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TRIBUTES TO HON. JAMES M. JEFFORDS

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James M. Jeffords

U.S. SENATOR FROM VERMONT

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

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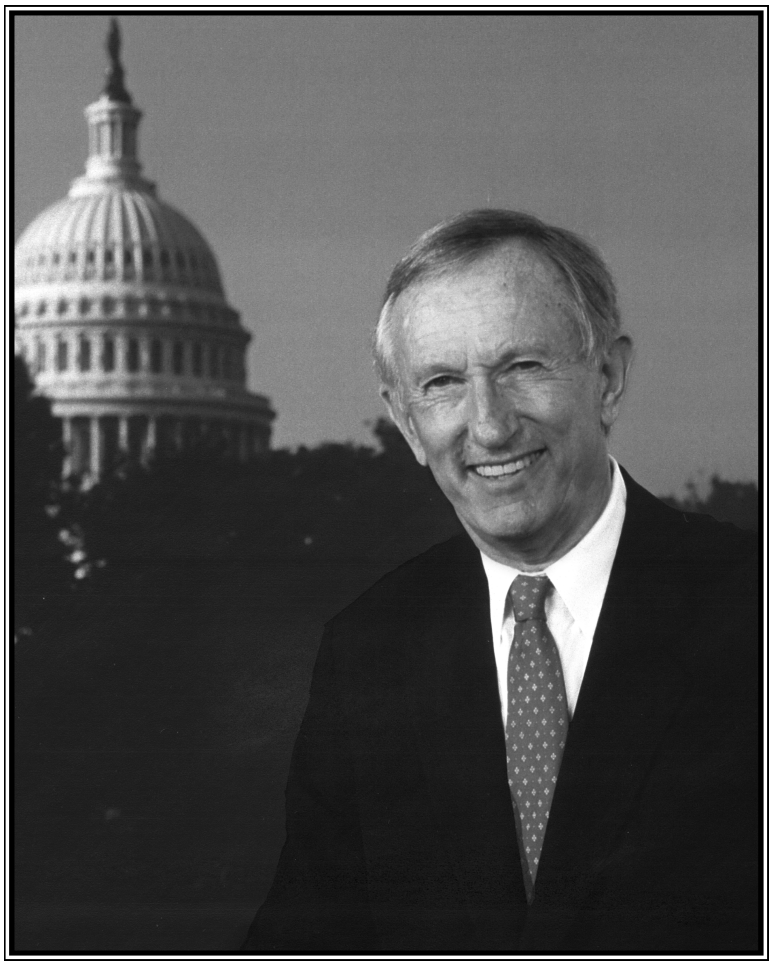

James M. Jeffords

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S. Doc. 109–32

Tributes Delivered in Congress

James M. Jeffords

United States Congressman
1975–1989

United States Senator
1989–2007

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Biography

Born in Rutland, VT, on May 11, 1934, JAMES MERRILL JEFFORDS is the son of the late Marion H. Jeffords and the late Olin M. Jeffords, former chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. His father's family settled in northwestern Vermont in 1794. After attending public schools in Rutland, Senator JEFFORDS received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1956 and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1962. He served in active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1959, and retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Captain in 1990. He was married to the late Elizabeth Daley and has two children, Leonard and Laura. The JEFFORDS' residence is in Shrewsbury, VT.

Senator JEFFORDS spent 32 years in Congress. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974, and served three terms as a U.S. Senator. Before arriving in Washington, he served as a Vermont State Senator from Rutland in 1967 and 1968, and held his first statewide office as Vermont Attorney General from 1969 to 1973.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Senator JEFFORDS championed legislation to strengthen our Nation's education system and increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities. He left his fingerprints on every piece of education, job training, and disability legislation over the past quarter-century. In 1975, Senator JEFFORDS, as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Select Education, co-authored what would later be known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which has provided equal access to education for millions of students with disabilities. Since IDEA's enactment, Senator JEFFORDS continued to fight for full Federal funding for the law.

Senator JEFFORDS has also been a leading advocate in Congress for environmental protection. He fought to reduce industrial pollution and acid rain, and as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee he ensured the passage of the 1990 Clean Air Act. More recently, Senator JEFFORDS introduced legislation that would clean up dirty power plants and create incentives for investments in clean, renewable power.

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Through his leadership on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator JEFFORDS also worked to improve Vermont's ground transportation system. Last summer, Congress passed a 5-year, $286.5 billion highway bill, which Senator JEFFORDS co-authored. This legislation will increase Vermont's share of total highway dollars by 40 percent. In all, Vermont will receive more than $1 billion over the 5-year period, with specific projects included. In addition to creating thousands of jobs throughout Vermont, the highway bill will dramatically improve the State's roads, bridges, and rail lines.

Senator JEFFORDS, who was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1988, chaired the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee from 2001 to 2002 and later served as the Committee's ranking member. He also served as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Special Committee on Aging, and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which he chaired from 1997 to 2001.

He was one of six founders of the Congressional Solar Coalition, and he served as chairman of the House Environmental Study Conference from 1978 to 1979.

In 1980, then-Congressman JEFFORDS co-founded the Congressional Arts Caucus. Throughout his career he consistently fought for financial support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. In addition to his legislative work in the arts, Senator JEFFORDS has sponsored the Congressional High School Art Competition in Vermont for 25 years.

In recognition of his achievements, Senator JEFFORDS has received many prestigious awards, including being named Legislator of the Year by *Parenting* magazine in 1999, and in 2002 he received the Sierra Club's top honor.

In 2001, Senator JEFFORDS left the Republican Party and became an Independent. He has been profiled on "60 Minutes" and "Dateline NBC," and in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post.* He is the author of "My Declaration of Independence" (Simon and Schuster, 2001) and "An Independent Man: Adventures of a Public Servant" (Simon and Schuster, 2003).

Senator JEFFORDS is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

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Farewell to the Senate

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, even a diehard Red Sox fan has to give the devil his due. Probably the most moving moment in the history of baseball was when longtime New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig walked on the field to accept the tribute of his fans and teammates. On Independence Day in 1939, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium that he considered himself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.

I consider myself pretty lucky, too. I was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974. That was not the best year to be a Republican candidate. Out of an enormous freshman class of 92 new Members, which included Chris Dodd and Tom Harkin, only 17 of us were Republicans. And as Chuck Grassley and I walked down the aisle of the House, he with crutches and I with a neck brace, one Democrat muttered: There's two we almost got.

Time has gotten just about all of us. With my retirement and that of Henry Hyde in the House, Chuck Grassley next year will become the last remaining Member of the Republican class of 1974, an iron horse in his own right. The silver lining for me in the electoral losses suffered by the Republicans was a chance to land senior positions on the Agriculture and Education Subcommittees that would quickly throw me into the thick of things. Throughout my career in the House, I focused on those two issues.

In 1988, with the retirement of Bob Stafford, I ran for and won a seat in the Senate. Senator Stafford was a tough act to follow. He had held just about every office in the State of Vermont and had an enormous impact on the Federal policy for education, the environment, and elsewhere. I was lucky when I got to the Senate that there were openings on both the Education and Environment Committees.

Early on, I learned what the Senate can be at its best. In 1989, Congress was in the midst of reauthorizing the Clean Air Act. Even though I was a freshman, the door was open for anyone who had the time and interest. As John Chafee,

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George Mitchell, and the rest of us forged a strong renewal of the Clean Air Act, I realized these were the moments I enjoyed most. I realized these were the moments I enjoyed most when smart and committed people worked together to solve tough problems and improve the lot for Americans. Every year since has provided similar moments, from rebuilding our roads to rewriting our food and drug laws.

Probably the biggest and the most rewarding challenge for me has been in the area of education. From my first year in the House when we enacted the Education of the Handicapped Act, to work that continues today on the Higher Education Act, I have tried to do my best to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to reach his or her potential.

There is plenty of work left to be done to reach this goal, and nowhere is that more true than in the District of Columbia. A decade ago, Congress stepped in to try and help the District resolve the problems plaguing its overall budget and its schools in particular. As chair of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee, I helped lead that effort. The city is to be commended for its record of fiscal responsibility in the years since, and I hope the superintendent, the new mayor, the council, and the school board will be able to make similar progress in improving the city's school system.

While Vermont has always been home, I have lived in the District of Columbia since coming to Washington. Luckily, I have never lost the ability to be moved by the sight of the Capitol dome. Its majesty struck me when I first came to Washington and it still does today. Under that dome and in the buildings around it work thousands of good people. We are all privileged to work with a whole host of people who get too little recognition, from the person recording my words, to the people who put them in the *Congressional Record* while we sleep—not always easy tasks, in my case.

Ours, too, is not always an easy task. I know it is hard for the public to understand the reality of life in the Congress, but the continual travel, the campaigns, and the unpredictable hours of our jobs can take a toll on our families. I have been blessed with two wonderful children, Laura and Leonard, who are here with me today, and a feisty, funny, and an incredibly strong wife, Liz. They have had to put up with an awful lot over the years so that I could serve Vermont.

Three decades is a blink of an eye in history, but what a tremendous period of change in our country we have been through. When I came to Washington, we were only three decades removed from the Second World War. My childhood

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heroes were heroes of that war, and it seemed as though every family had a father or son or uncle who served and sacrificed in that war. But when I came to Washington, an entirely different war was being waged in Southeast Asia. Vietnam has colored much of our thinking since. Whether Vietnam had too much or too little influence upon the ensuing three decades is a much larger debate, but we would be better served in world affairs today by being less haughty and more humble.

I regret that my departure from Congress, like my arrival, finds our country at war. Young and even not so young Americans are sacrificing life and limb while the rest of us are making little or no sacrifice. It seems to me the very least we should do is pay today for the fiscal costs of our policies. Instead, we are floating IOUs written on our children's future. This year we have no budget, and we are unwilling even to debate most of our basic spending bills before the November election. Thirty years from now, we could well face the biggest crisis in government since the Civil War, if Congress and the White House do not adopt a more honest approach to government.

The basic compact between generations is being broken. F.D.R. was right to borrow heavily to finance World War II, but are we justified in doing so today?

Earlier this month I was privileged to attend the dedication of a monument in Virginia commemorating the sacrifice of more than 1,200 men of the Vermont Brigade during the Battle of the Wilderness. The tangled thickets of the 19th century have given way to mature forests. The individuals are largely forgotten, but our collective memory must endure. Today, we use blocks of granite to remind us of the sacrifices of the Civil War. In its immediate aftermath you would think no such reminder would have been needed. But 140 years ago, so the story goes, a northern Congressman literally waved a bloody shirt before his colleagues to inflame them against the South for alleged misdeeds. True patriotism is the incredible bravery of those men whose too-brief lives ended on that Wilderness Battlefield. Waving the bloody shirt then or today is anything but patriotic.

