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TRIBUTES TO HON. GEORGE ALLEN

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George Allen

U.S. SENATOR FROM VIRGINIA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES

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George Allen

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S. Doc. 109–26

Tributes Delivered in Congress

George Allen

United States Congressman
1991–1993

United States Senator
2001–2007

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2007

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Joint Committee on Printing

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Biography

Senator GEORGE ALLEN worked tirelessly in the U.S. Senate to make Virginia and America a better place to live, learn, work, and raise a family. A self-described "common sense Jeffersonian Conservative," Senator ALLEN trusts free people and free enterprise.

Senator ALLEN set clear priorities during his term in the U.S. Senate. He strengthened and supported America's national defense and homeland security, increased the competitiveness of Virginia and the United States for investment and quality, good-paying jobs, advocated and embraced policies to make America a leader in the advancement of technology, and reduced the tax burden on families and small business owners.

As a member of the influential Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, as well as the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Senator ALLEN made the creation of quality, good paying jobs in the Commonwealth his focus. Because of his experience and work with the tremendous high-tech presence in Virginia, Senator ALLEN was appointed in 2001 to serve as chairman of the Senate High Tech Task Force where he continued to advocate policies to make America a leader in innovation from nanotechnology to broadband to the education of future engineers and scientists. In 2004, the Senate passed ALLEN's Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act, legislation which extends the ban on multiple and discriminatory taxation on the Internet until October 31, 2007. The bill specifically bans three types of taxes that unfairly single out the Internet, including regressive taxes on Internet access, multiple taxation (for example, by two or more States) of a product or service bought over the Internet, and discriminatory taxes that treat Internet purchases differently from other types of sales.

Senator ALLEN also worked hard to secure America from foreign threats. Given the global security challenges of a post 9/11 world, Senator ALLEN brought his knowledge of Virginia's defense industry and key military assets to bear as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—the

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Senate committee charged with the consideration of treaties and the declaration of war.

Senator ALLEN also served as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on European Affairs. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator consistently stood strong with the brave men and women who served in our Armed Forces as they fought to protect our freedoms around the world. Senator ALLEN introduced a bill in Congress in 2005 to do more for the families of soldiers killed in service of their country by raising the death benefit for "next of kin" from $12,000 to $100,000.

In 2005, Senator ALLEN was also appointed to serve on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee where he worked to reduce America's over-dependence on foreign oil and shape a national energy plan that strikes a careful balance between our environmental and energy security needs for families and communities in Virginia and all of America.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Senator ALLEN served as the 67th Governor of Virginia from 1994 to 1998. As Governor, he won wide recognition for educational improvements such as the implementation of rigorous academic standards and accountability. Several other hallmarks of Senator ALLEN's tenure as Governor include the overhaul of an outdated juvenile justice system, work-oriented welfare reform, and the abolition of parole for felons. Senator ALLEN is also widely credited with bringing a record $14 billion of private sector investment along with hundreds of thousands of jobs to Virginia through the expansion and relocation of technology and manufacturing companies.

Bringing the same innovative, constructive leadership to Washington, Senator ALLEN was unanimously elected a member of the Senate Republican leadership as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee in 2002. In the 2004 election, under Senator ALLEN's leadership, Republicans picked up four seats in the U.S. Senate.

Senator ALLEN holds a B.A. in history with distinction as well as a law degree from the University of Virginia. He and his wife, Susan, reside near Mt. Vernon in Fairfax County with their three children: Tyler, Forrest, and Brooke.

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Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as the time for my departure from the Senate draws near, on behalf of the greatest blessings in my life, my wife Susan, and my children, Tyler, Forrest, and Brooke, I wish to thank my colleagues for their many courtesies and friendships forged during these past 6 years. I offer a few concluding reflections on our time here together, and the future of our Republic.

Our foremost senior statesman in Virginia, one who served with particular distinction in this body—Harry Byrd, Jr.—has observed that, with the exception of the Presidencies of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, no time in our Nation's history has been witness to more problems and challenges of great magnitude than these past 6 years.

When I arrived here in January 2001, America was at peace—or so we thought. And then on the bright, blue sky morning of September 11, the skies suddenly darkened with clouds of smoke from the Pentagon, and the horrific collapse of the World Trade Center Towers. And our world changed forever.

When I arrived in this body, accompanying a change of Presidential administrations, our challenges were mostly economic—or so we thought. Our prosperity was already slipping, but most forecasts were for a mild downturn in the economy. That changed on September 11 as well.

A cascade of other great challenges soon followed in rapid succession—issues foreign and domestic, challenges locally and nationally, threats manmade and disasters decreed by nature.

Through all of these unprecedented storms, it was our responsibility to make careful, prayerful decisions for the safety, security and prosperity of the people of our country.

I am particularly grateful to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the opportunity to serve here—to give voice to their values and to fight for their future in this, the world's most distinguished body.

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We all understand and respect the will of the people—the owners of the government—in our representative democracy that brings us here and that may, at some point, take us away.

Sometimes winds, political and otherwise, can blow the leaves off branches and break branches off trees. But a deep-rooted tree will stand and grow again in the next season.

And, if Providence accords it the right climate and nourishment, that tree will bear fruit for generations to come, and give life to other trees.

I have been honored, first as Governor and now as Senator, to be a part of important initiatives that have borne fruit for the people of Virginia and America.

As Governor, we worked across party lines to accomplish the honest change that Virginians had desired and deserved. We abolished the deceitful, lenient parole laws, brought truth to sentencing, brought violent criminals to justice, and reformed our juvenile justice laws.

Today, the crime rate is down, and thousands of good people are not victims of crime, have not lost loved ones, have not had their lives shattered, because we stood strong for truth and justice, and our reforms bore fruit.

We also brought high academic standards, accountability, and new resources to Virginia's education system. We stopped skyrocketing college tuition rates.

