

Jim Webb

U.S. SENATOR FROM VIRGINIA

TRIBUTES

**IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES**





Jim Webb

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Jim Webb
United States Senator
2007–2013



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BIOGRAPHY

JIM WEBB was born in St. Joseph, MO, on February 9, 1946, a descendent of Scots-Irish settlers who came to America in the 18th century and became pioneers in the mountains of southwest Virginia. He graduated from high school in Bellevue, NE, and attended the University of Southern California from 1963 to 1964. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968, receiving the Superintendent's commendation for outstanding leadership contributions while a midshipman, and subsequently chose a commission in the Marine Corps in 1968.

First in his class of 243 at the Marine Corps Officers' Basic School in Quantico, VA, he served in the Fifth Marine Regiment in Vietnam, where as a rifle platoon and company commander in the infamous An Hoa Basin west of Danang he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts. He later served as a platoon commander and as an instructor in tactics and weapons at Marine Corps Officer Candidates School, then as a member of the Secretary of the Navy's immediate staff, before leaving the Marine Corps in 1972.

As a combat Marine in Vietnam, an attorney, a senior Defense Department official, an Emmy-award winning journalist, a filmmaker, and the author of nine books, JIM WEBB maintained a lifelong commitment to protect America's national security interests, promote economic fairness and social justice here at home, and increase the accountability of government. He was elected to the Senate in 2006 representing Virginia and served one term. He was not a candidate for election to the Senate in 2012.

He received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law School in 1975. He served in the Congress as counsel to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs from 1977 to 1981. In 1982 he led the fight for including an African American soldier in the memorial statue that now stands at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall, and he wrote the inscription at the base of the flagpole. In 1987 he became the first Naval Academy graduate in history to serve in the military and then become Secretary of the Navy.

Arriving in the Senate with experience in military and veterans affairs, he introduced a comprehensive GI bill for those who served in the U.S. military since 9/11. He created the Wartime Contracting Commission with responsibility for bringing accountability for fraud, waste, and abuse brought about by often unsupervised contract processes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His commitment to reforming the criminal justice system led him to design and chair a series of committee hearings and conferences to examine the issue of mass incarceration and policies toward drugs, and in so doing became one of the strongest voices in Congress for a top-to-bottom restructuring of the criminal justice system.

He remained an active voice on military, economic, and foreign affairs through his membership on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Joint Economic, and Veterans Affairs Committees. With experience overseas, particularly in Asia, he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs on the Foreign Relations Committee. He also served as the chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee.

Senator WEBB speaks Vietnamese and has done extensive pro bono work with the Vietnamese community dating from the late 1970s. He lives in Northern Virginia with his wife Hong Le Webb. He is the father of five children and a step-daughter.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, as our office is winding down from my Senate term beginning this week, the field offices in Virginia ceased their functioning, and it is going to be my pleasure later on today to host a lunch for all my staff and to thank them for the work they have done. I just want to take this opportunity to talk about why I have said so many times since I came to the Senate that my greatest legacy will be the work of our staff.

When I first came to the Senate, people were asking: Will you be remembered for the GI bill if you get it done—which we did—or maybe some great transportation project or something of that sort? I said, “No, the most important thing a leader can do is to bring good people around him or her and to work them to the full extent of their capacity and then to provide them the opportunity to grow professionally in the spirit in which we have worked together.”

It is not going to surprise the Presiding Officer or anyone else when I say the greatest learning experience for me in that regard was when I served as a rifle platoon and company commander in the U.S. Marine Corps. When we were in training to go to Vietnam, we got a lecture from a battle-hardened lieutenant colonel who fought as an enlisted marine in World War II, rifle platoon commander in Korea, and then as a battalion commander in Vietnam.

One of the things he said to us was, “You may carry a sidearm, you may carry a 45 pistol, you may carry an M-16 rifle, but a marine officer is only successful if he fights with his marines.” It is the same concept here. A person is no better as a leader than the people he or she leads. We worked hard on our staff for 6 years to find the most talented people in America, to work them to their full capacity, to instill in them my personal views of the principles of leadership and the philosophy of governance which are at the core of what I wanted to bring to the Senate, and I believe we did that.

We started with Paul Reagan and Kathy Wilmoth. Paul Reagan, my chief of staff, is a veteran with 25 years of

Democratic politics and governance inside Virginia. He worked for Congressman Rick Boucher. He worked for Jim Moran as his chief of staff. He worked for two other Members of Congress, and he had been the communications director with Mark Warner when he was Governor. We were what some people would call the political odd couple early on. Paul was a master of every detail inside Virginia politics. My experience for many years had been on the national level of policy. We worked very hard to screen every single applicant to make sure these were people who met the standards we were trying to put into place.

