TRIBUTES TO HON. JIM BUNNING

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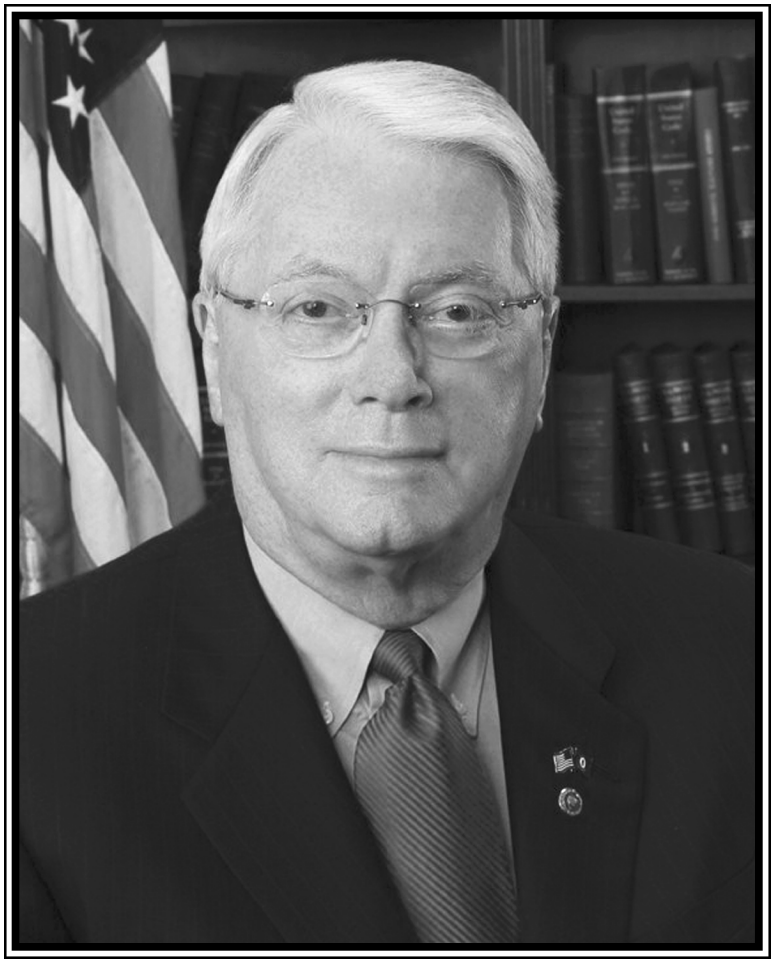
Jim Bunning

U.S. SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



Jim Bunning

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Jim Bunning

United States Congressman
1987–1999

United States Senator
1999–2011

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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BIOGRAPHY

On November 2, 2004, JIM BUNNING was elected to serve a second term as U.S. Senator for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Senator BUNNING was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998, winning by a mere 6,766 votes. In 2004 he won by a margin almost 3½ times larger than his victory in 1998, and he also won 73 of Kentucky's 120 counties and secured 873,507 votes. People who know JIM BUNNING were not surprised by these victories. Competition is a hallmark of JIM BUNNING 's life, and he is no stranger to winning.

As a youngster in northern Kentucky, JIM BUNNING fell in love with baseball and even then he displayed a competitive spirit and a willingness to work hard. That combination carried him on to a highly successful 17-year career as a Major League Baseball player after his graduation from Xavier University with an economics degree.

Pitching primarily for the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies, JIM BUNNING accumulated a record of achievement that eventually won him a seat in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. He was the second pitcher in history (Cy Young was the first) to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 wins in both the American and National Leagues. When he retired in 1971, JIM BUNNING was second on the alltime strikeout list—second only to Walter Johnson.

The same commitment that made JIM BUNNING a Hall of Famer also serves him well in public office. In 1977, he wanted to give something back to his community and he ran for and won a city council seat in Fort Thomas, KY. In 1979, he was elected to the Kentucky State Senate and became its Republican leader. In 1986, JIM BUNNING was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the Fourth District of Kentucky where he served for 12 years.

As chairman of the House's Social Security Subcommittee, JIM BUNNING established himself as one of Congress' foremost experts and defenders of Social Security, as well as a leading spokesman for strengthening and protecting Social Security. In Congress, JIM BUNNING has been a proponent of walling off budget surpluses to help ensure the livelihood and commitment of Social Security for our seniors and future

generations. He played a key role in the passage of landmark legislation establishing the Social Security Administration as a stand-alone and independent agency. He also authored the law to raise the unfair "earnings limit" for seniors.

In the Senate, JIM BUNNING's hard work won him the respect of his colleagues and a coveted seat on the influential Finance Committee, making him the first Kentuckian in nearly 40 years to serve on this powerful committee. Service on this committee allows Senator BUNNING a direct role in influencing how nearly two-thirds of all Federal dollars are spent on such issues as tax policy, Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, welfare reform, and trade policy.

Senator BUNNING also serves on the Banking Committee where he has been the leading critic of the Federal Reserve and financial bailouts. When he was chairman of the Banking Committee's Economic Policy Subcommittee, he also wrote legislation to reform the National Flood Insurance Program, which was signed into law. From his seat on the Energy Committee, Senator BUNNING worked hard to make America more energy independent with diverse energy sources, especially coal-to-liquids, soy-diesel, and ethanol. JIM BUNNING also served on the Budget Committee where he fought for fiscally responsible budgets that fund our top priorities, with an emphasis on strengthening our military and taking care of our troops overseas.

