

lost Army SSG Sean Flannery who died a hero in Afghanistan. He is from the town of Wyomissing, PA, in Bucks County. He was an infantry squad leader who was killed after delivering first aid to a wounded Afghan soldier. Sean and his team carried the man to an evacuation helicopter. They stepped on an improvised explosive device which killed Sean and another soldier. Staff Sergeant Flannery was 29 years old. After he graduated from Wyomissing High School in 1999 and Shippensburg University, he was determined to serve his country. He was on his fourth tour of duty after having served two tours in Iraq and a prior tour in Afghanistan. He earned a Bronze Star because of his heroism and then another commendation last week. One of his high school classmates paid tribute to his friend at a service earlier this week. He said:

His fellow soldiers talked about how much they respected him and what a great leader he was and how they had true love for him, and not a word of it surprised us. He was the type of guy everybody wants their son to be—loyal, humble, and generous. I was honored to have him as a friend.

That is what Matt Rader, a classmate of Sean Flannery's, said about Sean.

All of us are honored to represent these young men and women who fight for us and some who die for this cause. Today we pray for those families. We pray for Sean and his family. But in the larger sense I guess we pray for ourselves as well. We pray that we are worthy and can prove ourselves worthy of their valor.

One of the ways Members of the Congress can prove ourselves worthy of that valor is to ask and demand answers to these very difficult questions, no matter who the administration is and no matter what party, because we have to get this policy right. We have an obligation to get it right, for Sean Flannery and for those who have loved and lost, and for our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, Senator REED, be given time on the floor for his remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACE JOHNSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to someone who is very special and very dear to me, my former Chief of Staff, Jace Johnson. Over this past recess, I learned that my Chief of Staff, Jace Johnson, would be leaving the Senate to pursue opportunities in the private sector.

Change often catches us by surprise. As the Presiding Officer can imagine, I had come to rely on the talents and in-

sight that Jace offered over many these past years. He was my strong right arm, someone in whom I had complete confidence, and still do. For 8 years, Jace worked on my staff and dedicated his efforts to serving Utah and improving our country. Undoubtedly, his work ethic and his straightforward approach to public service have greatly benefited us all. Jace is sorely missed by all of us on our staff and all of us in our office. He provided strong leadership at a time when it was absolutely crucial to us.

To fully understand the void created by Jace's absence, one has to know a bit more about him. When you walked into Jace's office, you were greeted by proudly displayed Utah college and university pennants. Aside from making an interesting and welcoming environment, the banners proclaimed Jace's passion for sports. Like me, he spent his boyhood as an avid basketball player. I regret we never had the opportunity for a one-on-one game, but I am still convinced I would have kicked his tail and I would have won. Although when I think about it, he is in a lot better shape than I am.

His love of hoops led Jace to play basketball at Snow College in central Utah. Soon thereafter, Jace served a 2-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints in the Philadelphia, PA area. Being from smalltown Idaho, I can only imagine the new experiences Philadelphia had to offer. It undoubtedly left quite an impression. His wife Cori credits her husband's time in Philadelphia for his willingness to venture back to the east coast after college.

Jace and Cori met while they were attending college at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. They have three wonderful children—Ashley, Benjamin, and Christian. Upon finishing school at BYU, Jace and Cori made the move to Washington, DC, so he could attend graduate school at George Washington University and earn his MBA.

While Jace was still in school, he actually worked in my office as an intern. He didn't stay long, however, because as the saying goes, he had bigger fish to fry. By the time he returned to Capitol Hill to work on a more permanent basis, he had already achieved remarkable success in the business world. After working for a few years at Visa International, he became the director of finance at the Corvis Corporation, a cutting-edge network and media solutions company. Jace was the third employee to be hired at Corvis when it was still a startup, and while he was there he helped secure financing for the company as it prepared to go public in the year 2000. Jace's contribution to Corvis allowed the company to grow from a small startup employing a handful of people into an international company with more than 3,000 employees and a value of \$40 billion.

Jace joined my staff in 2002, coming on as a legislative assistant, working

mostly on telecommunications issues. In that position, he demonstrated the keen understanding and strategic thinking that had made him such a success in the business world. After 3 years, I appointed him to be my legislative director, and in that position he continued to excel and became a vital and integral part of my efforts here in the Senate. I grew to depend on him more and more, and in January of 2008, Jace took over as my Chief of Staff.

