

Sam Brownback

U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES







Sam Brownback

Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

**Sam Brownback**  
United States Congressman  
1995–1996  
  
United States Senator  
1996–2011



*Compiled under the direction  
of the  
Joint Committee on Printing*

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## BIOGRAPHY

SAM BROWNBACK has spent his life in the service of others. He was born in Parker, KS, and raised on a farm where his mother and father still live. He was a leader in high school, in Future Farmers of America as State president, as student body president at Kansas State University, and as president of his class at University of Kansas Law School.

SAM served as a White House fellow in the first Bush administration and was the youngest secretary of agriculture in Kansas history. When he was 38, he was elected to the House of Representatives with the Republican Revolution in 1994. In 1996, he was elected to the U.S. Senate seat held by Bob Dole.

In the U.S. Senate, SAM served on the Appropriations, Judiciary, and Joint Economic Committees. He was the ranking member on the Joint Economic Committee on the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee as well as the subcommittee responsible for the Constitution. He also served on the Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, cochaired the Senate Cancer Coalition and the Human Rights Caucus, chaired the Senate Values Action Team, and was a founding member of the Senate Fiscal Watch Team.

SAM earned a well-deserved reputation for expertise and genuine concern in a wide range of issue areas. His priority is growing the Kansas economy and creating jobs. He strongly supports funding for aviation research and expanding global aviation markets and promotes efforts to strengthen military and veteran services and facilities in Kansas. SAM is actively engaged in re-opening the U.S. beef trade in Asia and increasing markets for Kansas agriculture products while encouraging measures to protect American farmers and food supplies. SAM also focuses on promoting new energy sources and bio-technologies, and on working to revitalize our rural heartland with tax incentives and job creation.

SAM is pushing for meaningful tax reform and an optional flat tax, a BRAC-like commission to review and terminate failed or completed Federal programs, and to build market- and consumer-based solutions to health care reform. He be-

lieves passionately that we must defend and promote traditional marriage, confirm judges who will interpret the law and not legislate from the bench, protect and renew our American culture, and defend human life at every stage of development everywhere in the world. He is actively engaged in stopping genocide in Darfur, incentivizing drug companies to find cures to neglected diseases throughout the world, and spreading democracy and human rights around the world, especially in Iran, North Korea, and China.

His colleagues say he is one of the most sincere people in Congress, and even those who don't agree with him never doubt his conviction and appreciate the respectful way he debates even the most contentious of issues.

The *Economist* called SAM "The Wilberforce Republican," and the *New York Times* declared that he is "one of the most conservative, religious, fascinating—and, in many ways, admirable—politicians in America today." The *Weekly Standard* said SAM is "Mr. Compassionate Conservative," and the *American Spectator* called him "a model of modern American conservatism."

Over the years, SAM has been a radio broadcaster, attorney, teacher, administrator, Congressman, and Senator. Senator BROWNBACK and his wife Mary have five children and live in Topeka, KS.

# Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for setting up this period of time. This will be my last speech, probably, to the body. It is a speech I wish to give in talking about leaving the Senate of the United States.

I was just elected to be Governor of Kansas, and I am very excited about that post. I have served here a period of 14 years, which has been a wonderful chance to be able to serve the people of Kansas—the people of the United States. I love this body and I love this country.

A lot of folks, when they leave, talk about partisanship and the bickering. I like to think about the beauty of the country and the ability to come together because it does happen. The predecessor of the person sitting in the Presiding Officer's seat (Senator Paul Wellstone) and I worked on one of the flagship pieces of legislation on human rights protection. It was on human trafficking, the initial bill. Senator Paul Wellstone from Minnesota was a delightful individual. It was a great chance for us to work together on something, and we couldn't have been further apart. I think he was ranked the second most liberal Member of the Senate. He aspired to be No. 1, but he was second. He was a delightful man; he dealt from the heart; and we got things done.

I say that because I think that is how we work in this place; that we fight on about 20 percent of the issues—and they are important, big issues—and then we cooperate and work together on a whole host of broad bipartisan issues, such as dealing with things like human trafficking. You do that primarily with people who deal from the heart—people such as Paul Wellstone, Ted Kennedy, and Jesse Helms. There are a lot of others, and many people get many things done in this body, but I think it is best when people deal from the heart. When they do that, then there is a chance for us to come together around key and heartfelt things. This has been a great body to serve in and I have delighted in being able to do that.

There is much to be done for the country. We have to deal with the creation of jobs in America. We have to deal with our debt and our deficit. We have many issues to deal with. My hope for here, and my hope for our country, is that we go back to the virtues of the Greatest Generation and look to them for ways to move forward. It is looking back at the old path of what worked in tough times and moving it forward on the new path.

I came into this seat after Bob Dole served in this body. He served in this seat. Senator Dole from Kansas is the iconic figure of the World War II generation, of that “Greatest Generation.” He just got out of Walter Reed Hospital. He has been very ill this year. He is coming back, recuperating. I think he is 87 years old.

