

Dave had a pretty illustrious career before he got the big office up on the third floor. Prior to joining the Senate as a cloakroom assistant at the tender age of 21, legend has it he did stints as a bartender—that was while he was in college—and as a hot dog vendor out on the National Mall during summers in high school. As far as I know, these are the only two jobs outside the Senate Dave has ever had. Somehow they turned out to be great preparation for this place. I am not exactly sure why that is, but I am sure we could all come up with some interesting theories about that.

So Dave came here right out of college, back when there were no cameras on the floor, just a radio. His job back then was basically to perform the role of play-by-play announcer, telling offices what was happening out here on the floor, matching the voices with names, and just letting everybody know where things stood at all times. I wanted to have a poster out here with a photo of Dave from those days, but all the photos have mysteriously somehow disappeared. Someone suggested it might have something to do with the fact that Dave sported a pretty serious eighties mustache back then. Maybe Cheryl can dig up that good photo from the family collection.

In 1994, Dave moved out of the cloakroom and onto the floor as Republican floor assistant. Two years after that, he was named Assistant Secretary for the majority and 2 weeks before 9/11, in August 2001, Senator Lott named him Secretary for the majority. Since then, the two parties have swung back and forth a couple of times, but Dave has been one of the constants—smoothing out all the rough edges during a thousand legislative fights, providing indispensable strategic advice to me and to the rest of our conference, and just generally keeping everybody on both sides informed of everything that is going on out here.

It is not easy. It is not easy telling Senators they will not get an amendment they have been fighting for or that they have to wait. But Dave has always had the perfect temperament for that job.

Nobody on Earth—nobody—knows more about Senate precedent and procedure than Dave Schiappa, and nobody wears their knowledge and skill more lightly.

So we are going to miss him a lot. We will all miss his “Davisms,” whether he is reporting that some Senator just showed up in the cloakroom “in a three-point stance” or that the week is shaping up to be a “nothing burger.” Those are Davisms.

He will take some secrets, hopefully, with him. It will forever remain a mystery, for example, how Dave stuffs all of those cards into his suit coat pocket. Ask Dave a question about anything and he will have the answer written on some card inside his coat. The secrets of the Senate are contained on those cards.

They say there are no indispensable men, though many of us have long sus-

pected that Dave is the exception. I guess we will soon find out.

Dave, thanks for all you have done for all of us and for your devotion to the institution. I know how much the Senate means to you personally and we all appreciate how much you have given to it over the years. Some folks complain about the hours and the unpredictable schedule around here, but Dave has us all beat. He is not only here whenever we are, he is here after the lights go out, finishing up the business of the day, sending out e-mails, tying up loose ends or “loose tarps,” as he might put it. We are all glad you will finally have a little predictability in your life.

Which brings me to my last point which is almost, actually, the most important. Nobody who has a family can handle this place without an understanding spouse. So I want to thank Cheryl for putting up with this place over the last 23 years. Dave tells the story that early on in their marriage, Cheryl got Dave tickets to a show at the Kennedy Center for his birthday. When he called to tell her something had come up and he couldn't make it, she didn't know what he was talking about. Dave explained that he was stuck and there just wasn't anything he could do about it; it is just how the Senate works. It was the last time she questioned his job or his schedule.

So as much as I am here to thank Dave today, I want to thank Cheryl. I want Cheryl to know we are grateful to her for all the sacrifices she has made over the years for Dave and their family.

Ask Dave why he has been here so long and he will tell you it is the people, but the truth is Dave is one of the best this place has ever seen. I have no doubt about it.

Dave, on behalf of the entire Senate family, thanks for everything. You will be missed.

I see my friend the majority leader. Let me call up a resolution before his comments and then we will move on.