I used to joke with him that working for me was only a hobby, because he didn't need the money. Of course, anyone who knew and worked with Jace can attest that is simply not true. He put his heart and soul into his work in the Senate. For Jace, failure wasn't permissible, so he spent early mornings and late nights ensuring the work was done and done right. His commitment to me personally and to my work here in the Senate was rooted in his belief—a belief he reiterated at every opportunity—that what we were doing was in the best interests of our country and for the people of Utah.

I think what I appreciated most about Jace is his unwavering honesty. In a town filled with people who only want to tell you what they want you to hear, Jace was refreshingly direct and straightforward. I have always attributed this to the fact that he is, to put it bluntly, just a little bit smarter—maybe not just a bit smarter, a whole lot smarter—than most people. People who don't see the big picture and who can't predict what might happen down the line have the need to hedge bets, cover bases, and speak without committing. Jace Johnson has never had that problem. When a goal is identified and a plan set in motion, he is usually a few steps ahead of everyone else and he can see where problems might arise. Chances are he has already come up with solutions to those problems. An individual with that kind of rare insight and understanding has the license to speak directly where others would hem and haw. I was lucky enough to be the beneficiary of Jace's ability to speak frankly and honestly, and on more than one occasion that meant I was on the receiving end. I think I can speak for every Member of the Senate when I say that that kind of support from staff is a treasured commodity.

It is very clear I will miss Jace Johnson on my staff. However, I think it would be even more telling to hear from some of the people of Utah who have high praise for Jace and the service he has rendered.

Utah Governor Gary Herbert had this to say:

Jace is a man of great insight and understanding. He is able to think strategically and anticipate potential roadblocks, which has, and will continue, to serve him well. I wish him the best of luck and success in his new position.

Jason Perry, Governor Herbert's Chief of Staff, said:

I have had the opportunity to work with Jace for many years. His uncanny ability to

diffuse potentially difficult situations, coupled with his pleasant and approachable nature, has proven invaluable on several occasions.

Utah Senator-elect Mike Lee said:

I have looked to Jace Johnson on many occasions for his keen insight, depth of wisdom, and wise counsel. He has proven to be a tremendous resource and has truly made a difference for me, Senator HATCH, the people of the great State of Utah, and for our country. His legacy of service will stand as a benchmark of excellence for years to come.

Former Utah Republican Party Chairman Stan Lockhart said this:

Jace Johnson is a class act. In positions of responsibility and authority, he is approachable and down to earth. In an environment of hardball politics, he maintains integrity. With many issues to deal with on a daily basis, he understands the big picture and small nuances of good policy. I always liked the fact that he understands the private sector, with a successful background in the technology industry before he came to Washington, D.C. I'll miss Jace.

A prominent Salt Lake City lawyer and a political leader, Doug Foxley, in the State said about Jace:

Behind that I-am-just-a-boy-from-Blackfoot-Idaho, was a keen, astute political mind who always had Orrin's interest at heart and had a quality of making everyone feel that he was their best friend. Not diminishing any other person who has worked for Orrin, but Jace was a delight and any trip to D.C. without seeing Jace was not a trip. A true committed conservative who was not an obnoxious ideologue, but one who truly believed what he espoused: hard work, honor, commitment, dedication to family, Church, and country and imbued with a belief in limited government and in the private sector were guiding principles. This, coupled with compassion for those less fortunate, is the Jace Johnson legacy.

Mr. President, that is high praise, and we have lots of others who feel the same way. I will leave it at that.

During my time here in the Senate, I have been extremely fortunate when it comes to my staff. I have had the privilege of serving with some of the most gifted and devoted individuals our Nation has to offer. Each of them has brought something unique and important to the table. But I have to say that, even among the select fraternity of talented Senate staffers, Jace Johnson belongs in the hall of honor, an elite class that very few have been or will be able to attain.