Although his election in the U.S. Senate and induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame stand out as top moments in his life, the alltime high point in his life was his marriage to Mary Catherine Theis. Together, they raised 9 children and have 35 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. JIM and Mary make their home in Southgate, KY, and are active members of the St. Therese Catholic Church in Southgate, KY.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Bond), a dear friend of mine and someone who has unusual wisdom in his remarks today. I listened to many of them. I just hope I have a few that are as well thought out as my good friend from Missouri.

I wish to take a few moments to thank all my colleagues and other individuals who have come to the Chamber to hear me bid farewell. That doesn't mean I will not speak again. That just means I am bidding farewell and this is a farewell speech.

I have had the great fortune of having three wonderful careers during my life: one as a husband and father of 9 children and a grandfather of 40, one as a Major League baseball player for 17 years, and one in public service for 30 years. Many people often talk to me about how different my baseball and public service careers are, but they really are not so different.

I have been booed by 60,000 fans in Yankee Stadium, standing alone on the mound, so I have never cared if I stood alone in the Congress, as long as I stood by my beliefs and my values. I have also thought that being able to throw a curve ball never was a bad skill for a politician to have.

I came to Washington, DC, in 1987, when the people of the Fourth District in northern Kentucky gave me the distinct honor to serve them. I did not know then that the people of Kentucky had bestowed upon me the privilege of representing them for 24 years. I have the same conservative principles in 2010 that I had when I first was elected to Congress.

Over the years, I have always done what I thought was right for Kentucky and my country. I did not run for public service for fame or public acclaim. When I cast my votes, I thought about how they would affect my grandchildren and the next generation of Kentuckians, not where the political winds at the time were blowing. Words cannot express my gratitude to the people of Kentucky for giving me the distinct

honor of serving them for 12 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate.

Here I stand, though, in the Senate Chamber about to say goodbye after nearly a quarter of a century in Congress. I have reflected much about my time here. As I stand here at the desk of Henry Clay, the great Kentuckian, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve in a place in history. I thought it fitting to discuss the legislative items of which I am most proud.

I have three bills I am particularly proud I was able to accomplish signing into law. One of the things I am most proud of during my time in Congress is helping pass legislation that repealed the earnings limit on older Americans under the Social Security system. Social Security used to penalize many older Americans for working by reducing their Social Security benefits by $1 for every $3 they earned, if they made more than the earnings limit which was about $12,000 in 1995. This was an unfair tax on seniors and punished them for continuing to work. I worked hard for many years in both the House and Senate to get this unfair earnings limit eliminated.

Finally, in 2000, after I had been elected to the Senate, it passed and was signed into law. This law has helped many hard-working seniors stay involved in their communities, remain independent, and contribute to society.

Another bill I am proud of is the 2004 Flood Insurance Reformation Act. In 2004, I wrote the last reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. That law provided significant reforms to the program just in time for the 2004–2005 hurricane season, including Hurricane Katrina. Had the law not been in place, homeowners all over the gulf coast would not have had coverage for the flood damage to their homes. The 2004 law is still the framework for the program today. It was not a Republican accomplishment or a Democratic accomplishment. It was a bipartisan accomplishment.

I worked very closely with Senator Sarbanes and Representatives Bereuter and Blumenthal to write and pass that law. While I believe that further changes are still needed to the program, the 2004 law made meaningful changes that put the program on a more sound financial footing.

Unfortunately, passage of the bill was not the end of the story. What happened or, more accurately, what did not happen illustrates one reason people are fed up with Washington: because government does not do what it is supposed to do. Despite the fact that the bill passed both the Senate

and the House unanimously, FEMA refused to implement all of its provisions in a timely manner. The most glaring example was the appeals process created by the bill for property owners to appeal claims they thought were not settled fairly or correctly. The law gave FEMA 6 months to write the rules. FEMA, instead, took almost 2 years from the day the bill passed to put even draft rules out. They probably would not have done it then, if it was not for the right of one Senator to object. I had to hold the nominee to head the agency to get the attention of the Bush administration and move the Secretary of Homeland Security to finally publish the rules. It should not have been that way.

The third bill I am grateful was signed into law is the Emergency Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program. The Paducah, KY, gaseous diffusion plant is the only operating uranium enrichment plant in the United States. When I came to the Senate, I held the first hearing to look at cleaning up the contamination the Department of Energy left at the site. After the hearing, I focused on cleaning up the site. A lot has been cleaned up since that first hearing 10 years ago. I also worked hard to provide compensation to workers who suffered serious illnesses as a result of their employment at the DOE nuclear weapons program plant.

This energy employment compensation program was set up because many workers served our country's nuclear programs during the cold war and their health was put at risk without their knowledge—the first compensation bill passed in 2000, with the help of a bipartisan group of Congressmen and Senators. I then became aware that DOE was slow-walking claims processing and payment to many claimants and their portion of the compensation program. So in 2004, again, with the help of a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen, I spearheaded legislation that moved the entire program over to the Department of Labor, which had sped up and streamlined compensation for the sick nuclear workers.

Along with many of my achievements, I also had time to reflect on some of the disappointments I wish I had been able to fix during my time here. I am deeply concerned about the state of entitlement programs—Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. It is clear that our government cannot meet its future obligations and ultimately the American people will suffer, unfortunately. Too many Members of Congress are willing to look the other way and let the financial prob-

lems of these programs fester instead of making hard decisions. Congress just cannot get the courage together to address these issues head on.

