AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

TRIBUTES TO HON. CONRAD R. BURNS

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

Conrad R. Burns

U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

Conrad R. Burns

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

S. Doc. 109–27

Tributes Delivered in Congress

Conrad R. Burns

United States Senator
1989–2007

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2007

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

CONTENTS

	Page
Biography	v
Farewell to the Senate	vii
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Alexander, Lamar, of Tennessee	4
Allen, George, of Virginia	5
Bunning, Jim, of Kentucky	18
Byrd, Robert C., of West Virginia	7
Clinton, Hillary Rodham, of New York	12
Conrad, Kent, of North Dakota	11
DeWine, Mike, of Ohio	13
Dodd, Christopher J., of Connecticut	13
Dole, Elizabeth, of North Carolina	20
Durbin, Richard, of Illinois	6
Enzi, Michael B., of Wyoming	15
Frist, William H., of Tennessee	19
Hagel, Chuck, of Nebraska	3
Hatch, Orrin G., of Utah	14
Hutchison, Kay Bailey, of Texas	18
Kyl, Jon, of Arizona	12
Landrieu, Mary L., of Louisiana	12
Mikulski, Barbara A., of Maryland	13
Nelson, Bill, of Florida	5
Reed, Jack, of Rhode Island	4
Salazar, Ken, of Colorado	6
Stevens, Ted, of Alaska	19
Warner, John, of Virginia	9

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Biography

CONRAD BURNS was born on a farm near Gallatin, MO, on January 25, 1935, to Russell and Mary Frances (Knight) Burns. Graduating from Gallatin High School in 1952, Senator BURNS enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri. Senator BURNS enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps 2 years later, serving through 1957. During his term of service, Senator BURNS was posted throughout East Asia.

Following his military service BURNS began working for TWA and Ozark Airlines until 1962, when he became a field representative for *Polled Hereford World* magazine in Billings, MT. Named the first manager of the Northern International Livestock Expo in 1968, BURNS began his career in radio and television broadcasting, reporting on agricultural market news and establishing his reputation as the voice of Montana agriculture.

In 1975, BURNS founded 4 radio stations known as the Northern Ag Network, which grew to serve 31 radio and television stations across Montana and Wyoming when he sold it in 1986.

Senator BURNS began his career in politics when he was elected to the Yellowstone County Commission, serving for 2 years before deciding to run for the U.S. Senate.

CONRAD BURNS became only the second Republican Senator in Montana's history, defeating incumbent John Melcher in 1988, and was the longest serving Republican Senator in Montana history.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator BURNS was able to bring in over $2 billion in Federal funds to the State since he took office. He has been a champion of a fiscally conservative government and a strong voice for lower taxes to create new businesses and more jobs. He expanded Montana's job base by establishing more balanced trade with Canada and brought better education and health care to Montanans by encouraging hi-tech investment in the State. He pursued new markets for agricultural producers while securing millions of dollars in grants for research and marketing improvements.

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

As chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in the 109th Congress, Senator BURNS had jurisdiction over all the country's Federal lands and the National Park Service. His love of the outdoors brought him back to Montana several times each month and made him a guardian of the State's vast natural resources. As a result of his work in the Senate, over 70 rural Montana communities have adopted enforceable drinking water protection programs and funding became available to safeguard acres of Montana through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

On the national level, Senator BURNS criticized America's dependency upon foreign oil supplies, calling on Congress to ban imports from Iraq and increase domestic production and research in fuel cell technology. He also cosponsored a Senate bill to voluntarily arm airline pilots to protect against future terrorist attacks.

In 1997, Senator BURNS became Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee, one of the major regulatory posts in Congress. He has been praised as "one of the fathers of the modern Internet," standing for deregulation, the roll-out of broadband in rural areas, and new Internet and mobile phone technologies. He authored section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and in 1999 unveiled the "Digital Dozen" proposal of telecom legislation. During the 107th Congress, Senator BURNS pushed his "Tech 7" agenda, which aimed to bring greater security to the Internet, and during the 108th Congress, Senator BURNS unveiled his "NexGenTen" Tech Agenda. At the start of the 109th Congress, Senator BURNS took helm as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee and rolled out his "e-Eleven," Tech Agenda, 11 top priority items to strengthen security and usher reform for 21st century communication.