Most everybody in America would agree about the Greatest Generation. They would say that World War II generation hit the mark of what it is to be an American, what it is to sacrifice, what it is to fight for a good cause. They did it with a set of virtues that are timeless, that are known, and I think we have to emulate this time for us to deal with the problems we have now. They were courageous; they were selfless; they were courteous; they were people who would fight for a cause. They were the ones who exhibited charity and thrift. That was certainly known in that generation. I think these are things we have to bring back—hard work and compassion.

It seems to me, when I think of that generation—and nobody is perfect and that generation is not perfect—those are ideals I saw in practice, whether it was them on the battlefield in World War II, raising their families at home, or educating their families, saving for future generations; that is what they did.

If you ask people of that generation, did you do this on purpose, they might say we did or didn't. Most of them would say this was the right thing to do, and it is the thing we needed to do. I think it is what we need to do now. I think we need to emulate those virtues of the Greatest Generation and apply them to our problems.

Their problems were more foreign than ours. Ours I believe are more domestic, dealing with our own debt and deficit as a country and as a society and as individuals and individual households; us creating and saving for that next generation in the country and investing to do that, and being selfless and sacrificial in doing that. Building family structure and doing that which is for the good of our families is

what we need to do, as well as follow that virtue and that old, ancient path they followed. They said they did because it was a thing they needed to do. I think we have to do the same thing. I hope we will as a country.

There has been a debate that started in America that I do not agree with, and it is whether this is a special country and whether America is an exceptional land. I for one fully embrace the notion that this is a special place. I believe in American exceptionalism and I have been in many places over the world where you see this in action. I have been in many places in America where you see this in action, where somebody selflessly takes care of other individuals.

Last night I was at the Korean Embassy. We were talking about what is taking place in North Korea, and one of the people working there at the South Korean Embassy was amazed that people in the United States would care what happens to people in North Korea. One of the people with me was saying that is how we look at the world. If somebody else is in bondage, if somebody else is in difficulty, we feel that and we want to help to deal with it. That, to me, is part of what American exceptionalism is all about.

This is a special place and has a special calling. If it is not us doing it, in many cases around the world it does not get done. I have been in the Sudan and they are not calling on the Chinese to lead Sudan into a freer time period. I have been in other places—in Africa, on the North Korean border. If you are looking for somebody to solve the problem, it is the Americans who go in and do it.

Our task now is to not only do that around the world, but it is to do it domestically. I think we have to look more and more at ourselves and say we are a special place. We have to look at ourselves as the baby boomer generation that I am a part of and say you have to prove and earn your exceptionalism. I think we have to step up to the mark as the Greatest Generation did and be willing to serve in a tough way, in a sacrificial way, in the best interests of the future of our country. We have to do it, and now is the time to do it.

I am appreciative that the President had a deficit task force he appointed and that they came up with some ideas, some of which I agree with, and some of which I disagree. But I am glad they started the discussion and the debate. If the figures I have seen are accurate, half the American households receive an entitlement check from the Federal Government—half of the American households. We have a

deficit and debt that is structural. It is not based upon one-time war funding, although war funding has contributed to it, but it is structural in that we have more going out than we have coming in. It is time this is dealt with. I think that is part of the message from this last election cycle. The American people are ready to have an intelligent discussion, a difficult discussion of what we are going to do to be able to save ourselves fiscally. Now is the time to do it.

We actually have the structure set up to do it. With a Republican House, Democratic Senate, Democratic Presidency. This would be the time and the structure to talk about this sort of difficult issue. Our generation should step up and deal with it. I am not going to be here for that discussion and debate, but it is time we have it and it is time we bring back these timeless virtues to deal with our domestic problems the way we have dealt with international problems in the Greatest Generation.

As I leave this body, one of the rites of passage is to sign your desk, and I just did that. I did it in pencil. I figure that all of us will fade with time and that signature will fade with time as well. But the things you remember are what you touched and that touched you and the souls that are touched. It is people who deal from the heart who are the ones who touch your life and the ones who touch your soul. I want to express my deep appreciation to my colleagues who have touched my heart. I hope I have been a positive statement to many of them.

The psalm that comes to mind is one that says: "And his place knew him no more."

The psalmist wrote: "His place knew him no more." After a period of time you sign the desk, you move on, and then you look back and see the signatures in the desk and you don't recognize many of them. The place will know us no more. But the hearts that we touch, the hearts that touch ours, we will remember forever, and I certainly will.

I thank you and my colleagues in the Senate for letting me serve with you. It has been a great joy. It is a fabulous Nation, the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, and it was an honor to serve here.

God bless America.

TRIBUTES

TO

SAM BROWNBACK



## Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *November 30, 2010*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 16 Senators will retire this year. There is a pretty big turnover in this body, but that is a lot of Senators at once. We are losing an enormous amount of talent, but, of course, we are gaining a lot of talent with the new Senators.

I wish to show my respect for those who have served, which I will do in a summary fashion because we are talking about 16 individuals with very complex and distinguished backgrounds.

One might ask, what are the characteristics of a Senator? There are a lot of different answers to that, depending on your background and attitude toward politics and government. First, I have always thought that one characteristic of almost every Member of the Senate is that he or she probably was a first grader sitting in the front row, hand in the air waiting to be recognized. This is an eager bunch or you would not have gotten here.