I have no doubt that Jace will succeed in the new position. Success has been the defining characteristic of every endeavor he has undertaken. While the selfish part of me wishes he would have stayed in the Senate just a little bit longer, I want to wish Jace, his wife Cori, and his whole family the very best going forward.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

#### TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleagues

who are departing the Senate after distinguished service on behalf of their States and on behalf of the Nation. I have been privileged to work with these individuals, to learn from them, to collaborate and cooperate with them, and to, in some small way, help them do what they have done so well—represent their States with fidelity, with great effort, and to move the agenda of the Nation forward.

EVAN BAYH

EVAN BAYH, a colleague and friend. We served together on the Banking Committee and the Armed Services Committee. His lovely wife Susan and their two children have contributed extraordinarily to Indiana as a Governor, and then as a Senator serving the Nation.

I can recall very early on in the operations in Iraq, where it became clear to Senator BAYH that unless we armored our humvee vehicles, thousands and thousands of soldiers would be at risk, and also marines, sailors, and airmen. He fought tenaciously to ensure, against initial opposition, that we were able to begin to armor those vehicles, begin to develop new generations of armored vehicles to protect our soldiers. So, quite literally, his efforts saved the lives of thousands of young Americans. For that alone, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

In every endeavor, from issues of children's health to education policy, he brought a thoughtful, measured, and brilliant mind to bear that is hard to match. I wish him the very best.

ROBERT BENNETT

BOB BENNETT and I served together on the Banking Committee. His thoughtful questioning and his deep knowledge of the subjects were critical on so many different issues. I remember when we were trying to get the extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act completed so the markets—particularly the markets for large properties—would not freeze up, he was instrumental in getting that done. That is just one example of what he has done throughout a career of public service to the people of Utah and of this Nation. I wish he and Joyce the very best as they continue to serve, as I am sure they will, this Nation and their State of Utah.

KIT BOND

KIT BOND and Linda Bond have served with such distinction also. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has made wise and judicious decisions about how we invest in this country. In that process, he never forgot the obligation to groups who are often overlooked.

One of the areas where he has done so much work, and so effectively, has been on the issue of homelessness. His efforts, joined by our colleagues and friends, BARBARA MIKULSKI and PATTY MURRAY, have made a real difference in providing effective and efficient shelter for so many in our large communities and in our rural areas, who otherwise

literally would be on the streets of America. One of the most disheartening images in this country is to see people who are forced to be on the streets. There are many reasons for that. But KIT BOND has done a lot to ensure there is at least a capacity to help people who need that kind of help. I thank him for that and commend him for so much of what he has done for the people of Missouri and the people of this Nation.

SAM BROWNEBACK

I congratulate Governor-elect SAM BROWNEBACK. He has decided to leave the rigors of the Senate for the tranquility of being a Governor. I see our Presiding Officer, who enjoyed the tranquility of being the Governor of Virginia. I know SAM is going to do great, but I think at some moment he might mop his brow and say that it wasn't quite as hectic back in the Senate.

Along with Mary and his family he has distinguished himself. SAM is someone who is indefatigable when involved in an issue. He does it from principle and conscience. We appreciate that.

I was pleased to work with him on legislation I introduced, the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which became law. That is one example of his great skills as a legislator. In foreign affairs he was someone who kept watch on areas of the world which otherwise might have been neglected. His efforts with respect to Darfur, striving to bring justice and peace to that region, are particularly commendable. I thank the Senator for his service and wish him well as he assumes the daunting responsibilities as Governor of the State of Kansas.

JIM BUNNING

Senator JIM BUNNING and I served together for many years on the Banking Committee. JIM and Mary Catherine and their family brought so much to not only the Senate as an organization, but to the Senate as a group of individuals. JIM was one of the first and most insightful observers and critics of the growing issues in the securities market. He did it based upon his experience as a financial stockbroker in the world of finance. He did it also with his grasp of common sense and looking at things carefully and pragmatically, based on Main Street not on financial centers. We worked together on the Securities Committee, and we did it in a way that I enjoyed the collaboration immensely.

A focus on the issues and their importance to the country was also in the forefront of his mind. He distinguished himself immensely. I wish him well.

ROLAND BURRIS

Senator Roland Burris brought a great bit of vitality and energy to the Senate in his time here. I wish Roland and Berlean the very best. He has had a remarkable career in Illinois as someone who was in the banking industry and then public service—been a pathbreaker in so many different ways. When he came to the Senate, he came