Our education reform initiatives quickly became models for other States, and even for this body in enacting education reform legislation for the Nation.

These reforms, too, are bearing fruit today. Virginia students are learning more and performing markedly better on both State and national tests. Our schools are no longer engaging in social promotion.

And with investments in higher education from the coalfields with Appalachian School of Law and School of Pharmacy, to the Institute in Danville, to southwest Virginia and Roanoke HEC's, to the Engineering School of VCU, to new leading-edge research at Virginia Tech, George Mason, Hampton and other universities we are equipping young men and women to succeed in the ever more competitive global marketplace.

And we replaced dependency with dignity by reforming Virginia's welfare laws. Now, 11 years later, our welfare rolls are still less than half of what they were when I became Governor. Not only has that saved the taxpayers of Virginia hundreds of millions of dollars—the far more important im-

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pact is seen in the eyes of children who watch with admiration and respect as their parents go off to productive, rewarding jobs rather than sit at home, collecting a check.

Nothing was more rewarding for me as Governor than to help ignite Virginia's economic renaissance. We sent a message to the world that Virginia was "open for business"—we lowered taxes, reduced regulations, implemented prompt permitting, and recruited high-technology companies like IBM and Toshiba, Micron and Infineon—now Qimonda—Oracle's east coast campus, and secured billions of dollars in investment in semiconductor fabrication plants for world-class companies.

Before we recruited those companies 10 years ago, there were no computer memory chips manufactured in Virginia. Today, computer memory chips have replaced cigarettes as Virginia's No. 1 manufactured export. We're not just the "Old Dominion" anymore; now we're the "Silicon Dominion!"

When I came to the Senate, my goal was to use this perspective and experience to continue and build on this work. I wanted to bring to our national policies the same emphasis on education and innovation—the same emphasis on economic opportunity—the same emphasis on protecting the safety and security of law-abiding people—the same time-tested values—that had guided my governorship.

I have been able to do that, and I am grateful to many of you for working in partnership with me on so many issues that are vitally important for the lives and safety and prosperity of our citizens.

Our time together has been full of challenge. But despite the broken branches and shattered limbs and lives of 9/11, America has stood strong like a live oak. We have relied on our roots as a freedom-loving Nation. Out of these stormy times has grown a new national sense of urgency, resolve and mission. And this new spirit is bearing fruit today, and will for many years to come.

Yes, the people of America have grown impatient with the pace of this progress. It is not easy during prolonged periods of national trial to sustain an attitude of optimism and a sense of purpose. Our foes know this about democracies, and they seek to exploit it. But they will not succeed.

We Americans, of so many faiths and so many backgrounds, share this spirit above all else: We believe in the positive impact that each of us can achieve during our time here on Earth. But our opponents have no such belief. They fear human freedom, and glorify the extinguishing of human

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life more than the fruitful living of it. They will not succeed in this great struggle because they are only destroyers, and the world belongs to those who create.

The God who gave us life, and who presides over the affairs of all nature and all nations, endowed mankind with a powerful spirit of creation, regeneration, and renewal.

The attackers of 9/11 thought they would kill our spirit, but they only rekindled it. And, despite one of the most unsettled and challenging times in our Nation's history, look at what we have to show for it.

Our economy is displaying unprecedented strength. Unemployment is the lowest it has been in decades. Home values are significantly higher than just a few years ago, and the stock market is at a record high level. The tax burden on our people is at a 20-year low, while Federal tax revenues are at all-time highs, and inflation is under control.

There has not been a single terrorist attack on American soil since 9/11, and numerous major plots have been foiled. The al-Qaida leadership has been decimated, and instead of meeting the enemy here at home, we have taken the fight to them in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq and in locales that will never be known. Even with the world at war against a lethal enemy of radical terrorist organizations, Americans are safer today than on 9/11.

We must respectfully work with other countries in intercepting finances, creatively collaborating in counterterrorism efforts to thwart and defeat terrorist activity throughout the world.

This war on terror has many fronts. And all of us are deeply concerned about the lack of progress of the war on the Iraqi front. Although our principles and strategic goals have not changed, mistakes have been made and progress has been too slow. We cannot continue to do the same things and expect different results; we must adapt our operations and change our tactics to meet the evolving terrorist threat. And the Iraqi people and their leaders must take control of their destiny.

Let us never forget, however, that our American troops are liberators who have freed a people from a brutal dictator and regime. In so doing, they and their families have made great sacrifices not only for the freedom of Iraqis, but for the security of Americans. They, more than anyone, understand the consequences of failure in Iraq are far too high. Leaving Iraq as a safe haven for terrorists to launch new attacks will put America in mortal danger. Our troops should come home as

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soon as possible, but they should come home in victory—not defeat.

This global war on terror is still a work in progress, and much of the work is difficult. But I will leave here in the coming days with satisfaction that so many of the crucial steps we took to meet the challenges of the post-9/11 world have worked, and worked well.

The PATRIOT Act and other new and technologically sophisticated counter-terrorism measures designed to protect our homeland are working, and working well.

Our courageous men and women in uniform, an all-volunteer military that is the most powerful fighting force in the history of the world, is hard at work for us, and working well.

We have also worked well on the domestic front. And I take great personal satisfaction from progress achieved on some major initiatives designed to make this a land of opportunity for all—measures that will help secure a future of expanding opportunity for our children by making America the world capital of innovation.

One area of focus for me has been preserving the Internet as a tax-free individualized opportunity zone. The Internet is the greatest invention since the Gutenberg Press for the dissemination of information and ideas, and one of America's greatest innovations for economic growth and jobs.

So far the Federal Government has taken the right approach when it comes to the Internet—by basically leaving it alone.