Second, it is a group of risk takers. Most people who end up in the Senate get here because a lot of other people who wanted to be Senators were standing around waiting for the right time to run. A lot of people who were elected to the Senate seemed to have no chance of winning at the time they decided to run, but the voters decided differently, and here they are.

Third, we are almost all professional and congenial. That is a big help. It is almost a requirement in an organization of 100 individuals who spend almost all their time with one another, who serve in a body that operates by unanimous consent, when just one Senator can bring the whole place to a halt, and whose job basically is to argue about some of the most difficult issues that face the American people. So it helps that almost every Member of the Senate is an especially congenial person.

Back in Tennessee, people often say to me it must be rough being in that job. They are awfully mean up there.

The truth is, I don't know of a more congenial group than the Members of the Senate. We begin the day in the gym. The next thing you know we are at a Prayer Breakfast, and then we are at a committee hearing. Then we are on the floor voting, and then we have lunch. It goes through the day until 7 or 8 o'clock, or sometimes later. We live together and we get along very well. We know and respect each other.

Not long ago, the Presiding Officer (Mr. Udall of New Mexico) and I were having dinner together with our wives. We were lamenting the loss of families who know one another, the way it happened when his father was serving in Congress and when I first came to the Senate to work for Senator Baker. And that's true. We've lost some of that. Still, there is an enormous amount of affection and good will here. You don't always get to be very close friends in this job, but you get to be very good acquaintances, and you learn to respect people for their strengths.

Senator Domenici said, when he left, that we don't do a very good job of saying goodbye here. That is true. As one part of saying goodbye, I wish to say at least one good thing about each one of the 16 retiring Senators. Much more could be said about each, of course. Mostly, I am going in alphabetical order. . . .

Senator SAM BROWNBACK is going the other way, from Senator to Governor of Kansas. During the health care debate, I often said that everybody who voted for the health care law ought to be sentenced to serve as Governor for two terms and try to implement it. Well, Senator BROWNBACK voted against the health care law, but he's going home and will have the opportunity to "enjoy" all those unfunded mandates on Medicaid and see how Kansas deals with it. What we'll miss about SAM BROWNBACK, in addition to his extraordinary kindness, is his devotion to human rights, including giving voice to the oppressed people in North Korea and being an outspoken critic of the genocide in Darfur. . . .

It has been my privilege to serve with these 16 Senators. We thank them for their service to our country. They have had a chance to serve in what we regard as the world's greatest deliberative body; it is a special institution. We will miss their leadership, and we hope they will stay in touch with us because they are not just retiring Senators, they are all our friends.

I yield the floor.

WEDNESDAY, *December 8, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to retiring Members of the 111th Congress, and that Members have until Thursday, December 16, to submit such tributes.

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

THURSDAY, *December 9, 2010*

MR. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise in tribute to my good friend and distinguished colleague, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, or I could also say Governor-elect SAM BROWNBACK of the great State of Kansas.

SAM promised his constituents that he wouldn't run for more than two full 6-year terms in the Senate, and SAM has honored that pledge.

Let me just say at the outset that SAM has been an outstanding Senator and an example of principled leadership to all of us. He has served the people of Kansas with great distinction and honor, and I am certain he will continue to do so as he takes on new challenges in Topeka.

SAM is a born leader. He was raised in the small town of Parker, KS, where his mom and dad still live and farm today, and his many talents were evident early on. In high school, he was State president of the Future Farmers of America. As an undergraduate at Kansas State University, he was elected president of the student body, and he was elected class president in law school, too, at the University of Kansas. After law school, SAM worked as a lawyer in Manhattan, KS, for 4 years before being appointed as the secretary of the Kansas Board of Agriculture.

From 1990 to 1991, SAM was accepted as a White House fellow under President George H.W. Bush, where he worked for the U.S. Trade Representative. Three years after that, he ran for Congress as part of the Republican Revolution and was overwhelmingly elected to Kansas' Second District. It was the first time in SAM's life that Republicans had the majority in the Congress, and he was a part of it. He planned to make the most of it by focusing on limiting the size and reach of the Federal Government.

But SAM's tenure in the House was brief. In 1996, just 2 days after Senator Dole announced his plan to resign from the Senate to run for President, SAM announced he would seek the Republican nomination in a special election to serve out the final 2 years of Dole's term. SAM handily defeated the former Lieutenant Governor who had been appointed to fill Senator Dole's seat earlier that spring.

In the general election, SAM's campaign message was simple. He called it the three Rs: reduce, reform, and return: Reduce the size of and scope of the Federal Government. Reform Congress. Return to the basic values that had built the country: work and family and the recognition of a higher moral authority.

SAM's message resonated with the people, many of whom feared their government had become, as SAM stated, "their master, not their servant," and easily defeated his opponent with 54 percent of the vote. SAM would go on to be reelected to full terms in 1998 and 2004, capturing an astounding 65 and 69 percent of the vote.

While in the Senate, SAM has been a leader among his peers. He has been outspoken and has fought hard for the people of Kansas and for the underprivileged around the world.

SAM is an ardent defender of life and of the protection of the unborn. "I see it as the lead moral issue of our day," SAM said, "Just like slavery was the lead moral issue 150 years ago." SAM opposes *Roe v. Wade*, has a 100-percent pro-life voting record, and sponsored numerous bills in support of the unborn.