The beautiful Capitol dome above us, completed even as the Civil War concluded, should serve to inspire us. I am an optimist and have been every day of my life. With Lincoln, I hope that the mystic cords of memory will stretch from every battlefield and patriot grave to the hearts of the living,

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and that we will soon again be touched by the better angels of our nature.

Mr. President, I wish you and all of my colleagues good luck and Godspeed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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TRIBUTES

TO

JAMES M. JEFFORDS

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Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *September 26, 2006*

Mr. ENZI. . . . I would like to recognize two departing members of the [HELP] committee [Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions]: Majority Leader Frist and Senator JEFFORDS. We are fortunate they chose to serve, and we are grateful for their contributions. Senator JEFFORDS is a past chairman of the committee, and, of course, Majority Leader Frist has been the doctor on the committee and provided a perspective no one else could. I am proud of the work we have done here on the committee these past 2 years. By working together, we have established a track record of success. . . .

WEDNESDAY, *September 27, 2006*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator JEFFORDS has been a friend and colleague for many years. We had the opportunity to serve together in the House of Representatives. We served together in the Senate. To say that he has made history during his time in Congress is an understatement. But more important, he has made a difference. I have always been impressed by his knowledge of the issues and his dedication to the public well-being and the environment. I have had the good fortune of serving with him on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He is a stalwart. He is a true believer that the environment is in distress and things need to be done to change our environment.

He has worked to preserve the middle class and to provide for the safety of the American people in so many different ways. Senator JEFFORDS is a man of conscience. No one can question that. He grew up in Vermont where the Jeffords family first settled in the 18th century. His father was a longtime member of the Supreme Court. After JIM JEFFORDS graduated from Yale, he served in the Navy on active duty for 4 years. He served then in the Naval Reserve, retiring as

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a captain. Senator JEFFORDS studied law at Harvard—Yale and Harvard—which shows his intellect. He returned after having finished law school to Vermont to practice law. Shortly thereafter, he was elected to the Vermont State Senate and then attorney general. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1975 and served there until he came to the Senate in 1989.

In walking in here I grabbed a book that has a lot of definitions. I flipped to courage. Whatever definition you have of courage, you can pick one here going back to two centuries ago:

> I love the man who can smile on trouble, who can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection. It is the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm and whose conscience has approved his conduct will pursue his principles unto death.

That really is JIM JEFFORDS, and that, Mr. President, is a quote from Thomas Payne. I have seen up close JIM JEFFORDS's courage. Everyone knows, as it has been written about in books, the conversations that Senator JEFFORDS and I had prior to Senator JEFFORDS deciding that he wanted to change course and become an Independent. That was not an easy decision. It involved years of friendship, and it involved years of his being a member of two different legislative bodies on Capitol Hill.

Most of our discussions took place on the Senate floor as people were walking around, but we had conversations in private. I know firsthand, I repeat, of the courage of this man. I, in my now long public career have been involved in a number of things that I will always remember, but I will never, ever remember anything more vividly than the Senator from Vermont, as a matter of principle and courage, changing not only his course but the course of this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have listened to my friend, JIM JEFFORDS, the Senator from Vermont speak here this morning [see Farewell to the Senate, page vii]. I couldn't help but think as I heard Senator JEFFORDS speak with wit and clarity, and you might say even some emotion, that JIM JEFFORDS, given the opportunity to make a speech—and many of us will do so on this Senate floor as we leave—did it being true to himself, with his own good nature, his own sense of history, and his own justifiable pride in what he has accomplished.

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I have known JIM JEFFORDS from his days as a State senator in Rutland. I have known his wonderful wife, Liz Daley Jeffords. They are both dear friends of mine and my wife Marcel. Mrs. Jeffords was referred to as a great lady the other night by the anchor of our State's largest TV station. Some of us who have known JIM for years would say she gets that greatness for putting up with him for all these years. But we Vermonters found no difficulties in putting up with JIM JEFFORDS. He has been elected overwhelmingly to the offices he has held and he has done it with support from Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike. He has gotten these votes the old-fashioned way—he earned them.

We came here together 32 years ago. I like to talk about the Leahys coming to Vermont in the 1850s. JIM reminds me his family came to Vermont a century before. We both live in small towns in Vermont; we have had that sense of Vermont. He has never lost it. He has been a good friend.

His career highlights are legendary. Let me tell you why he is supported so. First and foremost, Senator JEFFORDS is known as an environmental champion. In Vermont, they say, If you scratch a Vermonter you scratch an environmentalist, no matter the party.

He has done it in the great tradition of Senator Bob Stafford. Senator Bob Stafford is also from the same county as JIM JEFFORDS—actually JIM grew up near him. He mentioned Bob today.

He carved out a legend on education and the environment when he was here. But then JIM JEFFORDS had done that as attorney general and as a State senator in our State. For the past three decades he has left his fingerprints on nearly every environmental law enacted, from the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act to the Superfund Program to acid rain reduction.

In fact, when others in his position would be thinking about where are the papers going and how will we retire, just a matter of months ago he offered the boldest solution to combat global climate change this body has ever considered.

He has championed legislation to strengthen our Nation's education system and increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

In 1975, as a brand new Member of the House of Representatives, as he said, coming in with a neck brace—the walking wounded from an election where both of us ran in Vermont—he coauthored what would later be known as the

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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. It was strongly supported by his colleagues here in the Senate and before that in the House. It has provided equal access to education for millions of students with disabilities, students who otherwise would have been shunted aside and this country would not have had the value of their achievements.

As chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, he worked tirelessly on education, job training, and disability legislation. Most recently, his leadership in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee was essential to the passage of the highway bill. Of course, Vermont and the rest of the country will benefit from that.

I might say there has been no greater leader for Vermont's dairy industry than Senator JEFFORDS. In his work on the Northeast Dairy Compact and the milk programs, he has fought tough battles for Vermont dairies—and won. He actually knows as much about our dairy industry as most dairy farmers.

It is what he has done for future generations. All of us can talk about what we do here. It is what we leave for our children and our grandchildren that counts. Future generations of Vermonters will honor JIM's legacy when they see the work that he began as attorney general and continued throughout the Senate—helping to restore Lake Champlain to its brilliance, its magnificence; or witness the bald eagles abounding in the wilderness areas, thanks to JIM.

I applaud him for this statement as he takes leave of the Senate—although it seems this year we will never know when we leave. None of us are getting our final airplane reservations yet. But he has done it with his usual grace and good humor. I applaud him for that and I hope all of us when we come to leave, whenever that may be, will have the opportunity to show that same grace. He served Vermont well and, just as important, he served the Senate well.

After a long career I might violate the rules somewhat, addressing my friend and colleague directly: For a long career, JIM, you can leave with your head held high. You have served Vermont and your Nation proudly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to tell the Senator from Vermont that I am going to miss him in the Senate and still consider him a friend. I hope to have a long relationship

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with him, even in his retirement. I am that Senator that JIM JEFFORDS, the Senator from Vermont, referred to as the one remaining Republican of the class of 1974. There were 17 of us. I think there were about 70 Democrats. It was a bad year for Republicans. You couldn't even put the word Republican on your literature. It was the year Nixon resigned.

There were only 140 of us in the House of Representatives at that time. I don't know whether Senator JEFFORDS felt this way, but I felt this way, that it was probably the end of the Republican Party. Well, I was wrong. He and I have been reelected to serve together, to serve our respective constituents.

I remember Senator JEFFORDS as an outstanding member of the Agriculture Committee in the House of Representatives the 6 years I served on that committee. Then there was a period of time where I was a Member of the Senate and he still stayed in the House of Representatives. Our friendship still held. But working together—you know how it is in Congress, the House and Senate; there is a Grand Canyon between us sometimes, and we don't communicate as much as we ought to. Consequently, it was like getting reacquainted with Senator JEFFORDS again when he came to the Senate. I was glad then and I am very glad now that he continued his service.

I think he is an outstanding example of probably what is an unacknowledged principle of political science—at least it is a feeling I have about the people of our country—that if you serve honorably where you are at a certain time and do the best job possible, you are going to have opportunities to enhance your position within public service. So as a State senator, then as an attorney general, then as a Congressman, and then as a Senator for the people of Vermont, I believe he got to be a Senator because people in Vermont recognized him, as a State senator, as a Congressman, and as an attorney general, as a person who was not there because of political ambition, wanting to rise to the top, but a person, in each stage of his public service life, who did what that job required and did it well. People recognized that and in the end of the process, he came to the Senate.

In every relationship I have had with Senator JEFFORDS, whether he was a Republican or an Independent, it has always been one that has been friendly and honorable and honest. And most important, he was a humanitarian in his approach to public policy.

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It seemed to me that as a Member of the Senate, whether as an Independent or as a Republican, Senator JEFFORDS brought forth what it takes to get things done in the Senate, and that is moderation. It doesn't matter whether it is a bill that is representing the philosophy of the extreme left or a bill that represents the philosophy of the extreme right, nothing such as that is going to get through the Senate. Eventually you have to have people come together seeking a middle ground, a bipartisan approach to get things done. It seems to me, in every respect, that is what Senator JEFFORDS did—he sought moderation because that is how you get solutions and that is the only way the Senate produces.

I compliment him on his dedicated public service. I congratulate him on his long service to the people of the United States and the people of Vermont. I will miss working with him. I will miss him, but I hope we have opportunities to have great relationships for the rest of our lives.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is entirely appropriate that we take these few moments on the floor of the Senate to listen carefully and take the measure of an extraordinary Senator, Senator JIM JEFFORDS. In these next several weeks, this Nation is going to be focused in many, many States on trying to select who is going to represent them in the Senate. And if the people of those States just took a few moments to listen to the eloquence of this Senator, they would know what the standard should be in selecting someone to represent them in this body. It is JIM JEFFORDS. He sets the standard. So we thank JIM JEFFORDS for his service—his service to the State of Vermont and his service to all of our States and to the country. We thank him for that service.

We also thank the people of Vermont for their wisdom in selecting this extraordinary talent and giving him the kind of support that they gave over a long and distinguished career, especially in those times when he was willing to take positions and stand up on issues as a matter of conscience. They understood their native son. They respected him, and they supported him. So thank you to the voters of Vermont.

Thank you to his family, Elizabeth that Senator JEFFORDS mentioned, Laura, and Leonard—a family that gave him great support. I think those of us who have been fortunate enough to know that family and meet that family understand what a strong influence it has been in terms of his service.

And thank you, Senator JEFFORDS, for that simple eloquence that we heard from you today on the floor of the Sen-

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ate, going back into the history of our country, providing inspiration as we listen to you talk about the history of the Nation, mentioning with great pride the role of Vermonters in the time of the Civil War—and his understanding of history, talking about people of the Greatest Generation, which were inspiring figures to him and many of us continuing to the present.

