

TRIBUTES TO HON. LARRY E. CRAIG

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Larry E. Craig

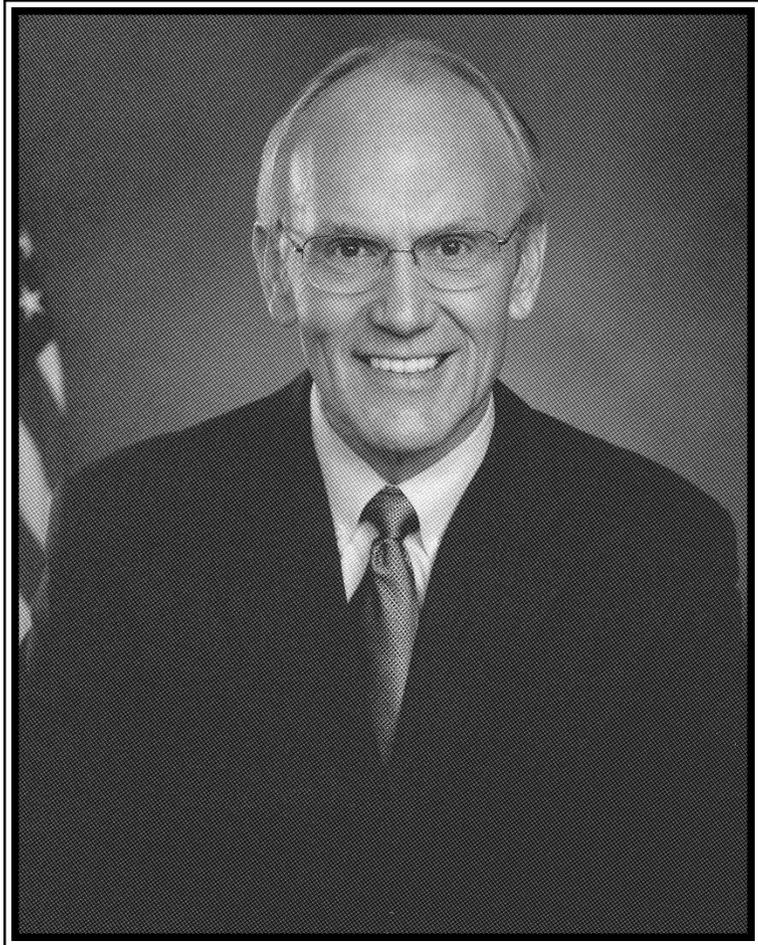
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Larry E. Craig

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S. Doc. 110-21

Tributes Delivered in Congress

Larry E. Craig
United States Congressman
1981-1991

United States Senator
1991-2009



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

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CONTENTS

	Page
Biography	v
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Akaka, Daniel K., of Hawaii	10
Alexander, Lamar, of Tennessee	3
Allard, Wayne, of Colorado	13, 18
Bingaman, Jeff, of New Mexico	9
Bunning, Jim, of Kentucky	8
Corker, Bob, of Tennessee	13
Craig, Larry E., of Idaho	15, 18
Crapo, Mike, of Idaho	14, 17
Domenici, Pete V., of New Mexico	5
Dorgan, Byron L., of North Dakota	26
Enzi, Michael B., of Wyoming	24
Feingold, Russell D., of Wisconsin	8
Hagel, Chuck, of Nebraska	19
Hatch, Orrin G., of Utah	11
Hutchison, Kay Bailey, of Texas	12
Inouye, Daniel K., of Hawaii	23
Kyl, Jon, of Arizona	22
Landrieu, Mary L., of Louisiana	12
Levin, Carl, of Michigan	19
Lieberman, Joseph I., of Connecticut	13
McConnell, Mitch, of Kentucky	20
Reed, Jack, of Rhode Island	13
Salazar, Ken, of Colorado	5
Specter, Arlen, of Pennsylvania	24
Warner, John, of Virginia	22

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BIOGRAPHY

Senator CRAIG was born on the family ranch near Midvale, ID, which was homesteaded in 1899 by his grandfather. He later served as the Idaho State president and national vice president of the Future Farmers of America.

After graduating from the University of Idaho where he served as student body president and was a member of the Delta Chi fraternity, he pursued graduate studies before returning to the family ranching business in 1971.

In 1974, the people of Payette and Washington Counties sent Senator CRAIG to the Idaho State Senate, where he served three terms before winning the 1980 race for Idaho's First District congressional seat. He was reelected four times before winning the U.S. Senate election in 1990 and was reelected to the Senate in 1996 and 2002.

Senator CRAIG served as chairman of the steering committee, a legislative think tank and action group for Senate conservatives. He was the youngest Senator ever elected to that position.

Senator CRAIG quickly rose to the fourth highest Senate leadership position in his first term, when his colleagues elected him chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. He was reelected to that position in the 106th and 107th Congresses. The committee is responsible for developing policy positions for Senate Republicans.

A forceful advocate for commonsense, conservative solutions to our Nation's problems, Senator CRAIG emerged as a leader in the battle for the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, limited taxation, private property rights, and greater accountability in government. He has been recognized by national groups including Citizens for a Sound Economy, Citizens Against Government Waste, Watchdogs of the Treasury, and the National Taxpayers Union Foundation for his votes to cut spending and protect the taxpayer.

Senator CRAIG was a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which he chaired during the 109th Congress. He was also a member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where he served on the Subcommittee on En-

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ergy, the Subcommittee on Water and Power, and the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

With his appointment to the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator CRAIG oversaw funding on the following subcommittees: Agriculture; Energy and Water Development; Homeland Security; Labor, HHS, and Education; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; and Interior and the Environment. He was also a member of the Special Committee on Aging, which he chaired during the 107th and 108th Congresses, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he served on the Public Sector Solutions to Global Warming, Oversight, and Children's Health Protection Subcommittee and the Superfund and Environmental Health Subcommittee.