Kathy Wilmoth, in my view, is something of a legend here. She became our office director. She knows every Capitol Hill policeman. She probably knows every person sitting here working on the Senate floor. She is an absolute gold star administrator. Before she came to work for us, she worked for Senators John and Lincoln Chafee. When I was a 25-year-old marine, I worked on Senator John Chafee's staff when he was Secretary of the Navy. I know I am biased, but I would challenge anyone to rebut that we have had the best-run staff on Capitol Hill.

We set up a communications shop. We had Jessica Smith and Kimberly Hunter, two very talented and invaluable communicators, who understood the job was not simply to respond to media requests but to proactively explain what we were doing, what our purposes were, what our goals were, and that the philosophical approach we were taking happened to be to local and national media rather than simply entertaining interview requests and those sorts of things.

On the State level, we were able to have Conaway Haskins and Louise Ware. They set up the State administrative structure. We were constantly able to listen and respond to the needs and opinions of people throughout this extraordinarily complex demographic jurisdiction that is the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sometimes we forget about what happens on these phones in our offices when we are off in our meetings. The people who have run our phones and have done our casework at times have astounded me. We go back to the votes on health care reform. We know all the debates that were going on here. We took a count in our office, and we received—just in our office—226,000 pieces of advice just on health care reform; in fact, a total of 300,000 pieces of communication on that debate of which approximately 50.1 percent of the people who called in to us may have been happy with the even-

tual vote that I took. I could walk out of the office when that was going on and I could see the young people on those phones and see how battered they often were, from the advice which, quite frankly, wasn't always pleasantly given.

With respect to casework, I had the great pleasure and unique experience when I was 25 years old, on the Secretary of the Navy's staff, of how to do casework. It opened my eyes to how many people there are in this country who simply don't know how to open the door to get their needs solved by the government that has set its requirements on them. I did this for John Chafee when he was Secretary of the Navy, and I did it for John Warner when he was Secretary of the Navy. I strongly emphasized to the people who handled our casework what an important job it was they were doing.

In the time we have been in the Senate, our staff has resolved more than 40,000 personal cases. More than 40,000 people who had not known, in many cases, even how to approach their government have received personal assistance that has helped them solve other problems in their lives. In fact, Andrea Trotter, JoAnn Pulliam, Debra Lawson, Gwen Sigda, and Debby Burroughs are on our staff, and each one of them resolved more than 3,000 cases during the time I have been in the Senate.

On legislative and political issues I would say that before I came to the Senate, I made promises on the campaign trail and we kept those promises. The greatest achievements, in my view, during this term were made right out of our office, not because we were responding to the suggestions of some committee work or from the executive branch saying they wanted something, but because we continually made suggestions to those committees and to the executive branch about what we thought needed to be done.

My first day in office I introduced a new GI bill. I had talked about it for years. The logic was very simple. These people who had been serving since 9/11 deserved the same chance at a first class future as those who had served during World War II. Within 16 months, with the strong support, by the way, of Leader Reid, we were able to pass this legislation, the most important piece of veterans legislation since World War II.

Most of that effort, again, came directly out of our office from the work of people on our personal staff, led by Mike Sozan, who at that time was our legislative director and has since moved on to be the chief of staff for Senator Mark Udall.

We said during my campaign and after I got here that the United States desperately needs to reform its criminal justice system. We have 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's prison population. If we ask the average American, two-thirds of them will tell us they feel less safe in their own community than they did a year ago. It is not a political issue. To me, it has always been a personal issue, a leadership issue. I was warned when I first started raising this issue in Virginia 7 years ago that this could actually kill my political campaign. It didn't. People responded.

Since I was not on the Judiciary Committee, we worked on this legislation to create a national commission to examine all the aspects of the criminal justice system, and we did it right out of our office, with Doug Ierley being the point person for the entire country to get this debate going in a way that it hadn't been debated before. We met in our own office with more than 100 different organizations in our conference room. We had a bill a little more than a year ago that reached the floor of this Senate.

I would ask the Presiding Officer or any of my other colleagues when is the last time they have seen a criminal justice bill endorsed by—I have two pages of organizational endorsements—the National Sheriffs' Association, the Marijuana Project, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the ACLU, and the Sentencing Project. We got a buy-in from across the philosophical spectrum for a mere \$14 million commission where we could receive the advice from the experts in this country on an issue that we have not received their advice on since the 1960s.

One of the great disappointments of my time here has been the fact that this simple, sensible piece of legislation was filibustered. We got 57 votes on it. For some reason, the people on the other side of the aisle decided this shouldn't happen. We did get four votes from the other side of the aisle. Even the *National Review*, which is one of the most conservative magazines in the country, said filibustering this piece of legislation was "insane."