In fact, after President Bush's second election, Congress briefly focused on the problems of Social Security solvency. At the time, I was a strong supporter of private investment accounts but certainly realized that the whole system needed an overhaul and was open to many different options. Toward the end of the debate, I was willing to tackle Social Security reform even if we did not do investment accounts, as long as we did something. However, it quickly became apparent that many Members of Congress—even some in my own party—were not willing to get serious about this. Six years later, Congress still has not touched Social Security reform, and the program is even in worse financial shape.

Medicare and Medicaid are in the same position. In 2006, Congress finally got serious about spending in these programs and passed the Deficit Reduction Act. This bill slowed the rate of growth in Medicare by $6 billion and in Medicaid by $5 billion over 5 years. Let me be clear about this. We were not cutting spending in these programs. We were just slowing the growth.

Well, you would have thought the sky was falling when we did this. The longer Congress takes to honestly tackle these fiscal challenges, the harder it will be to fix these programs. This means bigger cuts, bigger deficits, and bigger tax increases.

Health care is another area where Congress should have done better. The other side of the aisle's stubborn refusal to compromise and, more important, listen to the desires of the American people on health care reform led to the passage of a bill that is one of the worst pieces of legislation I have seen in Congress in 24 years.

The health care bill is clearly unconstitutional, will force millions of Americans to lose the health insurance they currently enjoy, give the IRS—that is the Internal Revenue Service—the power to police and tax Americans who do not have health insurance, and take over $500 billion out of Medicare programs to pay for new spending.

Despite all the rhetoric from the administration and Democratic leaders about being transparent and open and willing to compromise, it quickly became clear that they only wanted Republican support if we agreed to everything they wanted to do. Well, compromise does not work like that. A

compromise means you actually have to take ideas from other people instead of just giving lip service.

One of the other recent disappointments was the financial regulation bill passed earlier this year. Before my first election, I spent 31 years working in the security business. That was back when baseball players did not make millions of dollars a year and had to have jobs in the off-season to pay the bills. I spent nearly all of my time in Congress on either the old House Banking Committee or the Senate Banking Committee, so this is something I know a great deal about and care about.

There were, and are, real problems in our financial system. But that bill is not going to fix them and almost certainly sows the seeds for the next banking and financial crisis while, at the same time, adding more burdens on the economies struggling to recover.

That bill did not replace bailouts with bankruptcy. It made bailouts a permanent part of the financial system. The bill did not force the too-big-to-fail banks to get smaller. It gave them special status. The bill ignored the role of housing finance and left Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac alone. The housing crisis could not have happened without Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The Senate failed to act on a bill to reform Fannie and Freddie passed by the Banking Committee in 2006, and that failure is going to end up costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Congress has to do something soon to get them off the taxpayers' life support they have been on since 2008. But, unfortunately, that did not happen in the financial reform bill.

The bill also ignores the Federal Reserve's failures as a regulator and, instead, gave them more power. And, worst of all, the bill did nothing to rein in the largest single cause of the current financial crisis and most other financial crises in the past: flawed monetary policy by the Federal Reserve.

Nothing Congress has done will stop the next bubble or collapse if the Fed continues with its easy money policies. Cheap money will always distort prices and lead to dangerous behavior. No amount of regulation can contain it.

For many years, I was a lone critic of the Federal Reserve. Particularly, no one questioned Alan Greenspan, despite his policies causing two recessions and two asset bubbles. I was the lone vote against Ben Bernanke in 2006. I was the lone vote because I thought he would continue the Greenspan monetary and regulatory policies. Well, he did. He kept it

up—a flawed monetary policy—and was slow to regulate. Then, in 2008, he took the Federal Reserve into fiscal policy by bailing out Bear Stearns and, later, AIG, and just about every other major financial institution in the country. As we saw, even last week around the world, Chairman Bernanke compromised the independence of the Fed and turned it into an arm of the U.S. Treasury.

Things have not gotten better since then either. Chairman Bernanke is continuing with the easy monetary policy, and a month ago started the printing presses again to buy up more Treasury debt. While the Fed may be propping up the banks with plenty of cheap money, he is undermining our currency.

Other central banks are moving away from the dollar and gold is continuing to climb. Just like the soaring national debt and entitlement costs, the destruction of the dollar is not sustainable. Congress must act to rein in the Chairman of the Federal Reserve and the Fed before they destroy our currency and permanently damage our economy and financial system.

Public awareness of what the Fed is doing is increasing, while public opinion of the Fed is falling. Chairman Bernanke had nearly twice as many votes cast against him in the Senate earlier this year than any other Fed Chairman in history. It is just not outside the Fed that opposition is growing. Regional Federal Reserve Bank presidents are speaking up and voting against Fed policy. Even some members of the Fed Board are recognizing the dangers of Chairman Bernanke's policies. I am more hopeful now than ever that Chairman Bernanke and the Fed will not be allowed to continue the flawed policies and act as an arm of the Treasury and the major banks.

As I stand here and reflect upon my time in Congress, I can honestly say I am gratified, despite the ups and downs, to have had the opportunity to serve my country and serve the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Twenty-four years is a very large portion of my life and my family's life. I thank my 9 children: Barb, Jim, Joan, Cat, Bill, Bridget, Mark, Amy, and David, and my 40 grandchildren, who inspired me to try to make this country better and better for the next generation to live.