In addition to his committee memberships, Senator CRAIG sat on a number of caucuses that worked for issues important to Idaho, including Air Force, National Guard, Nuclear, Rural Health, Diabetes, Congressional Sportsmen's, Congressional Potato, WTO for Farmers and Ranchers, Senate Sweetener, Idaho Safe Kids Coalition (honorary co-chair), the Western States Senate Coalition, and Education Advisory Committee to the National Youth Leadership Conference. He is a former co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and helped to found and lead the CCAI, an institute working on adoption issues.

The Idaho lawmaker was also on the board of directors of the National Rifle Association, the Alliance to Save Energy and the Keystone Center, and he co-founded and co-chaired the Congressional Property Rights Coalition.

As a westerner and a former rancher, Senator CRAIG played a leading role in the formation of natural resource and energy policies, and he has gained a national reputation as a stalwart against environmental extremism. He is also one of America's foremost defenders of the second amendment right to keep and bear arms.

He is married to the former Suzanne Thompson. They have three children: two sons, Mike and Jay, a daughter, Shae, and seven beautiful grandchildren.

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TRIBUTES
TO
LARRY E. CRAIG

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Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *September 24, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Senator PETE DOMENICI, who is retiring from the Senate this year after serving since 1972, once said to me that we don't say goodbye in the Senate very well. As a matter of fact, we don't say hello very well either. We have a little orientation program, but we abruptly arrive and leave. We leave in the midst of a lot of turmoil and discussion with very little time to say goodbye. Yet in between that arrival and leaving, we have very intense personal relationships. We virtually live with each other. We see each other often for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We see each other more than we see our families. So when there is a time for saying goodbye, we look for ways to say it a little better.

There are five Members of our body, all of them Republicans, who have announced their retirement for this year. While I won't be speaking at length about them here today, I want to recognize their service. I will do it in the traditional way in the Senate, which is to start with seniority. By "seniority," I mean from the time I have known them. . . .

Senator LARRY CRAIG has been in the Congress for a number of years. He served three terms in the Senate. I believe Senator CRAIG's great contribution is in the area of energy. He and Senator DOMENICI have been a team in advocating for nuclear power. They have been leaders in the Senate in understanding energy and its details, particularly over the last few years as issues of energy and the environment have become the most fascinating and important issues we have to deal with in many respects. Senator CRAIG has made a great contribution.

I especially appreciate his courtesies. When I was just elected to the Senate, I had worked here before as a staff member many years ago, but I didn't understand what it was like to be a Member. Senator CRAIG took a long hour with me on the telephone just explaining to me about committee assignments. I have always been grateful for that. . . .

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I say to all five of those Senators, we will miss them. We are grateful for their service. I know people must look at the Senate in many different ways.

Let me conclude by telling a story about how some teachers look at it. We have a tradition in the Senate of making a maiden address. It is kind of a funny name, but we still call it that. We pick the subject of most interest to us. My subject was to put the teaching of U.S. history and civics back in its proper place in the school curriculum so our children would grow up learning what it means to be an American. There is not too much the Federal Government can do about that, but what we were able to do is to begin summer academies for outstanding teachers and students of American history. One group of those teachers was here in July, one from each State. I brought them on the Senate floor early one morning. I took them to Daniel Webster's desk, which is occupied by the senior Senator from New Hampshire right here by me. I took them back to that part of the Senate where Jefferson Davis' desk is, occupied by the senior Senator from Mississippi, and told them the story of how the marks in the desk are because a Union soldier came in during the Civil War and started chopping on it with his sword. His commanding officer came in and said, "Stop that. We are here to protect the Union, not to destroy it."

This Chamber is full of history, full of our country. Anyone who stands on this floor and sees the engravings of "In God We Trust" or "E Pluribus Unum" and gets a sense of what has happened here has respect for it. The teachers had that respect. When we got to the end of our visit, one teacher said to me, I think it was the teacher from Oregon, "Senator, what would you like for us to take home to our students about our visit to the Senate floor?"

I said, "I hope you will take back that each of us takes our position a lot more seriously than we take ourselves. We understand we are accidents, that we are very fortunate and privileged to be here, that each of us reveres our country, and we respect this institution. I can only speak for myself, but I think it is true of Senators on both sides of the aisle that we get up every day thinking first of how we can make a little contribution before we go to bed at night that will help the country be a little better off than it was in the morning. That means serving in the Senate is a very great privilege. I hope you will take that back to your students. I don't know what they see on television or read in the news-

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paper about the Senate, but that is how we feel about the privilege we have to serve here.”

To these five Senators—Warner, Domenici, CRAIG, Hagel, and Allard—we say goodbye. They are members of our family. We appreciate their service. We know they have believed it has been a very great privilege to serve in the Senate. For us it has been a great privilege to serve with them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will not be joining us for the next session of Congress. They are great colleagues, people whom I have enjoyed working with in my 3½ years here in the Senate. They include Senator Allard from Colorado, Senator Pete Domenici from New Mexico, Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, and Senator LARRY CRAIG from Idaho. . . .

Senator LARRY CRAIG from Idaho has been a champion for agriculture and rural issues and for western values. When, yesterday, we were able to pass the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Secure Rural Schools Act, on which Senator Wyden and others had worked so hard, it was Senator CRAIG who helped make sure at the beginning that payment in lieu of taxes, which is so important to the presiding officer’s State and my State of Colorado, were, in fact, on the radar screen of Washington, DC. Sometimes those issues that are unique to the western part of the United States are not heard in the Halls in this Capitol. Senator CRAIG was an unrelenting advocate for making sure those western issues were, in fact, not forgotten by those of us who are here who have an ability to cast a vote.

I will miss my five colleagues. All of them are Republicans who are departing. Many of them brought a true spirit of bipartisanship and working together, which is worthy of the emulation of many Members of the Senate who will serve in this Chamber in the next Congress and in many Congresses to come.

I yield the floor.

