in complexity from one level to the next.

All districts share materials, and kits rotate through two or three teachers per year. In order to obtain the materials, a teacher must attend professional development coordinated by the Collette Center. Then the warehouse sends out the kit, teachers and students use it, it is picked up weeks later, it is refurbished, and then sent out to another teacher. By sharing materials, costs are kept to an absolute minimum.

The Collette Center is a remarkable resource for the teachers and students in Delaware. It is unique in that it is the only science program in the country that provides a curriculum aligned to standards, an intensive professional development effort, and a materials support service for public school districts and charter schools throughout the entire State. To create this all-encompassing system, the Science Coalition has at times worked closely with the National Science Resource Center or NSRC. The NSRC is a joint operation of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies. I think Sally Goetz Shuler, the executive director of the NSRC, summed up Delaware's accomplishments best when she said:

During the past decade, the NSRC has showcased Delaware as a model to dozens of other U.S. States, countries, and national organizations, including the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy. Hundreds of leaders have visited the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, as well as many of [Delaware's] classrooms. While small, your State has been and will continue to be instrumental in catalyzing other states and countries to transform their science programs.

That is from Sally Goetz Shuler, the executive director of the NSRC. That is a powerful statement, and one with which I wholeheartedly agree.

By the way, my colleague, Senator CARPER, who has just come on the floor, has also visited the Collette Resource Center in Dover.

Delaware's science program is very impressive and the work is paying off for Delaware's students. When the new science standards and assessments were first implemented in 2001, only 42 percent of eighth grade students met or exceeded the standards. By 2009, 60 percent of the eighth graders met or exceeded the standards. Similar achievement gains have been illustrated at the

fourth, sixth, and eleventh grades as well. This is an incredible achievement and I am confident Delaware's science teachers and leaders will continue to build on this accomplishment.

Congratulations to Delaware for continuing to lead the way in science education.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in mourning the loss of one of the Senate's legendary Members—ROBERT C. BYRD, the honorable senior Senator from the great State of West Virginia.

It wasn't too long ago that I looked right over there and I saw a desk draped in black with roses and it was one titan of the Senate—Senator Ted Kennedy. Today, I look down here and I see a desk draped in black with white roses and it is a second titan of the Senate.

I had the privilege of serving with Senator BYRD on the Appropriations Committee for some 16 years. I have had occasion to watch him. He could be very tough, he could be very caring, and he could have that twinkle in his eye. He could depart from the present text into Greek tragedy; into old Roman speaking. He had an incredibly curious mind. I think he is going to be greatly missed from this body.

I think of him representing the State of West Virginia for 51 years and serving 6 years in the House of Representatives. During all those 57 years, he served with the kind of devotion and passion that he showed in his last year here in the Senate, when he was very troubled by declining health. He has truly left an indelible imprint on the State of West Virginia and on this body. No one has ever shown more determination or greater love for the United States Senate than ROBERT C. BYRD. His tenure has been legendary.

He held a number of key leadership positions, including secretary of the Senate Democratic Caucus, Senate majority whip, twice as Senate majority leader, the Senate's minority leader, and three times as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

During the period of 1989 to 2010, Senator BYRD was President pro tempore of the Senate—the most senior Democrat and third in the line of Presidential succession; also as President pro tempore emeritus when the Democrats were in the minority.

Senator BYRD cast more rollcall votes than any other Member of this institution—18,689 in total. That is truly remarkable. Just think about how many of this Nation's laws he helped shape.

He was a veritable expert on the inner workings of the Senate. There was no one who was more well versed

in this institution's intricate rules, protocols, and customs than ROBERT BYRD. He literally wrote one of the most comprehensive books on the Senate. He knew Riddick's "Rules of Procedure," virtually all 1,600 pages.

Many of us in the Senate have also spoken of his ardent devotion and consummate knowledge of the Constitution of the United States. His well-worn, treasured copy of this document was kept in his vest pocket, and year after year I would see him pull it out. The only thing that would change is that his hand, as the years went on, shook a little bit more. But his devotion to that document did not.

He was a staunch defender of the prerogatives of the three equal branches of government, and he was very quick to note that he served alongside, not under, 11 Presidents.

When he first joined the House of Representatives in 1952, Dwight Eisenhower was President. His tenure in Congress then followed alongside the Presidencies of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald A. Ford, James Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush, and finally Barack Obama. That is an amazing list of people to have served with.

BOB BYRD was not only one of the Senate's famous power brokers, but I think his fondness for classical history, music, and poetry has impacted every one of us. As I said, he frequently interspersed his Senate remarks with passages from ancient Roman history, philosophy, and often poetic verse. It used to amaze me how, late at night, he could move from his set text and repeat some poem, word for word, verse after verse.

The nine decades of ROBERT BYRD's lifetime witnessed great change both at the personal level and at the national level. He lived to see and strongly support the inauguration of our country's first African-American President—something I know meant a great deal to him. He was not always on the right side of the civil rights issue at every stage of his life, but he became a champion for equality, a lion for progress. His transformation was truly inspirational.

Senator BYRD was born into very humble beginnings in 1917. He grew up during the Great Depression. He was the adopted son of a coal mining family in a small town in southern West Virginia. He was the valedictorian of his high school class but was not able to afford college at the time. This impoverished childhood might have hindered others, might have stopped a weaker person, but not the indomitable ROBERT BYRD. His inner thirst for knowledge propelled him throughout his epic career. In fact, he managed to find time during his tenure in the Senate to finally fulfill his bachelor's degree from Marshall University in 1994, at the tender age of 77. That shows something, I think. He previously received a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law in 1963.

The loss of his beloved wife Erma Byrd in 2006, I think, was a dramatic blow to him. I had occasion to talk with him during that time, and there was no question that this was a great love, that it was an enduring love, and that it was a lifetime commitment. I discussed with him how he provided, day after day, week after week, and month after month, the personal care to his wife as she became more infirm and came toward the end of her life. This truly was a major gift of love.

One thing I have learned in my lifetime, there are so many people who, in the end-of-life crises, are not able to give with love to their spouse. This was a man who could do that. I think that develops his importance as you look at life and people in general.

Once again, I offer my sincerest condolences to his two daughters Mona Faterni and Marjorie Moore, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and to the people of West Virginia.

This Nation—not only West Virginia, but all of us—owe Senator ROBERT BYRD a great debt of gratitude for his service.

I know I will very much miss that indomitable spirit, that insightful guidance, and the intense commitment to the Senate.

This man will be missed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, in tribute to ROBERT BYRD, whom I always called Leader and who always called me Governor. He was our leader. He was a leader for a long time and will always be that in a very real sense to many of us.

I was born in Beckley, WV, just about a dozen miles or so from a community called Sophia, which is where ROBERT and Erma BYRD once ran a little mom-and-pop supermarket back in the late 1930s, early 1940s. I think he was the butcher. He ran that supermarket and later on, I think, in World War II, he was a welder during the war. As we know, in the late 1940s he had the opportunity to run for the West Virginia Legislature and ran. He was a great fiddler and went around his community, his district, playing the fiddle. He always called himself a hillbilly.

Ironically, I was down in the central part of our State just about a month ago and had a chance to attend a picnic for senior citizens, a cookout. A lot of people were there. I was sitting at different tables and walking around. I was sitting at this one table, and I learned this lady sitting to my left was from West Virginia.

I said: Where are you from?

She said: Sophia.

I said: That's right outside of Beckley, where I was born.

She said: Yes, I knew ROBERT and Erma BYRD when they ran that mom-and-pop supermarket.

I said: You're kidding.

She said: No, I did.