The American private sector is the best steward of the Internet. We just need to leave it alone and let it prosper as an engine for economic progress—and with your help, that is what we have done. But the need for action will return next year, and I hope you will extend Internet tax freedom so that avaricious State and local tax commissars are blocked from imposing an average 18-percent tax on monthly Internet access bills.

We also made major progress in a realm few Americans understand, but one that will transform their lives—nanotechnology. Teaming up with my hard-working friend across the aisle, Senator Wyden, we sponsored and you approved legislation launching the National Nanotechnology Initiative. This is the single largest federally funded, multi-agency scientific research initiative since the space program in the 1960s, and the revolutionary technology it yields may

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well rival the space program in its impact on our society and economy.

You have heard me say many times on this floor that the key to innovation is education, and that we need to educate more scientists and engineers because they are the ones who will design and develop the groundbreaking and life-changing inventions, innovations, and intellectual property of the future.

But today America is not tapping its full potential in math, science, research and innovation. Only 15 percent of those graduating from our engineering schools today are women; only about 6 percent are African-Americans, and about 6 percent are Latinos. That is simply not enough, especially when we are competing with countries that have literally six or seven times our population.

That is why I have worked with Senators in both parties, Senators Alexander, Ensign, Bingaman, and others, as well as the independent-minded Senator Lieberman—for the National Innovation and PACE Acts, which will invest in wide-ranging scientific education and research, induce capable students with scholarships, provide incentives for teachers and researchers, and take other steps to keep America on the leading edge of science and technology.

That is why I have been the lead Republican co-sponsor of the Partnership Access to Laboratory Science Act with Senator Menendez, which will provide science education and laboratory grants for students in rural and low-income schools.

And that is why I have led the charge for legislation to help remedy the opportunity divide at America's minority-serving institutions—the HBCUs, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges. I am grateful for the Senate's support for this initiative and hope it will very soon become a reality.

All these initiatives I respectfully urge you all to pass and stay with them until they become law. For my part, I will continue to advocate for these incentives and this major national commitment to make sure that the United States is indeed the world capital of innovation.

Investing in education and innovation is vital for our global competitiveness, and so is achieving energy independence. In fact, not only is energy independence an economic necessity; it's also a national security imperative. Our dependence on Middle Eastern oil limits our foreign policy options for addressing terrorism, tyranny and related geopolitical issues.

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We have made some important strides in accelerating the exploration and development of American energy supplies, including American oil, natural gas, clean coal and nuclear power. And we have made notable progress in hastening the research, development and deployment of economically viable alternative and renewable sources of energy. But here we must all agree that there is far more to be done.

The bottom line is we need more energy explored, produced, and grown in America, so that hundreds of billions of energy dollars stay in America and are reinvested in America's economy for American jobs, American competitiveness, and American national security, instead of having to worry about the whims of some dictator in the Middle East, or some other hostile part of the world.

There are so many ways that what we have done here during the last 6 years has made a positive impact on the opportunities facing citizens all across our country.

In Virginia, whether it is the major port expansion at Craney Island, or funding for the Advanced and Applied Polymer Processing Institute in Danville, or the effort to assure that new development opportunities at Fort Belvoir are matched by adequate transportation facilities; whether it is educational research funding, or new resources for roads and mass transit, or grants to make our communities safer, in hundreds of ways we have been able to have a major, positive impact on people's lives all across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We have also broken down barriers to opportunity. My very first speech on the Senate floor was on behalf of Roger Gregory's appointment as a Federal judge on the esteemed Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals that sits in Richmond.

Judge Gregory had been nominated at the end of President Clinton's term, but he did not get a vote, and to become a judge he had to be re-nominated by President Bush. So my first speech was to call on my Senate colleagues to rise above partisanship, rise above process, judge Roger Gregory as a person, and give him the fairness of a vote.

You did so, and as a result, Judge Gregory is serving with distinction on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, the first African American to serve on that esteemed appellate court.

For the good of our country, the Judiciary, and this Senate, I urge you—regardless of the party in power here and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—to end the obstructionist practices that deny judicial nominees, or other nominees, the fairness of an up or down vote, and that deny

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the American people the accountability that the advice-and-consent process should afford.

Miguel Estrada was a victim of this unfair obstructionism, although a majority of Senators supported his confirmation. Let John Bolton be the last victim of these unfair, obstructionist practices.

Our Constitution provides a better way; let's follow it.

Finally, during these times of war, we are all keenly aware of the sacrifice made by the men and women serving in our Armed Forces and their families. Virginia is home to more people serving in uniform than all but a handful of States, and so when a loved one is lost, we feel the pain very directly, very personally. A grateful Nation must support the families of those who have fallen in defense of our liberty. That is why I introduced a bill in the first hours of the first days of this 109th Session to increase the military death benefit from the paltry amount of $12,420 to $100,000. I thank you for passing it, and I thank the President for signing it.

At each step of the way, on this measure and so many others, I have never worked alone. Always at my side, as a partner—but even more as a gracious mentor, wise counsel, constant encourager, occasional corrector, and unwavering friend—has been our State's senior Senator, John Warner.

He has been the epitome of the Virginia gentleman, the model of an honest, hard-working Senator, and most of all, a true and loyal friend. I will leave here enriched immeasurably by this latest and best chapter in our partnership of several decades.

My friends and colleagues, as I prepare to take my leave, I am humbled and so grateful for the tremendous honor and privilege that has been accorded to me by the people of Virginia. I am also full of gratitude for the opportunity to serve with you and for the many courtesies you have extended to Susan and me along the way.

I leave with many new and enduring friendships, with some valuable lessons learned, with unrestrained optimism about the potential of America, about our Nation's future, and with pride in our accomplishments together.

My friends, don't let these challenging times along our national journey divert your focus from what truly matters.

The tree of American liberty is as strong as ever. Our roots run deep to a wellspring of values as old as our Republic, indeed much older still.

Four hundred years after our Nation's beginning at Jamestown, we are still in the springtime of our life as a Nation.