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the *Record* at this time the endorsers of that legislation for the historical record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL ENDORSEMENTS

Innocence Project; National Sheriffs' Association; NAACP; ACLU; Fraternal Order of Police; American Bar Association; International Association of Chiefs of Police; Sentencing Project; Families Against Mandatory Minimums; National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators; American Probation and Parole Association; National Association of Evangelicals; American Society of Victimology; Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance; International Community Corrections Association; International Organization for Victim Assistance; Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards; National Center for Victims of Crime; National Children's Alliance.

National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center; National Organization for Victim Assistance; The Renée Olubunmi Rondeau Peace Foundation; Legal Action Center; Correctional Education Association; Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association; Mennonite Central Committee; Safer Foundation; Just Detention International; Justice Policy Institute; Law Enforcement Against Prohibition; Union for Reform Judaism; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; Church of Scientology; United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society; American Humanist Association; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project; Marijuana Policy Project; Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE).

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws; Corporation for Supportive Housing; National Employment Law Project; United Church of Christ/Justice and Witness Ministries; National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.; American Probation and Parole Association; Women of Reform Judaism; Students for Sensible Drug Policy; The Fortune Society; Black Law Enforcement in America; Therapeutic Communities of America; National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; National Association of Social Workers; NETWORK—A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Community Action Partnership; Safe Streets Arts Foundation; November Coalition; TASH—Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for People with Disabilities; Drug Policy Alliance; National Council of La Raza; National Alliance of Faith and Justice; the Episcopal Church; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund.

Mr. WEBB. We have had a lot of discussion over the last 6 years about the so-called pivot to Asia. I will say as someone who has spent a great deal of time in and out of east Asia that this pivot was heavily influenced by the actions, again, taken directly out of our office. We looked for people to come and work with us who had expertise and the intellect to work not only on the Hill, not only with Members of Congress, and not only with the State Department, but with our embassies around the world, with foreign leaders, with validators, to take a different approach and to refocus the energy of the United States on this most vital part of the world. David Bonine, Marta McLellan Ross, Gordon Peterson, and Philip Brady were among them.

Our many visits to this part of the world sometimes included five countries in 2 weeks, traveling solely via commercial air rather than with military codel support, and included repeated meetings with the top leadership of countries such as Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and Burma, all of which represent the future of the United States in terms of trade, security, and cultural growth in the coming decades.

With respect to Burma, it was a great moment for me to be able to sit down with and see Aung San Suu Kyi, recognized by the Congress a month or so ago, coming to this country as an elected member of their Parliament. We began the change in that relationship directly from our office based on work I had begun and become interested in over a period of 6 years before I was elected to the Senate.

I am very proud to say we laid the groundwork for a historic visit in 2009 from inside our office—often, I would say, against the will and against the advice of our own State Department. We used validators. We talked to people we knew in the region. I became the only American leader ever to meet with General Than Shwe, the leader of the military junta, to express my belief that we could work forward and have a different relationship. We met with Aung San Suu Kyi. I hope those who had some doubts about the wisdom of opening this relationship now can see the benefits as we are seeing the political situation beginning to truly change in Burma.

We worked heavily with Japan. This is a critical yet often overlooked relationship. It involved an effort to resolve basing issues on Okinawa that don't always get the attention they deserve in the Congress but have at times absolutely paralyzed the political debate inside Japan. Ironically, I first began working on these issues as a military planner in 1974 after I left the Marine Corps and was in law school. Our staff has met—and I have been a part of most of these meetings—with more than 70 delegations from Japan, in our office, organized and conducted by our staff.

In Korea, we led an effort to bring Democratic Senators on board to support the critical free-trade agreement that is so important not only to our bilateral relations but to the signals of the United States in that part of the world, and we began what I believe is something of a pioneering effort to get Korea and Japan to come together at the table to realize their common security interests.

As to Vietnam, I have visited and worked inside Vietnam for 18 out of the last 21 years in addition to having served there as a marine.

I fought in Vietnam because I believed in the importance of that country to our relationships in Asia. I have spent a great deal of energy for more than 30 years now in an effort to heal the final wound of that war, which is the relationship between our Vietnamese community here in the United States and the government inside Vietnam.

We have worked in Thailand, Singapore, and Laos. I was the first American Senator to visit Laos in 7 years, the first Member of Congress to visit Cambodia in 2 years when we visited Indonesia. We worked hard on the sovereignty and maritime issues in the South China Sea. We initiated and sponsored two important Senate resolutions regarding China's recent aggression in the South China Sea. Again, we initiated this from the staff members in our office.