In 1967 CONRAD BURNS married his wife Phyllis. Their daughter Keely was born in 1971, and 5 years later, in 1976, their son Garrett was born.

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

Farewell to the Senate

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I appreciate the words of my friend from Florida [Mr. Nelson] as I rise today and say my farewell to this body. I do it with some sadness, but I do it with great pride. I do it with a great appreciation for the Senate and for the people who serve here.

It has always been one of my personal honors and always a privilege to serve the State of Montana and the country for the last 18 years, and with such distinguished and honorable men and women.

We have seen a lot of changes. I want to answer my good friend from Florida before he leaves the floor: We have seen some changes come over the body, and I would suggest that we turn off that eye that surrounds this body, turn it off and turn the Senate back into the debating body it was once known for, with collegiality, because the best I have ever seen the Senate operate is in executive session. When you turn off the television and we get to the issues—and we have some marvelous people, dedicated, on both sides of an issue, who can argue the issue—some of us who may not be as disciplined in that particular issue as others could learn and vote more intelligently. I suggest that, but I doubt that will ever happen, being that it is already out in the public today. I thank the Senator for his observation. We need to get back to the great debates that were held on the floor of the Senate many years ago.

It was back on January 3, 1989, when I was sworn in the Senate. It was a proud day in my life and, of course, for my wife and our family. I got to thinking during that day that only in America could something like this happen. I was fortunate and, of course, we had both my wife's family, who are Nebraska folks, and my family, who are Missouri folks, in attendance that day. They are just folks, but they are emblematic of those people who were born of the land and in the heart of America—ranchers and farmers.

It was on the prairies of Missouri where I was born and raised on a little old bitty farm of 160 acres—what I call "2

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

rocks and 1 dirt"—not a very good farm. But I have fond memories of that place. I give thanks every day that I was born to that family and in that old house that still stands on that 160 acres. Of course, in my younger years I gained most of my philosophy in life. I was born of folks who weren't very wealthy, as you would define wealthy. They were a product of the Great Depression and the terrible droughts of the 1930s. They survived by hard work and great pride. The values they passed on to most of us in my generation were the love of this country first, community pride and loyalty to that community, and honesty to the core. Russell and Mary Francis were married 59 years on that day when I was sworn in. And I will tell you, when they witnessed proudly their son sworn into the most prestigious body in the world, only in America can that happen. It is truly the miracle of our country. It was also a proud day for all of our family.

I will say right now that we could not do well in this body without the true support of a wife and family because it is from that source that we draw our strength and, yes, our wisdom, as long as they are by our side. Phyllis, of course, and Keely and Garrett were all here. What blessings God has bestowed upon me personally. One was missing and that was Kate. God called her home back in 1985, but she remains in our memories and hearts forever. Again, one cannot do this job without the support and sacrifice of our family.

We have seen a lot of positive things happen in Montana. Montana has just begun to grow in new directions. Montana is a resource State, with timber, mining, oil, and agriculture. But we have new opportunities now, and they have opened. I am proud to say that it was me and my office that led the way on most of those changes. It is said that it is not bragging if you have done it. I was fortunate enough to attract a staff that shared the same vision of change, and change we did. Montana is not short of visionaries. It was my privilege to know them, work with them, and to move our State forward.

There is one thing about Montanans: They are not afraid to dream. As you know, dreams never die; dreamers do. Our colleges and universities now are national leaders in research and development, agriculture, engineering, and communications. We have telemedicine and distance learning where none existed before. We have seen a real leap forward in our infrastructure and transportation and rural utilities. We have watched an elevated vocational educational system grow. Tribal colleges on our seven reservations are growing

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

and now offer opportunities that have never been available to our Native Americans in the history of our State. More Montanans are working today and own their homes than at any other time in the history of our State.