I also want to give a special thanks to my wife Mary, the mother of my nine children and my childhood sweetheart from the fourth grade. I thank her for being at my side through all of the road trips and the late nights I spent in

the House and Senate. She is my better half, who supported and stood by me. She is my lighthouse that always shone in the dark during the good and the bad times of public service. She prayed me to my wins in public service and in baseball, and I never could have done any of these achievements without her.

As this chapter in my life comes to an end and I flip the page into a new chapter, I thank very much all the other people in my life who have stood by me. Without the friendship and support of so many over the years, I never would have been able and had the privilege to represent Kentucky in the House and Senate.

As I leave here today, I offer a little prayer for the next Congress. Pope John Paul II once said, "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." This is the motto I have tried to live by during my time in Congress. I pray that the Members of the next Congress do what is right for the country, not what is right for their fame and their future aspirations. My hope is that Congress will focus on the astronomical debt instead of continuing down the path of spending our future generations into higher taxes and a lower standard of living than we have now.

Godspeed and God bless.

With a sense of pride and gratitude, I will say for the last time, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES

TO

JIM BUNNING

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. . . .

Everybody knows about Senator JIM BUNNING and baseball. Nobody would want to be a batter when he is throwing pitches. We understand he is the only person to strike out Ted Williams three times in one game. But what not as many people know about him is that JIM BUNNING has been a persistent leader in fighting for sick nuclear workers who served our country during the 1950s and 1960s and were sick because of their work in handling nuclear weapons. So JIM BUNNING deserves the thanks of all the families of the sick nuclear workers in America for his service here. . . .

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. REID. I of course admire SENATOR BUNNING because of his great athletic skills. He is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. To think I have had the opportunity to serve in the Senate with one of the great pitchers of all time. I love talking to JIM BUNNING about his baseball days. Some of the stories he has told I have repeated many times and I will never forget them. One of the things he said that I have repeated on a number of occasions—JIM BUNNING was a great pitcher, an All-Star with no-hitters in both leagues. But he has some humility, because he said there was Sandy Koufax and there was the rest of us. He and I don't vote often the same way, but he is a man who has a strong opinion, and I am going to miss JIM BUNNING and the chance for me to talk to him about his athletic feats. I certainly wish him well in whatever his endeavors may be in the future.

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. . . .

Senator JIM BUNNING and I served together for many years on the Banking Committee. JIM and Mary Catherine and their family brought so much to not only the Senate as

an organization, but to the Senate as a group of individuals. JIM was one of the first and most insightful observers and critics of the growing issues in the securities market. He did it based upon his experience as a financial stockbroker in the world of finance. He did it also with his grasp of common sense and looking at things carefully and pragmatically, based on Main Street not on financial centers. We worked together on the Securities Committee, and we did it in a way that I enjoyed the collaboration immensely.

A focus on the issues and their importance to the country was also in the forefront of his mind. He distinguished himself immensely. I wish him well. . . .

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. . . .

WEDNESDAY, *December 15, 2010*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it is always a bittersweet moment when we come to the end of a session of Congress. As the clock winds down on the final hours of our legislative activities, it also signals the time when several of our colleagues will be retiring and ending their years of service in the U.S. Senate. One of our colleagues who will be leaving at the end of this session is my good friend JIM BUNNING of Kentucky. I know we will all miss him, his spirited presence in the Senate, and the friendship he has shared with us through the years.

Someday when he gets the urge I have no doubt that JIM will be able to write another book or two about his life that will sell countless copies all over the country. It can't miss. JIM has a truly remarkable story to tell about his life that has all the makings of a bestseller. An old adage reminds us that it isn't the number of years in your life that is important, it is the life in your years. If that is the standard we

are going to use, I can't think of anyone who has been able to fit more into every day of his life than JIM, and I for one would enjoy reading all about it. This time JIM might think about writing about how playing baseball was a lot like politics—and how the beanballs he used to throw at batters became verbal fastballs that came with lightning speed right at other Senators and members of the media.

I would imagine the first volume of this new series would be about JIM's years in baseball. There is definitely a lot still to be written about his Hall of Fame career and the outstanding results he was able to achieve that kept him in the Major Leagues for so many years.

JIM's 17-year career in baseball began when he broke into the big leagues on July 20, 1955, with his first team, the Detroit Tigers. In the years that followed, he pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Los Angeles Dodgers, notching 100 wins and 1,000 strikeouts in both the American and National Leagues. When he retired he had the second highest number of career strikeouts in the history of Major League baseball and two no-hitters, one of them the seventh perfect game in baseball history that he pitched on June 21, 1964—Father's Day—which made the game that much more meaningful for him. He was then inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

For anyone else that would have been enough. A Hall of Fame career, after all, is the kind of thing that most people can only dream about—but JIM was never one to be like most people. He had another career in mind, and it was time to get started on his other dream—making government work better for the people of Kentucky.

Soon after he first tossed his cap into the political arena, JIM won an election to serve on the city council in Fort Thomas. He then ran for and won a seat in the Kentucky State Senate where he soon came to serve as its Republican leader. Then, when the opportunity presented itself, JIM ran for and won an election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for 12 years.

Fortunately, for the people of Kentucky and the Senate, JIM then ran for and won a seat in the Senate. At every level, it was JIM's willingness to work hard and his commitment to his country and his beloved Kentucky that not only got him noticed, but helped him to make progress on all fronts.