I could go on. Let me just say that the other areas—important areas—that our staff has worked on in the past 6 years include our pioneering work in economic fairness, the need for stronger programs in the area of adult education, the efforts from inside our office to encourage a full spectrum of energy development, the preservation of Civil War battlefields, and the vital need to rebalance the constitutional relationship between the Congress and the Presidency, which I have pursued in both administrations that have been in office while I have been a Member of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, at this point, because I really will not have time to list all of the contributions by my staff members, I ask unanimous consent that the names and the positions of my staff members be printed in the *Record*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

Kathryn M. Wilmoth, Administrative Director; Arthur B. Scott, Assistant to the Chief of Staff; Colin MacDermott, Assistant to the Chief of the Staff; Will Jenkins, Communications Director; Heather Fluit, Communications Director; Jessica A. Smith, Communications Director; Rafael Anderson, Constituent Correspondence Manager; Verna (Tina) Graham, Danville Caseworker; Lisa Marie Stark, Director of Scheduling; Melissa Bruns, Director of Scheduling; Carolyn D. Walser, Executive Assistant; Nadia S. Naviwala, Legislative Aide; Ann M. Vallandingham, Legislative Assistant on Veterans Affairs; Doug Ierley, Legislative Assistant and Counsel on Economic Issues; Gordon I. Peterson, Legislative Assistant for Defense; Ali Nouri, Legislative Assistant for Energy; Trent D. Bauserman, Legislative Assistant for Energy and Environment; Juliet M. Beyler, Legislative Assistant for Veterans Affairs; Courtney L. Weaver, Legislative Assistant on Energy; Trevor L. Dean, Legislative Assistant on Environment-Transportation; Marta McLellan Ross,

Legislative Assistant on Foreign Relations; Jennifer Park Stout, Legislative Assistant on Foreign Relations; William Edwards, Legislative Assistant on Veterans Affairs; Maribel Ramos, Legislative Assistant on Women's Issues, Indian Affairs, Immigration; Patrick Day, Legislative Correspondent; Amy E. Hensley, Legislative Correspondent; Ashleigh Owens, Legislative Correspondent; Jacob E. Terrell, Legislative Correspondent.

Jacqueline R. Ball, Legislative Correspondent; Jennifer Ann Bryant, Legislative Correspondent; John L. (Luke) Principato, Legislative Correspondent; Kyle Grantier, Legislative Correspondent; Nathan D. Buniva, Legislative Correspondent; Olivia N. Marshall, Legislative Correspondent; Sara Brown, Legislative Correspondent; Will Rosenthal, Legislative Correspondent; Nelson M. Jones III, Legislative Director and Counsel on Judiciary; David N. Bonine, Legislative Director; Michael L. Sozan, Legislative Director; Regan Gwyn Dutton, Norton Caseworker Director; Gwen Sidga, NOVA Casework Director; Matthew Scott Lucas, NOVA Caseworker; Barrett Kinsella, NOVA Caseworker; Kali A. Matalon, NOVA Caseworker; Tuy Q. Le, Outreach Staff; Anne Elizabeth Hughes, Press Assistant; S. Logan Gibson, Press Assistant; Allison H. Jaslow, Press Secretary; Kimberly Hunter, Press Secretary; A. Nicholas Cohen, Richmond Caseworker; Hope L. Elliott-Murphy, Richmond Caseworker; Justin Jennings, Richmond Caseworker.

Joann B. Pulliam, Richmond Deputy State Director; Deborah R. Burroughs, Richmond Director of Casework; Conaway B. Haskins III, Richmond State Office Director; Louise F. Ware, Richmond State Office Director; Linda C. Williams, Richmond State Office Manager; Frederick W. Hutchins, Jr., Roanoke Caseworker; Brittany A. Brown, Scheduler; Jessica VandenBerg, Staff Assistant; Martin Mash, Special Projects Manager; Cody Huffman, Staff Assistant; Erin Raymond, Staff Assistant; Gregory Willett, Staff Assistant; Hope W. Hurley, Staff Assistant; Jada Greenhowe, Staff Assistant; Jonathan Shields, Staff Assistant; Kevin Franklin, Staff Assistant; Liza Bray, Staff Assistant; Mary E. Humphreys, Staff Assistant; Russell M. Rivers, Staff Assistant; Sarah Broadwater, Staff Assistant; Daniel L. Gonzales, Systems Administrator; Joe G. Gallo, Systems Administrator; Andrea R. Trotter, Virginia Beach Caseworker; Charles F. Stanton, Virginia Beach Caseworker; Emily V. Mazich, Virginia Beach Caseworker; Jeanne S. Evans, Virginia Beach Field Representative; Joel R. Alvarenga, Staff Assistant; Michael (Mack) McGarvey, Legislative Assistant on Veterans Affairs; Amy Reiter, Strategic Planning Coordinator; Phillip F. Thompson, Executive Assistant; Debra T. Lawson, Roanoke Casework Director; Evan Chapman, Staff Assistant; Michael Mazzuto, Staff Assistant; Steven D. Le, Staff Assistant; Darryl Holt, Richmond Caseworker; Kimberly A. Hunter, Press Secretary; Philip O. Brady, Counselor.