I had the honor of serving with three Presidents, and one could say four, as it was in the closing days of President Reagan's term. They are all honorable men and dedicated to this Nation. I know what it is like to be in the minority, and I know what it is like to be in the majority. One great statement was made: "The majority is more funner."

I have enjoyed my work with some of the best men and women in the Senate who represented both sides of the aisle, from different regions of our country and diverse cultures. I will miss them. But we have welded some friendships that will last forever. The same could be said of nations to which we have traveled and met national and international leaders on all continents.

During my tenure here, we have witnessed the crash of the Berlin Wall, freedom in the market base come to the Eastern bloc in Europe, and the electricity that was in the House of Representatives when a newly elected President of Poland made his historical speech in a joint session. I will tell you what: It brought joy, tears, and pride to all of us in that Chamber.

Like every Member of Congress, I wept when two of our Capitol policemen died on that summer day protecting this Capitol and us who live and work here. Still, our hearts go out to their families. They will never be forgotten.

I leave with many memories. I ask the Senate to return to the deliberative and collegial body it was designed to be. I know it has that ability because I have seen it firsthand. But the challenges ahead are tremendous for this Government. I can only list about six of them: taxation, regulation, energy, health care, education, and litigation. We must face those challenges if we are to live in this free entrepreneurial and economic country. I suggest that we don't just dwell on the national interests first and all others separately.

Members of this body are just average men and women, but they have the capabilities of rising to any occasion of crisis. They are just average, but they also have a higher degree of dedication to our country. I never underestimated any Member of the Senate, and I regard them as quiet heroes in a time of peace and in a time of turmoil and even in the most stressful time in the process of developing legislation that sets policy for our land.

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

I shall miss all of you. It has been my great privilege to serve with you. As I leave, I say God bless you all.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)

TRIBUTES

TO

CONRAD R. BURNS

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

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 CONRAD BURNS. The best thing we can say about Senator BURNS is he married a girl from Nebraska. His wife Phyllis is from North Platte. Senator BURNS represents some of the best the West has to offer. He will be the longest serving Republican Senator in Montana history. His background is varied: distinguished entrepreneur, broadcaster, and that which he is most proud of, a U.S. marine.

I have had the honor of working with Senator BURNS on a number of bills and occasions, many related to agriculture and the cattle industry. For Senator BURNS's service to our country, we thank him. We will miss him. . . .

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 democracy that makes it all work and probably gives rise to,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

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 . . .

My friend, CONRAD BURNS, who is retiring, was a marine, an auctioneer, had his own radio program and TV program in Montana. He would sometimes pick up hitchhikers on his way in to work in the Senate—a pretty good surprise for a government employee to be picked up by a U.S. Senator. . . .

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 generation American. One was the mother of Mel Martinez, the

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

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. ALLEN. Mr. President, as the time for my departure from the Senate draws near, on behalf of the greatest blessing in my life, my wife Susan, and on behalf of myself, I thank all of my colleagues for their many courtesies and friendships that have been forged during the past 6 years. I offer a few concluding reflections about our time here together, as well as about the future of our Republic. . . .

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.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

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 appreciation 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 CONRAD BURNS and I have served on the Appropriations Committee and are friends from the Senate gym where we get together every morning and find a few things to laugh about. . . .

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

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

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 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.

Mr. BYRD. . . . Mr. President, the great State of Montana is Big Sky Country. It is the land of open space, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and ponderosa pines. It is a land of vast grasslands and the magnificent Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. It is the land of Senator CONRAD BURNS who will be leaving us at the end of this session of Congress.

His service in this Chamber was the capstone of a fascinating, multifaceted career. A marine veteran, Senator BURNS had worked for two different major airlines, and had worked as a firefighter, a livestock fieldman, commissioner of Yellowstone County, and an auctioneer.