THURSDAY, *September 25, 2008*

Mr. DOMENICI. At this time I would like to take some time to talk about Senator LARRY CRAIG and to thank him

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for his service here in the Senate and for his service and dedication to his home State of Idaho.

I have been fortunate enough to work with Senator CRAIG on many of the same issues over the years. More often than not we were on the same side of those issues. We worked for many hours together on energy policy, and more specifically, nuclear energy policy. In addition, the States we represent, New Mexico and Idaho, are similar in that they are both in the West, are largely rural, have vast swaths of Federal land, and are home to Federal research laboratories. These similarities between the States we represent brought us together by way of common interests on many of the same policy subjects.

Senator CRAIG and I served on the Appropriations Committee together for many years. During that time, we worked together to make sure the Departments of Energy and Interior were taken care of in terms of funding. As many of us know, Senator CRAIG comes from a strong agriculture background. At times we had to try to fend off, as best we could, efforts to change the Milk Income Loss Contract Program. The changes to the program would have compromised dairy producers from each of our home States. Dairy farmers in New Mexico and Idaho knew that Senator CRAIG was a formidable ally for their cause, and I thank him for his help and support.

As chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have always admired Senator CRAIG's command of public lands policy. He has been a great leader on public lands issues throughout his career, and without the leadership of Senator CRAIG, we would have never been able to pass the healthy forests bill in December 2003. It was also through his leadership we passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which has been so important to both our States. He led the Republican side on public lands and forest issues as chairman or ranking member of the Public Lands and Forest Subcommittee from 1995 until 2007.

Some of our most important work together took place in the nuclear arena. Senator CRAIG has done a tremendous job of promoting nuclear power as a safe, reliable, and clean source of energy. I appreciate his outstanding work on nuclear matters, and I appreciate his support and encouragement along the way for my efforts in this important area.

Many people know that because of where we live and what we do in our States, Senator CRAIG and I naturally work on

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similar matters. That is as it turned out. I will talk about some matters that have been very big for our country that are not natural to our States.

First, I served with him on the Committee on Appropriations for a number of years. We worked together on energy policy and, more specifically, nuclear energy policy. The States we represent are home to national research laboratories.

As many of my colleagues know, Senator CRAIG comes from a strong agricultural background. At times, we had to try to fend off, as best we could, efforts to change the Milk Income Loss Contract Program, called the MILC Program. That sounds like something we should all be for. It turns out that dairy farmers in New Mexico and Idaho knew Senator CRAIG was a formidable ally when it came to subsidies that would help some and hurt others. We were generally on the hurt end because we were smaller States that had that particular set of facts. We worked hard on those issues. I learned to respect him greatly.

He led Republicans on public lands issues and forest issues as chairman and ranking member of the Public Lands and Forest Subcommittee from 1995 through 1997. This led to the enactment of the healthy forest bill in December 2003—I was part of that with him—and the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act, which was his. I am sure most of the thinking to put it together was his. It was an absolutely stellar bill that got assistance to schools across his State and other Western States that lost some or all of their revenues for their schools because of the curtailment of timber sales in the area. He and the distinguished Senator from Washington worked together to get this done.

Senator CRAIG and I have spent a great deal of time on matters pertaining to nuclear power. Nuclear power is making a renaissance in America. We will soon have many of them built in the United States. We have more than any other country in the world, but we only get 20 percent of our electricity from nuclear power. Countries such as France have gone way ahead of us and now have 75 to 80 percent. Other countries of the world have as well, since America has made its bid, saying: We are going to change our minds, for which I am very proud. I took the lead in that, with LARRY's help, and we have changed America. With it has come a renaissance in nuclear power.

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I wish him the greatest success in his retirement. I am sure we will hear from him. He is too young to be quiet. He will be doing something, and we will hear about it.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as Senator CRAIG retires from the Senate, I want to take a few moments to recognize him and thank him for his work on behalf of the people of Idaho. He devoted 18 years to serving the people of Idaho in the Senate, following 10 years of service in the House of Representatives. Senator CRAIG and I worked together in two very different, very important areas: protecting civil liberties and supporting America's dairy farmers. In both cases, he was dedicated to the best interests of the people of Idaho, and I am grateful for his efforts.

Senator CRAIG was a key member of the group of six Senators—three Republicans and three Democrats, including myself—who worked together to try to strengthen the protections for Americans' privacy rights in the PATRIOT Act reauthorization that we considered in the Senate during the 109th Congress. His willingness to work across party lines on that issue was commendable, and it was a critical boost to our efforts. Senator CRAIG understands the importance of protecting Americans' freedoms, and I applaud his commitment to these issues.

I also thank him for his consistent support of dairy farmers, another area where we frequently worked together. Senator CRAIG and I shared concerns about the impact of the Australia Free Trade Agreement on dairy farmers, on the threat of unsafe importation of milk protein concentrates, and on nonfat milk price reporting errors.

Once again on these issues, Senator CRAIG put the needs of the people of Idaho first, and reached across the aisle to protect hard-working dairy farmers. After 28 years of service in Congress, Senator CRAIG is retiring from the Senate, and I wish him all the best. His hard work and dedication have made a valuable contribution to the Senate and to the American people.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to join my fellow Senators to honor a colleague and a friend, Senator LARRY CRAIG, who is departing the U.S. Senate at the close of this Congress. I have enjoyed working with Senator CRAIG over the last 20 years—first in the U.S. House of Representatives and later in the U.S. Senate.

While in the Senate, I have had the great fortune of serving with LARRY on the Senate Energy Committee. He is a re-

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vered advocate of energy, public lands, and rural community issues. The two of us have stood together on numerous issues—most notably energy—and I have always believed that we could achieve any task because I had his voice of reason and intellect by my side.

Senator CRAIG has shown the ability to keep a close eye on issues that matter most to citizens back in Idaho, while also looking out for all Americans. Whether the issue of the day was rural schools, western ranchers, public water, innovative forms of energy, and yes, even wolves, Senator CRAIG has proven that he is up for any challenge.