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Still planting seeds and bearing fruit. Still growing and creating. Still inspiring and innovating. Still providing light and hope for people around the world seeking to escape the chains of tyranny, and embrace the blessings of liberty.

Indeed, the sun is still rising on a bright American morning!

And if we will keep the faith, no matter the challenges or choices, generations to come will remember and think well of us, for this: We never gave up. We never backed down, and, we always stood strong for freedom.

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TRIBUTES

TO

GEORGE ALLEN

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Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *December 5, 2006*

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President . . . As we recognize, it is a distinct privilege and high honor to serve our country in any capacity, and certainly none higher than in uniform. But it is especially important that we recognize those who have given years of their lives, sacrificing their families, their own time, to help make a better world for all of us. I know of no capacity in which we serve our country that has given those who have had this rare opportunity to serve in the Senate anything more noble than trying to shape a better world from this Senate.

These individuals who will leave the Senate, some on their own terms, some on the terms of the election, but, nonetheless, in their own specific way have contributed a great deal to this country.

I take a few minutes to recognize each. . . .

Senator GEORGE ALLEN. We will miss footballs. Many of my colleagues received footballs. He was a quarterback for the Cavaliers at the University of Virginia and he could throw almost as well as even a Nebraska quarterback.

Senator ALLEN, for a very young man, has a very distinguished record of public service, serving as the Governor of the great State of Virginia, serving in the House of Representatives, serving in the U.S. Senate. I served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with Senator ALLEN for many years, and I will miss his ability to say it clearly and plainly. And his leadership position within the Republican majority, which he served so ably, will be missed. . . .

Mr. President, in conclusion, it is not easy to put one's self on the firing line and offer one's self as a candidate for any office. It takes a certain amount of courage and, I suspect, a little dose of insanity. But nonetheless individuals who believe deeply enough to commit themselves to a cause greater than their own self-interests need to be recognized. Having nothing to do with me or you or any one individual, but it is the essence of our country, it is the very fabric of our de-

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mocracy that makes it all work and probably gives rise to, more than any one reason, why we have been such a successful nation for over 200 years—because people from all walks of life, in every community, in every State, offer themselves for office. Whether it is a mayor, a Governor, city councilman, county official, a sheriff, these individuals deserve recognition.

We all make mistakes. That is who we are. But in the end, it is not unlike what Teddy Roosevelt once referred to in his magnificent quote about the man in the arena. And it is the man and the woman in the arena who change our lives. It makes a better world that shapes history, that defines our destiny. And for these individuals who will no longer have that opportunity to serve our country in the Senate, we wish them well, we thank them, and we tell them we are proud of them and their families and wish them Godspeed.

Mr. President, I thank you for the time and yield the floor.

WEDNESDAY, *December 6, 2006*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this is an opportunity to recognize the service of several of our colleagues who are departing from the Senate. To Senator Jeffords, Senator Frist, Senator DeWine, Senator Talent, Senator Santorum, Senator Burns, and Senator ALLEN, let me express my appreciation for their service to their States and their service to the Nation and wish them well. . . .

To all my colleagues who served and conclude their service, let me once again express deep appreciation for their friendship and for their service to the Nation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we are coming to the end of the session and 10 of our colleagues are retiring. I want to say a word about them . . .

Or GEORGE ALLEN. I remember vividly the first time I met him, I campaigned for him in Virginia. He was 40 points behind. I went back to Tennessee and I said, I believe he will win, he is such a good candidate. We haven't heard the last of him in public life. . . .

When the most recent class of Senators was sworn into office nearly 2 years ago, in the gallery were three women. One was the grandmother of Barack Obama. She was from Kenya. One was the mother of Senator Salazar, a 10th gen-

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eration American. One was the mother of Mel Martinez, the new Republican National Committee chairman, who, with her husband, put her son on an airplane when he was 14 years old and sent him from Cuba to the United States, not knowing if she would ever see him again.

In a way, each one of us who is here is an accident. None of us knew we would be here. Each of us is privileged to serve, and one of the greatest privileges is to serve with our colleagues. We will miss them and we are grateful for their service.

I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I see others who wish to speak, and I will make a couple of brief comments.

In the comments of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ALLEN], his final couple of comments recalled for me a statement made in the closing of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, when on the back of the chair of the presiding officer was a sunburst. Someone opined in that Constitutional Convention: Dr. Franklin, is that a rising sun or is it a setting sun? And Franklin ventured to say that with the birth of the new Nation, with the creation of the new Constitution, that he thought it was a rising sun.

Indeed, it is that hope of which the Senator from Virginia has just spoken that motivates this Senator from Florida to get up and go to work every day, and to look at this Nation's challenges, not as a Democratic problem or a Republican problem, but as an American problem, that needs to be solved in an American way instead of a partisan way.

We have had far too much partisanship over the last several years across this land, and, indeed, in this Chamber itself. And of the Senators who are leaving this Chamber, I think they represent the very best of America, and on occasion have risen in a bipartisan way. It has been this Senator's great privilege to work with these Senators: ALLEN of Virginia, Burns of Montana, Chafee of Rhode Island, Dayton of Minnesota, DeWine of Ohio, Frist of Tennessee, Jeffords of Vermont, Santorum of Pennsylvania, Sarbanes of Maryland, Talent of Missouri.

As the Good Book in Ecclesiastes says: There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to get up, and a time to go to bed. There is a time for a beginning, and there is a time of ending.

For these Senators who are leaving, it is clearly not an ending. It is an ending of this chapter in their lives, but this Senator from Florida wanted to come and express his appre-

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ciation for their public service, to admonish those where admonishment is needed when this Chamber, indeed, this Government, has gotten too partisan, but to express this Senator's appreciation for the quiet moments of friendship and reflection and respect in working together, which is the glue that makes this Government run.