He had also served as a radio announcer, a farm broadcaster on the Northern Agricultural Farm Network. A member of my staff grew up in Great Falls, MT. She remembers, as a child, waking up very early on cold, Montana mornings, going out to feed the horses, and coming in to hear Senator BURNS giving his "ag" report on television, telling the people

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

of Montana the price of pork bellies, hard red winter wheat, and other commodities.

With his boots, wide belt buckles, and folksy mannerisms, few people would have expected that this Montana cowboy would become one of the Senate's leading experts in high-tech telecommunications.

During his service on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Senator BURNS embraced and fostered new communications technologies. He chaired the first interactive hearing on Capitol Hill and cofounded the Congressional Internet Caucus. As chairman of the Communications Subcommittee, he helped bring the Nation's communications laws into the digital age as he helped broaden the use of the Internet. Indeed, he has been praised as "one of the fathers of the modern Internet."

To the relief of, perhaps, millions of American Internet users, Senator BURNS tangled with mass marketers to help secure enactment of antispam legislation.

With his interests in telecommunications, he enhanced 911 services throughout the country and worked with Senator Clinton in sponsoring legislation to upgrade technology on cell phones.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, he chaired the Interior Subcommittee, and this is where I came to know and appreciate him. As a Westerner, Senator BURNS brought an important perspective, as well as a wealth of experience and knowledge to the diverse and difficult issues that came up in the Interior Appropriations bill that were important to his State, and to his region of the country.

In 2001 and 2002, when I chaired the committee, it was a pleasure to have Senator BURNS serving as ranking member of the Interior Subcommittee and to work with him and his able staff. His dedication to duty, his willingness to work in bipartisan fashion, and his always gracious manner made my work infinitely easier. It was simply a pleasure to work with and to serve with Senator BURNS on this subcommittee.

I must now say goodbye to my good friend and colleague. I wish Senator BURNS and his dear wife Phyllis happiness and success as they now prepare for the next phase of their lives.

In honor of and appreciation for the Senate's Montana cowboy, who was at one time in his career an auctioneer, I offer the following verse:

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it was scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who will start bidding for me?
A dollar, a dollar"—then, "Two!" "Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?
Three dollars once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three—" But no,
From the room, far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bidden for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?

Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice;
And going, and gone!" said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:
"The touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game—and he travels on.
He's "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

—*Myra Brooks Welch*

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. In-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

deed, 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. . . .

I would also like to pay tribute to nine other U.S. Senators who will retire from the Senate in the coming days. . . .

Now, I would like to take a few moments to salute our majority leader, Senator Frist, as well as Senators Chafee, BURNS, Santorum, DeWine, Jeffords, Talent, and Dayton. Each and every one of these U.S. Senators has served his State and his country with great distinction.

Without a doubt, I could speak at-length in honor of each of these outstanding individuals. In light of time constraints, however, and the fact that so many of my colleagues wish to similarly pay tribute, I shall endeavor to keep my remarks brief. . . .

Now, Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about CONRAD BURNS. Senator CONRAD BURNS has an impressive record of public service, beginning with his service in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1955 to 1957. CONRAD has served the great State of Montana with distinction in the U.S. Senate since 1989.

I will never forget when his first campaign came along, I was asked to go out and campaign with him. I acknowledged I would do it. I didn't know him, so I went on out to Montana. I had been in Montana in earlier years. I had been actually an employee of the U.S. Park Service and had been a firefighter out in Montana in 1943 and then again in 1947, I think it was.

Most recently, in August I toured Malmstrom Air Force Base with Senator BURNS. On this tour, I saw firsthand the love and pride that Senator BURNS has for the people of his State. As a senior member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, he has worked tirelessly for the men and women in the Armed Forces.

And old CONRAD—he embodies all of those great qualities of Montana. Talk about independence, he has it, and robustness, and a thirst for life and laughter. It was a sheer joy to campaign with CONRAD BURNS because wherever he

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

went, he would walk into a room and he would tell a story, talk to his people.