I would be mistaken to not mention the extraordinary work Senator CRAIG has done as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. His work has been instrumental to ensure that all citizens who are part of our armed services—including servicemembers, family members and survivors of veterans—are provided the world-class care and benefits they have earned. I thank him for his relentless efforts to improve the lives of those who have worn the uniform.

I thank the senior Senator from Idaho for his leadership and contributions to public service for the people of Idaho and all Americans. I honor Senator LARRY CRAIG not only for his length of service but more important his quality of service. I wish him and his loved ones all the best of health for many years to come.

FRIDAY, *September 26, 2008*

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about our colleagues who have announced their plans to retire at the conclusion of this 110th Congress. We obviously will miss them. There are five individuals about whom I wanted to say a brief word: Senators Allard, Hagel, CRAIG, Warner, and Domenici. They have all brought their intelligence, principles, and perspectives on the issues confronting our Nation. The Nation is better for their efforts. . . .

My longtime colleague on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator CRAIG, has been a valuable voice for Idaho for decades. He served in his State's legislature for 6 years before coming to the House of Representatives 28 years ago where he served for 10 years.

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In 1990, he was elected to the Senate. We worked very closely on issues important to energy and natural resources throughout the West. He has been a leader in many national policy areas, including aging and opening trade to Cuba.

I have appreciated his contributions, particularly in our Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where his opinions have always been clearly expressed and his best efforts are made to represent his State and the Nation.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will no longer be with us next year. I have known some of them for just a little while, others I have known for a long time. And, to all of them I bid a fond farewell and *mahalo* for their service to their State and to this country. They are dear colleagues and friends of mine and I know that even if they leave this fine establishment, our friendships will continue long into the future.

The Senators that I am referring to are Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator Pete Domenici from New Mexico, Senator LARRY CRAIG from Idaho, Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, and Senator Wayne Allard from Colorado. Please allow me just one moment to reflect on my service with each of these valuable Members. . . .

I would be remiss were I not to mention the retirement of another of our colleagues, my friend LARRY CRAIG. Senator CRAIG and I served together on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which he chaired in the 109th Congress. I will not forget Chairman CRAIG's willingness to bring the committee from Washington to my home State of Hawaii, to hear the concerns of Hawaii's veterans first hand. Under his leadership, the committee held an unprecedented series of field hearings on the needs of veterans living in Hawaii, the Nation's only island State. My colleague made this possible, and I will not forget his generosity.

Senator CRAIG and I have not always agreed, but I am proud of the relationship he and I maintained as counterparts on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. His willingness to find workable compromises, and to work with, rather than against, those with opposing views, are both qualities in great need here in Washington. I wish him well as he returns to his native Idaho. Surely he will now be able to have more time with his wife, Suzanne, their three children, and their seven grandchildren. I wish him happiness and the best with his future endeavors. . . .

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Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak today regarding the retirement of my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Idaho. At the conclusion of this Congress, Senator LARRY CRAIG will end a political career that has included over three decades of service to the people of his State. I am sure many of my colleagues will agree, Senator CRAIG's presence in the Senate will be missed.

Senator CRAIG is a lifelong citizen of Idaho, having been born in Council, ID, and growing up on a ranch in Washington County. He attended college at the University of Idaho and later served in the Idaho National Guard. These close ties to his home State, I believe, informed almost every decision he made while serving in Congress.

LARRY's career in public service began in 1974 when he was elected to the Idaho State Senate. Six years later, he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served five terms. In 1990, he was elected to his first of three terms in the Senate, where his devotion to the people of Idaho continued.

During his time in the Senate, Senator CRAIG became involved in a number of efforts to serve the people of his State and the country as a whole. He has held prominent positions on the Appropriations, Veterans' Affairs, and Energy and Resources Committees. He also had a brief stint on the Senate Judiciary Committee when I was serving as chairman. Although his time on the Judiciary Committee was short lived, Senator CRAIG was always an active member of that panel, pursuing immigration reform to help the farmers from his State and throughout the country and vigorously supporting legislation to protect civil liberties.

In recognition of these efforts, he was inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame in 2007.

Of course, no discussion of Senator CRAIG would be complete without mentioning the Singing Senators, the now famous barbershop quartet that featured Senator CRAIG along with my good friends Trent Lott, John Ashcroft, and James Jeffords. I think we all enjoyed the exploits of The Singing Senators during their brief moment in the limelight. Sadly, with the departure of Senator CRAIG, there will be no Singing Senators left. I still have my copy of their album, "Let Freedom Sing," and I can only hope that LARRY will be taking home with him his copies of the albums I have recorded. If not, I am sure I can dig up some new ones for him.

Mr. President, I want to close by saying that I have greatly admired Senator CRAIG for his devotion to the people of

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his State and his efforts to improve our country. I want to wish him and his family the best of luck in any future endeavors.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, LARRY CRAIG has a long history of service to the people of Idaho.

In 1974, he was elected to the Idaho State Senate, where he served three terms before winning the 1980 race for Idaho's First Congressional seat.

He was reelected four times before winning a U.S. Senate seat in 1990.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he assured that the health care needs of our Nation's veterans were addressed, and he helped increase the number of claims processors to try to help veterans receive the benefits they deserve, with fewer delays.

Throughout his career, Senator CRAIG has been a forceful advocate for commonsense, conservative solutions to our Nation's problems.

He has been a leader in the battle for lower taxes, private property rights, and greater accountability in government.

He has been recognized by national groups, including Citizens for a Sound Economy, Citizens Against Government Waste, Watchdogs of the Treasury, and the National Taxpayers Union Foundation.

He is also one of America's foremost defenders of the second amendment.

I wish Senator CRAIG well in his retirement.

SATURDAY, *September 27, 2008*

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators that appear in the *Congressional Record* be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion until Friday, November 21, 2008.