He typically understated his own achievements and accomplishments. I think many of us on this floor are well familiar with them. I certainly am as someone who has had the good opportunity to serve with him on the Education Committee. I know the difference that he has made in the education of children in this country, particularly those with special needs, accomplishments which are memorable and historical. He mentioned just casually his interest in the education of the children here in the District of Columbia. A number of us who are here on the floor now remember JIM JEFFORDS speaking in our caucus not many years ago about how we, as Members of the Senate who happen to either live here in the District or work here, even though we are working in this body, have a responsibility for the education of the children here. He was the inspiration of a program, a literacy program called "Everybody Wins!" And JIM JEFFORDS led a number of us to Brent School here near the Capitol to read with the second and third graders each week to ensure that those children were going to have an opportunity to learn to read. It was just a simple illustration, once again, that JIM JEFFORDS does not just talk the talk, he walks the walk. And at so many different times he has been there doing just that.

So, JIM, we admire your service. You have demonstrated here—and we do not understand perhaps well enough—that you can speak with a quiet and soft voice, but you speak with a great passion and a compelling argument, and with a simplicity and effectiveness that has enriched and enhanced the quality of life and opportunity, particularly for children but also for all Americans. It is a distinguished career, and it is one I know that you should be—and are—proud of. All of us have had our own lives enriched and inspired because of our friendship with you and the type of Senator you have been.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I add my voice to my colleagues who have spoken and those who will speak in thanking our

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wonderful friend from Vermont for his remarkable service to our country.

I begin as well by thanking his family, Elizabeth and the children, as well as the people of Vermont, as Senator Kennedy has said so eloquently.

Let me also include in enumeration his wonderful staff people, over the years, who have been very much a part of JIM's family. In fact, I note from the interns to senior staff people, everyone refers to him not as "Senator" or "Mr. Chairman"—but just "JIM." That is certainly a symbol of the kind of relationship he has had with his constituents and with his congressional family over the years.

I have had the privilege of serving my entire time in the Senate—in the Congress—with this remarkable person from Vermont. We arrived in the House of Representatives on the very same day, 32 years ago. As JIM pointed out, he had that neck brace on, and I had a head of black hair. We have aged over those three decades. But my respect for JIM JEFFORDS has only grown.

He has taught us America will listen to you even if your voice is soft. His achievements in the Senate and the House are the envy of all who wish to improve a quality of life in this great country of ours. JIM's body of work is truly admirable.

But it looks even more admirable when you remind yourself that it was all the doing of a man unpretentious enough to be fond of mismatched socks, frugal enough to spend his earliest days in Washington sleeping in a parked van, and humble enough to be universally known, as I've said, as just "JIM." The people of Vermont returned him to office over and over again on the strength of his plainspoken integrity and his indefatigable Yankeeness. That's what JIM brought to this body of discussion; and that was more than enough.

JIM came to Washington knowing what he wanted to accomplish, and his success is clear to us today. No one has worked with more dedication for a clean environment. JIM was an environmentalist practically before we had a word for it. In fact, he got his start in the Vermont State Senate in the 1960s, fighting the efforts of the papermills to pour sludge right into Lake Champlain. He was a long-time nuclear watchdog and among six Congressmen to found the Congressional Solar Coalition years ago. It is telling that when he had his pick of chairmanships, Senator JIM JEFFORDS chose the Environment and Public Works Committee. Perhaps most important, he helped clean up the air we

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breathe. He mentioned it briefly. But the work of John Chafee, George Mitchell, and JIM JEFFORDS truly created the great Clean Air Act of 1990, a huge accomplishment. I want to thank JIM immensely for the tremendous effort he made years ago in improving the quality of air in this country. If he had done nothing else in 32 years, that alone would have been a significant achievement. Of course, his body of work is far more than that.

Like JIM's dedication to the environment, his work for children who have special education needs is decades long. In 1976, he was essential to the passage of legislation guaranteeing local school districts that the Federal Government would pay 40 percent of the costs of educating the disabled. And if that guarantee remains unfunded today, never let it be said that it was for lack of JIM's passionate work.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention of Tom Harkin, another fellow classmate of 1974, working with JIM and many others who cared about this issue over the years. No one contributed more to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act than JIM JEFFORDS. Few Senators are as tied to special education, and that is a title to be very proud of. It has been my honor to work along with him in the House and the Senate on the issues that meant the most to him—on after school programs, on higher education, and, most especially, to secure funding for IDEA.

In Vermont, commitment to education is a long-standing tradition. Right in the middle of the Civil War, we built the dome on the Capitol to show our determination to keep this Union together; but we showed it in another way, too. A Senator from Vermont by the name of Justin Smith Morrill created the land grant colleges—the University of Connecticut is one; there are many all across the country—and his work was one more demonstration of the remarkable people who come from that State of Vermont to help build this country, defend this country, and secure this country for our children. Senators Stafford and Morrill passed on that proud tradition, and Senator JEFFORDS stands in its forefront today.

JIM has taught at every opportunity the difference between education as a privilege and education as a right. It is a right, and its worth is measured in our willingness to educate even—especially—where it is inconvenient.

There weren't many Senators shier than JIM JEFFORDS, but there wasn't a single one fuller of quiet purpose and courage. Politics was always a means to JIM's purpose—never the other way around. And the way JIM practiced poli-

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tics, the way he spent his power, was never calculated to bring him money, or fame, or even particularly glamour. It was only the quiet satisfaction of a job very well done.

That is what I think of when I recall the more than three decades of our service together. But, to tell the truth, through all those 30 years I had a privileged seat right here with him. Those without that vantage point are probably going to remember, first of all, something very different. We all know how JIM crossed this aisle for good 5 years ago, and how he has served as an Independent ever since. JIM entered the national spotlight full of honest regret, and fully aware of how difficult his choice was for colleagues, his staff, and his supporters.

I saw JIM up close as he struggled with a decision as few men or women ever have to. But whatever one thinks of it, there is a fact beyond dispute, which all of us appreciate in this body: JIM JEFFORDS has never followed anyone but his conscience.

If we insist, 5 years later, on reasoning out the need in votes or dollars or any other measure of practicality, we only reveal our failure to understand what that man did on the day he made his choice. Sometimes what goes on in this Chamber cannot be reasoned away. JIM taught us that, too.

So, I would like to close with a happy thought. Two years before the American Revolution, Edmund Burke gave a speech on the relationship between a Representative and those whom he tries to represent.

> It is his duty,

said Burke,

> to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions, to theirs; and above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own. But his unbiased opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man, or to any set of men living. These he does not derive from your pleasure; no, nor from the law and the constitution. They are a trust from Providence.

Jim, you have kept your trust over these many years, in both the Senate and public life, in your State and in the Congress. We send you back to Vermont with your work in the Senate accomplished, with your conscience still clean, and with our best wishes to you and your lovely family. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it took an act of courage for JIM JEFFORDS to declare himself an Independent. It took an

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act of courage for a lifelong Red Sox fan to quote a New York Yankee in his farewell address to the Senate.

JIM JEFFORDS is an extraordinary public servant. Fewer than 2,000 men and women in the history of the United States of America have served in the Senate. We all understand the great privilege of being in this body representing our great States. But people are not noted in the history of the Senate for longevity alone. People are noted for singular acts of courage. And when it comes to JIM JEFFORDS, his public career has been a singular act of courage.

I hail from the State of Abraham Lincoln, where he lived most of his adult life, and where we claimed him as part of our national heritage. When I think of JIM JEFFORDS and the political party he identifies with more than any other name, I will say he identifies with the party of that great leader Abraham Lincoln who stood up for principles often against public and popular will.

This last week, *Time* magazine noted they were going to designate Senator JIM JEFFORDS of Vermont as "Person of the Week." They said in his one principled decision to become an Independent, "He demonstrated to the White House and the United States Senate that revolutionaries often come in surprising packages."

We all know what happened after JIM made his decision to become an Independent. He told me about walking home to his apartment at night down Pennsylvania Avenue. And people who were outside restaurants and cafes would stop and stand and start to applaud, and JIM would be startled by it at first. But he received more recognition than he, I am sure, expected. A lot of it came in positive terms; some in negative terms. People wanted to name their babies after him.

In Burlington, VT—I think this is probably the greatest tribute a politician could ever expect—they named a beer after him—"Jeezum Jim" they called it. I hope it was a popular brew because he has been a popular Senator.

When they asked him why he changed his affiliation to become an Independent, he replied very simply: "It is all about education." I remember it well, because I know that was the deciding factor.

Your commitment to particularly those students who struggled with disabilities, students who have these difficulties, your commitment to those kids led you to this decision. Many of us make these decisions on votes on the floor. But as has been said, for JIM JEFFORDS education went way be-

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yond a vote or a speech. Several years ago, he established this tutoring program in Washington, DC, encouraging us, as Members of Congress, the House and the Senate, to walk just a few blocks from here, as he did so many times, to tutor the inner-city youth of Washington, DC.

He is a true Vermonter and a true Independent. When we look at his record, he was the only House Republican who voted against the Reagan tax cut because he was afraid it would lead to dangerous deficits. How right he was. In 1993, he was the only Republican Senator to cosponsor President Clinton's health care plan. He worked for years for regulation of tobacco by the Food and Drug Administration, a goal which I share with the Senator. And he sponsored the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, banning employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Some politicians in their career find ways to divide us. JIM JEFFORDS always looked for ways to bring us together. A strong supporter of Federal funding for AIDS research and the arts, justifiably proud of the role he played in passing the Work Incentives Improvement Act, and, of course, his record on the environment is without parallel.

I know historians will also record all these accomplishments and courageous battles when they write about JIM JEFFORDS. On July 4, 2001, several weeks after he made his decision to become an Independent, he sat down at his home in Vermont and wrote these words:

> I hope my decision will move the two parties to the center, where the American people are. The American people want an active, responsible, Federal Government.

He went on to say:

> There seems to be a hunger in this country for heroes, especially for the political variety.

Not only with this one historic act of conscience but throughout his career in the House and the Senate, in public life JIM JEFFORDS has been a living example of these hopes and beliefs. I am proud to have been able to serve with him. I am proud to count him as one of my colleagues, even prouder to count him as a friend.

I thank his family for giving him this opportunity to serve and giving this wonderful man to public life.

I thank you, JIM JEFFORDS, for all you have meant.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

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Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is, indeed, a privilege to be here this morning to personally hear the words of our good friend, Senator JEFFORDS, and to hear other Senators get up and talk about JIM in such glowing terms.

However, I must say that all the years I have known JIM JEFFORDS, he is an old-fashioned New Englander, which means he is very modest. That means he is embarrassed to receive this kind of praise and adulation. Senator JEFFORDS will just have to endure it because we love you, we respect you, we admire you, and you are one of the most beloved Members of the Senate.

Thirty-two years ago, we came together in the House. You talked about that. Our colleague, Chris Dodd, was in that class, and also my colleague from Iowa, Senator Grassley. I didn't know Senator JEFFORDS at that time, obviously. We had just come in as freshmen Members. I found myself on the Committee on Agriculture with Senator JEFFORDS. We both sat down at the end. He was on one side and I was on the other side because we were just freshmen.