He loves every square foot of that State. And I shall miss him. I shall dearly miss CONRAD BURNS. We have to have a few characters around here who do our duties and accept our daily bread, and he is one. And you could go to the bank on what he told you. He was never at a loss for telling a story to cheer up a colleague. Whenever he felt that colleague was a bit down, CONRAD would cheer that colleague up. He and his lovely wife and family will go on to other challenges. . . .

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.

Mr. CONRAD. . . . Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge my colleague from Montana, Senator CONRAD BURNS, who will be leaving this body after serving Montanans for the past 18 years.

Since our States border one another, Senator BURNS and I have had the opportunity to work together on issues important to our region and the Nation. Senator BURNS has been a strong advocate for the interests of his State.

In 2002, Senator BURNS and I joined forces to create the Bipartisan Task Force on Tribal Colleges and Universities. One of the goals we set for the task force was to secure adequate resources on the Federal level to support and grow these valuable institutions. Senator BURNS, as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, was a strong advocate in helping the task force achieve this goal. Under his leadership, the tribal colleges received some of the largest increases in Federal funding since their inception. This support has opened the door of opportunity for thousands of American Indians.

During this past year, we have also worked together on agricultural disaster assistance legislation. Because both of our States have a strong agricultural sector in our economy, this issue is very important to our constituents. The support he has given to agricultural disaster legislation in both the Sen-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ate Appropriations Committee and the full Senate has been important to our efforts, and I appreciate his strong support.

Senator BURNS was also a valuable member of the ICBM coalition. During these past years, he and I have worked together to make sure our Nation has a strong military deterrent to emerging world threats.

Since he arrived in Washington as a Senator only 2 years after I did, we have watched the debates and policy discussions in this body together for almost two decades now. During that time we have seen economic ups and downs, a major change in international power structure, and the new challenges we face after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Again, Mr. President, I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator BURNS and wish him well as he leaves the Senate.

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. . . .

Mr. President, Senator CONRAD BURNS has represented his State of Montana for three terms. He has been a stalwart on behalf of his constituents and his philosophy of government. We thank him for his public service. . . .

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. . . .

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

CONRAD BURNS is a fellow westerner with whom I have shared much and always enjoyed the humor that CONRAD brought to this body. . . .

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. . . .

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to say something about my departing colleagues on the other side of the aisle. . . .

And to the departing Senator from Montana, who has a voice about the same decibel level of my own, I wish him well. Again, on the Committee on Commerce and on the Committee on Appropriations we worked very well, particularly on those issues that were important to science and technology, new ideas, new thinking, but old-fashioned values.

A lot is said about changing the tone, but when we hit the right tone we also hit some pretty high notes. I thank my colleagues and wish them well and Godspeed until we meet again.

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. . . .

I would also like to bid farewell to outgoing Senator CONRAD BURNS of Montana. CONRAD BURNS is the longest serving Senator in the history of his State, and he has long been known for his plainspoken and blunt style. CONRAD BURNS served as a marine in Japan and Korea, and back home he made a name for himself as a livestock specialist, auctioneer, and radio agricultural reporter. He proved him-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

self a canny businessman, as 1 radio program grew into a network of 31 radio stations and 6 television stations.

A passion for local politics led him to win a seat on the Yellowstone County Commission. When he first ran for the Senate in 1988, Mr. BURNS was still a relative political novice; but he was known throughout the State of Montana for his successful business ventures, and he won election over an incumbent. Senator BURNS was reelected in 1994 and 2000.

Over 18 years in this body, Senator BURNS built up a record as an influential committee member, sitting on Appropriations and chairing a Subcommittee on Communications, as well as another on the Interior, with jurisdiction over the entire National Parks Service. Senator BURNS has taken pride in securing resources for his State, as well as in opening up the promise of advanced telecommunications for all. He worked with Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon to pass the CAN–SPAM Act, which combats unsolicited e-mail. Senator BURNS has also worked for Internet deregulation and broadband access in rural areas, earning him praise as "one of the fathers of the modern Internet." That is quite an achievement for a onetime cattle auctioneer.