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

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MONDAY, *September 29, 2008*

Mr. LIEBERMAN. . . . I offer thanks and best wishes to other colleagues who are leaving—Senators Allard, Hagel, and CRAIG.

WEDNESDAY, *October 1, 2008*

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, there are a number of distinguished Senators who are leaving this body this year. I know there have been a number of tributes given to all of them and their service. . . .

LARRY CRAIG of Idaho who, again, in the energy area, has offered great counsel and made sure that wise decisions were made in that particular committee—I honor all of them. I wish them well. I think we are all better having had the opportunity to serve with them.

THURSDAY, *October 2, 2008*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize and pay tribute to several colleagues who are concluding careers in the Senate. These gentlemen have distinguished themselves. They have dedicated themselves to representing their States and representing the best interests of the Nation. . . .

Senator LARRY CRAIG, with whom I had the privilege to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, is someone who has vigorously defended his positions in the Senate. We have disagreed more often than agreed, but our debates have been both vigorous and civil. I can recall managing the legislation, Senator CRAIG on the opposing side, with respect to issues of guns and firearms. I recall a debate that was vigorous, robust but principled. I appreciate that effort and his service. . . .

To these Members, I wish them well. I thank them personally for their kindness to me and their thoughtfulness on so many other occasions.

Mr. ALLARD. . . . Also retiring is Senator LARRY CRAIG from Idaho, another westerner with whom I found a lot in common. He and I both have strong agricultural roots. He has been a very strong advocate of those issues important to

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the West and his State of Idaho. Again, I have appreciated working with him on national park issues and public lands issues. He is a superb individual.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, as the 110th Congress comes to a close this fall, a chapter in Idaho politics also comes to a close. After serving in public office, first in the Idaho State legislature from 1975 to 1981, then in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 to 1990, and finally in the U.S. Senate from 1991 to 2009, my colleague, Senator LARRY CRAIG, is retiring from elective office. Over the years, he has doggedly pursued initiatives important to Idahoans and staunchly defended western values.

Our colleagues in the Senate know about Senator CRAIG's work over the years ensuring that the U.S. agricultural community has the support needed to thrive and continue ensuring our food security and playing a major role in the global economy.

Our colleagues know about Senator CRAIG's consistent stand on public lands, his unflinching defense of private property rights and his reliable support of those who are caretakers of this invaluable national resource.

Our colleagues know Senator CRAIG's stalwart defense of our second amendment rights and his tireless call for a balanced budget and lower taxes.

Our colleagues in the Senate know that Senator CRAIG has, on a number of occasions, reached across the aisle to promote bipartisan legislation.

Our colleagues in the Senate know and have depended on the leadership exhibited over the years by a man with humble beginnings, born in a small Idaho town, on a family farm where he returned after college until the people of Payette and Washington Counties elected him to represent them in the Idaho State legislature.

What may not be so well known about the senior Senator from Idaho is his commitment to adoption, to our youth, to community service, to our veterans, and to our seniors.

Senator CRAIG's three children are adopted. Over the years, he became a congressional leader in promoting adoption and working on policy initiatives that help adoptive parents and young children needing to find loving homes. He also helped found the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Senator CRAIG did not only champion adoption in Congress, he took a strong leadership role in the Congressional Awards Foundation. This is an outstanding program that en-

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courages young people to set high goals, to work toward them, and then when they have achieved these goals, it gives this body the opportunity to recognize their extraordinary accomplishments. The sense of community service this program grows in young people imparts a lifelong sense of civic duty and responsibility. In short, it grows great Americans.

Speaking of great Americans, Senator CRAIG has been a champion of veterans as well, prioritizing their changing needs over the years and helping remind all of us that when a man or a woman defends the United States of America, that individual deserves to have this Nation care for them in their return and in their time of need.

A believer in bringing Washington to Idaho, Senator CRAIG has hosted over 300 townhall meetings since his election to the Senate. He has also made national priorities that involve Idaho and his priorities; namely, Department of Energy and Defense operations and research at the Idaho National Laboratory, the Mountain Home Air Force Base, and Gowan Field for the home of the Idaho National Guard.

Senator CRAIG has not only supported children, young people, the military, and our veterans, he has also worked to champion the cause of the aging, serving on the Special Committee on Aging and keeping important senior issues at the forefront of our legislative policy.

Senator CRAIG's public service demonstrates a rich history of strong, conservative leadership, characterized by an unapologetic defense of democratic ideals of private property and personal liberty, woven together with an abiding and proactive concern for those without a voice in Washington. Idahoans across the State have come to know they can depend on Senator CRAIG to defend their economic well-being and their values.

It has been a privilege for me to serve with Senator CRAIG during my time in the Congress. I wish him and his wife Suzanne well as they enter this new chapter in their lives.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank my partner and colleague from Idaho, soon to become Idaho's senior Senator, Mike Crapo. Mike and I have had a working relationship and a friendship for literally decades, and it is one I have greatly appreciated over the years because of his consistent and wise counsel.

While I came to the Congress before Mike, Senator Crapo was in the legislature during a period of time after I was there, and so he brought with him, first to the House and

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then to the Senate, the very similar experiences I had as a State legislator. I highly recommend that to anyone who wants to serve in the Senate, that they have that experience on the ground in their home State in a way that brings the reality of State governments and the Federal Government together. Certainly, over the years Senator Crapo has had that experience and has shared it with me. Together, I think we have made a very valuable team for our State.

There is another aspect of Senator Crapo I have so highly regarded over the years, and certainly the presiding officer from Colorado would appreciate it. There is probably one single most valuable commodity in the high deserts of the West—such as many parts of the Colorado and the State of Idaho—and that is water. There is an old phrase that many have heard over the years, which is that whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over. And there is a lot of truth to that. Our States historically have that in their background as we sorted out our water problems and began to recognize these phenomenally valuable commodities.