Whether you call it bipartisanship, whether you call it friendship, whether you call it mutual respect, whatever you call it, the way you govern a nation as large and as complicated and as diverse as our Nation is—as the Good Book says: Come, let us reason together—that is what this Senator tries to be about. And that is what this Senator will try to continue to do in the new dawn of a new Congress. So I wanted to come and express my appreciation for those Senators who will not be here, for the great public service they have rendered.

Mr. President, I am truly grateful for their personal friendship and for their public service.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. . . . Senator GEORGE ALLEN of Virginia and I have worked on a few measures together, including some help for veterans who returned from the war in Iraq with traumatic brain injury. . . .

I wish all of my colleagues who are retiring well as they begin the next chapters of their careers.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to several of my friends here in Washington. Too often we get caught up here in the back-and-forth of politics and lose sight of the contributions of those with whom we work every day. It is only at moments such as these, at the end of a cycle, that we have a moment to reflect on the contributions of our colleagues. And while we may not always see eye to eye, this Senate is losing several admirable contributors who have made many sacrifices to serve our democracy. . . .

A number of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will be departing in January, as well. There is our colleague from Virginia, Senator ALLEN, who wears, in my opinion, the second best pair of boots in the Senate. There is Senator Santorum of Pennsylvania, whose passion is admirable and whose energy is always enviable. Also leaving us is my colleague in the centrist Gang of 14 that helped bring this Senate back from the abyss; Senator DeWine of Ohio, who will head back to the Buckeye State with my respect and admiration; and my friend Senator Talent from Missouri, with

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whom I spent many hours in the Agriculture Committee working to level the playing field for America's farmers and ranchers. We will miss Senator Chafee of Rhode Island's independence and his clear voice for fiscal discipline in Washington. And we will miss Senator Burns of Montana, who shares my passion for rural America and who is headed home to Big Sky Country, back to the Rockies that I know we both miss so much. . . .

America, when held to its finest ideals, is more than a place on the globe or a work in progress. It is the inspiration to those around the world and here at home to seek out excellence within themselves and their beliefs. It has been a pleasure to work alongside each of these gentlemen, who have helped me as I have found my way, sometimes literally, through the halls of the Senate, in the pursuit of these greater ideals that we all share: security, prosperity, and an America that we leave better than when we arrived. These ideals will resonate here long after we all are gone and another generation stands in our place making the decisions of its day.

THURSDAY, *December 7, 2006*

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of being here for the 28th year beginning shortly. I calculated not long ago that I have served with 261 individuals. I am not about to try and review all of the many magnificent friendships I am privileged to have through these years. Indeed, if one looks at the rewards, of which there are many serving in this historic institution, the Senate, it is the personal bonds, the friendships that we so firmly cement and that will last a lifetime as a consequence of our duties of serving the United States of America and in our respective States.

We are called "United States" Senators. I often believe it is the first obligation, our Nation, the Republic for which it stands.

For my colleague now of 6 years, GEORGE ALLEN, this will be his last service as a Senator as this brief session closes. I have said it before, I will say it again and again, I rank him at the very top of the 261 Senators I have been privileged to serve with these many years.

In fact, I have looked back at the history of Virginia and would like to note for the record that my colleague, GEORGE

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ALLEN, is one of only five Virginians to have served in the Virginia General Assembly, as Governor, as a Member of the House of Representatives; and as a U.S. Senator—the first in more than 150 years of our State's history.

Together, we have shared a long history of serving the people of Virginia—I as a Senator and he as a Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, House of Representatives, Governor, and U.S. Senator. I remember participating in his first campaign and all the successive campaigns. GEORGE ALLEN served the Commonwealth of Virginia in public office for 25 years. How well I know. I campaigned for him when he ran for the State legislature, then for the Congress, then for Governor, and he won those elections handily. Then he ran for the Senate. It was a tough race. Tough because he was up against a very able opponent, a man whom I admire, a man with whom I have served with in this Chamber. But the voters of Virginia—and therein rests the final decision—sent GEORGE ALLEN to the Senate where I believe he has served with great distinction.

I have been privileged to share the warmth and vigor of this magnificent man with his lovely wife Susan and their children, Tyler, Forest, and Brooke. What a privilege, a joy for me to see them as they have grown nourished by the love of two strong parents.

In 1981 he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates to the seat once held by his philosophical inspiration, Thomas Jefferson. Throughout his career in public office, GEORGE ALLEN has consistently been guided by that same inspiration of smaller government and individual freedom. He has also been driven by the thoughts of two other leaders important to him; Ronald Reagan who said "If not us who, if not now when?" and his father who always told him "The future is now."

Throughout his career in public service GEORGE has worked as an advocate of economic development, recruiting companies to Virginia and espousing policies to create jobs. As Governor, he oversaw the creation of 312,000 new jobs in Virginia by making the Commonwealth a better place to do business. He reformed the parole system to keep repeat offenders off our streets and out of our neighborhoods. His welfare reform set the stage for the Congress to act to help people get back on their feet and get back to work. He implemented the Standards of Learning in our schools to make sure all of our children receive the same quality education.

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I remember well our first effort together when he came to the Senate in 2001. As is often the case here in the Senate, there had been some problems confirming a Federal judge who was ultimately recess appointed in late 2000. We came together and worked with the President to bring his nomination back to the Senate and as a result, Judge Roger Gregory was confirmed by the Senate to become the first African American seated on the Fourth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

We were working partners. We shared everything—our staffs work together, our wives work together—and we crisscrossed this State from one end to the other over those 6 years. When either GEORGE ALLEN or I felt, for whatever reason, we could not keep an appointment somewhere in the State, one would fill in for the other.

We were quite parallel in our thinking, the philosophy, the things so important to Virginians, and I think to most Americans, first and foremost the preservations of our freedoms, a strong national defense, a right to work, to hold a job and to compete fairly, to hold that job and to advance, to have a system of health care that did not serve only those more affluent than others but would serve any individual who suffered from pain or the need for medical attention.