We had a farm bill coming up. After a few weeks on the Agriculture Committee, we dubbed Senator JEFFORDS "the Senator from Dairy." He was tenacious in fighting for his dairy farmers of Vermont and, of course, New England. Those from Iowa and Minnesota and Wisconsin—we had dairy farmers, too, and there was, shall I say, a little bit of a conflict in how we viewed the world of milk and dairy. That was my first experience with Senator JEFFORDS because we had to work things out. And we did. That was the first time I got to see the kind of person JIM JEFFORDS is and always has been. He was tenacious in fighting for his dairy farmers but willing to understand that we all have to live together; somehow we have to seek our compromises. And we did. We reached a compromise and we moved the legislation forward. That was the first time I came to really know and respect JIM JEFFORDS.

As we moved ahead in agriculture, I found another area in which I respected and admired Senator JEFFORDS. That was the area of environment and conservation. In those days, people were thinking mostly about all the commodity programs, how much money we could get in the commodity programs. We were all protecting our interests. I was protecting my Iowa interests and Senator JEFFORDS was protecting his Vermont interests.

However, conservation transcended everything. That began back in the late 1970s, in the House Agriculture Committee.

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We began the move toward more conservation in our farm bills, which led to more of a "greening" of America. He did that work also on Environment and Public Works. When I think about the environment, cleaning up the environment—clean water, clean lakes, clean streams—I have to think of JIM JEFFORDS. He was there at the beginning.

Then in 1975, on the Committee on Education, JIM JEFFORDS coauthored what later became the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I was not on the Committee on Education, but because of my family and because of my intense interest in disability rights, especially as it pertained to the hard-of-hearing and the deaf, I learned about this bill with JIM JEFFORDS and with Paul Simon—at that time, Senator Simon—and sort of stuck my nose in their business, if you don't mind my saying that, because I was not on the committee. I talked about how we had to help do some of these things. My focus was narrow at that time, just in hard-of-hearing and deafness at that time. My great respect for Senator JEFFORDS, or JIM, at that time grew because he was focused on how we make sure every kid in America gets an education, make sure kids with disabilities were mainstream, make sure they got the support in our schools.

It was Senator JEFFORDS who made sure that in the bill we passed, the Federal Government committed itself to providing at least 40 percent of the additional costs to States and local communities in educating kids with disabilities. Forty percent was the goal we set in the bill Senator JEFFORDS coauthored in 1975.

That moves me up to the year 2001. In the year 2001, the budget came from the White House, President Bush's budget, which severely underfunded our commitment to increasing funding. We have never reached 40 percent. I think the highest we have been is 18 percent. We have never gotten the 40 percent. Senator JEFFORDS wanted to move that up. Yet the budget came down and had a severe cut in the funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. That is when Senator JEFFORDS said no, he wanted to make sure that money was in there. That happened, mostly, on the Republican side of the aisle. I was not privy to all of that. That is when Senator JEFFORDS made his declaration of independence. A matter of conscience—he could not turn his back on all these years of moving our society forward to educating kids with disabilities in our schools and then all of a sudden say: No, we are going to turn the clock back; we are not going to do it. He wanted to keep moving forward. The budg-

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et would not allow it; he fought hard for it. Based upon the fact that the administration would not move on that, he declared his independence and became an Independent and left his party. We can all imagine how wrenching that must be, to leave the party that nurtured us, that we grew up with, that supported us all our adult life. It is a matter of conscience. You can read about it in his book, "My Declaration of Independence."

After that, I invited Senator JEFFORDS to come out to speak at the steak fry I have in Iowa every year. It was after the book came out. I will never forget the scene. We had thousands of people. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. Thousands of people came to meet this person, to hear him and to hear his message. They had all these little books they were waving, "My Declaration of Independence."

He had a wonderful message. His message was: don't ever turn our back on making sure every child in America has a decent education. It was a simple, straightforward message. But you should read his book.

Senator Kennedy mentioned another thing about Senator JEFFORDS that not too many people know about; that is, his support for a program called "Everybody Wins." He brought it here to Washington in the late 1990s and then began badgering us to participate in it in his usual tenacious manner. So he got a lot of us hooked on it.

It is every Tuesday. I see Senator Kennedy goes about every Tuesday; JIM, of course, goes all the time; I go every Tuesday we are here, as do a lot of staff members. We go to Brent Elementary School. We read to a child for 1 hour every Tuesday. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I know for everyone who participates in it. In fact, we now talk about JIM as being sort of the Johnny Appleseed of this movement because now it is starting in other States. We took the idea to Iowa, and now it is sprouting in Iowa. Other States and businesses are involved. "Everybody Wins" is now moving around the country. Senator Kennedy said: Senator JEFFORDS doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk. When he brought it here, he was there every week reading to kids and getting us to go down and read to them, also.

I have in my office a big picture, my favorite picture. It is a big picture taken at Tiananmen Square, a picture we all will remember of the young man holding a little briefcase, a young student holding a briefcase. There is a line of tanks. He is standing in front of the tanks, and the tanks have all stopped. To those of us who have seen the video of this, the

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tanks were coming down the street, the student went out in the street, he stopped, the tanks turned to go one direction and he moved over a few steps, then the tanks moved another direction to get around, and he moved over and stood there. Finally, the tanks stopped right in front of him. A hatch popped open, and a military guy got out and looked at him and stood there for a few minutes. The tanks all stopped, and then the young man turned and walked off the street.

A lot of people I talk to about that picture—did they ever know who he was? No, they never did find out his name. But I gave them the name. I call him JIM JEFFORDS. To me, that young man who did that represents the JIM JEFFORDS of the world, willing to stand on principle no matter what the odds are. No matter what is coming at them, they are willing to stand on principle.

So after 32 years, we will miss this soft-spoken and self-effacing New Englander who has a spine of steel. After 32 years, Senator JEFFORDS, you have left your mark: education, job training, disability rights, the environment and, lest we forget, the dairy farmers of New England, who will never forget JIM JEFFORDS.

Jim, we are going to miss you, your kindness, your leadership, your courage, your generosity of spirit, and your example. Know that our love, our admiration, our respect, and our best wishes go with you and with Elizabeth and your family. Know that you have left our Nation and the world a mark for all of us to follow in how to make our Nation and our world a better place.

Senator JEFFORDS, JIM, Godspeed. Come back now and then. Come back on the floor. Retired Senators have the privilege of coming to the floor. Come back on the floor and remind us why we are here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this is a very poignant morning for so many. I am so glad I have been able to arrange my schedule to be here to listen to my colleagues and friends, whom I deeply respect, and to listen to the great Senator from Vermont, JIM JEFFORDS.

If I might say how blessed I have been, I got here in 1993 and went right to the Environment and Public Works Com-

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mittee. I met JIM there, and now I get to sit next to him in the Senate. I got to know his staff.

We are going to miss you. But, JIM, I must say, you made a beautiful speech today. And in listening to Tom Harkin talk about you and explain that you have always been motivated by what is right for the people, if ever you could take an opportunity to tout your accomplishments, it is when you say goodbye. People would say that is fair. But you did not do that. You did not say: This year I passed this legislation and this bill. The rest of us have been lauding your accomplishments, but it is just like you, instead, to talk about this country you love so much. And you cite to us what our challenges are. And, of course, they continue to be the challenges you have taken up: education, the environment, fiscal responsibility, war and peace. You have left a roadmap for us, and for that we are very grateful.

I mentioned that I was sworn in in 1993. That was the so-called year of the women, where we tripled the number of women in the Senate. That sounds great, but it was from two to six. We were still a very strong minority. Our leader, Barbara Mikulski, the dean of the women here, always taught us, from day one—she said: You are going to have to work with the men because they control things here, and you are going to find that among these many men there are many Sir Galahads.

Jim, you are Sir Galahad. You have been a wonderful friend to us, treating us, from the minute we walked in, as equals and colleagues. We are very grateful to you for that.

I am not going to talk a long time at all. But I want to talk about three things quickly. One is, I went to your State of Vermont this last weekend. I had been there before and always marveled at how beautiful it is, but I was taken with it again.

Now, coming from California, we have our beautiful places, believe me. So I have come to appreciate beautiful places. We overlooked Lake Champlain when we were there. Knowing that you worked so hard to make that lake clean and beautiful, thank you for that. There is so much history there, JIM, that you have also helped to preserve—you and Patrick Leahy, and so many others who came before.

But what struck me about Vermont as much as the beauty are the incredible people in your State, how involved they are. It is that old New England townhall type of quality. They get it. They are involved. They love you, JIM. They love

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you. When I mentioned your name, oh, my goodness, the roars came up. You could hear it blocks away.

People love you here and they love you in Vermont. And your family loves you. As you said, you are blessed, as we are blessed in your presence.

The second point is your family and how much they care about you. They are so proud of you. I know how hard it was for them when you declared your independence. It rocked their world, just as it rocked your world, and just as it rocked the country. But when you do something for the right reasons, it all works out. And you did something for the right reasons, for the people of this country.

The last thing I want to say to you is, we do not know how things will work out this November, but either way, I will be taking a larger role on the committee you love, the Environment and Public Works Committee, where you have been an extraordinary leader. You have given us a roadmap on how to fight global warming—a huge challenge we face. We cannot turn away from it because if we do, we are neglecting our responsibility. You, thank goodness, have written a bill that will show us the way.

So I am here today not only to wish you well in your retirement, and joy with your family, but to tell you that I am going to follow your leadership on global warming. I am excited about the challenge. And because of the love your colleagues feel for you, I hope you will come back here, as Tom Harkin said, to help me with that because we are going to have to move and get going on it.

Mr. President, thank you very much. And thanks to our colleagues for giving us this time we need to pay tribute to an extraordinary Senator, one who will be missed but never forgotten.

Thank you very much. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I have to start off anything I say—and I will be short—about JIM JEFFORDS with the word "friendship," based upon his unbelievable qualities of kindness, of goodness, of steadfastness, being the same person every day under any circumstance.

We sit together. We have sat together for quite a long time on the floor of the Senate. And we talk a lot. I have the honor of talking with his staff, too, a superb staff, who adores him.

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The business of friendship in the Senate is underpracticed. If you know JIM JEFFORDS, then you know why you should take more time to know your colleagues better. Because the fact is—although it has been more so recently—it is not your politics or your party that determines how you vote, but your conscience and your sense of a moral compass that guides you. In that practice, you have to think of JIM JEFFORDS.

He is an extraordinarily wonderful human being. He has got a ferocious sense of humor, which is always delivered very quietly. And yet he is deep, he is profound, he sort of looks like Vermont: chiseled; his nose is just the right shape. And, of course, he talks that way. But he is humble, not because he wants to be, just because he is. Nothing about his record is humble. But his nature is humble. He is gentle; and he really is. He listens, does not interrupt, does not insist on his point of view—except when it counts, and then he is unmovable.