Now Senator BURNS is returning to his home State of Montana, and I hope he and his wife Phyllis have many years of happiness there. . . .

Mr. HATCH. . . . Mr. President, I want to pay special tribute to my good friend and colleague from Montana, Senator CONRAD BURNS, known by his staff, Montanans, and myself as just CONRAD. It is hard for me to imagine a more down-to-earth Member of Congress than CONRAD. His straight-shooting analysis of the issues and his humorous outlook on life made life around the Senate more enjoyable.

Utahns in particular owe a debt of gratitude to Senator BURNS. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, Senator BURNS worked with our delegation to meet many of Utah's needs.

First and foremost, he oversaw a dramatic increase in funding for the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) Program, which provides funding for schools, roads, and public safety services in rural communities in Utah where the tax base is limited due to the predominance of tax-exempt Federal land.

Chairman BURNS also helped me to pass legislation which expedites research and development projects on Bureau of Land Management, BLM, land. Senator BURNS also helped provide funding for Sandy City, UT, to upgrade its drinking and storm water infrastructure. With this funding, Sandy

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

City will now be able to prevent flooding which has threatened the homes of many citizens in the past.

Over the years, CONRAD has been extremely helpful to many Utah communities. He helped provide funding to protect the Range Creek Rainbow Glass Ranch for conservation purposes, to improve drinking water for the citizens of Centerfield, Mayfield, Park City, and Eagle Mountain, UT, to provide for the Sand Hollow Recreation Area, and to increase the reach of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

CONRAD has also helped Utah and our country continue down the path of energy independence and accelerate Utah oil and gas production by helping to fund the Utah Oil and Gas Leasing Internet Pilot Program.

Allow me to share just one example of how Senator CONRAD BURNS is, and always will be, a man of the people. The highway system around the Washington, DC, area provides for express lanes for vehicles carrying passengers. A regular feature of the Washington commute is lines of passengers hoping to be picked up by drivers who are driving their way. Much of the population of the high occupancy vehicle express lanes is made up of single drivers who have picked up these passengers, thus allowing them to use the express lanes. For years, my friend Senator BURNS would pick up these riders in his less than glamorous van. They would have great conversations together along the way, and in most cases, the passengers would not have the slightest idea that they had been picked up and were now chatting with a U.S. Senator. And knowing the junior Senator from Montana, I am sure that's just the way he wanted it.

Senator CONRAD BURNS has been a great friend to the people of Utah and a great friend to me. I will miss his presence here in the Senate, and I wish him the greatest of success in his future endeavors. . . .

Mr. ENZI. . . . Mr. President, the 109th Congress will soon be drawing to a close. As it does, we will be casting our final votes on the issues we will take up this year, and saying goodbye to several of our colleagues who will not be with us for the start of the 110th session of Congress. I know I will miss them all for the creativity, imagination, and firm resolve they have brought to the consideration of the issues we have worked so hard to address for the past 2 years.

One of our colleagues I know I will miss in particular is CONRAD BURNS. Throughout my service in the Senate he has been a remarkable friend, and the kind of person you would want on your side if a battle on the Senate floor was about

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

to take place. For 18 years he has been a remarkable Senator and a strong and effective representative of the people of Montana. It just won't be the same around here without him.

CONRAD BURNS is a true westerner—through and through—and very proud of his western roots. He has always been strongly committed and absolutely loyal to the United States and to his home State of Montana. He showed his commitment to each at an early age. First, his love of his country showed itself when he decided to leave home and join the Marines. Then, when his tour of service was completed, he returned to Montana and began a career that was going so well his employer wanted to transfer him to another State where he thought CONRAD would be more effective. That is when CONRAD's love for his home State of Montana showed itself and he quit a promising career rather than leave the State he loved so well.

Instead, CONRAD set up the Northern Ag Network, which grew from 4 radio stations to 29 radio stations and 6 television stations. Then, as things were going so well with that project, he began looking for a new challenge. He found it when he ran for Yellowstone county commissioner and won. It was the start of a great political career for him and the more the people of Montana got to know CONRAD BURNS, the more they liked him.