We have joined together in countless efforts for Virginia's communities; helping to fund museums, youth centers, innumerable infrastructure projects, and research at our colleges and universities. We also worked together on the Teacher Tax Relief Act. I am very hopeful if we pass this tax package, there will be a provision that GEORGE and I worked on together for many years, to be extended in statute; and that is, the Teacher Tax Relief Act. I will never forget. I was down visiting a small school. And as is so often the case, you are rushed through, and the teachers and the principal want you to meet as many students as you possibly can. It is always quite interesting to do that.

I remember I was rushed into one class, and I think they were first graders. They were all sitting on the floor, and the principal said: You have a few minutes. So I started talking away, and I asked the first graders: Is there a question you might have? And this absolutely magnificent little girl, who sat there riveted to every word I spoke, looked up and said: Yes. My question is, how much longer must we sit here until the Senator comes? Well, you don't forget those things. And I had difficulty answering the question, I was so taken

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aback. I felt I was universally recognized, but it is not the case in the first grade.

Then I was in another classroom, and for some reason I—I went through basic engineering school, and I have always been interested in pencils and writing instruments—and I saw a pencil, a rather fancy one, and I picked it up, and the teacher saw that I liked it, and she said: Take it. Keep it. I said: Oh, no, I don't take any gifts or anything. You know, we have rigid rules in the Senate, and nobody is going to bribe me with a pencil. And she said: Oh, please, please, please. It is not school property. I said: Oh? She said: Yes. Senator, you must understand that as teachers—and this is prevalent not only in Virginia but it is prevalent all across the land, particularly among teachers in the elementary grades—we have to take part of our own salary to buy what we deem are the essential tools that are needed to educate our students.

Well, I just could not believe this, because teachers are not among the more well paid. So GEORGE ALLEN and I fought for years to get the Teacher Tax Relief Act signed into law. It is on the books, and we need to extend it, and I am optimistic that will be done. But it simply says, if you can establish that you took your own salary and you bought school supplies which were necessary for teaching and the profession you are in, you get a $250 above the line deduction—a small amount of money, but a great sense of satisfaction.

GEORGE has been a strong member of the Commerce and Foreign Relations Committees seeking to make our Nation a better place for business, ultimately creating more economic opportunity for all Americans.

We joined together after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, to try to help the people of Northern Virginia and indeed all America respond and recover.

We worked on behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces. How proud we are in the Commonwealth of Virginia of the extensive number of bases and institutions of the U.S. military which we are privileged to have. There is no greater responsibility of the Congress of the United States than its specific obligation under the Constitution. As my great teacher and mentor, Senator Byrd, so often has told me, that is to provide for the care and the welfare, and to raise the armies and maintain the navies that this Nation requires. GEORGE ALLEN has been a partner with me as we have done those things for these many years.

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In life we go through a series of stages. We are raised and nurtured by our parents, receive an education, raise a family of our own, and serve in various careers. GEORGE ALLEN and his family have been public servants to the people of Virginia and America for the past 25 years. The people have been fortunate to have such a dedicated Delegate, Congressman, Governor, and U.S. Senator. I am proud to have served with this man and to call him my friend all these years. Therefore, I bid him a fond farewell from this institution. But I look forward to working with him as he goes on and accepts challenges perhaps even greater than the ones he had in the years that he so loved serving in this Chamber.

The people of Virginia spoke, and GEORGE ALLEN, with great courage, took that decision and quickly said: I understand. He accepted it and has gone on about his business. . . .

In conclusion, over the years I have served with each of these 10 Senators, each has not only been a trusted colleague, each has also been my friend. I will miss serving with each of them in the Senate but know that each will continue in public service in some capacity. I wish each and every one of them well in the years ahead.

Mr. President, I see a number of colleagues here anxious to speak, and I have taken generously of the time the Presiding Officer has allowed me to speak.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. CLINTON. . . . Finally, I also wish the very best to my Republican colleagues who will leave the Senate at the conclusion of this Congress. The Senate, at its best, is a body that promotes bipartisanship, deliberation, and cooperation, and the dedication to shared values. It has been a privilege to work with my departing colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

FRIDAY, *December 8, 2006*

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have a few more minutes before the 10:30 vote, and I take this time to say a few words about some of my colleagues who are retiring. We had a good bit of time yesterday devoted to their tremendous contributions, and as each of us, the 100 of us, do know each other pretty well, I have come to the floor to say a few things about several of the colleagues I have had the distinct pleasure of working with very closely. . . .

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Mr. President, finally, I want to recognize the Senator from Virginia, GEORGE ALLEN, for his service as Senator and as Governor of his State. We have worked together on a range of issues on the Energy and Small Business Committees as well as on the historic antilynching bill.

To all of our retiring Members, I say thank you. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of my State when you were needed and thank you for your service to America.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I also will say a word about a couple of my colleagues who are leaving, and I will be brief. . . .

GEORGE ALLEN, a great colleague with whom I also served one term in the House of Representatives, and whose philosophy of "freedom first" is certainly one that I share. I know we are going to miss GEORGE and his sage counsel in the years to come. . . .

I know we all move on at some time and that none of us is irreplaceable. But by the same token, these colleagues of ours who will be leaving will be missed and they will be remembered for their great service to the Senate, to their States, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DEWINE. . . . Mr. President, I want to wish the best to all of my fellow Senators who were defeated this fall or who are retiring this year—Senators Frist, Santorum, Talent, Burns, ALLEN, Chafee, Dayton, and Jeffords. They are all good people and all good friends. I wish them well. . . .