Mike Crapo, in his other life, spent a lot of time with water law. I always said that when it came to water issues here in Washington, while they best be fought out in the State Capitol in Boise, I wanted Mike Crapo by my side as we worked through water issues that were for our State and certainly for the Nation. Not only does he know the law, coming out of a high desert environment of the kind that is in southern, southeastern, and southwestern Idaho, he knows the reality. He knows the importance. He knows that water is life and death. It is economy or no economy based on its value. That is the kind of partnership we have had over the years.

I will be replaced by Idaho's Lieutenant Governor, Jim Risch. I am confident he will be elected, for a lot of reasons. First, he is a highly competent person. Idaho knows him well and respects him. He has served Idaho well and he will serve us very well here. He will become the junior partner of the soon-to-be senior Senator, Mike Crapo. That team, that organizational effort, that combining of forces on by far a majority of issues will be held for Idaho's interests.

Mike and I rarely split our votes. When we do, we talk about them, we know our differences and we understand them. But we have realized over the years that the team approach for Idaho and the Idaho delegation is very important for a small State—small by population, at least, certainly not small by geography. So the friendship and the relationship

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I have had with Senator Crapo over the years has been personally very valuable to me, but I trust it has been very valuable to the State of Idaho. But that kind of working, teaming partnership is going to continue as I step down and Jim Risch is elected in November to continue to work with Mike Crapo.

So I say to my colleague, Senator Crapo: Thank you. Thank you for the kind remarks and the working relationship and friendship we have had over the years.

And to the presiding officer, while he has not served here as long as either of us, I would say to him that he fits in immediately, because he is a westerner who understands our issues, because they are his issues, and we have already begun to work those kinds of partnerships and relationships that are very valuable to the West, to the public lands, and to the interests of our States' people.

I thank the chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I came down here to pay a tribute to our senior Senator from Idaho, Senator LARRY CRAIG, and you can see the caliber of man he is—he came down and paid tribute to me. That is the way he is.

I want to add to my remarks by thanking Senator CRAIG personally for his tremendous assistance to me. From the very first day that I stepped foot on the floor of the Senate—in fact, before that, when I was trying to get elected to the Senate—Senator CRAIG was there to help. And once I was elected, Senator CRAIG set about making sure I could be successful.

As he has indicated by his gracious remarks, that is the kind of man he is. He is a tremendous friend and he is a tremendous advocate and he has the kind of principles and values that have helped him to represent the people of Idaho so well over the years. He has committed his life to public service and has shown the people of Idaho and the people of this Nation the kind of leadership we should have in this country, fighting for those kinds of principles that I have mentioned—whether it be private property rights, a balanced budget, lower, smaller government, protecting those without a voice, working for the veterans, working for senior citizens, and his commitment to working for our newest citizens of our world, those who need adoption. The list goes on and on.

I want to personally thank you, LARRY, for the opportunity to serve with you here in the Senate, and to tell you that I

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and all of us in Idaho will miss you and look forward to continuing to work with you as you enter this new chapter of your life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, while the Senator from Idaho is on the floor, I made some comments earlier about the pleasure of being able to work with him in the Senate. I wish to also recognize the fine work he has done on energy. We certainly appreciate his work on that.

Colorado is an energy-rich State. We have all forms of energy, not only fossil fuels but also wind and solar and geothermal. I think Senator CRAIG has been very sensitive to those.

When working with the Senator from Idaho I felt like he truly had the Nation's interest in mind. It has been a pleasure for me to serve with Senator CRAIG, particularly on the Appropriations Committee. The Senator brought in a very competent staff and was himself extremely knowledgeable.

As we leave this institution, I wish to thank the Senator from Idaho for all the work he did to help me along with legislation. What a privilege it has been to be able to know Senator CRAIG and work with him in the Senate. Also, I wish to recognize the Senator's hard work in the Senate. . . .

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, before the senior retiring Senator from the State of Colorado leaves, let me thank him for his gracious comments. We have been a very good team and have partnered on a lot of issues over the years because we have such common interests in mind. Our States are very similar in so many ways.

The State of Colorado happens to have the hydrocarbons we do not have, when it comes to gas and oil. But at the same time, agriculture, water, and timber, tourism, and all the great things many people attribute to the West are embodied in the State of Colorado and certainly in the State of Idaho.

But a very special thanks to Senator Allard for your fine comments. The work the Senator has done on behalf of his State is precedent setting. I hope—I know—the Senator will be continually recognized for that.

Let me also say the Senator and his wife Joan have become good friends of both my wife Suzanne and I. Those are the kinds of friendships that build partnerships in the Sen-

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ate. I hope other Senators recognize the Senate works well when Senators are friends and partners.

Now, we may have our disagreements along the way, and there may be some disagreements between Democrats and Republicans, but when the collegiality of the Senate leaves, the Senate no longer works or works as well as it should on behalf of our citizens. Certainly, the collegiality between the Craigs and the Allards has been long-standing and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I would like to begin my remarks this afternoon acknowledging four of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate along with me at the end of this Congress, the 110th Congress, and then make some additional comments. . . .

Mr. President, the fourth Member of the Senate who will be leaving along with me will be the senior Senator from Idaho, LARRY CRAIG. I have had an opportunity to work with Senator CRAIG over the years on environmental issues, energy issues, trade issues, agricultural issues. There have been few who have been as forceful and important a voice on behalf of those critical challenges to our country.

Senator CRAIG, Senator Allard, Senator Warner, and Senator Domenici all leave the Senate a better institution for their service.

Mr. LEVIN. I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Idaho, Senator LARRY CRAIG. As the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I can particularly appreciate the vital role played by the Veterans' Affairs Committee. LARRY served as the chairman of that important committee from 2005 to 2007, and the ranking member since then. During his tenure, Veterans' Affairs has been challenged by two ongoing wars and, more recently, by public revelations of serious deficiencies in our system for caring for our wounded warriors.