All of the subjects he has concentrated on—children, the environment, many other things that have been mentioned—there is also the matter of post-traumatic stress disorder. On the Veterans Committee, which is the one committee where I do get to—not the only committee, but I get to sit with him on that committee—he has been a champion of something which Americans still do not really understand; and that is, the ferocious nature of being wounded in war these days—an Iraqi improvised explosive device that implants shards of metal into people that will remain there for the rest of their lives; the whole question of how does somebody rehabilitate a life? And what is the VA doing about that? JIM is all over that subject.

When he switched parties to be an Independent, woe be the person who said: Switch parties from Republican to Democrat—no—Republican to Independent. And, yes, he got an enormous amount of cheering and praise based upon his moral compass. He also got a lot of death threats. Life was very hard for him for a period of time. So he understood that was going to happen. But with JIM JEFFORDS, the moral compass always prevails. I think it is one of the reasons all of us here respect him so, admire him so, look to him as to what the Senate ought to be.

I had never heard the word "ANWR" until it was explained to me by Senator JEFFORDS. He was there early because he was thinking, as always, of our children and grandchildren, and, as they say, their children too. We always take it one generation too far, but it is true.

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Alternative fuels. Will the history books write about JIM JEFFORDS on alternative fuels? Yes, they will. Do people generally in the Senate or elsewhere know that he has spent a career working on that? Probably not.

Our air; they know about that. The groundwater; they probably know about that. But his work on alternative fuels is one of the most important things he's done.

Title I, Head Start, improving the lives of children, all of that has been talked about—Senator Harkin talked about, in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—he has always been looking ahead. Does that make him a Good Samaritan? Does that mean he is a do-gooder or does it mean that he does good? It is the second. He does what is comfortable to him and what he feels is just for the people he serves, not only in Vermont but across the United States of America.

The work he has done with post-traumatic stress disorder is awesome in terms of those of us on the Veterans Committee. He is justifiably proud of the research and work done by Vermont's White River Junction Veterans' Administration Hospital to help veterans who are struggling, as they truly are, not just with the postwar physical problems of being wounded, but the psychological problems of that, as well.

He has never sought the limelight, and he does not care about the limelight. He has been elected time after time probably partly because of that. Because he is not like so many other people who run for public office who want to tick off everything they have done. He is JIM JEFFORDS. And with JIM JEFFORDS comes a certain set of principles, a certain set of commitments to people. The people of Vermont have understood that over the years. So he has not had to promote himself in ways that others have to do.

JIM has always had extraordinarily deep passions and convictions, but, at the same time, he has been a paragon of civility and humbleness. JIM has a gentle voice, but his resolve and commitment to stand up for vulnerable children, veterans in need, and our environment is assertive and strong.

Throughout his career, JIM has made some very tough personal decisions. Take his decision to switch parties to be an Independent in the summer of 2001. Regardless which party you are a member of, I think all of us would agree that given the fact that his move fundamentally changed the governing structure of the Senate, it truly was a profile in courage. Time and time again, JIM has been willing to take risks for

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his beliefs, and he deserves our respect and admiration for such independence.

In terms of public service, JIM JEFFORDS has lived a life that many aspire to. He has spent nearly every day of his life working to make the lives of people better. In the 1950s, he served in the U.S. Navy, and until 1990 he was in the Naval Reserve, where he retired as a captain. In the 1960s, he began his political service, first as a Vermont State Senator, then as Vermont's Attorney General, and then, in the wake of the Watergate scandal, he became one of the very few Republicans elected to Congress in 1974.

JIM has been a true steward of the environment. Long before many of us knew what ANWR was, he was fighting to preserve the environment for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. He has been at the forefront of fighting to make sure our air and ground water are safe for our citizens, and he has fought for the use of alternative fuels. His efforts have truly cut a trailblazing path for many generations to come.

Over the years, JIM and I have worked on many issues together, and I am particularly proud of what we have done for our students and for our veterans. He understands how important it is to make sure that our citizens get started on the right foot. He believes that the first years of a child's life are absolutely critical in the life and future of that person, and that is why he has worked so hard to push for greater funding for Head Start and other early education programs. And that is why he has worked on Title I—to help low-performing students, who disproportionately live in the rural areas that make up much of West Virginia and Vermont, achieve the standards they must meet.

That sort of Good Samaritan principle has always guided JIM's life and career. He has been extraordinary in advocating for those whose needs are often forgotten. In fact, perhaps no American living today and certainly no American legislator—I want to echo here what Senator Harkin has said—has done more to advance the educational success of those with disabilities. Almost from his arrival in Congress, JIM took extraordinary steps because he believed that the needs of others simply could not wait. In 1975, as a House freshman, JIM co-authored what would later be known as the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. IDEA serves as a Federal commitment to give students with disabilities a better education.

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It was an extraordinary legislative achievement, one that had even greater implications in terms of setting a moral baseline imperative that we must meet the needs of those who live difficult lives. JIM has worked, not for the well-heeled or the heavy-hitting lobbyist—he has tirelessly worked for the people who truly need help.

I have also been proud to serve with JIM on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. He has been an important voice in calling for compassionate care for our veterans, especially those veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

We both have States with a very large number of soldiers and veterans, and we both know how important it is for our soldiers and veterans to have the health care they have earned and deserve. The two of us have been allies in pushing for greater funding and resources to help our soldiers with PTSD, and I know that JIM is justifiably proud of the research and work by Vermont's White River Junction to help veterans struggling with PTSD.

JIM JEFFORDS has never sought the limelight—he has sought results. He has always done his work in the words of Shakespeare, "with the modest stillness and humility that becomes any human." But when one looks back at his record, you can see that the modest man from Shrewsbury, VT, has left his mark on virtually every piece of education, job training, and disability legislation over the past quarter century. It is difficult to determine how many people JIM's efforts have helped, but if it were possible to quantify his efforts, I know we would find that hundreds of thousands of lives have been improved because of his actions in Vermont and across the country.

The Senate this year is losing a treasure, a man who in the best tradition of the Senate has never been afraid of taking a heroic, principled stand without having to make a lot of noise. Sharon and I are personally losing good friends in JIM and his wife Liz. And Americans all over the country are losing one of the most dedicated fighters for the basic rights that too many disadvantaged people are shortchanged on. I wish my friend well in his retirement.

I close with the sadness of losing in our body somebody such as Senator JEFFORDS. People go to him. People are comforted by his presence. People are emboldened by his nature. They see what it is he does not say to promote himself or his ideas, and somehow they are attracted to those ideas because they understand if it comes out of JIM JEFFORDS, it is good for the public.

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So I think of his family too, I say to Senator Boxer, and I think of how proud they must be. I also think of just myself, to be honest, how sad I am going to be not being able to sit next to JIM JEFFORDS and share his humor and to look upon his greatness—not just his nose, but his greatness: the classic Vermonter, the classic New Englander. He has been so incredibly good for the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary career of Senator JIM JEFFORDS.

For the past 32 years, JIM JEFFORDS has served the citizens of Vermont and the American people with integrity, intellectual honesty, and diligence. When faced with the choice between political convenience or protecting the interests of his constituents, JIM JEFFORDS always stood for Vermont and the concerns of hard-working Americans. When others decided to do what was popular in Washington or among the chattering classes, JIM remained true to his values. He has been a model of principled leadership, often ahead of his time.

Long before protecting our environment and precious natural resources occupied America's consciousness, JIM was leading on these issues. Working across party lines throughout his career, including as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, JIM JEFFORDS urged the President to strengthen antipollution measures, investigated the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, and promoted increased fuel efficiency. During his time in the U.S. Senate he introduced the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act, the High-Performance Green Buildings Act, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investment Act.

JIM JEFFORDS has never lost sight of his constituents and their needs. He loyally stood by farmers in Vermont and all over the Nation when he fought President Bush's dairy tax, extended MILC, the Milk Income Loss Contracts Program, and supported the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act.

JIM JEFFORDS has also committed his career to improving education, which he has treated as one of the great callings of our time. Speaking at a Rally for Education in 2002, JIM JEFFORDS said of education funding that "it is not an option, it is a necessity, for our children, for our schools and for the future of our great Nation." JIM JEFFORDS championed the Head Start Program, increased funding for elementary, secondary, and higher education, and sponsored the Better Education for Students and Teachers Act. He has also provided

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unwavering support to American children with disabilities that face a unique set of challenges in navigating our education system. Even as a freshman Congressman some 30 years ago, JIM JEFFORDS managed to marshal his colleagues in order to pass the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Senator JEFFORDS and his capable staff. His office and his standards of professionalism inspire great respect.

On a personal level, I continue to admire a public servant who has so consistently followed his conscience. *Time* magazine recognized JIM JEFFORDS as the "Person of the Week" for his "revolutionary" party switch in 2001. I do not believe that JIM necessarily set out to start a revolution; rather he invoked what might be considered a revolutionary idea to some in Washington: government ought to serve the concerns and interests of ordinary Americans instead of catering to fringe groups or election year antics. In hindsight, most will hail JIM JEFFORDS's principled decision to switch parties, though I know the decision was a difficult one for him and strained his relationship with many in this body. But JIM JEFFORDS did what he thought was right, and I applaud his courage and his example of leadership.

So I thank Senator JEFFORDS not only for his lifetime of service and accomplishments but for having raised the bar for all of us.

I wish JIM JEFFORDS and his family many happy years ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their very generous and kind comments. Their remarks remind me—all of us—the Senate is a family. I also thank my colleagues for their friendship. I am honored to be able to serve with you, especially you, I say to Senator Rockefeller.

You have been very kind to me over the years. I have followed your guidance, and it has been good. I thank all of my colleagues for their friendship and am honored to serve with you. And as I go forward—I don't know—I am going to wonder why I am going forward and not just staying with you.

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Mr. President, now I guess we should proceed with the process that is normal. I thank the leader.

FRIDAY, *September 29, 2006*

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, unfortunately, when Congress meets again in January 2007, this Chamber and our Nation will be without the services of our esteemed colleague, Senator JIM JEFFORDS.

Senator JEFFORDS has announced that he is retiring so he may spend more time with his lovely wife Elizabeth. May I make clear that Elizabeth's gain is the Senate's loss.

For 32 years, JIM JEFFORDS has proudly and superbly represented his beautiful State of Vermont and our great country in the U.S. Congress.

From 1975 to 1988, he was Vermont's lone Member in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now having served three terms in the Senate, he has decided to retire. I regret his departure. He is a Senator I have admired. He is a Senator I respected since he first came to this Chamber.

Through his hard work and his dedication to this institution, he has helped to make the Senate a better place. For that I have been grateful and thankful. He is a polite, friendly, mild-mannered man whom it is always pleasant to be around. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who has never failed to demonstrate his love for our great country.

This Senator is a great American who possesses a passion to do the right thing no matter what the consequence. He is a U.S. Senator who has always displayed a reverence for this institution, the Senate of the United States.