Mr. DODD. . . . Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my departing colleagues who have, for a time, lent their talents, their convictions, and their hard work to this distinguished body. I may have had my disagreements with them, but the end of a term is a time for seeing colleagues not simply as politicians, but as partners who have "toiled, and wrought, and thought with me." Each, in his own way, was distinctive; and each, in his own way, will be sorely missed. . . .

Next, I would like to bid farewell to Virginia's GEORGE ALLEN. As we all know, Senator ALLEN is the son of the great football coach, GEORGE H. ALLEN. As a boy and young man, Senator ALLEN lived all over America, wherever his father's career took the family. But in the end, Senator ALLEN fell in love with the State of Virginia, especially its wealth of history. Describing his first law practice, he said:

I was going to go into a partnership with someone in Charlottesville in an old building built in 1814. Mr. Jefferson played the fiddle there, allegedly

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. . . I lived in it while renovating. I started my law practice and then bought a log house out in the country, in the woods. Charlottesville is where I wanted to take my stand.

In 1982, GEORGE ALLEN won election to the Virginia House of Delegates—and Thomas Jefferson's old seat. In 1991, he was elected to a term in the House of Representatives, and 2 years later, became Governor of Virginia, a post in which he distinguished himself as an energetic executive. As Governor, GEORGE ALLEN fought violent crime, reformed his State's welfare system, and signed the standards of learning education reform bill, which helped inspire No Child Left Behind. In 2000, he was elected to the Senate, where he served on committees including Commerce and Foreign Relations.

In the Senate, GEORGE ALLEN made a name for himself on technology issues, keeping the Internet free of taxation, securing nanotechnology funding, and providing high-tech grants to historically black colleges. It's also been a pleasure to work with Senator ALLEN for several years on our own legislation to enhance America's competitiveness in the field of aviation by investing in aeronautics research and a new generation of aerospace scientists. In addition to his technology interests, Senator ALLEN was also a strong advocate of balanced budgets.

GEORGE ALLEN is leaving the Senate, but we will remember him for his affable demeanor and love of history. He was fond of quoting Thomas Jefferson's 1801 Inaugural Address: "The sum of good government is a wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another but otherwise leave them free to regulate their own pursuits of industry." GEORGE ALLEN did his best to live and work by those principles, and as he returns to private life, I wish happiness to him, his wife Susan, and their three children. . . .

Mr. HATCH. . . . Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Senate career of my distinguished colleague from the State of Virginia, the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN. The contributions he has made to Congress and this country are significant, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for all that he has given.

GEORGE has spent most of his career in public service. A few years after earning his law degree, he served as a delegate in the Virginia Assembly before becoming a Congressman in 1991. He made a successful run for Governor of Virginia and presided over 4 years of strong economic growth and steady job creation. In 2001, he joined the U.S. Senate,

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and I have been honored to call him my colleague for the past 6 years.

GEORGE has been a tireless advocate for a smaller, more efficient Government throughout his career. He helped lead the way to enactment of the President's tax cut package in 2001 and 2003 and has been an articulate defender of the progrowth tax policies that we have pursued over the past 6 years, including the reduction in capital gains and dividend taxes, the repeal of the death tax, and the reduction in the tax burden of our Nation's small businesses, where so many of our jobs are created. These were lessons he learned well from his days as a Governor.

He has done more than just pay lip service to the importance of keeping taxes low: He has fought the good fight as well. He introduced and worked hard to ensure the passage of the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act, legislation that prohibited taxes on Internet access or taxation from multiple jurisdictions on goods bought over the Internet.

Over the last few years, GEORGE has achieved an almost legendary status with the technology community in this country. In 2001, GEORGE was appointed to serve as chairman of the Senate High Tech Task Force where he advocated for policies to make America a leader in innovation from nanotechnology to broadband to the education of future engineers and scientists. So much of the technology agenda being advanced in this country today spawned from the efforts of GEORGE as the High Tech Task Force chairman. If you were to meet with the top executives of any technology company with a significant presence in the United States, they would tell you what a wonderful advocate GEORGE ALLEN has been for their company and their industry. I have heard it time and again from hundreds of executives.

GEORGE also has served our party well. His success as head of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 2004 election cycle is a result of the Senator's bedrock faith in his beliefs and his ability to articulate that which he holds true.

So many times, politicians come to Washington with strongly held convictions and a desire to do good and instead take the more expedient path to reelection and power. When it comes to GEORGE ALLEN's career, no one can say he ever abandoned his belief in the virtues of a small government and lower taxes. These are the very beliefs I hold true as well, and I was glad to have him on my side.

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At its heart, politics is a battle over ideas. Our distinguished Senator from Virginia earned the respect of us all for the pitched battles he fought to advance the cause of freedom and economic growth for the United States and the world.

Personally, I have admired GEORGE ALLEN for a long time. In my opinion, his demeanor, his knowledge, and his drive are all exemplary and worthy of emulation. Every interaction I have had with GEORGE over the years has done nothing but bolster my original opinion of him. He reminds me more of Ronald Reagan than any national politician I have met. That is a high compliment for a great statesman. I would like to take this time to thank my friend, GEORGE ALLEN, and to wish him, Susan, and the rest of the Allen family the very best as he leaves this great institution to take on new challenges.

Mr. MARTINEZ. . . . Mr. President, today I recognize the service of Senator GEORGE ALLEN. The citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the American people are losing a great patriot in the U.S. Senate. Senator ALLEN will be leaving the Senate after 6 years of service to his home State constituents and to this country.

He has been an important member of the Republican Party and the Senate, always striving to better America's defense and homeland security. He has worked to ensure good-paying jobs for the people of Virginia, and to guarantee that every person in Virginia receives a quality education. It is disappointing that a strong leader like Senator ALLEN is leaving the Senate; he will be missed. Senator ALLEN was one of the people who helped convince me to run for the U.S. Senate, and without his support and his guidance, I might not be here today.