In 1995, SAM was diagnosed and treated for melanoma and it had a profound effect on his life. SAM said:

With the cancer, I did a lot of internal examination. My conclusion was that if this were to be terminal, at that point in time I would not be satisfied with how I had lived my life. I had tried to be a Christian, but I had failed . . .

Surviving cancer, SAM found out just how precious life was, and with his new lease on life, SAM began to devote his life and work in the Senate to humanitarian causes around the world. SAM has actively fought to bring awareness to the genocide in Darfur. SAM supported the Sudan Peace Act of 2002 and the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2002. In 2004, SAM visited Darfur to see violence and suffering first hand, and that same year he supported the Congressional Declaration of Genocide.

In addition to his advocacy work on Sudan, SAM has worked on numerous other humanitarian challenges throughout the world, including Iran, Afghanistan, Uganda, the Congo, Pakistan, Ukraine, China, North Korea, and Vietnam. The *Weekly Standard* wrote:

Arguably no Senator has done more to press for human rights and democracy or to confront the spread of deadly disease, such as malaria, which kills 800,000 children in Africa every year.

In the Senate, SAM has crusaded for his humanitarian causes in a bipartisan fashion, including cosponsoring the Iran Democracy Act with Senator Evan Bayh, cosponsoring the North Korea Human Rights Act with the late Senator Ted Kennedy, and what SAM calls his greatest achievement, cosponsoring the Trafficking Victims Protection Act with the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

Another one of SAM's passions was his role as chairman of the Senate Values Action Team. The group, consisting of outside organizations, met weekly to discuss matters of faith, family, and religious freedoms. Over the years, they worked together to strategize on efforts to protect the sanctity of life, school choice, and much more. SAM devoted countless hours to this organization and rarely missed a meeting.

In the Senate, I relied heavily on SAM's expertise and his leadership. He was always someone I looked toward, whether it was for guidance or perspective on many different issues. SAM served on numerous committees, including the Appropriations Committee, the Joint Economic Committee, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Senate Special Committee on Aging, as well as the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

In 2008, SAM announced he would honor his pledge to only serve two terms in this Chamber. SAM will be missed, but his service to Kansas will continue. Last month, SAM was elected Governor of Kansas with 63 percent of the vote, winning 103 of the 105 counties. I wish to congratulate SAM on his impressive victory, and I cannot think of a better public servant or leader than SAM BROWNBACK for the people of Kansas.

On top of all of SAM's accomplishments, he is a loving husband to Mary. They met in law school and have been married for 27 years. Together, Mary and SAM have five children, including one adopted from Guatemala and one adopted from China. SAM said:

My family has been personally touched by adoption. My wife and I adopted our two youngest children, and I continue to experience joy from the relationships we have built through our adoption experience.

I think right there tells us all we need to know about the type of character and person SAM BROWNBACK is.

SAM, this Chamber honors you today for your service to this Nation, to the State of Kansas, and to the millions around the world who dream of a better life. Thank you from all of us, and good luck in the next chapter of your life.

FRIDAY, *December 10, 2010*

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

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

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

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

To all of these colleagues and their families, my deepest appreciation and my profoundest respect.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise again to recognize the service of another great Federal employee. This is a tradition that was started by our friend and former colleague, Senator Kaufman, and I am proud to carry on that tradition. But I want to first say that I appreciate the remarks of the Presiding Officer (Mr. Reed) about our colleagues who are leaving this body, and I share his great respect for not only Senator Kaufman but all of the colleagues who are leaving the body at the end of this Congress. . . .

TUESDAY, *December 14, 2010*

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this term. Senator BROWNBACK has served the people of Kansas for 16 years in the Congress, serving one term in the House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1996. SAM is leaving the Senate to serve the people of Kansas as their Governor.

As rural, Midwestern States, Kansas and North Dakota have a lot in common, sharing many of the same challenges and opportunities. Agriculture is a key component of both States' economies. In fact, North Dakota and Kansas often vie for the position of top wheat producer. Senator BROWNBACK knows agriculture well, having been raised on a farm near Parker, KS, and serving as a State leader of Future Farmers of America in high school. Early in his career, SAM served as Kansas secretary of agriculture. These experiences prepared him for his work in the Senate, where he championed producing more energy from biofuels and opening overseas markets to American beef—two issues that are just as important to farmers and ranchers in North Dakota as they are to those in Kansas.

I worked closely with SAM on a program that helps ensure that individuals who live in rural areas have access to doctors. The Conrad State 30 Program allows foreign doctors educated in the United States on J-1 visas to obtain a waiver of the requirement to return to their home country for 2 years if they agree to practice for 3 years in a medically underserved area of the country. This program has been vital for individuals in rural States like Kansas and North Dakota. Without it, residents of rural areas would have to travel long distances to visit physicians. I am proud to have Sen-

ator BROWNBACk's support of legislation to expand this program and make it permanent.

Senator BROWNBACk's concern for his fellow man does not stop at America's borders. Although he does not serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, SAM has been very involved in international affairs, and has dedicated himself to causes that protect the most vulnerable. He was instrumental in passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, worked to bring peace to Darfur, and, most recently, fought to end the trade in conflict minerals from the Congo.