Here in the Senate, JIM became the first Kentuckian in nearly 40 years to serve on the Finance Committee. He also

served on the Banking Committee, chaired that committee's Economic Policy Subcommittee, and then served on the Energy Committee which gave him a chance to work to make our Nation more energy independent.

At every post he has held he has been a fighter—for a sound budget, one that would provide the funds that were needed for our national priorities, like our Armed Forces—especially for those who were serving overseas. For 12 years in the House and 12 years in the Senate, JIM held true to the values and principles that had guided his life and served as his inner compass through all of his life's challenges and opportunities.

JIM has had more great moments in his life than most other people could ever hope for. He has his victories on the mound during a Hall of Fame career to look back on. He had all those wins on election day to remember with pride. Still, there was one moment that still stands head and shoulders above them all—his marriage. That day when Mary said "I do" was the best moment of his life. She is a strong source of support for him and I am sure he has already said that whatever success has come into his life he owes to a large degree to Mary. Theirs has been a remarkable marriage, during which they raised nine children who have blessed them with an abundance of grandchildren and some great-grandchildren, too.

Just like the title of the movie so many of us enjoy during this time of year JIM is having a wonderful life. Each day, each week, each month, and every year, he's played a full and active role in his community and his Nation. As a baseball player he proved to be one of the best there ever was. As a Senator and a Representative, he showed a willingness to bring that same determination that had won him so many games on the mound to our deliberations on the Senate floor.

I don't know what JIM is thinking of taking on next—but given his legacy of excellence that he continues to add to every day, I wouldn't be surprised to learn we haven't heard the last from him. That would suit me and so many who know him just fine. His is a voice that is still needed.

That is why, in the months to come I hope I continue to hear from him with his thoughtful ideas and suggestions about the issues we will be taking up in the current Congress. I will miss hearing what he has to say—but if I know JIM—I have a hunch he will make his views known.

Thanks, JIM, for your willingness to serve the people of Kentucky and the Nation. With both careers you have in-

spired countless people of all ages to pursue their goals and work to make their dreams a reality. Thanks most of all for your friendship. Diana and I wish you and Mary all the best that life has to offer. You have earned all of that and so much more. For all your life you have been leading the best way—by example—and living a life that has been nothing short of a great and grand adventure—just what life was always meant to be.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I know there are others on the Senate floor seeking to speak, but I wish to bid farewell to one of our colleagues. Few people can say they have had the same range of experience and successes in life as Senator JIM BUNNING. In fact, there isn't even another Major Leaguer who can say he struck out Ted Williams three times in one game. JIM accomplished that notable feat in just his second year in the majors.

Thirty-nine years after that, he had become the only member of the Baseball Hall of Fame to serve in Congress. For the past 12 years, I have been honored to work alongside this remarkable American in the Senate. We followed different paths in life, but we sure have deep love for Kentucky and its people. It has been my honor over the years to work closely with JIM to advance our common goals.

So today I wish to say a few words about my good friend as we honor his remarkable life and his remarkable service.

JIM was born and raised in Southgate, KY, and it wouldn't surprise anybody to learn he excelled in school and in sports growing up. He played baseball as a teenager at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, but it was for his skills as a basketball player that would earn him an athletic scholarship to Xavier University.

Baseball interrupted his college education, but at his father's insistence, JIM would return to Xavier and earn a de-

gree in economics that would serve him well in Congress over the years. He entered the majors in 1955, and over the course of a storied 17-year career he would play for the Detroit Tigers, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. JIM is a pretty imposing force at committee hearings—just ask Chairman Bernanke—but he was a dominating presence on the mound long before that.

At 6 feet 4 inches, he was a hard-throwing sidearmer who would tumble off the mound with every pitch he threw. By the end of his career, JIM could boast he was the first Major League pitcher to win 100 games, rack up 1,000 strikeouts, and throw no-hitters in both leagues. He finished with an impressive 224 wins, 184 losses, 2,855 strikeouts, and a 3.27 ERA—the career stats that would earn him a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

JIM's two greatest pitching achievements were his no-hitter in 1958 and the perfect game he threw on Father's Day, 1964, a feat that has only been accomplished 20 times in baseball history. Another little known feat was JIMMY's so-called "immaculate inning" in 1959 when he struck out 3 Red Sox on 9 pitches, a feat that has only been achieved 43 other times in baseball history.

Around here we joke that JIM likes to throw the high hard ones, but he developed the skill early. Over a 4-year period with the Phillies, JIM hit more opposing batters with pitches than any other pitcher in the league. In fact, over a 17-year career, he plunked 160 batters or nearly 10 batters a year, making him the 13th most dangerous pitcher of all time, ahead of such other well-known headhunters as Roger Clemens, Nolan Ryan, and Don Drysdale.

JIM has never been afraid of a little chin music, and he brought that same competitive mentality to his life in public service. After baseball, public service seemed like a logical choice. It was JIMMY's turn to give back, and give back is exactly what he did.

When JIM walks out of this Chamber for the last time at the end of this session, he will be able to say with justifiable pride that he has given 33 years of his life to public service and to Kentucky.

Over those three decades, JIM has served in all levels of government—from the Fort Thomas City Council to the Kentucky State Senate, to both Chambers in this building—12 years in the House and 12 in the Senate. He has dedicated

his life to serving the people of Kentucky, and Kentuckians are grateful for his service.