Helping our Nation's wounded warriors is a cause to which LARRY CRAIG is profoundly committed. He has fought for our deserving and brave veterans by introducing bills to improve educational opportunities and to expand benefits for traumatic injuries. He helped make possible a rare joint hearing between the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee to look into the situation at Walter Reed and help formulate the wounded warrior legislation which passed through the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan

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support as part of the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

While LARRY CRAIG and I have often been on opposite sides of policy debates, I admire his commitment to his views and to the people of Idaho. In addition to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator CRAIG serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittees on Interior and Related Agencies, and Superfund and Environmental Health, legislative areas of great concern to the citizens of Boise, the ranchers of Midvale and the skiers of Sun Valley. And today, I join my colleagues in thanking LARRY CRAIG for his service to his State and his country, and I wish him and Suzanne the very best in the future.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one of the great sticking points for the Framers of the U.S. Constitution was how small States would be represented in the new government.

In the end, the compromise that gave small and big States equal representation in the U.S. Senate broke the logjam, paved the way for ratification, and became one of the most distinctive—and best—features of our democracy.

It has ensured that the interests of all Americans, including those who live in remote or secluded corners of the country, are felt in the halls of power. And, throughout the life of our country, it has meant that men and women who understood those interests and who could communicate them with clarity and purpose would always have a central place in the U.S. Senate.

For nearly two decades, LARRY CRAIG has been that person for the people of Idaho—a fierce advocate and an effective legislator who understands the needs of his State, and always delivered.

The grandson of a homesteader, Senator CRAIG was born on a ranch north of Boise and attended public schools. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1969 and may have been its most prominent alumnus before the world got to know the current Governor of Alaska a few weeks ago.

After college, Senator CRAIG served in the National Guard, worked as a farmer-rancher, and was elected to the Idaho Senate in 1974. Seven years later, Idaho voters sent him to Washington.

After a decade in the House, they sent him to the Upper Chamber. And he has been fighting their battles here in the Senate ever since.

One of his favorite targets over the years are the western lands policies favored by big city environmentalists but op-

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posed by the native Idahoans who cherish and live off the land.

He fought revisions of the Mining Act of 1872 and a Clinton-era proposal to introduce grizzlies into Idaho's Bitterroot Range.

Over the years, he's fought anyone who tried to impose rules and restrictions on land use that natives oppose. Those battles heated up in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2005 *Kelo* ruling. And over the last 3 years, he's fought hard to protect the private property rights of farmers and ranchers who have been left especially vulnerable by the Court's *Kelo* decision.

Senator CRAIG took a lead role in the farm bill debate over the last 2 years, making sure it included funds to support specialty crop producers in Idaho, one of the Nation's top producers of specialty crops, and about one-third of the Nation's potatoes. And he played a vital role in smoothing the way for the bill's final passage earlier this summer.

As chairman of the Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee, Senator CRAIG fought to reform the Nation's Forest Service, which drastically reduced the timber harvest on public lands during the Clinton administration, cutting into the livelihoods of Idahoans in small towns across the State.

For municipalities that couldn't recoup the losses from lost timber revenue, Senator CRAIG reached across the aisle and worked with Senator Wyden to find compensation that helped them cope. It was a characteristic gesture of bipartisan work, and one he's employed repeatedly over the years.

He's been a strong defender of free trade.

As chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, he sponsored a bill that would enable seniors to buy State-approved long-term care policies.

And he has been a good friend to our Nation's veterans, serving as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

A new tower at Boise's airport would not have been built without Senator CRAIG's help. Neither would the new VA clinic that opened in Caldwell just last year. In a long Senate career, Senator CRAIG has fought with clarity and conviction for Idahoans. Along the way, he has been a friend of veterans, children seeking a home through adoption, and thousands of American farmers and ranchers, particularly those in the Pacific Northwest.

And, along with three other Senate colleagues who've moved on, he entertained us as a member of the Singing Senators.

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With Senator CRAIG's retirement, the last of the Singing Senators will have left the building.

And the people of Idaho will have lost one of their greatest champions.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, five colleagues on my side of the aisle are retiring from the Senate at the end of this session. They have served for many years, and I have come to know each of them very well.

Senator LARRY CRAIG and I served in the House together until 1991 when Senator CRAIG moved to the Senate. I joined him 4 years later. We represent Western States, so we have had occasion to work together on issues that are important to the American West.

In his position on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he has defended property rights and stood for the prudent use of our natural resources. He has also been a strong advocate of Americans' second amendment rights. And, as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee—for a time the ranking member—he has worked to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they were promised.

Senator CRAIG has held a number of positions among Senate Republicans. He served as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, and he participated in the musical effort of Senators Trent Lott, John Ashcroft, Jim Jeffords, and himself—the Singing Senators.

After almost three decades in the U.S. Congress, Senator CRAIG is now leaving public service. Idaho has lost a great Senator who always looked out for the interests of the State and its citizens. He has a great record of accomplishment on which to reflect—numerous legislative victories and, of course, one CD.

We will miss Senator CRAIG in the Senate, especially the spirited remarks he so often delivered on the Senate floor.

I wish LARRY and Suzanne all the best and hope they have many happy moments with their wonderful family.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the State of Idaho occupies a very special place in my life's career. In the summer of 1943, during the height of World War II, I had the great fortune to find a job with the U.S. Forest Service. I was sent to Idaho, along with many other young men, to work in the forests. We performed a wide range of duties, from clearing trails to fighting forest fires.

After brief service in the Navy in the final year of World War II, I attended college and at my first opportunity, in the

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summer of 1947, I returned to Idaho to once again work with the Forest Service, helping preserve one of nature's greatest gifts—the mighty trees of the West.

Those two summers of hard work trained and prepared me to always respect those who labor with their hands.

Throughout my career in the Senate, I have enjoyed working with Senators from Idaho, and sharing common interests, such as forestry and preserving the great outdoors, with those who represent that State. Senator LARRY CRAIG is one of those.