SAM is one of the most genuine Members of the Senate. He is willing to listen to opposing views and engage in respectful debate. This great body will miss Senator BROWNBACk's collegiality.

I thank Senator BROWNBACk for his service in the Senate and wish him the best as he continues to represent the people of Kansas as their Governor.

WEDNESDAY, *December 15, 2010*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, if I could sum up the service of SAM BROWNBACk in the Senate in just a few words, I would choose a phrase that is very familiar to the people of Wyoming and the West. SAM is an individual who says what he means and means what he says. That is why when he made a promise that he would step down after he had served two full terms in the Senate—he did it.

Fortunately, as the classic old film reminds us, whenever a door is closed, somewhere, God opens a window and that window was SAM's opportunity to run for Governor. Now that he has been elected, the Senate's loss will be Kansas' gain as the people of that State will have the benefit of his leadership for many years to come.

Here in the Senate, SAM followed a philosophy he calls "pro-life, whole life." Simply put that means that the great respect we have for life doesn't end at birth, it continues throughout. If it sounds familiar I believe that is what our Founding Fathers meant when they spoke of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as the great gifts that are given to us by our Creator that can never be taken away from us.

Throughout the years, SAM has followed that philosophy wherever it has taken him as he has worked to support legislative initiatives that seemed to clearly follow from it. That

is why you would find him working with Members on both sides of the aisle to reach out to “everybody on the planet” who was in need “everywhere on the planet” they could be found.

Looking back, there is so much that SAM has accomplished that should serve as a great source of pride for him, his staff, and the people of Kansas. He has taken a consistent stand for human rights whenever he was called to do so and this is another reason why his is a voice that will be missed in the Senate in the months to come.

Through the years, I have never met anyone who had a stronger or more firmly aligned inner compass when it comes to doing what is right because it is right than SAM. In everything he does, his faith and his relationship with God have served to direct his efforts. That heartfelt approach of his has helped to keep his work in perfect alignment with his core values and the thinking of the people of Kansas who sent him to Washington to do what he thought was best to protect and preserve the American dream and keep it available for generations to come.

SAM is someone we will always remember for the things he did and how well he did them. He is a natural leader who leads with actions—not words, because he knows that is the only way to get the important things done—and done quickly.

That philosophy showed itself in things like SAM’s work to address the needs of the people of Africa. He did not have to do it—but because he did, countless lives were saved. If you asked him why he was working so hard to make a difference in a nation so far from home, he would probably say that is just another example of his philosophy that the whole world is his backyard and everyone, everywhere, is his neighbor.

I am certain that SAM is very familiar with the Parable from the Bible in which the Master expresses his appreciation for the good work of his servant. “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”

I mention that because SAM has done so very well in the Senate, it is as if the people of Kansas have now placed him in charge of great responsibilities as their Governor. I have no doubt that he is the right person at the right time for this difficult job the people of his State have now entrusted to his care.

SAM has often told the story about a comment that was made to him by an older gentleman as he traveled throughout the State, listening to voters at the end of his campaign for Governor. The message he heard from this one voter was simple but it spoke volumes. "Be a good Governor," was all he said. It's good advice but easier expressed than done. Still, I have no doubt in the years to come SAM will be all of that and so much more.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to SAM and his special wife Mary. Together they make up a remarkable team and they can and should be very proud of all they have accomplished together.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and most of all, thanks for your friendship. Although you won't be with us in the Senate Chamber next year, you will be just down the road in the Governor's office in Kansas. I hope you continue to let your thoughts and suggestions be known as we take up those issues that were such a source of great interest—and action—during your service here. Good luck in the months to come as you take on this new and very difficult challenge in your life. God bless.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the printing of tributes be modified to provide that Members have until sine die of the 111th Congress, 2d session, to submit tributes and that the order for printing remain in effect.

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

THURSDAY, *December 16, 2010*

Mr. DODD. I would like to say a few words in honor of Senator SAM BROWNBACK, my colleague from Kansas for these past 14 years. Like me, he will be ending his service in the U.S. Senate at the conclusion of this Congress. I would like to congratulate him on his election as Governor of the State of Kansas, and I wish him and his family the very best in his new endeavor.

His election to the governorship should come as no surprise—he has proven time and again that his first priority is serving the people of Kansas. He has a long track record of service, beginning with his 1986 election to the position of State secretary of agriculture. At the time of his election, he

was only 30 years old, the youngest person ever to hold the position.

After serving as agriculture secretary, SAM was elected to the House of Representatives as part of the famous Republican class of 1994. He quickly ascended to the Senate in 1996 with the departure of a Senate and Kansas legend, then-Majority Leader Bob Dole. SAM had some big shoes to fill, and he has done so admirably.

Senator BROWNBACk will be remembered for many things, his conservatism and his passion to name a few, but perhaps the most important is his dedication to his faith. His religious values provided an anchor for everything he did, and led to his pursuit of issues that provided assistance for those in need.