Mr. WEBB. So to my staff, a heartfelt thanks, and to each of those who have served with us, I say again, thank you for your contributions to our staff and, most important, to our country. I say also again that I will continue to expect great things from you in the future. You are my legacy. Never forget that the people you might have the honor of leading as you move forward in your careers, wherever you end up, will someday become your legacy.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES
TO
JIM WEBB

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 6, 2012*

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to first, of course, commend the Senator from Virginia for his great leadership here in the Senate on a whole range of issues. He has served with great distinction here, and it has been an honor for me to serve with him. So I congratulate him on the various issues he discussed [in his farewell address] and the various issues he has worked on. I have had the good fortune to work and support his efforts on many of those issues.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my friend and colleague, Senator JIM WEBB. He has made a decision not to run for reelection which, for me, is very sad, and it is truly not a good deal for the State of Virginia or our country. JIM WEBB has served one term in the Senate. He accomplished more in that one term than most do in a lifetime. I repeat, I am very sorry to see him leave.

JIM is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a highly decorated marine. He was an infantry officer and served with distinction in Vietnam, and that is an understatement. He did serve with distinction. He earned a Navy Cross, which is the second highest decoration in the Navy and Marine Corps. He got that for heroism in Vietnam. He was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

He, of course, wanted to be in the military all of his life, but when he returned from Vietnam he could not do it anymore. His injuries from the war prevented him from doing that. He attended Georgetown Law School where he graduated with distinction, served 4 years with President Reagan as Assistant Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Navy. He was the first Naval Academy graduate to serve as the civilian head of the Navy. He is also an author, having written nine books, a filmmaker, and a screen writer. He even won an Emmy.

Long after JIM WEBB left the Marine Corps, and despite his many civilian accomplishments, he remains a marine at heart. He is a marine through and through. He learned the tradition of service at home, although home changed often with his father's duty station. JIM's father was an officer in the U.S. Air Force and a pilot during World War II.

JIM's son, Jimmy Webb, a marine who served in Iraq, continued that tradition of service. Although JIM WEBB was a vocal opponent of the Iraq war, he was incredibly proud of his son's service as a soldier in battle-torn Iraq. Every day of his 2006 campaign, JIM WEBB wore his son's combat boots. It was a tribute not only to Jimmy, his boy, but to all people who have been sent into harm's way, he said.

I met JIM WEBB in my office not far from here as a result of Senator Bob Kerrey asking me if I would spend some time with him. I was happy to do so. I will never forget that meeting, just the three of us in the room. Those of us who worked with Bob Kerrey know he is and was such a vibrant person. He was almost mischievous, I guess you could put it that way. You could just tell he had a little touch of differentness.

When he brought JIM in to visit with me I learned very quickly they were both warriors—Bob Kerrey, a Navy Seal, recipient of the Medal of Honor, and JIM WEBB, as we said, Navy Cross, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, both veterans of the Vietnam war.

As we sat talking, it was obvious they were both fighters, warriors. JIM certainly proved that in his 2006 campaign. The reason Bob wanted me to visit with him is because JIM WEBB had decided he wanted to run for the Senate. What did I think of it?

I probably told JIM what a lot of people told him: "You want to run for the Senate? The election is right upon us."

He said, "I want to do that."

Not many believed he had any chance of winning. He believed he could, Bob Kerrey believed he could, and he ran because he wanted to and, boy, did he run hard.

For me, though, it did not settle in my mind until the night before the election. There was an event in Alexandria, VA. It was a cold November night. I stood with JIM on that stage. I realized then that he could win. People were lined up for blocks. "Lined up" was the wrong word—people covered blocks. Every open space as far as you could see was filled with people.

President Clinton was there. I was there. They didn't come to see me, of course. They didn't come to see President Clin-

ton, they came to see JIM WEBB because he was doing the impossible. He had captivated the voters. He was unafraid. He spoke his mind. And what a smart man.

I marvel at the intelligence of JIM WEBB, his ability to learn and to express his ideas. As I said, he captivated the voters. That is really why he won the race that he should not have been able to win.

Once he was elected, he was a marvel to watch. He believed he could change the world. He did change several corners of the world. Let me give one example. He was a new Senator and he came to me and said, "I have an idea." JIM WEBB is not a person who just focuses on an idea and walks away from it. When JIM WEBB came to see me, he had the legislation he had drafted. It was not sent to some bill drafter to have him look it over, he drafted the legislation himself. What did he want to do? He wanted to introduce a post-9/11 GI bill of rights. What he wanted to do was expand educational benefits for military families, and he brought our commitment to our veterans to the standard enjoyed by World War II veterans. And he was just a freshman Senator.

After spending about an hour with him with facts and figures and the actual legislation, I said, "Sign me up. I will do whatever I can to help you with it."

A brand-new Senator passed this major piece of legislation. He built a coalition of veterans and Democratic and Republican Senators to fight for this legislation. Since this legislation became law in 2008, more than 750,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families have used the program to access the education they deserve.