While he has a natural, easygoing manner, he is a Senator who will work feverishly, who will work tirelessly for the causes in which he believes. Seldom has the Senate seen a stronger or more avid defender of the environment. He was one of the founders of the Congressional Solar Coalition. He has chaired the House Environment Study Conference and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. In Congress, he has constantly sought to broaden and to strengthen the power of the Environmental Protection Agency, and he has worked to ensure that important agency does its job.

His efforts to protect our environment have earned him recognition and awards from a number of environmental organizations, including the prestigious Sierra Club.

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Senator JEFFORDS has been one of the Senate's foremost promoters of the rights of disabled Americans. Senator JEFFORDS has worked to open opportunities for them. He is coauthor of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. For his efforts on behalf of disabled Americans, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, NMSS, honored him as its "Senator of the Year."

Senator JEFFORDS has been a promoter of the arts. He was a cofounder of the Congressional Arts Caucus, and not long ago as head of the Senate committee that oversees the National Endowment for the Arts, Senator JEFFORDS—yes, Senator JEFFORDS—was able to block a House effort to abolish the NEA.

Senator JEFFORDS has been one of the Senate's biggest and best promoters of education. I have read some criticisms of Senator JEFFORDS for his continuous efforts to seek more and more funding for educational programs for America's youth, America's young people, especially special educational programs. He has even been accused of "bartering his vote" on legislation for his own pet educational projects. I think this was probably meant as a criticism. If it were, I am sure that it is a criticism that Senator JEFFORDS wears with pride.

I don't think there is anything more important to Senator JEFFORDS than seeing that all of America's children have every opportunity to fulfill their educational pursuits. For this, he certainly has my respect and my admiration. I applaud him. Yes, I applaud Senator JEFFORDS.

Throughout his congressional career, Senator JEFFORDS, son of a chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court and graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, has always displayed an independence of spirit, an independence of spirit for which he has been labeled a loose cannon. Knowing Senator JEFFORDS as I do, I know that his independence stems from an unrelenting determination to place doing the right thing above political or personal interest.

While in the House of Representatives, Senator JEFFORDS was the only Republican to vote against President Reagan's tax cut bill because he charged it would increase the national deficit. And it did. In the Senate, he was one of two Republicans who voted against President Bush's first round of tax cuts because those cuts were irresponsible and favored the wealthy. Senator JEFFORDS was the only Republican Senator to cosponsor President Clinton's effort to overhaul our national health care system.

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I remember Senator JEFFORDS for being 1 of only 23 Senators who voted against going to war in Iraq. I have been in this Senate 48 years this year. I have cast 17,752 rollcall votes. I will say it again, 17,752 rollcall votes. And of all these votes—I have said it before—I am most proud of that particular vote, the vote against that arrogant and reckless charge to war in Iraq.

The Constitution says Congress shall have the power to declare war. It does not say that "one person," it does not say that the President of the United States, be he Republican or Democrat, shall have the power to declare war.

So, 23 Senators, including Robert Byrd and JIM JEFFORDS, voted to uphold the Constitution of the United States. That was the greatest vote ever cast in my 48 years in the Senate. If we only had more Senators with the courage, the determination and the character of JIM JEFFORDS, we might have avoided becoming involved in the bloody mess in which we now find ourselves in Iraq—with no end in sight. The Senate needs more Members like JIM JEFFORDS.

In September 2000, *Congressional Quarterly* included a nice profile of Senator JEFFORDS. That article discussed his willingness to take independent positions even on the most partisan issues. It also discussed his black belt in the martial arts and how he had joined with other esteemed colleagues—Senators Lott, Craig, and Ashcroft—to form that magnificent vocal group "The Singing Senators." *Congressional Quarterly* pointed out that Senator JEFFORDS "calls his own tunes," and I say he does. He calls his own tunes.

Eight months later, *CQ* proved prophetic. In May 2001 came an event for which Senator JEFFORDS will often be remembered in his 32 years in Congress, the event that he has called his own personal "declaration of independence." He followed his conscience and followed the path best for him. As I said before, we need more Senators like JIM JEFFORDS.

I am sorry to have to say goodbye to this unassuming, fiercely independent man. As much as I would prefer that he stay, I understand and I respect his wishes.

I wish Senator JEFFORDS and his lovely wife Elizabeth the blessing of Almighty God as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

Mr. ENZI. . . . Mr. President, as the session draws to a close and we complete the consideration of the bills before us by casting our final votes of the session, I rise to express my gratitude and best wishes to one of our colleagues who will

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be retiring when the final gavel brings to a close the current session of Congress.

JIM JEFFORDS, my good friend from Vermont, has decided to return home so that he can spend more time with his family. Although I will miss him, as will we all, I understand the reasons for his departure. There is nothing more important than family and the bonds between us and our children—and grandchildren—are stronger than any other in our life.

As the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I will miss JIM's good ideas, his commitment to making a difference, and his strong determination to make our education and health care systems operate more effectively and efficiently. He was an important presence on the committee and he and his staff were always willing to work long and hard on the initiatives they proposed to help make our Nation a better place for us all to live.

Looking back, 1974 was a good year for both JIM and me. I was elected to my first term as mayor of Gillette, WY, and JIM was elected to his first term in the House of Representatives. We both took office full of great hopes and dreams as we looked forward to doing everything we could to make a difference in the lives of the people we were elected to serve.

From the beginning, JIM was very clear on his mission in Congress. He had come here to make sure that our most precious resource—our children—were well taken care of. For JIM, the issue of education was not something he took lightly. It was a commitment that came from his heart. He took the problems of our schools personally and he was determined to do something about them. He wanted everyone to have the same advantages in life that he had. That was his goal and it inspired him and drove his active involvement in the consideration of the education issues that would come before the House and the Senate.

JIM's passion for education not only drove his work on the subject in Congress, but it also led him in the years to come to serve as a tutor at a public school on Capitol Hill each week as part of a literacy program he created. That program reaches out to involve us all in supporting our public schools. Its philosophy is simple. Anyone can make a difference in our schools. All it takes is a little investment of our time and a willingness to share our talents with the students of a local school.

Not long after JIM had taken his oath of office in the House, he began working on what was to be one of his greatest successes, the Individuals with Disabilities Education

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Act, or IDEA as it has come to be known. Over the years IDEA has ensured that students with disabilities have equal access to a good education—and a promising future. Thanks to this landmark legislation those living with disabilities will receive the education, support and encouragement we all need to help us become all we can be and reach our full potential.

As he served in the House, JIM's commitment to working today to make things better for us all tomorrow led him to fight for meaningful environmental protections, a more effective and responsive health care system, and a sound fiscal budget that didn't overspend our present resources and leave a bill behind for future generations to pay.

That is the philosophy that directed and guided JIM when he ran for and won a seat in the Senate in 1988. It wasn't long after he had taken the oath of office for his new position that he began working on the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act—another part of his legislative passion that will continue to be a key part of his legacy in the Senate. Even though he had just begun his service in the Senate at the time, his good ideas and commitment to the protection and preservation of our natural resources made him an important part of the team that would write and promote this important bill.

No one was surprised that JIM was a key Member who was involved in so many difficult and important projects as soon as he arrived in the Senate. He preceded me as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and, under his leadership the committee took a close look at our schools and the quality of the education we provide our children. It considered how we might improve the training we provide our Nation's workers so that they might find and keep better and better jobs. And, it continued to look for ways that we might provide support and empower those living with disabilities so that all Americans are able to maximize their potential and live their own version of the American dream.

Back home, JIM has deep roots in his State that date back for generations. His father was a chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court and I am sure he learned a great deal about politics, life and the law from his Dad.

In addition, coming from Vermont, JIM has a great understanding of the challenges faced by small and rural States and the local industries they depend on to keep local and State economies healthy and strong. It has been said that

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JIM knows as much about the dairy industry as anyone directly involved in it in his State. He knows firsthand that the one-size-fits-all solutions that work well for the big States, all too often penalize the smaller ones and leave them without the support they need to address the same problems the large States face. In the years to come, when I think of JIM I will remember how he shared his dream of a better America with us. By daring us to dream, too, he encouraged us to work together so that the future would be a brighter one for us, our children and our grandchildren.

There is an old saying the Native Americans in Wyoming know well. We have not inherited the Earth from our ancestors, we are borrowing it from our children. It's a philosophy that JIM took to heart and put into practice every day during his many years of public service.

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 JIM JEFFORDS, from Vermont. Senator JEFFORDS, in his long, distinguished service to our country, served in the House of Representatives, and then served here in the Senate. He served our country in the U.S. Navy. JIM JEFFORDS's life has been about service.

I had an opportunity to get acquainted particularly with Senator JEFFORDS and work closely with him on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. There has been no one in this Senate over the last 25 years more committed to education for our young people than JIM JEFFORDS. We will miss JIM JEFFORDS. . . .

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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, 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 . . .

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Or JIM JEFFORDS, a former Navy captain, who has had so much to do with offering legislation for clean air and children with disabilities.

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 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

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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 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. Mr. President, most of us remember the tectonic shift that occurred in the Senate in 2001, in the month of May, when our colleague, JIM JEFFORDS, changed parties. He moved from being a Republican to becoming an Independent Senator and lined up with the Democratic Caucus. Never before had control of the Senate changed on the decision of one Senator.

It wasn't the first time JIM JEFFORDS had followed his conscience and made history. I can recall his alliance with my predecessor, Senator Paul Simon. At a time many years ago, in 1994, when Rwanda was facing a genocide, Paul Simon

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and JIM JEFFORDS were the two voices in the United States who stood up and called for the Clinton administration to do something to stop this genocide. Unfortunately, it did not occur and hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives. But that call to action by JIM JEFFORDS was just one of the achievements of his public career he can point to with pride.

During that genocide, he was the ranking Republican of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa. The chairman of that committee, Paul Simon, joined with him in that effort. Five weeks after the slaughter in Rwanda began, Senators Simon and JEFFORDS phoned Gen. Romeo Dallaire, head of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Kigali, and asked what he needed. The desperate general said he needed 5,000 American troops to stop the killing. Those two Senators, JEFFORDS and Simon, got on the phone, begging the White House to send the troops. They wrote in their common message:

> Obviously, there are risks involved, but we cannot sit by idly while this tragedy continues to unfold.

Senators JEFFORDS and Simon received no reply, and the killings continued. Hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women, and children were killed or maimed.

Later, Paul Simon would say:

> If every Member of the House and Senate had received 100 letters from people back home saying that we have to do something about Rwanda, when the crisis was first developing, then I think the response would have been different.

So many times I have stood on the floor of the Senate pleading for our Nation to intervene to stop the genocide in Darfur. Each time, I have thought about Paul Simon and JIM JEFFORDS. Had the President listened to them, hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda could have survived that genocide. It doesn't take a great deal of moral courage to follow your conscience when the world is on your side, but it is when you stand alone, knowing you may lose, and you follow your conscience anyway, that you demonstrate real moral courage.