CONRAD then decided to run for the Senate and ever since he came to Washington, CONRAD has compiled quite a remarkable record of service. He has made great decisions for our country as he has watched out for the best interests of the people of Montana. He has made a difference on the local, State and national level. Here in Washington, he has championed some amazing projects and issues and there is a lot of legislation that bears his mark for his having worked on it or supported it through the years.

As we have watched CONRAD roll up his sleeves and get to work on any of a number of issues, he has always impressed us with his understanding of complex issues and their short-term and long-term implications for our society such as the Internet and the development of modern technologies. In fact, I don't think anyone knows more about broadband and communication issues than he does. He is probably the greatest expert in the Senate on those matters and I know I will continue to seek his advice and counsel about them when these or related issues come to the floor in the months to come.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

That is an impressive start, but it is not all you will find when you examine CONRAD's record of service. CONRAD has also been a hero to small businesses across the country. He understands their importance and he is fully aware that our Nation's small businesses are the backbone of every State's economy and our national economy as well.

People around the country have come to know CONRAD as he exercised his strong and effective leadership on the Appropriations Committee. He was always very careful with the people's money to ensure it was effectively spent.

For my part, I will always remember CONRAD as one of my greatest mentors in the Senate. Thanks to him, I learned a great deal about the hearings process and how it works. I learned the importance of putting a hearing together that would generate good ideas to solve difficult problems. That enabled us to address the concerns of the ranchers of Wyoming, Montana and the West and take a closer look at the destruction caused by the fires in our States. As we examined those issues during our hearings in Montana, I got a chance to see how he handled the gavel and exercised his leadership as chairman. That experience helped me to plan and hold my own hearings and ensure a maximum amount of participation and discussion.

CONRAD has also been a good friend over the years we have served together in the Senate. We have fished and golfed together. We have worked together on issues of concern to Wyoming, Montana and the West and we have voted together. We have gone to quite a few sporting events together usually to watch the Wyoming and Montana teams play each other. I seem to recall that Wyoming usually got the better of those encounters. I think CONRAD may recall those games differently, but I am pretty sure the Wyoming teams always finished ahead of the others.

Our families have enjoyed each other as well. Our wives are best friends in the western sense—not the Washington, DC sense. Our kids grew up together and they have remained close—even through those times when they were miles apart.

Most important to me, CONRAD has been my friend through thick and thin—the good and bad—the wins and losses—and the highs and lows of political life. Time changes so many things in our lives, but one thing it never changes is a friendship. Thankfully, those only grow deeper and stronger with time.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

As we say goodbye to CONRAD BURNS, I know I will still be seeing him, hearing from him and spending time with him now and again. Change is temporary, friendships are permanent, and I know my family and I are looking forward to continuing to share our lives with CONRAD and his family. We can't ever let change "change" that.

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.

Senator CONRAD BURNS and I have had a great working and personal relationship over the last 8 years. He and his wife Phyllis have become dear friends of my wife Mary and me. I have enjoyed our time spent together both personally and professionally. CONRAD and I watched a baseball game with our grandsons a couple of years ago in Montana. CONRAD and Phyllis also joined Mary and me at the Kentucky Derby. I wish CONRAD and his family all the best as they start a new chapter in their lives. . . .

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 CONRAD BURNS has had a long and distinguished career in the Senate as Montana's longest serving Republican Senator.

Since 1988, Senator BURNS has represented his constituents with honor in the Senate. He has made sure that Montana's unique, rural economy is sustained through his support of balanced trade, high-tech investments, and small business.

Since serving as chairman of the Communications Subcommittee in 1997, he has continually fought for the rollout of broadband in rural areas and pushed for new Internet and mobile phone technologies to help Montanans participate in our global economy.