JIM, who speaks Vietnamese, has also helped shape our country's foreign policy in other places. He played a key role in Burma where he secured the rights of democracy activists such as Aung San Suu Kyi, who came to visit us a month or so ago.

JIM WEBB is a unique individual in so many different ways. He has visited many of the places where the battles were fought in World War II. He went to those islands and spent time walking to see what the veterans had gone through in a war prior to the one in which he was involved. He actually did that. It was physically hard, but he wanted to do that and he did it on his own.

Robert Kennedy said:

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

JIM WEBB should be proud of his part—it was not a small part—in writing the history of his generation. He did it in the battlefields in Vietnam. He did it in the Pentagon. He did it here in the Senate.

I do not know what is ahead for JIM WEBB, but we have not heard the last of him. He has a wonderful, beautiful wife and wonderful children. He left his mark on the Senate and he will never be forgotten, even though he served here only one term. I am really sorry his Senate career was not longer, but I am gratified it was so productive.

I congratulate JIM WEBB and express on this *Record* how much I admire him and what a strength he has been to me. He was a strength to me on the health care bill. He has given me wonderful information on immigration—which I have spent a lot of time on. I have read some of his books. I have not read them all but I read a couple of them. He is somebody I will miss very much and I will always consider JIM WEBB somebody who made me a better person.

TUESDAY, *December 11, 2012*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would note the Acting President pro tempore [JIM WEBB] today. I had the good fortune of being able to come to the floor last week to talk about the Acting President pro tempore's tenure in the Senate—some 6 years—and I talked about some of the many accomplishments he had in that relatively short period of time, as we call Senate time.

But I am reminded again of the Senator from Virginia, having spent an hour on Friday with Bob Kerrey. Bob Kerrey and I reflected back on his experience here in the Senate, and one memorable meeting he and I had. The purpose of that meeting was for Bob Kerrey to introduce me to Senator WEBB. It was a wonderful meeting because when the meeting finished—and I won't go into the details of everything I said, but the Senator from Virginia knows—I came out of that meeting recognizing what kindred spirits these two gallant warriors were and are, both having been highly decorated, one in the Navy, the other a marine; one with a Medal of Honor, the other—the Acting President pro tempore—the Navy Cross, Silver Star, more than one Bronze Star for Valor, and a number of Purple Hearts.

So I say again, but I can't say it too much, what an honor and pleasure it has been to serve in this body with the Sen-

ator from Virginia, JIM WEBB. I have learned so much about what a difference a positive attitude will make. There is no better example of that than the new GI bill of rights. To think a new Senator—a brand-new Senator—would have the idea, the confidence that he could do this; not only the confidence that this bill is important, but he wrote it himself. The Acting President pro tempore wrote that bill himself. He didn't go to bill drafters, as most of us do, he wrote it himself and proceeded to get it passed. So this is a man I will miss a whole lot.

Mr. DURBIN. To the Presiding Officer [Mr. WEBB]—I said a few words on the floor before—we thank you for your service. You did an extraordinary job here. There aren't many one-termers who make a mark in the Senate and on the Nation. You did it.

I can remember—I thought it was a little bold of you, maybe even more—when you came in and said, “I want to rewrite the GI bill,” and you did it, and it was exceptional. You have helped thousands of men and women who have served in our military come back to America and be welcomed and be productive parts of our future.

In so many ways, I wish to thank Senator JIM WEBB, our Presiding Officer, for being an important and viable part of the Senate. I know you will continue to serve our Nation in many different capacities in the future, and I am sure they will be equally exceptional.

WEDNESDAY, *December 12, 2012*

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to comment about some wonderful men in the Senate who are retiring on both sides of the aisle. Earlier today I spoke about my deep affection and sorry-to-see-go friends Olympia Snowe and Kay Bailey Hutchison, but I want to rise as the dean of the women in the Senate to say some very special words about very special men on both sides of the aisle. Because when I came to the Senate, it was only Nancy Kassebaum and me, and yet we worked on so many issues together. There are really wonderful men here who supported me, supported our issues, but really stood up for those States and their communities. . . .

Senator JIM WEBB, the Senate's own marine and former Secretary of the Navy, I have known him for more than 20

years, since he was Secretary of the Navy under Ronald Reagan. In the beginning we fought on many issues, particularly gender equality. When Senator WEBB was the new Secretary of the Navy and I was a new Senator, we had a different view on where women should be in the military, and we duked it out. But you know what? Over the years we came to know each other, respect each other, and appreciate each other's views. I so appreciate the fact that he is an unabashed, unrelenting fierce fighter for our men and women in uniform, fighting for them when they are on the frontlines and when they return to the homefront.

I am so proud of the fact that I could vote for the 21st century GI bill for those serving in the military, to make sure that when they are on the frontline, they get the education here so they will not be on the unemployment line. His bill was the most significant legislation for veterans since World War II. So I say to Senator WEBB, *semper fi*, and God bless you. . . .