COMMENDING DAVID J. SCHIAPPA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 212 and for the clerk to read the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 212) commending David J. Schiappa:

S. RES. 212

Whereas, David Schiappa has loyally served the Senate for 29 years, his entire professional career, starting in the Senate in December 1984;

Whereas, David Schiappa grew up in Maryland and graduated from DaMatha Catholic High School, the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins University;

Whereas, David Schiappa rose through all the positions in the Republican Cloakroom finally serving as either Secretary for the Majority or Secretary for the Minority for the last three Republican Leaders;

Whereas, David Schiappa has at all times discharged the duties of his office with great dedication, diligence, and sense of service,

thus earning the respect of Republican and Democratic Senators alike, as well as their staffs; and

Whereas, his good humor, storytelling ability, and easy-going manner have made him an invaluable member of the Senate family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its appreciation to David Schiappa and his family and commends him for his outstanding and faithful service to the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to David J. Schiappa.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. REID. I object.

(Laughter.)

I will withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 212) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. President, when I learned David Schiappa was going to leave, I had a brief conversation with him at the back of the Chamber. I am not very much for being emotional, but if ever there was a time I felt like shedding a tear, it was when I said goodbye to Dave Schiappa.

“Parting is such sweet sorrow,” and it really is. It is from Shakespeare:

“Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow.”

And it really is.

If you are looking for someone who is a true Washington insider, you need look no further than Dave. He was actually born in Washington, DC, and for a quarter of a century he has made the trains run on time in the Republican cloakroom. For 13 of those years he served as the Republican secretary. He has been the secretary, as the Republican leader mentioned, when the Republicans held the majority and the minority.

Regardless of who controlled this Chamber, my observation was that he has always managed the floor with integrity and an even temper. He has been a real pleasure to work with. When Gary, his counterpart, wasn't around, I would go to Dave and ask him questions. I never had any concern about the answer because he would always tell me the truth. Sometimes I didn't like to hear the truth, but he was always very forthright and candid.

No matter how bad things got on the floor between Members, Dave and his Democratic counterpart Gary Myrick were always looking for a path forward. Gary Myrick has been so important to this body, along with Dave.

How these staff members love their jobs. I try to tell people about my staff,

and about the Senate staff in general. They do this because it is public service. He has put in 20 years—longer than 20 years. He is 50 years old and moving on to another career. I understand his doing that for himself and his family.

Gary Myrick has been my chief of staff. He ran my office. He loved this floor very much. This was always his dream job even though on paper he was a big shot by being the Democratic leader's chief of staff, but that is not what he wanted to do. He wanted to come to the Senate floor where he was raised in his employment. He knew this was the job that he wanted, and he told me that. I arranged things so he would come and be the secretary to the majority here.

Gary Myrick and David Schiappa were literally always looking for a way forward. They sorted through what I wanted, what the Republican leader wanted, and what Members wanted. They didn't always arrive at the conclusion the Republican leader or I wanted because sometimes that wasn't possible, but they worked through long hard days—and even longer nights—as well as holidays and birthdays. He has a friendly demeanor—Gary is not nearly as friendly as Dave but is just as effective.

They worked so well together. They are a team. Some day, when the history of this institution is written, they will have to talk about these two good men who made this place work through some of the most difficult times this body has ever seen.

He will be missed by Democrats and Republicans alike, and that is the truth.

In all of the times we talked—and we talked about important things most of the time. I understand he and Gary have been working together since the 1980s, and they are supposedly great storytellers—one and all. They have been known to talk for hours on end. They would disappear, and when Gary came back, we would ask: What did you talk about? And Gary would say—and I want to make sure I get this right—“I have no idea.” But that was only a way of covering for both of them because they were so candid and forthright with each other. They always have been, and they would never ever divulge anything I was doing or going to do or anything Leader McCONNELL was going to do or had done. They were absolutely confidential in their communications with each other. That is how they trusted each other. So when Gary said, “I have no idea,” he knew every idea, but he wasn't going to tell me what they talked about.

They are two such fine men. Even though there were difficult situations where they found themselves forced to talk, I am sure time passed quickly because they are such good people.