In the House he made a name for himself, among other things, by working tirelessly to strengthen and protect Social Security as chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

And then, in 1998, he decided to make a run at the U.S. Senate seat which at the time was held by Wendell Ford. It turned out to be a pretty close election, but once he arrived in the Senate, JIM set out to become one of the hardest working and most influential Members of this Chamber.

He has been a staunch social and fiscal conservative, and a budget hawk who for years has sounded the alarm on the kind of concerns about spending and debt that drove so many Americans to the polls this month. JIM spoke for many Americans when he said in a recent statement that, being a grandfather to many he worries that future generations will be saddled by the poor decisions that are being made today. "For the first time in my life," he said, "I question if my grandchildren will have the same opportunities that I had."

One particular issue that has been close to JIM's heart is the issue of adoption. In 2001, JIM introduced legislation to make adopting more affordable to American families. And in 2007, he introduced legislation to make those tax incentives permanent.

Of course, if there was ever a controversial issue regarding the national pastime on Capitol Hill, JIM was right at the forefront, including the 2005 hearings related to steroid use in baseball. In one memorable exchange from that hearing, JIM offered the following testimony, from his own experience as a player: "Mr. Chairman," he said, "maybe I'm old-fashioned, [but] I remember players didn't get better as they got older. We all got worse. When I played with Hank Aaron and Willie Mays and Ted Williams, they didn't put on 40 pounds to bulk up in their careers and they didn't hit more homers in their late thirties than they did in their late twenties." It was just this kind of straightforward, common-sense approach to the issues that has won JIM a legion of admirers not only on the baseball diamond, but off of it. On this issue in particular, JIM's passion and personal perspective helped shed light not only on the dangers of steroid use at the professional level, but on the growing steroid epidemic among young athletes at all levels.

Despite his high profile, JIM never forgot about the issues that mattered most to his constituents back home. He's been

a staunch supporter of clean coal technologies as an effective, efficient way to use coal, improve our environment, and bring jobs to Kentucky. Another issue that was extremely important to all Kentuckians was the failed cleanup of radioactive contamination that was found in the drinking water wells of residences near the Department of Energy's uranium enrichment plant in Paducah, KY, in 1988. In 2004, JIM harshly criticized the DOE's cleanup efforts, as well as called several hearings on Capitol Hill to draw attention to DOE's failure to compensate many workers that had been stricken with radiation-related diseases.

On every issue he has taken on, whether national, statewide or local, JIM has been a man of principle from start to finish. He has stayed true to himself. In a truly remarkable life, he has got a lot to be proud of. But if you were to ask JIM to list his greatest achievement, I don't think he would say it was his election to the U.S. Senate or his induction to the Hall of Fame. They would both come in a distant second and third to the day he married his high school sweetheart, Mary. JIM and Mary still live in the northern Kentucky town where he grew up. They have been married for nearly 60 years. Together, they have raised nine children. And they enjoy nothing more than spending time with the next generation of Bunnings—which last time I checked included 35 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. JIM will tell you there's no secret to his success. He is happy to give all the credit to Mary. As he put it in his Hall of Fame induction speech, she is his "rock."

Today, we honor and pay tribute to our friend and colleague for more than three decades of public service. JIM will be remembered for his two Hall of Fame-worthy careers, for his example of principled leadership, and for his devotion to God, country, and family. On behalf of myself and the entire Senate family, JIM, we thank you for your service, and we wish you the best in the next chapter of your life.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I join Senator McConnell in a tribute to my friend and colleague, JIM BUNNING. JIM and I came into the House of Representatives at the same time as part of the 100th class. I have enjoyed being with him as well in the Senate. JIM and Mary are counted among the best friends my wife Carol and I have. I agree with Senator

McConnell that while people may disagree with JIM BUNNING, no one has ever doubted his courage, his sincerity, his love for this country, his desire to do what is right, and his commitment to all those efforts. So I will greatly miss JIM when he is no longer part of the Senate. I think it is probably time for JIM and Mary to have a little bit of time to spend with all those children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Obviously, we all wish them both well.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words of farewell to my colleague from Kentucky, Senator JIM BUNNING. We will both be retiring from this Chamber when this Congress concludes, and I wish him and his wife Mary Catherine, their sons and daughters, and the rest of their family the very best in the future.

As we all know, prior to becoming a politician, JIM BUNNING was a world-class baseball pitcher. He had a distinguished career primarily with the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies, during which he became the second pitcher in Major League history to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 wins in both the American and National Leagues. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Of course, after such a distinguished career he could have simply hung up his cleats, moved back to his home State of Kentucky, and enjoyed a quiet retirement with his family.

Instead, he decided to take the work ethic and competitive spirit that drove him in baseball and use his energy to give back to his community as a public servant. In 1977, he ran for and won a city council seat in Fort Thomas, KY. He was then elected to the Kentucky State Senate in 1979. After serving in the State senate as Republican leader, he ran to represent Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District in 1986. He also won that election, and served for 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1998, JIM ran to replace Senator Wendell Ford, who was retiring. He kept his winning streak alive, not only winning that initial Senate contest, but also reelection in 2004. When he retires this year, JIM BUNNING will have amassed an impressive winning streak in politics, just as he did in baseball.

As you know, life in the U.S. Senate is about working out disagreements through deliberation and debate. This process of lawmaking has served to ensure that the voices of a broad range of Americans are heard as we work to craft the laws and policies we must ultimately all abide by.

As a Senator, JIM BUNNING has always stood up for his beliefs, and fought for what he thought was right. As a member of the Senate Banking, Budget, Energy, and Finance Committees, Senator BUNNING has been a staunchly conservative voice on economic policy.