I wanted to be sure that the day would not end without my acknowledging these wonderful people who have given a big part of their lives to making this country a better place. I want to, in the most heartfelt way—I am so sorry we did not have a bipartisan dinner or party to be able to express this. I would have liked to have been in the same room, breaking bread with them, in order to be able to tell them how much we appreciate them, across party lines, across those lines that ordinarily divide us. They came from different parts of the country, they arrived in the Senate with different objectives, they will leave under different circumstances. But I want to again let them know that each and every one of them had a positive impact on me and I think a wonderful impact on the future of this country. So I wish them well. God bless and Godspeed.

THURSDAY, *December 13, 2012*

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am proud today to honor my colleague from Virginia, JIM WEBB. In just 6 years in the Senate, he has proven himself to be an agile and independent thinker on both military matters and issues of economic fairness, as well as a tireless advocate for veterans. His candid and moderate voice in the Senate will be sorely missed.

JIM WEBB has spent an impressive career working in public service and on behalf of our veterans and active troops overseas. The importance of discipline and service to country was instilled in him as a young boy, as he moved with his father, a career Air Force officer, to various Air Force bases across the country. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Senator WEBB served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs under President Reagan, as well as the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, before coming to the Senate in 2007.

Senator WEBB demonstrated his unwavering commitment to our troops and veterans on his very first day in the Senate when he introduced the post-9/11 GI bill of rights. He won passage for this important piece of legislation, the most comprehensive GI bill since World War II, in only his 2d year as a Senator—a remarkable feat. Since its passage, thousands of post-9/11 veterans have applied to use their GI bill benefits. The GI bill has been instrumental in providing a great opportunity and a demonstration of gratitude for our troops as they separate from service.

I personally had the privilege of working closely with Senator WEBB on a bill that aims to preserve the valor of our decorated military heroes. I was proud to join him in introducing the Military Service Integrity Act, which creates criminal penalties for individuals who lie about receiving military medals for personal gain. On behalf of the nearly 60,000 veterans in North Dakota and all of our active troops, it was an honor to work with him on this legislation in ensuring that the integrity of our Nation's military awards are not belittled by those attempting to seek a profit.

Apart from his dedication to our military heroes, I also respect Senator WEBB for his commitment to fiscal responsibility. Together with Senator McCaskill, he formed the U.S. Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan to analyze the efficacy and expenditures of Federal contractors abroad. When the findings of the commission were published, he subsequently introduced comprehensive reform legislation to address the failures and mismanagement of overseas contractors. As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, I deeply respect his initiative and commitment to eliminating any waste, fraud, or abuse in our national security operations.

It is a deep loss for the Senate to be losing such a candid and independent voice. Senator WEBB has set an extraordinary example of discipline, initiative, and candor in his

work on behalf of working-class Americans and military families. I thank Senator WEBB for his career of service in the Senate and the armed services and wish him all the best.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2012*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in these final days of the 112th Congress, the Senate is bidding farewell to a very special member, the junior Senator from Virginia, Senator JIM WEBB.

He came to this body with unique and extraordinary credentials: a graduate of the Naval Academy and first in his class of 243 at the Marine Corps Officer School at Quantico, a much-decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam war, and Secretary of the Navy during the Reagan administration.

I would point out one more of his sterling credentials. I guess I can say this now, because he is retiring, and a political opponent will not use it against him: JIM WEBB is an intellectual with a passion for ideas and knowledge. For goodness sake, he writes books, excellent books, the kind that win glowing reviews in the *New York Times*, and get turned into documentaries on the Smithsonian Channel.

Senator WEBB has put this past experience to superb use here in the Senate as an active member of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

To his great credit, before coming to the Senate, he was an outspoken critic of the invasion of Iraq, warning that it would be a unilateral war with no exit strategy. After the invasion, he was equally outspoken in challenging the Bush administration's conduct of that war.

At the same time, as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he worked hard to pass legislation to provide enhanced education benefits for veterans, a 21st century GI bill, for those who have served in the military since the attacks of 9/11.

I admire JIM WEBB as a friend and colleague. I have the greatest respect for his lifelong commitment to protecting America's national security, and fighting for economic and social justice here at home. There is no question in my mind that JIM will find other avenues for public service in the years ahead. I certainly wish JIM and Hong Le all the best in the years ahead.

Mr. REED. Madam President, at this time, I wish to take a few minutes to salute my colleagues who are retiring at the end of this year with the conclusion of the 112th Congress: Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Jon Kyl of Arizona, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, Richard Lugar of Indiana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Olympia Snowe of Maine, and JIM WEBB of Virginia. They have all worked ceaselessly to give their constituents the best representation and give the country the benefit of their views, their wisdom, and their experience. They are men and women who are committed to the Nation, and they have every day in different ways contributed to this Senate and to our great country.