Senator BROWNBACk's commitment to ending the genocide in Darfur is an example of one of those issues. Tragically, more than 200,000 people have died in Darfur and more than 2.5 million have been displaced as a result of the unrest in Sudan. Senator BROWNBACk's expertise and dedication to this critically important issue has made a real impact on the fight to end this horrific crisis. With his retirement, the Senate will lose one of its great human rights champions.

Senator BROWNBACk and I may not have always seen eye to eye, but no one ever questioned his commitment to principle, or his commitment to the people of Kansas.

I wish him, his wife Mary, and their five children all the best. While the Senate will miss him, I wish him luck as he embarks on his next journey as the Governor of Kansas.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a number of our friends and colleagues who are ending their service in the Senate. Their contributions are too numerous to mention, therefore I would like to take just a few minutes to highlight some of the memories of the Senators I came to know personally.

Some of the departing Senators I have served with for decades. Others were here for only part of a term. All of them worked hard for their constituents and our country. . . .

I will miss my good friend Senator SAM BROWNBACk. Despite sitting across the aisle from me, he was always approachable and friendly. I know him to be committed to helping people in Kansas and across the country. He felt so strongly about ending homelessness that I remember him spending the night in a homeless shelter with a group of homeless people to experience first hand the obstacles they face. That is dedication. He cares about people. Senator

BROWNBACk should feel proud about all that he has accomplished to make life better for people in our country. . . .

In closing, the end of this Congress is bittersweet, with so many talented and dedicated public servants leaving this institution. All of them made a lasting impact on the Senate and on our country. *Mahalo nui loa*, thank you, for all your work.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator SAM BROWNBACk.

SAM's commitment to public service grew out of the farmlands where he was raised and where his parents still reside. As a student, SAM earned the respect of his peers as State president of the Future Farmers of America and student body president at Kansas State University. The people of Kansas have put their trust in SAM multiple times: as their secretary of agriculture, as one of their Members in the House of Representatives, and for 14 years in the U.S. Senate.

SAM drew upon his experience in Kansas to shape legislation here in Washington. He offered legislation to create more opportunity for America's farmers, and to reduce foreign trade barriers to their products. In time, SAM rose to become a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

SAM also has a heart for victims of disease and human rights violations all over the world. He proposed incentives for drug companies to offer discounts for lifesaving medications for people of developing nations. He boldly called for the end to human rights violations in Darfur and Iran. I have been proud to stand with him on numerous pieces of human rights legislation, including the Iran Democratic Transition Act in this Congress.

SAM's tenure in the Senate has come to an end, but not his service to the people of Kansas. They overwhelmingly called him back home to serve as their Governor, and begin the next chapter in his remarkable career. Sandy and I wish him and his family all the best.

Mr. DEMINT. I rise in tribute to my good friend, Senator SAM BROWNBACk, who will soon be Governor SAM BROWNBACk.

Senator BROWNBACk leaves this Chamber as a man of character and success. He made a promise to the citizens of Kansas to only serve two terms in the U.S. Senate and he is honoring it.

He will continue to serve his constituents well, as he will soon join the ranks of Republican Governors who are committed to saving freedom and free markets. SAM and his fellow Republican Governors will stand sentry in their State capitols, defending Americans from unaffordable mandates and unprecedented intrusions by the Federal Government.

The current Secretary of Health and Human Services, Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, left Topeka to come to Washington and impose an unconstitutional health care takeover on all Americans. I am confident Republican Governor-elect SAM BROWNBACK, who is leaving Washington for Topeka, will successfully fight for State rights in court and preserve freedom for Kansans.

SAM won on a platform of opportunity, accountability, and responsibility—the very principles his State was founded upon.

His “Road Map for Kansas” is built on ideas to grow the economy, create private-sector jobs, improve education, reform the State government, and support Kansas families. This is exactly the kind of leadership our Nation so desperately needs. His five-point plan is as clear and bright as the tips of the stars on the Kansas flag.

In addition to the roadmap for Kansas, SAM has promised to institute a spending freeze for his State his very first month in office.

It has been an honor to serve alongside SAM, one of our Nation’s premier pro-life leaders. He knows no one should be denied the right to life—especially the unborn. As he said in a speech at the 2004 March for Life, “If we demean and degrade one human life, we demean and degrade all human life.”

As a U.S. Senator, SAM relentlessly fought to protect the unborn. He was the principle sponsor of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, the Prenatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, and others. He has also worked to advance the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

SAM has increased awareness about the joy of adoption. He can personally attest to it. He and his wife Mary and three children Abby, Andy, and Elizabeth have welcomed two children in need of a loving home into their lives. The Brownback’s youngest son Mark is from Guatemala. Their youngest daughter Jenna is from China, where families are subjected to grave and callous one-child policy.

Thank you SAM for fighting for a better life for all of God's children.

As we bid him farewell, I would like to reflect on one short passage from his book, *From Power to Purpose*. In it, SAM wrote "The heart of the matter is the human heart, which is where human goodness begins."

That shows the kind of heart SAM has for public service. His tenure in the U.S. Senate is marked by his compassion and care for his fellow man.

He will be dearly missed here in Washington. But, as Jesus said, "There are many rooms in my Father's house." And SAM is just moving to another room where he will continue to serve God.