While he and I seldom have seen eye to eye on these matters, his deep convictions have given voice to the concerns of citizens who share his point of view, and thereby have helped to shape and enrich our debates on the important questions we have faced over the years.

I wish him further success in whatever endeavors he pursues, as well as many happy, healthy years to come with his family.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JIM BUNNING. After 12 years in the U.S. Senate, Senator BUNNING is retiring from this Chamber at the end of this session.

JIM has led a remarkable life. As a baseball fan, I am especially envious of his first career as a Major League pitcher. He was a classic, hardnosed competitor, which foreshadowed his style as a public servant later in life. My favorite story about Senator BUNNING's baseball career is that he was the only pitcher to strike out Ted Williams three times in a single game. He is also one of only seven pitchers to throw a perfect game and a no-hitter. Senator BUNNING retired from the sport in 1971 with 2,855 career strikeouts, which, at the time, was the second highest total of all time. He was rightfully inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1996.

Following his outstanding baseball career, JIM went into politics. Once again, he was a winner. He has held office at the local, State, and Federal level. After serving Kentucky's Fourth District for 12 years in the House of Representatives, Senator BUNNING began his service in this Chamber in 1999. I have served with him on the Budget and Finance Committees, and have always known him to freely speak his mind and ask tough questions. He remained true to the fierce style he first demonstrated as a young pitcher who was not afraid to brush back a hitter.

Nor was Senator BUNNING intimidated by the often arcane and technical issues we confronted as members of the Finance Committee. Over the years we have served there as colleagues, we have worked productively on a wide range of legislative proposals that included the taxation of life insurance companies, shortening the depreciation period for farm equipment, and capital gains treatment for songwriters, just

to name a few. He was always willing to reach across the aisle to help achieve a common objective, a longstanding Finance Committee tradition.

Senator BUNNING will now enter a new phase in his life, and I am certain he will now have the luxury of spending time with his wonderful family. JIM has the good fortune of being married to his childhood sweetheart, Mary. They met in grade school, and I am impressed that JIM knew at such a young age that he found a truly special person. I find Mary to be an absolutely lovely woman and admire their lasting love for each other. Mary is the mother of their 9 children, and JIM and Mary now share 40 grandchildren. I wish JIM, Mary, and their entire family many years of health and happiness.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator JIM BUNNING.

Millions of American baseball fans know JIM as one of the most accomplished athletes of his generation. JIM pitched for both the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies during his 17-year career. He was the second pitcher in history to notch 100 wins and strike out 1,000 batters in both the American and National Leagues, and when he retired he was second on the alltime strikeout list. His impressive career earned him a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

While he wore the uniforms of teams in Michigan and Pennsylvania, JIM's heart never left his native Kentucky. Six years after retiring from baseball, JIM decided to run for public office and won a city council seat in Fort Thomas, KY. He was later elected to the Kentucky State Senate and became the Republican leader. Kentuckians then elected JIM to the U.S. House of Representatives for the Fourth District of Kentucky where he served until 1998. During his time in the House, JIM committed himself to defending Social Security as chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee. His unwavering stance on protecting Social Security contributed to the establishment of the Social Security Administration as a separate agency.

JIM was elected to the Senate in 1998 and quickly became a strong voice for fiscal responsibility. He became the first native Kentuckian on the Finance Committee in 40 years, and also served on the Budget Committee—and in both capacities I had the opportunity to work with him. JIM also served as chairman of the Banking Committee's Economic Policy Subcommittee, where he authored legislation that reformed the National Flood Insurance Program and made it

possible for millions of Americans to protect their homes affordably.

JIM's passion for policymaking has helped him shape legislation that will govern our Nation for years to come, but his greatest legacy is his family. He and Mary raised 9 children and have 35 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Sandy and I offer our best wishes to the entire Bunning family, and we thank him for his years of service to our great Nation.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to Senator JIM BUNNING, who is retiring after honorably serving the people of Kentucky for 24 years.

Throughout his political career, JIM has been a fierce taxpayer's advocate, a bold defender of life and protector of families, a small business ally, and a courageous critic of bad government policy.

As the targets of his criticism have learned, JIM's words can sometimes be sharp. That is because cold, hard truths have sharp edges and JIM BUNNING speaks in cold, hard truths.

Even when it comes to his own party.

In summer 2008, shortly after a Republican Treasury Secretary obtained the authority to pump unlimited money into Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, JIM was rightfully upset. "When I picked up the newspaper yesterday, I thought I woke up in France," he told the Secretary in a hearing. "But no," JIM said, "it turned out it was socialism here in the United States."

JIM often asked simple questions that were easy to answer truthfully and didn't tolerate equivocation. In the case of the Fannie and Freddie bailouts, he asked the Treasury Secretary, "Where will the money come from?"

The Treasury Secretary said it was better to "be unspecified and enhance confidence in the market."

JIM asked again saying that "doesn't answer the question. Where is the money going to come from if you have to put it up?"

There was more waffling, but JIM finally pushed the Treasury Secretary to admit the money was going to come from the taxpayer. The taxpayers were going to pay.

He later called for the resignation of that Republican Treasury Secretary because he was, as JIM put it, "acting like the minister of finance in China."

"No company fails in Communist China, because they're all partly owned by the government," JIM noted.