Senator BURNS's love for the outdoors has made him a steward of our country's natural resources. As chairman of the Senate's Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I have

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

watched him work tirelessly to protect and provide for our National parks and forests. Our natural resources are being protected thanks to the work of Senator BURNS. I know he is looking forward to returning to Montana and the great outdoors.

He has been an ardent supporter of making Government more fiscally responsible and lowering our taxes, and he was often an ally on issues.

His leadership and strong conviction to do what is right will be sorely missed. . . .

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, it is with great sadness that I say farewell to a great friend and Senator, CONRAD BURNS of Montana. His loss will be felt in Montana and here in the Senate. CONRAD is a man of the West and worked hard to make sure those values were represented in the Senate.

Senator BURNS, a marine with a background in radio and television and as an auctioneer, came to the Senate in 1988. He, his wonderful wife Phyllis, and their family have become close friends with Catherine and me and to Alaska. In fact, CONRAD's daughter, Dr. Keely Burns, spent time in Alaska after medical school working as a resident. CONRAD is a great auctioneer and fine fisherman who often joined me in Alaska.

CONRAD served with me on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee as well as the Committee on Appropriations. During his time on those committees he accomplished a great deal for Montana, the West, and our Nation.

CONRAD worked to ensure more than 70 rural Montana communities have enforceable safe drinking water programs and protected the Big Sky through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He authored section 706 of the Tele-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

communications Act of 1996, a provision which ensures advanced telecommunications are accessible in our schools and classrooms. And as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he helped to secure funding for the Bureau of Land Management to expedite land conveyances in Alaska, which my State has pushed for since statehood. He worked hard to bring infrastructure and high tech to rural Montana. He worked to create E9–1–1 legislation for the Nation.

CONRAD BURNS is a hard worker, but he has an easygoing way about him. Many Senators and staff know that he used to pick up carpoolers on his way to work. Few probably know about his protecting penguins in Antarctica. During a trip to our research station, there was a group of us watching penguins shuffling nervously near the water's edge. CONRAD got the group together to pose for a photo, when suddenly all of the penguins jumped between us and the edge of the water. CONRAD just smiled and took the photo, never mentioning the large killer whale that was circling behind the Senators.

CONRAD's humor is legendary and he can often spring it on you when you least expect it. As President pro tempore, I opened the Senate on my 80th birthday, dreading any birthday greetings I might receive. The first Member seeking recognition after the prayer was CONRAD. Sure enough, CONRAD launched into a long speech about a great American icon, a fighter, a scrappy character. I got more and more uncomfortable in the chair, but CONRAD knew something I didn't—Mickey Mouse and I share a birthday. CONRAD knew I would think all this high-minded talk was about me, but instead he was praising America's most lovable cartoon character. That's CONRAD BURNS. A man who loves to laugh, loves people, and loves his home State of Montana.

We will miss the good Senator from Montana. . . .

MONDAY, *January 8, 2007*

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. . . .

For the past 18 years, Montanans were extremely fortunate to be represented by CONRAD BURNS. There is no question that CONRAD delivered time and again for the people of his State.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, CONRAD secured more than $2 billion in Federal funds for Montana. And as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, he was a tireless advocate of programs that benefit all Montanans, such as protecting drinking water and defending his State's wilderness and wildlife. CONRAD also fought hard for Malmstrom Air Force Base and Montana's military presence during the base realignment and closure process in 2005.

As chairman of the Communications Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, CONRAD fought for deregulation and new Internet and mobile phone technologies. And he worked to ensure that rural Montana communities have access to the technologies that will keep them competitive in today's global marketplace.

Throughout his time in the Senate, CONRAD was a strong proponent of Government accountability, fiscal responsibility and lower taxes. He worked diligently to decrease America's dependence on foreign oil. And he was an early backer of the Medicare prescription drug benefit that is now helping millions of seniors afford their medicines.

CONRAD's legacy will live on, across Montana, and in the halls of the Senate, long after he has shut the door to his office. He leaves behind an extraordinary record of service to the people of his State. My warmest wishes to my friend CONRAD BURNS, his wife Phyllis, and their family. . . .

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.

○