SUNDAY, *December 19, 2010*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of my good friend, the senior Senator from Kansas. Senator SAM BROWNBACK has been a devoted public servant and a friend to all of us here in the Senate. At the end of this session, he will be moving on to bigger and better things. I will miss him dearly.

Senator BROWNBACK was born in Parker, KS, in 1956. He was raised on a farm—a farm on which his parents still live to this day. SAM was leader in all aspects of his life before coming to the Senate. In high school, he was the State president of the Future Farmers of America. While attending college at Kansas State University, he was student body president. And, he was president of his class when he attended law school at the University of Kansas.

After law school, SAM went to work as an attorney in Manhattan, KS. In 1986, he was the youngest person ever appointed to serve as the Kansas secretary of agriculture. In 1990, he went to work in the White House of President George H.W. Bush as a White House fellow. After another stint as Kansas' secretary of agriculture, SAM was elected to the House of Representatives as part of the 1994 Republican Revolution. And, in 1996, he was elected to replace the former Senate majority leader, and my good friend, Senator Bob Dole. The people of Kansas have kept him here ever since.

Looking over his career in public service, it is clear that SAM BROWNBACK is a Kansas man in every sense. The voters of Kansas have recognized this more than anyone else. That

is why they have elected him three times to serve in the Senate. And, of course, that is why he is currently the State's Governor-elect.

Throughout his time in the Senate, SAM has been a tireless advocate for the rights of those who have no voice, whether it is the rights of the unborn, the rights of refugees, or the rights of the victims of human trafficking. I believe this is due, in no small part, to SAM's religious faith. For as long as I have known him, SAM has never been afraid to speak publicly about his religious convictions and his belief that those convictions required action on his part. As a religious man myself, I have always admired that part of Senator BROWNBACK's personality and found his openness refreshing.

Over the years, SAM and I have typically found ourselves in agreement on most issues. We have worked together on numerous occasions. While I regret that we won't be working together any more after this session, I want to congratulate him once again on his recent victory in the Kansas gubernatorial election. I am confident that he will be an effective and popular Governor for the people of the State he loves so much.

MONDAY, *December 20, 2010*

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend from Kansas, Senator SAM BROWNBACK.

Born in Parker, KS, SAM has dedicated his time to serving the great people of Kansas. Beginning his service as the secretary of agriculture in Kansas, SAM has represented Kansas with dignity and honor.

Following his election in 1994, I have had the opportunity to work with Senator BROWNBACK in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. While in the Senate, SAM and I worked tirelessly on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to utilize the energy resources we have in this great country.

SAM has created a long list of accomplishments on a wide range of issues for the people of Kansas and this Nation. I know his family and the people of Kansas are proud to call him one of their own. His leadership in the Senate will be missed, but our loss is a gain for the State of Kansas as SAM prepares for his new role as Governor. It has truly been an honor serving with him during these many years.

I would like to thank SAM for his contributions to the Senate and wish him and his family well as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

WEDNESDAY, *December 22, 2010*

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague SAM BROWNBACk. SAM was elected to the House of Representatives in 1994 during the Republican Revolution and was subsequently elected to the Senate 2 years later when former Majority Leader Bob Dole made his bid for the White House.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure serving alongside SAM during these past 16 years. All of us who seek public service want to make a difference, and most certainly, SAM BROWNBACk has done that. In these endeavors I have enjoyed working with SAM in achieving some noteworthy accomplishments for our State of Kansas. As I reflect upon our mutual efforts, it is hard to figure out who was driving the stage and who was riding shotgun. Simply put, it has been a team effort, and I have been both humbled and proud to work with my colleague who has provided unique and respected leadership. SAM's record speaks for itself: bringing the Big Red One back home to Fort Riley, KS, where it started and now belongs; bringing the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, NBAF, to Manhattan, KS; ensuring fair treatment of the general aviation industry in FAA bills; and working together to rebuild Greensburg, KS, after 95 percent of the community was literally blown away by an EF5 tornado.

But beyond our work together on State specific issues, it is SAM's Federal legislative initiatives that I think will have the longest impact on the Senate and the lives of so many people, not only within Kansas and our Nation but, indeed, around the world.

Since the late 1970s, the term "compassionate conservative" has been tossed around quite a bit to describe a philosophy that states by applying conservative ideals, our government can best improve the welfare of our society. I think many of my colleagues would agree that if anyone in public service over the past 30 years embodies this philosophy, it would be SAM BROWNBACk.

What is unique about SAM and his approach to politics these past 16 years is that his ideas went beyond words and

rhetoric. The SAM BROWNBACK approach was simple but effective. He applied his beliefs to action, reflected by the many legislative accomplishments he championed during his tenure in the Senate.

SAM is a big believer in forgiveness and second chances. How to put that belief into action? SAM introduced a bill that really shows his heart for those in society who many times are not given an opportunity to make amends: the Second Chance Act.

Signed into law during the Bush administration, this act created a grant program for State and local governments to fund job training and family mentoring programs to help reintegrate past offenders as they are granted release back into society.

But SAM's legislative victories did not focus solely on domestic issues. SAM has a great love for the continent of Africa.