I know David will be successful at whatever he does. I congratulate him and thank him for three decades of valued service to the United States Senate and to our country.

I wish him, his wife Cheryl, and his children Aly and Mason—by the way,

that is my middle name—happiness. I mean it when I say: Parting is such sweet sorrow.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am both saddened and heartened by the departure of Dave Schiappa from the Senate family.

I share the sadness felt on both sides of the aisle that the Senate is going to lose a valuable, dedicated, and inspiring resource.

I am heartened to know, without doubt, that Dave will move on to pursuits in which everyone around him will benefit from his productive presence. I am heartened to think, also, that his family might be able to see him a bit more often.

Dave's work in the Senate involves a challenging schedule, often involving brutal hours. He is often here morning, noon, and night—and sometimes overnight—helping to ensure that the Senate operates. With Dave at the helm, the operations are smooth, predictable, and disciplined. When things go smooth, as they normally do with Dave around, rest assured that much of that is the direct cause of Dave's tireless work and devotion.

Amazingly, with all of his tireless devotion, Dave always has a positive and uplifting disposition, and is always a pleasure to be around. Whether it is idle friendly chat, or discussions of Senate-rule intricacies, discourse with Dave always leaves you in a better place.

As Leaders McCONNELL and REID and many others have attested, Dave always tells you the truth and is a straight-shooter, whether you like it or not. He tells the truth to any Senator on the floor, no matter what side of the aisle. That is what has helped the Senate work smoothly for the many years Dave has been at the steering wheel on our side.

Dave's tenure in the Senate began almost 30 years ago when he began working in the cloakroom. Since those earlier days, he has moved up the ranks to be one of the few people around here who understands all of the intricacies of the Senate, and he uses that understanding to help all of us and to make this place work. Dave is ending his illustrious Senate career with more Senate years under his belt than most Senators he works with on the floor.

Dave Schiappa has been a true treasure for me, for the Senate, and for the American people. The Senate is losing a valuable resource, and I am sad to see him go. I, and I am sure all of my colleagues, wish Dave and his family all the very best, and I am confident that in whatever Dave chooses in his future endeavors, we will continue to see nothing but the very best from him.

When people talk about America's best and brightest, they refer to folks like Dave who is truly one of our best and brightest.

In addition to thanking Dave for his counsel, camaraderie, guidance, and hard work, I also would like to give sincere thanks to Dave's wife and family. They have endured the often-gruel-

ing schedule demanded by Senate hours, which for Dave often stretches well before and well after when the Senate is actually in session. We owe Dave's family an enormous amount of gratitude for the time demands that the Senate has placed on them.

I am going to miss Dave Schiappa, as will the entire Senate as a collection of people and as an institution which Dave has nurtured and preserved.

COMMENDING ROHIT KUMAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in addition to David leaving, Rohit Kumar is also leaving. I don't know what he did for Senator McCONNELL, but most of the time I didn't like it. But I learned in our conversations, most of them in the back room, what a fine man he is and how smart he is. He is incredibly intelligent, he is good at his job and, as I have just indicated, a little too good sometimes.

Even though we at times knew what was happening was happening because he was behind it, I am really sorry to see him leave the Senate. He is a good person. I admire him and have such great respect for him. I wish him success and happiness in his next endeavor.

He has a beautiful young daughter that he boasts about all the time, and rightly so. He and his wife Hillary, I am confident, will have a very pleasant life outside the Senate, even though we will all miss him.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SCHIAPPA

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader and the Republican leader for what they expressed about David Schiappa. We rank-and-file Senators feel the same way on both sides of the aisle.

I was reminded that the late Alex Haley, the author of “Roots,” once said: “When an old person dies, it's like a library burning down.” Dave is neither old nor dying, but there is some similarity in what is happening. With his leaving after 30 years, a number of volumes from the Senate library are going out the door. We won't have that wisdom, that experience, or that knowledge that has been so valuable to