Through the years, I have found his perspective on controversial issues, such as forests, mining and agriculture, especially the potato and sugar-beet issues, to be very valuable and informative.

LARRY CRAIG and I also share an interest in the fine arts. My hobby is painting in oil; his is drawing with meticulous design. His creations are extraordinary in their detail. I hope, as he leaves the Senate, he will have opportunities to further utilize those exceptional talents to create pieces of art to be enjoyed by others.

I wish him and his family well.

MONDAY, *November 17, 2008*

Mr. INOUYE. Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator CRAIG has served his home State of Idaho for 18 years in the U.S. Senate. He has been a fervent leader to the people of Idaho with unwavering devotion.

Senator CRAIG has sought to establish Federal policies that respond to the needs and interests of Idahoans by constructing strong, sustainable rural communities, seeking access to adequate, affordable health care, and developing natural resource and energy policies that protect the environment and keep consistency with economic growth.

Senator CRAIG's leadership in promoting economic development and strengthening American agriculture has led to the improvement of both agricultural studies and programs. His resilient leadership has helped to foster numerous programs in Idaho that will benefit agricultural entrepreneurship and help to strengthen the partnership between State and Federal groups. Senator CRAIG has truly served the people of Idaho with distinction.

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Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

WEDNESDAY, *November 19, 2008*

Mr. SPECTER. LARRY CRAIG has made significant contributions to the Senate during his three terms. He has been a leader on energy, agriculture policy, and veterans affairs. During the debate on immigration, he was a forceful spokesman for a guest farmworkers program. When we next take up important subjects, his leadership will be missed,

I worked with him closely on veterans affairs where he chaired that committee after I moved from chairman there to chair the Judiciary Committee. His leadership on a codel to the World War II battlefields in France over Memorial Day 2006 was particularly noteworthy. Our visits to U.S. cemeteries in France and inspection of the Normandy beaches were memorable.

I was glad to see LARRY finish out his full third term after the incident at the Minneapolis airport. When I heard the recording of the police officer's questioning him, I immediately thought that there was insufficient evidence of wrongful conduct. I heard the reports that he planned to resign at the end of September 2006 and called him to suggest that he modify his public statement to allow for reconsideration of that decision. He did so, and as the record shows, his legal challenges, well within his rights, enabled him to stay through the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

Since that event, he has weathered the storm, conducted himself with dignity on his official duties and made a real contribution to the Senate. It was definitely in the interests of his Idaho constituents and the Senate for him to stay on and complete his term.

THURSDAY, *November 20, 2008*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to wish LARRY CRAIG all the best as he retires and returns home to his beloved Idaho. I have enjoyed having a chance to work with him on issues of concern to the people of our States. He has been an important part of the work we have done on many of the issues that have come to the floor of the Senate and he will be difficult to replace.

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Ever since he first arrived in the Senate, LARRY has been a champion for the West and a strong and powerful voice on the issues that concern the people of Wyoming and Idaho. His dedication to making his home State a better place to live and his determination to make a difference in the Nation through his service in the Senate have made him a force to be reckoned with for many years.

LARRY has long Idaho roots that date back to his family's arrival in Idaho more than a century ago. He was born on the family ranch that his grandfather had homesteaded back in 1899. The ranch has been the proud home of the Craig family ever since.

Sometime during the days when LARRY was a young man growing up in Idaho, he was bitten by the political bug. It got him started on the path toward what would be a career of public service. Then, in 1974, LARRY was elected to the Idaho State Senate. It set him on a path that would take him to the U.S. Senate.

Because of his background as a rancher and a farmer, LARRY knows the importance of the land and the need for us to be good stewards of all the resources under our control. After all, as we have heard so very often, when it comes to the land, they aren't making any more of it. That is why LARRY has always been determined to ensure that Idaho's natural treasures were well taken care of. It is not an exaggeration to say that LARRY has been the guardian at the gate to ensure the Federal Government didn't overstep its boundaries and overregulate the land in Idaho during his watch.

His commitment to the land and to the people of Idaho who rely on it for their livelihood particularly showed itself during his service on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He took full advantage of the opportunity to work against any effort that would adversely affect the ability of the people of Idaho to make good use of their State's land. Also on his agenda was the Endangered Species Act and the problems that had come with its application. It was a fight LARRY was determined to win and he did more than just express his concern. He rolled up his sleeves and got to work. The new law he helped to write is not only more effective, but it is also designed to minimize its impact on property rights, employment, and our State and local economies.

In the years to come I will most remember LARRY for his ability to present his case with power and emotion whenever he would speak in committee or on the floor. LARRY's speaking and his debating skills are second to none. He has been

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called one of the most influential of all the western Senators and his conservative style has proven to be one of his greatest strengths.

LARRY is probably best known for his work on immigration and his support for the ability of seasonal workers to come to the United States to work on our farms. He knows the importance of developing solutions to tough problems like immigration that do not hurt State economies or make life harder for our family farms and ranches.

The habits that he learned on the family ranch have been with him his entire life and that is why you will usually find him hard at work in his garden. It is his favorite activity when he is away from his office and it is one he can share with his grandchildren. As the grandfather of three children myself, I can identify with his interest and the time he sets aside to be with his seven grandchildren.

Speaking of his favorite hobby, he once said, "My wife knows she's not a golf widow or a skiing or a hunting widow. She's a gardening widow." LARRY is also a tremendous artist. His "works" are widely prized and collected.

LARRY, I will be sorry to see you and Suzanne leave, saddlebags flapping in the wind as you ride off into the sunset. Now there will be time for all the things you have been putting off for some day, for now there will be plenty of some days for you to share with Suzanne. Diana and I wish you all the best in whatever you choose to do in the coming years. As we have found, the end of one great adventure is only the beginning of the next. So it will be for you. Good luck and God bless.

THURSDAY, *November 20, 2008*

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

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