Serving on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he traveled to Africa on multiple occasions to gain a better understanding of how he could help provide relief to those most vulnerable. His experiences led him to champion the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006. Enacted that same year, this law created sanctions against individuals and groups responsible for the terrible crime of genocide in Darfur, while establishing measures to protect civilians and humanitarian efforts within the borders of Sudan.

The more SAM did, the more he felt called to do, and no one did more for the protection of victims of human trafficking than SAM. In 2000, he helped enact the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This law created criminal punishments for individuals caught in the United States operating as traffickers. It established an annual reporting mechanism to help track individuals engaged in sex trafficking and created a new immigration status for victims of sex trafficking.

Last, I believe SAM's prominence during his time in the Senate had a great deal to do with his willingness to work across party lines on issues where he could seek and find common passion and ground.

The legislative item I think will leave the largest impact on many of us in the Senate is the bill upon which he worked tirelessly with the late Senator Ted Kennedy.

Signed into law by President Bush, the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Act provides those families with children diagnosed with Down syndrome the support services and networks they need to help them deal with the

unique challenges they face. Put another way, what better legislation to help protect the lives of those in our Nation uniquely challenged but who deserve every right to the same opportunities we all enjoy every day.

I could easily and proudly recount many more of SAM's achievements during his time in the Senate, but I would do so in danger of SAM saying "enough" and giving me "the hook." I have often said that the high road of humility is not often bothered by heavy traffic in Washington, but in SAM BROWNBACk, we have indeed enjoyed the friendship of a humble man.

In closing, I leave my colleagues with one of Senator BROWNBACk's favorite quotes that I think sums up the man that SAM is and the love he has for all people, regardless of their nationality or place in society.

SAM likes to say:

I am pro-life and whole-life. Applying this belief to the child in the womb and to the child in Darfur. It includes the man in prison and the woman in poverty. It does not fail to cherish the child with Down syndrome or stand for the inherent dignity of the immigrant.

SAM, I remember the first campaign rally we attended together. The featured guest speaker, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, introduced me as one who made significant changes in the House of Representatives and then introduced SAM as: "One who not only wants to change things, but to make the right changes."

SAM, you have done just that and it has been an honor to serve with you over these past 16 years. I thank you for your courtesy, cooperation, leadership, example, and your friendship and support. As you head west, my friend, to lead our beloved State of Kansas, I look forward to continued cooperation and success. The people of Kansas are in good hands. God bless.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to the 16 Senators who will be departing this body at the end of the year.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve alongside each of these Senators as colleagues and as friends. All served their States with distinction and gave their constituents strong voices in the world's greatest deliberative body. Senators Evan Bayh, Robert Bennett, Kit Bond, SAM BROWNBACk, Jim Bunning, Roland Burris, Chris Dodd, Byron Dorgan, Russ Feingold, Carte Goodwin, Judd Gregg, Ted Kaufman, George LeMieux, Blanche Lincoln, Arlen Specter, and George Voinovich—each left an indelible

mark on the Senate, and I wish them well as they take on new challenges and opportunities into the future.

I would like to speak briefly about a few of the Senators I knew best and served with in committees to recognize their contributions and accomplishments and share my fond memories of them and the legacies they will leave behind. . . .

While Senator SAM BROWNBACK will certainly be missed by the Senate, the people of Kansas will continue to benefit from his leadership, as he serves as their newly elected Governor.

Prior to being elected to public office, SAM's professional experiences included working as a radio broadcaster, attorney, teacher, and administrator.

From these varied professional experiences he brought with him a unique and dynamic perspective to the U.S. Senate.

Through his leadership as the ranking member on the Joint Economic Committee, ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resource Subcommittee on Water and Power, SAM established himself as a leader on a wide range of issues.

During his tenure in the Senate, he has supported aviation research and expanded global aviation markets. Through these efforts, he has effectively spurred economic growth and strengthened the U.S. military.

Some of SAM's most distinguishing characteristics are his personal integrity and his commitment to his Catholic faith. These principles came through in much of what he did in the Senate. I will always appreciate his passion and his work to translate his beliefs into his actions as a U.S. Senator.

I am confident Senator BROWNBACK will continue to serve the people of Kansas with the same character and dedication in his new role as Governor. . . .

In conclusion, the departing Senators' contributions, their dedicated service, and the issues they championed will be remembered long after their final days in the Senate.

I believe I can speak for my fellow Senators when I say that we will all miss our departing friends.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when the 111th Congress draws to a close, we will bid farewell to 16 colleagues who have collectively given more than 200 years of service to our Nation through their service in the Senate. These include seven of the Senate's most experienced Members. People like Chris Dodd and Arlen Specter who have each served

five terms in the Senate. Kit Bond who has served four terms and Bob Bennett, Byron Dorgan, Russ Feingold, and Judd Gregg, who have each served three terms in this Chamber. . . .

SAM BROWNBACK has forever earned a place in the heart of our first Americans for his work on the adoption of a joint resolution apologizing to American Indians and Alaska Natives for centuries of ill-conceived policies carried out by our Federal Government. He is known around the world as a champion of religious freedom as well. . . .

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with each of the people who will leave this Chamber when we adjourn sine die. Each has made substantial contributions to their States, to the Nation and to the Senate during their time here.

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