Time and again in his public career, JIM JEFFORDS, the retiring Senator from Vermont, has shown that courage. He has been an unwavering champion of children and families with special needs, the environment, affordable health care for all Americans, and budget policies that are both compassionate and responsible. He believes in moderation, tolerance, and that the Federal Government be committed to protecting basic individual freedoms.

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Three years ago this week, Paul Simon died unexpectedly following heart surgery. At the end of this week, JIM JEFFORDS will be casting his last vote in the Senate. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life. Those of us who have had the privilege of working with JIM JEFFORDS, the new Senators who will join us soon, and those who will follow in years to come would do well to remember the moral courage of Senator JAMES JEFFORDS of Vermont. . . .

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. . . .

I also want to say farewell to my friend from Vermont, Senator JIM Jeffords—a true Yankee Independent and a real treasure. When I joined the Veterans' Affairs Committee with Senator JEFFORDS, I learned early on that he was an ally in standing up for America's veterans. I was always impressed with his willingness to listen to all sides of an issue, and when he spoke, I was always listening. I have admired his stewardship of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and I know that the Senate, the people of Vermont, and people across our country will miss his leadership and his experience—more than three decades of service. . . .

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. FEINGOLD. . . . Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator JIM JEFFORDS, a man who has honorably

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served Vermont and this country in the U.S. Senate since 1989. The people of Vermont have been fortunate to be represented by a man who is as principled and dedicated to serving our Nation's best interests as JIM JEFFORDS.

Senator JEFFORDS will long be remembered for his courage and conviction and for his bold decision to leave the Republican Party and become an Independent. Never straying from his principles and his commitment to representing the interests of his constituents, Senator JEFFORDS made this decision despite the consequences for him personally. He knew his decision would enable him to better serve the people of Vermont and this Nation. His conviction was also clear when he voted against authorizing the President to use force in Iraq. He has also been an unyielding voice for upholding civil liberties and seeking to eliminate discrimination in the workplace, and I greatly respect him for his outspoken leadership on these critically important issues.

I am proud to have worked with him on other widely ranging issues over the years. I want to particularly thank him for helping to pass the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and eliminate soft money. Senator JEFFORDS also played a crucial role in the effort to pass much-needed Army Corps of Engineers reforms. Debate over these reforms was contentious at times, and his work behind the scenes and on the floor was needed to win support for changing the way the Corps does business. In the next Congress we will work to build on Senator JEFFORDS's hard work and commitment to these important issues.

As chairman and ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, he has been committed to reforming our Nation's energy and environmental policies. He is a champion for our environment, and his leadership and expertise will be greatly missed. It is the responsibility of the next Congress to honor Senator JEFFORDS's legacy in this area by redoubling our efforts to protect the environment.

I was proud to work with Senator JEFFORDS on other critical issues as well. As a knowledgeable leader on education issues, having served as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, he pushed for reforms to the No Child Left Behind law. I was proud to work with him on efforts to support our military families and to cast votes alongside him to force Congress to be more fiscally responsible.

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Here in the Senate, we will miss JIM JEFFORDS's thoughtful leadership, his independence, and his friendship. He was a valued ally on so many issues, and I wish him all the best in his retirement. . . .

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. . . .

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. . . .

From 1956 to 1959, Senator JIM JEFFORDS served in the U.S. Navy. He later served in the Naval Reserves. In 1989, after JIM had served the citizens of Vermont in State positions and in the U.S. House of Representatives, JIM was elected to the U.S. Senate. In the Senate, I have been pleased to work closely with him, particularly in serving with him on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and on the Environment and Public Works Committee. JIM chaired both committees during his years in the Senate.

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While Senator JEFFORDS legislatively had many interests, I believe that improving the education of our children, particularly children with special needs, is the issue most dear to his heart. I remember him time and time again on the floor of the U.S. Senate pushing for increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. And, I remember joining him, and others, in pushing hard for mandatory IDEA funding after it became clear that the Congress would be unable to fulfill its funding commitment through the discretionary funding process. While, to date, we have not achieved full funding, it is without question that JIM JEFFORDS's Senate career has left a lasting, positive imprint that will improve America's education system for years to come. . . .

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, today I would like to take a moment to recognize my friend and colleague, JIM JEFFORDS, who after 32 years of distinguished service in Congress is retiring to spend more time with his family.

JIM JEFFORDS's family roots in Vermont can be traced all the way back to 1794. After attending public schools in Rutland, JIM received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He served in the U.S. Navy and retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve.

I have worked closely with JIM JEFFORDS for years on the Centrist Coalition. He is a good friend and someone I could always trust. JIM has always been independent-minded with a strong sense of integrity, a real commitment to fiscal responsibility, an unparalleled dedication to the environment, and a passion for improving education for our children. During his time in Congress, JIM JEFFORDS left his mark on some of the most important legislation this institution has passed, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the 2005 highway bill.

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In 2001, JIM JEFFORDS made a historic and difficult decision to switch his party affiliation to an Independent. He was never afraid to make tough decisions, and this one was no exception. It took courage to stand up against the rising tide, knowing that his decision would tip the balance in the Senate and set us on a new course.

JIM JEFFORDS embodies what it means to be a good Senator—honesty, a strong work ethic, courage, dedication, and being true to one's convictions. He is also thoughtful, modest, and soft spoken. With these character traits it is hard to believe that he has a black belt in tae kwon do.

JIM JEFFORDS has been a true fighter for Vermont. His compassion and conviction will be missed in the U.S. Senate. I wish JIM and his family many happy years ahead. . . .

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the great service of retiring Senators Paul Sarbanes, Mark Dayton, and JAMES JEFFORDS. . . .

I will also say a few words about Senator JEFFORDS.

Senator JEFFORDS has ably represented Vermonters here in the Congress for decades. In doing so, he has reflected the independent spirit of Vermonters, and no more so than when he took the courageous step in 2001 to become an Independent and caucus with the Democrats.

Since that time, I have had the great pleasure of working with Senator JEFFORDS on the Environment and Public Works Committee. His tenure at that committee was a fitting capstone to his career, as he has long been focused on environmental protection.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Senator JEFFORDS has been a strong advocate of renewable energy. In many ways, he has been ahead of his time. In 1990, he introduced a bill to promote ethanol and other alternative fuels, and nearly 10 years ago he introduced legislation to create a 20-percent renewable portfolio standard. During his tenure first as chairman, and then as ranking member of the EPW Committee, he has been a strong and clear voice for a cleaner environment.

He has been an ally and a champion of reducing pollution from powerplants, fighting global warming, and making our buildings more energy efficient. And he has worked hard to hold the administration to task for numerous rollbacks of our landmark environmental laws. During his tenure on the committee, Senator JEFFORDS has been ably assisted by a staff led by Ken Connolly and Alison Taylor. I thank them

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and Senator JEFFORDS's entire staff for their assistance to me and my staff.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the final EPW meeting this week, but I understand that Senator JEFFORDS announced that he is returning home to Vermont, and described home as "the place you can go where they have to take you in."

I know that Vermont will welcome Senator JEFFORDS back with open arms, and I know that he will always have a home away from home here in the Senate.

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, I also want to remember for a minute the good work of Senator JEFFORDS. Senator JEFFORDS tends to be one of the quiet Members of the Senate. Some of us talk a lot more than others. He does not do much talking, but he sure gets a lot done. I will never forget, and the people of Louisiana are so grateful to Senator JEFFORDS, as he chaired the EPW Committee, for being one of the first Senators in this Chamber to recognize the extraordinary loss of our wetlands and what it would mean to south Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. And ultimately, of course, we saw the tragedy unfold before our eyes. Had we listened to Senator JEFFORDS, and the other few voices who were calling out years ago, perhaps some of that loss of life and billions of dollars of loss of property could have been averted.

Senator JEFFORDS came down to Louisiana on several occasions. One I will never forget is standing with him in this very southern part of the State in Lafourche Parish, literally

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almost into the gulf waters, we were so far down south. I was explaining to him—and this is far out from New Orleans. You have to try a little hard to get there. You fly into the big airport, and then you have to go by either bus or helicopter, and it is difficult. And, of course, Senator JEFFORDS's health has not been great lately. But he was a real trooper, and he said: No, Mary. I want to go, and I want to see it.

So we flew him way down to the wetlands, and he and I were standing there, and I was explaining to him how his work in the Senate was affecting the lives of my constituents down in the bayou and was saying: Senator, almost once a week or so some fishing vessel or shrimp trawler runs into this bridge. And when the bridge shuts down, we literally not only keep schoolchildren from getting to school and parents from getting to their children, but we literally shut down the whole offshore oil and gas industry or a big part of it, because when a bridge shuts down, none of the trucks can move, no supplies can get out to the rigs. Don't you think this country, which spends trillions of dollars every year, can spend a few million dollars to fix this bridge?

The words had not gotten out of my mouth when a shrimp trawler hit the bridge, and the bridge moved slightly. The big wings of the shrimp trawler collapsed, and Senator JEFFORDS looked at me and said: Now, Mary, you have gotten way too dramatic on this point. You did not have to set that stage for that boat to hit that bridge. He said: I get the message. So we, of course, had a laugh about that.

But his sense of humor, his commitment, and his passion for the environment and the people who live on the land, the people who live in this natural environment, is what has always made me a real fan of his. I want him to know I am going to miss him and his staff who have also been extremely kind to me and my staff in the Senate. . . .

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. . . .

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.

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Mr. DEWINE. . . . I also sincerely thank Judiciary Committee Chairmen Specter and Hatch; HELP Committee Chairmen Enzi, Gregg, and JEFFORDS; and Intelligence Committee Chairmen Roberts and Shelby. I have been fortunate to have passed dozens of bills and amendments in my career in the Senate, and most of them were provisions that I worked along with these chairmen to pass. It would never have happened without them. I appreciate their help.

I appreciate all the help Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley has given me—a dear friend—especially when it came to passing my bills to improve the foster care and adoption system. I have worked with many Members of the Senate on this very important issue, foster care and adoption, including Senators Jay Rockefeller, Mary Landrieu, Larry Craig, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, John Chafee, Jesse Helms, Bill Roth, JIM JEFFORDS, Dan Coats. They all shared a passion for foster care children. They all shared a passion for the adoption issue. . . .

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. . . .

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the great Senator Daniel Webster once remarked that the Senate is a place "of equals of men of individual honor . . . and personal character."

He was right, and we can see what he was talking about in the fine men the Senate is losing to retirement at the end of this Congress: Senator Frist, Senator Sarbanes, Senator JEFFORDS, and Senator Dayton.

On previous occasions, I have talked about how much I appreciated serving with Senators Frist and JEFFORDS. Today, I would like to say a few more words about Senators Sarbanes and Dayton. . . .

Mr. President, Mark Dayton, like Paul Sarbanes, like JIM JEFFORDS, like Bill Frist, will be missed.