JIM has also been a brave critic of the Federal Reserve. He has told the Fed Chairman, who was appointed by a Republican President and helped orchestrate bailouts for those considered too big to fail that, "You are the definition of a moral hazard."

"Your Fed has become the creature from Jekyll Island," JIM said. And then he asked for the Fed Chairman's resignation, too.

JIM has performed a great public service by bringing attention to the economic damage being caused by the Fed with cheap money when no one else would. He was there calling for more oversight of the Federal Reserve long before it became a Tea Party cause, and he deserves credit for driving the issue into the mainstream.

As Senator, you could say JIM's approach has been as direct as the fastballs he threw that made him a Major League, Hall of Fame pitcher. When the Democrats tried to pass off phony paygo rules as real reform, JIM exposed it as a trick pitch. It was a gimmick to fool Americans into thinking they would pay for their big spending plans.

The Democrats said paygo would obligate Congress to offset any new spending with new revenues or spending cuts elsewhere in the budget. Soon after, they tried to pass $10 billion in unpaid for unemployment extensions. Moreover, the Democrats wanted to pass it by unanimous consent—Meaning no public debate, no rollcall vote, no accountability.

The Democrats bet no one would oppose benefits for the unemployed in this bad economy. They believed, as they continue to, that they can keep giving out money without paying for it and without any consequences.

JIM did not concede. He objected and stood his ground on the Senate floor. And by doing so, he showed everyone what a sham paygo is. The *Wall Street Journal* called it "his finest hour."

JIM BUNNING announced his retirement in July 2009, more than a year ago. He could have taken it easy during his last years in the Senate. He didn't have to tackle the Treasury, the Fed, or insist unemployment extensions be paid for.

But he did. JIM BUNNING, the Hall of Fame pitcher, the distinguished Senator, father of 9 and grandfather of 40 cared too much for this country to sit this one out.

He said in his farewell speech that he prays the Members of Congress will stop spending our future generations into higher taxes and a lower standard of living than we have now. I pray for that, too.

Finally, I express my gratitude to Senator BUNNING for supporting the new Republican from his State who will inherit his Senate seat next year. JIM campaigned for someone to take his place who would say no to bailouts, stop the takeovers, end the wasteful spending, and bring down the national debt. The Nation will benefit greatly by continuing to have a Senator at JIM's desk who believes as much in the principles of free markets and freedom as JIM.

Thank you JIM for giving America your best until the very last inning.

SUNDAY, *December 19, 2010*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of my good friend, Senator JIM BUNNING. Senator BUNNING will be departing from the Senate at the end of this session. I wanted to take a few moments to offer some remarks.

JIM is a distinguished two-term Senator whose career in public service has spanned more than three decades. Yet when the history books are written, it is likely that he will be more well known for his first love, the game of baseball.

JIM was born in Southgate, KY, in 1931. He graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH, with a degree in economics.

Most know that Senator BUNNING was a Major League pitcher for 17 years, mostly with the Detroit Tigers and the Philadelphia Phillies. He was, not to put too fine a point on it, one of the greatest pitchers to ever put on a glove. JIM retired with the second-highest strikeout total in baseball history. He was only the second pitcher in history to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 victories in both the American and National Leagues. Before JIM, only the legendary Cy Young had accomplished that feat. On June 21, 1964, JIM pitched a perfect game against the New York Mets, achieving one of the rarest and most sought-after feats in all of sports. Senator BUNNING was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996, 2 years before he came to the Senate.

After retiring from baseball, JIM chose a life of public service. In 1977, he was elected to the city council of Fort Thomas, KY. Two years later, he was elected to the Kentucky State Senate, where he became the Republican leader. In 1986, he was elected to the first of his six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1998, Senator BUNNING was elected to the Senate and has served here ever since.

Throughout his time in Washington, Senator BUNNING has been an advocate for a number of causes, including the preservation of Social Security for seniors, fiscal and financial reform, and ending America's dependence on foreign energy sources. He's played a key role on some of this Chamber's most influential committees, including the Banking, Energy, Budget, and Finance Committees.

For the last several years, I have had the opportunity to work with Senator BUNNING on the Finance Committee. I have always admired his commitment to his principles and his willingness to speak plainly when it became necessary to do so. His presence on the committee and in this Chamber will certainly be missed.

I want to wish JIM and his family the best of luck going forward.

WEDNESDAY, *December 22, 2010*

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. . . .

I wish Senator JIM BUNNING well as he departs the Senate. Much of his legacy can be defined by his competitive spirit and strong work ethic. These attributes have been evident throughout his many successes in life, first in his career as a Hall of Fame baseball player and then later as a public servant, representing the people of Kentucky. Being an avid sports fan myself, I hold deep admiration for those who can play at the highest levels of competitive sports and later bring that drive to the Senate!

Following his highly successful professional baseball career for 17 years, JIM decided he wanted to give back to his community. In 1977, he ran for city council and then later ran for the Kentucky State Senate eventually becoming the Republican leader.

In 1986, JIM was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the Fourth District of Kentucky, where he served for 12 years before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998.

During JIM's tenure in Congress, he has established himself as an expert and defender of Social Security, fighting hard to protect Social Security for current and future generations.

His hard work and devotion will be missed by the people of Kentucky, whom I know are grateful for his many years of service. . . .

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. . . .

In January we will feel the loss of the great pitching ace, JIM BUNNING, and Evan Bayh, both respected colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They are among six of my Energy Committee colleagues who are leaving the Senate this year. . . .

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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