I wish my colleague from Virginia and his family all the best, and thank them for the service that they have given to our country. Thank you, Senator ALLEN. . . .

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the Republican Members of the Senate who will not be returning in the 110th Congress. Senators GEORGE ALLEN; Conrad Burns; Lincoln Chafee; Mike DeWine; Dr. Bill Frist; Rick Santorum; and Jim Talent have served their constituents with honor and distinction during their tenure here in the U.S. Senate. All care very deeply for this great Nation and I hope they will have continued success in their future endeavors. . . .

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Majority leader Bill Frist has run the Senate through difficult and trying times and he has done it well. Senator Mike DeWine, my neighbor to the north, has represented the Buckeye State with great distinction and has committed over 30 years of his life to public service. Senator GEORGE ALLEN represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in the U.S. Senate for 6 years, and he worked closely with me to make America safer by helping usher through important legislation to arm cargo pilots. Senator Jim Talent has had a great career in Congress and wrote the blueprint to the welfare reform bill of 1996. And Senator Lincoln Chafee has continued the proud legacy set forth by his father and my friend, Senator John Chafee.

Mr. President, I would like to again commend all of our departing Republican Senators. I am proud of what they accomplished here in the U.S. Senate. They will all be missed, and I wish all of them the very best.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, Senator ALLEN has spent many years working for Virginia.

He came to the Senate in 2000 after a strong record of accomplishments as his State's Governor.

As Virginia's Senator, he has worked diligently to protect our freedoms, preserve conservative values, and help America remain the land of opportunity.

He was a strong supporter of the tax reforms of 2001 and 2003 that have resulted in the economic upswing our economy is currently enjoying.

His work on the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act has helped keep access to the Internet tax free.

He also worked to increase military benefits, including legislation to increase the death benefits for families of fallen troops from $12,000 to $100,000.

I have also worked with Senator ALLEN on the PACE Act. Senator ALLEN understands that we must provide our children with the education necessary for the jobs of tomorrow. His work with the National Nanotechnology Initiative will also help our country compete globally as other countries continue to emerge. Senator ALLEN understands that America must remain home to the best and brightest.

I will miss working with him in this Chamber, and I will miss his friendship and support on the issues that matter most to America. . . .

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 27, 2006.

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

WEDNESDAY, *December 27, 2006*

Mr. STEVENS. . . . Mr. President, Senator GEORGE ALLEN has served the Commonwealth of Virginia with honor and integrity. GEORGE is a principled person, following bedrock beliefs gained growing up in a strong family.

These principles have led GEORGE to promote and defend freedom in this country and around the world. His legislative accomplishments are aligned with this philosophy.

Senator ALLEN's major accomplishments include the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act, the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act, increased benefits for the families of fallen troops, funding to upgrade telecommunications infrastructure for minority-serving institutions, and greater protections for intellectual property.

In all of this, Senator ALLEN has not forgotten who his real boss is: the American people. He has always, and will continue, to put the interests of this country above his own. That is a true mark of a leader, and all Virginians can be proud to have been represented by a man with Senator ALLEN's character.

As many of his constituents, colleagues, and friends know, Senator ALLEN closed much of his correspondence with the words "keep winning." Just like his dad, a Hall of Fame coach who reached great heights and suffered tough losses on the gridiron, we know GEORGE won't let this setback define him. We all expect him to "keep winning" for Virginia.

Catherine and I wish him and Susan the very best. We know we will hear more about this dedicated public servant in the future. . . .

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, it is an honor indeed to pay tribute to a number of fine individuals who I am fortunate to call not just my colleagues, but also dear friends: Senators Bill Frist, GEORGE ALLEN, Conrad Burns, Lincoln Chafee, Mike DeWine, Rick Santorum and Jim Talent. . . .

It has also been a privilege to serve alongside my good friend and colleague, Senator GEORGE ALLEN. In the Senate, GEORGE built on an already remarkable record of service to the people of Virginia, where he served as a member of the House of Delegates, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as one of the most respected and successful Governors in the history of the Commonwealth.

As a Senator, GEORGE continued his common sense, "Jeffersonian" style of conservative leadership. He proved time and again that he is a tremendous ally of Virginia's defense communities and military families. In 2005, GEORGE was a strong proponent of helping families of fallen soldiers by raising the death gratuity for next-of-kin from $12,000 to $100,000. And as a member of the Commerce Committee, GEORGE ALLEN was the Senate leader in working to maintain America's competitive advantage in technology and innovation. GEORGE founded the Senate Competitiveness Caucus to promote an agenda that ensures that the United States continues to create high-paying jobs and produce the very best engineers and scientists in the world.

One of GEORGE's best attributes as a Senator was that he did more than just talk the talk—GEORGE delivered real results. He advocated for increased funding for math and science education, in particular at historically black colleges and other minority institutions. He has been a leader in the Senate on improving health savings accounts by increasing the amount individuals can contribute each year to their HSAs, thus allowing them to save more money for current and future health care needs. GEORGE also secured more than $3.5 million in Federal funding for cutting-edge nanotechnology research and development. And he led the fight to ban Internet access taxes and make the Internet tax moratorium permanent, as he understands that saddling consumers with high taxes will stifle innovation and expand the digital divide.

Throughout his career, GEORGE ALLEN has served the people of Virginia with courage and distinction, and he has provided a wonderful example for public servants who follow in

his footsteps. I wish all the best to GEORGE, his dear wife Susan, and their three children. . . .

As these men—Bill Frist, GEORGE ALLEN, Conrad Burns, Lincoln Chafee, Mike DeWine, Rick Santorum and Jim Talent—conclude their service in the U.S. Senate, let me say that I am so proud to have worked with individuals of such character, strength, and intellect. Our Nation is grateful for their many contributions. And as they each will undoubtedly continue to contribute to our country's greatness, their leadership and vision will be missed here in the U.S. Senate.

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