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The Senate—and our country—are better off because of their service.

Mr. HATCH. . . . Mr. President, I would like to extend my best wishes to my good friend and colleague, Senator JIM JEFFORDS.

For the last 18 years, I have been privileged to serve with JIM here in the U.S. Senate. When he first came to the Senate in 1989, he was assigned to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. At the time, I was the ranking minority member of that committee and worked closely with JIM. In fact, when JIM later became chairman of the committee, he changed the name to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, better known today as the Senate HELP Committee. He did that because he felt that the purpose of the committee was to help people. Later, he and I also served together as members of the Senate Finance Committee.

JIM has an undergraduate degree from Yale University and graduated from Harvard University Law School. He served in the U.S. Navy for 3 years and was in the Reserves until 1990 when he retired as a captain.

He started his career in politics in 1966 when he was elected to the Vermont State Senate. In 1968, he became the attorney general for the State of Vermont. In 1974, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he tells a very interesting story about the day that he was sworn in as a Member of the House. As JIM tells it, 1974 was not a good year to be a Republican candidate—for those who do not remember, it was the year that President Richard Nixon resigned due to the Watergate scandal. The 1974 freshman class had 92 new Members of which only 17 were Republicans—two of them were our Senate colleagues, Chuck Grassley and JIM JEFFORDS. At the time, Chuck was on crutches and JIM was in a neck brace. As the two walked down the aisle, JIM heard one of the Democrat Members say, "There are two we almost got." Well, all I can say is, thank goodness the Democrats didn't get Chuck and JIM. The two of them have been an integral part of both the House and the Senate.

Senator JEFFORDS has always been known for his self deprecating sense of humor. I will never forget his story about being interviewed by a reporter with Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick, who, as many know, was a very elegant woman from New Jersey, on their first impressions of what it was like to live in Washington. Congresswoman Fenwick

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talked about her lovely view of the city from across the river. When asked what it was like for him to be in Washington, JIM replied that he lived in a Winnebago in the parking lot of a Holiday Inn and he had a view of the hotel dumpster. Quite honestly, JIM is probably one of the most humble and down to earth people I have met in the Senate.

JIM is someone who fought hard for increased education funding, especially for special needs children. He is also very passionate about environmental issues. But in my opinion, one of JIM's most significant achievements was the difference he made on health care issues. JIM was committed to providing a prescription drug benefit to Medicare beneficiaries and was actively involved in writing the tripartisan Medicare prescription drug bill which was considered on the floor of the Senate in 2002. JIM, Chuck Grassley, former Senator John Breaux, Senator Olympia Snowe, and I all got together and wrote a bill that provided a drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. It was the foundation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit, Medicare Part D, which was included in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. JIM provided valuable input and did his best to look out for what was in the best interests of senior citizens and the disabled. So far, 38 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in the Medicare Part D Program.

Before I close, I want to share an insightful story about JIM that is indicative of the way he has led his life. When JIM interviewed Paul Harrington to be the HELP Committee's health policy director, it was at his home in Shrewsbury, VT. Shrewsbury is a very rural town in a very rural State and that is best typified by the Brown Covered Bridge. JIM conducted the job interview in his garage where he had a large pile of bent nails on his work bench. While he discussed the possibility of Paul joining his staff, they each began straightening out the used nails. At the end of the conversation they had created quite a large pile of nails that were useful again. Paul shared this experience with many of his friends and colleagues when he left the Senate because he felt that the circumstances of the job interview were indicative of JIM's philosophy and his approach to problem solving. I couldn't agree more. There's a practical side to JIM's nature that seeks to adapt old solutions to solving new problems. Using the analogy of the nails, JIM has always been able to take up used ideas from the past and put them to good use in new circumstances by reshaping them to fit the new needs of today.

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I want everyone to know that I consider JIM to be one of my dear friends in the Senate, and while I was disappointed when he decided to become an Independent, I respected his decision. And so did former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, who is a close friend of JIM's. In fact, on the first year anniversary of JIM's big decision, Bob sent JIM a pineapple upside down cake. He told JIM that he looked all over for a cake to send him and came to the conclusion that a pineapple upside down cake described JIM the best. While that may be true, let me say that JIM is a man who has the best of intentions and always does what he believes is in the best interests of his constituents.

While serving in the Senate, JIM has always been an independent force and that is one of the main reasons that I respect him so much. Policy always came before politics, something very rare in Washington these days. He has a great love for the institution. He is passionate about issues he cares about and it showed when he offered an amendment in committee or spoke on the Senate floor.

JIM has dedicated his life to public service and the great people of Vermont are very fortunate to have had him representing them in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. He is a great legislator and he will be missed by all of us. I wish JIM JEFFORDS all the best in the years ahead. . . .

Mr. LEVIN. . . . Mr. President, when this session of Congress comes to an end, Senator JIM JEFFORDS will leave the Senate. He has been a thoughtful and independent voice here, and he will be greatly missed.

Senator JEFFORDS has been a true champion for the environment. He was instrumental in passing the 1990 Clean Air Act, and he chaired the Environment and Public Works Committee from 2001 to 2002. He has fought for policies that encourage renewable energy use and that reduce emissions of carbon and other pollutants.

Senator JEFFORDS is a strong believer in promoting economic development that also protects the environment and preserves the landscape. In the 1960s, when he served as a State senator and then attorney general of Vermont, JIM worked on the most comprehensive State-level growth management policy in the United States. JIM continued these efforts as a U.S. Senator, and I joined with JIM in 1999 to form the Senate's Smart Growth Task Force, a bipartisan, multiregional caucus.

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With JIM's leadership, the task force's membership grew to more than 20 Senators who shared the goal of determining how the Federal Government can help States and localities address their own growth management issues. Out of this task force, a series of bipartisan legislative initiatives have emerged, including legislation to promote brownfields development, support urban and town centers, provide transportation funding and access, and conserve open space and historic structures.

Senator JEFFORDS has also been a strong leader on education, job training, and disability legislation and served as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee from 1997 to June 2001. He has a particular passion for improving education for students with special needs and coauthored the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. JIM JEFFORDS is also a strong advocate for fairness and has sponsored legislation to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and to strengthen penalties for hate crimes.

Senator JEFFORDS became a household name and earned a spot in Senate history in 2001 when he left the Republican Party, creating a Democratic majority in the Senate. That action stunned Washington. But for those of us who have been fortunate to know him over the years, we were not at all surprised that JIM JEFFORDS had followed his conscience and his deep commitment to the interests of the people of Vermont and did what he believed to be right.

I want to wish JIM and his wife Elizabeth well as they enter a new phase in their lives.

Ms. SNOWE. . . . Mr. President, I rise to express my enormous gratitude and deep appreciation for my good friend and colleague, Senator JIM JEFFORDS. President John Adams, who served as the first President of this body, once exclaimed. "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?" The answer given through the years by Senator JIM JEFFORDS has been one marked by the eloquence of his actions.

True Yankee independence and integrity are two of the hallmarks distinguishing Senator JIM JEFFORDS. Our legislative service together dates back to the 97th Congress and our participation together on the House Aging Committee, ironically at much younger ages than we are today. We have also served together on the Senate Finance Committee. I will forever fondly remember the monthly Moderates lunches we attended together, just as I will cherish the lunch we shared in the final days of his distinguished tenure in the Senate.

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Indeed, so many achievements distinguish this public servant and usher him into a prestigious pantheon of officeholders whose common denominator is uncommon commitment to addressing tough issues that truly affect the daily lives of the people whom they represent.

Educated at Yale University and Harvard Law School, this son of a former chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court could have pursued any number of pathways in his life, but it testifies to his strength of character and abundance of integrity that he chose to use his depth of learning, prodigious skill, and expertise on behalf of others with the goal of service—a journey that began with his active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1956 and that continued throughout his 32 years in the Congress. From his days in the U.S. House in the mid-1970s—where he also served with my husband John McKernan—to the present, Senator JEFFORDS made a priority to champion education and the environment and by doing so became one of the best advocates these issues have ever had.

In 1975, Senator JEFFORDS, as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Select Education, coauthored what would later be known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which has provided equal access to education for millions of students with disabilities. Since its enactment, Senator JEFFORDS has continued to fight for full Federal funding for the law. He has fought to reduce industrial pollution and acid rain, and as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee he ensured the passage of the 1990 Clean Air Act. More recently, Senator JEFFORDS has introduced legislation that would clean up polluting powerplants and create incentives for investments in clean, renewable power.

In 2001, during the tax-cut debate, as we were working to ensure a fair but a fiscally-responsible compromise, Senator JEFFORDS and I combined to advocate for significant relief for the working poor. In 2003, during intense negotiations, we joined forces to ensure prescription drug benefits for Medicare. And I could not have been more pleased to work with him in authoring the so-called Snowe-Jeffords provision to the historic Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. I couldn't be more proud that our arguments were not only persuasive in the Senate but ultimately before the U.S. Supreme Court after more than 3 hours of oral arguments, as the act—including our provision—was upheld.

In the true spirit of statecraft, JIM JEFFORDS has ennobled not only the art of public affairs but the public affairs compo-

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nent of art. Then-Congressman JEFFORDS cofounded the Congressional Arts Caucus and has consistently fought for financial support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Like my State's own Margaret Chase Smith, Senator JEFFORDS has been a public servant of deep and abiding conscience, buttressed by a profound courage and unwavering love for his State and his country. I wish him all the best.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. ... Mr. President, today we say goodbye to Senator JIM JEFFORDS after 18 years in the Senate, serving the State of Vermont.

Throughout his years in the Senate, Senator JEFFORDS has remained steadfast in his convictions and beliefs.

As a proud citizen of the State of Vermont, Senator JEFFORDS has made enormous efforts to ensure the interests of his State were represented in the U.S. Congress.

This is the legacy Senator JEFFORDS has earned.

As a staunch proponent of environmental issues, Senator JEFFORDS rose to leadership as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee in 2001, and he currently serves as the committee's ranking member.

Senator JEFFORDS leaves the Senate with my respect. ...

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 JIM JEFFORDS's service has been unique but no doubt beneficial to his home State of Vermont and to our country. On May 21, 2001, Senator JEFFORDS pursued his conscience and made a difficult decision to leave our party. While unexpected, I respect Senator JEFFORDS for following his heart and doing what he thought was best for his constituents in Vermont.

JIM has now served three full terms in the Senate. Over the years, he has stood out as a champion for education and

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the disabled. In 2004, he co-authored the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. His work here has helped improve millions of lives.

I wish the distinguished gentleman from Vermont well in his future endeavors. . . .

Mr. AKAKA. . . . At this time, Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to wish my warmest aloha to Senator JIM JEFFORDS, who is retiring after 32 years in Congress. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs will be losing one of its finest and most esteemed members. A veteran himself, Senator JEFFORDS has been a strong voice and advocate for veterans. I thank Senator JEFFORDS for his service. He will truly be missed. . . .

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