I wish to thank them personally for their service, and, in so many cases, their personal kindness to me; for listening to my points and for, together, hopefully, serving this Senate and this Nation in a more positive and progressive way.

In particular, let me say a few words about some of the Members with whom I have had the privilege to work more closely. . . .

JIM WEBB, a decorated combat veteran, is someone whose love for this Nation was manifested very early, as he led marines in combat in Vietnam. His extraordinary courage is only matched by his quiet demeanor and his calm sense of confidence that project outward in every different capacity.

Of course, he has taken it upon himself to make sure we do not forget our veterans. He was the architect of the post-9/11 GI bill and, in doing so, he has enriched the lives of so many who were willing to risk their lives for this Nation. I, again, salute him for all he has done. . . .

I could go on with all of my colleagues, just thanking them for their friendship, for their camaraderie, and for their commitment to the Nation and the Senate. As they depart, they have left an extraordinary legacy. Now it is our responsibility to carry on in so many different ways, and I hope we measure up to what they have done. If we do, then we can go forward confidently.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, JIM WEBB has served our Nation in ways that few Americans can match. He is a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam war, where he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts. His experiences in Vietnam

helped him shape a series of novels for which he has received justified critical praise and which helped readers understand the experience of war and those who fight it. He served as the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, and later as Secretary of the Navy. He won enormous praise for his TV coverage of the Marine mission to Beirut in the 1980s, and later for *Born Fighting*, a history of Scots-Irish immigrants to America.

For the last 6 years he has been serving his Nation in the capacity we in the Senate have seen first hand, as U.S. Senator from Virginia. It has been my privilege to serve with him on the Armed Services Committee, and as chairman, I have benefited greatly from his intelligence, his experience, and his dedication to the men and women who wear the uniform of our military. Let me reflect on a few of the ways in which I have seen up close Senator WEBB's dedication to service.

Senator WEBB is rightly recognized for his work on national security, but that has not been his only concern in the Senate. He has been a welcome voice here on issues of economic fairness. Soon after his election to the Senate, he wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* of an urgent need to address growing economic inequality. He wrote:

[T]he current economic divisions in society are harmful to our future. It should be the first order of business for the new Congress to begin addressing these divisions, and to work to bring true fairness back to economic life.

He has acted on those words, fighting for a tax system that is more equitable to working families; for trade policies that recognize not just the benefits, but the costs, of free trade; and for education policies that give all Americans, including those already in the workforce, the skills and opportunities to prosper.

An issue on which I have been able to work closely with Senator WEBB is the posture of U.S. military forces in the Asia-Pacific region and, in particular, the plan to realign Marine forces in the Pacific. I traveled with him to Okinawa and Guam, and even the island of Tinian, and saw first hand his extraordinary knowledge and understanding of the issues. I have benefited greatly, as I know Senator McCain has, from his insights on this complex and difficult issue, which involves pressing strategic issues, enormous budget pressures, and the concerns of our close ally Japan. Senator WEBB's hard work on this issue has helped resolve the impasse that was blocking progress on the plan to move some of the marines off of Okinawa and move us closer to an

achievable, affordable plan for Marine realignment that will benefit the people of Japan and the United States while better serving our national strategic and security interests in this important region.

What is perhaps most notable about Senator WEBB's service in the Senate is the way that he has joined three of his concerns—America's national security, the need for greater economic fairness, and his affection for the men and women of our military.

This is perhaps best expressed by the post-9/11 GI bill, legislation he introduced on his first day in office, and whose passage he pursued with great determination. When signed into law in 2008, the post-9/11 GI bill provided the largest expansion of educational benefits for veterans since World War II. Just as the original GI bill honored the service of World War II veterans and helped pave the way for millions of servicemembers to earn college degrees, so, too, has Senator WEBB's legislation honored the generation that has served in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere. The impact of this legislation—in improving the lives of our veterans and in its benefits for our Nation as a whole—will be large and long lasting.

Senator WEBB has been a tireless advocate for the men and women of our military, in particular for our junior enlisted troops. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Personnel, he has fought for adequate pay and benefits, and against the unscrupulous who would seek to profit by taking advantage of these young men and women. Senator WEBB speaks eloquently of the great strains of more than a decade of high operational tempo on these men and women and their families, and of the "moral contract" between our Nation and the troops who defend us. He speaks as the descendant of veterans, as a veteran himself, and as the father, father-in-law, and brother of veterans. The Senate, and the Nation, have been better off the last 6 years having that voice in the Senate. I have been grateful for his counsel, and I am sorry we soon will no longer have the benefit of his service on the Armed Services Committee or in the Senate. Even though we will miss him, I have no doubt JIM WEBB's service to our Nation will long continue, and I wish him every success.

Mr. COONS. . . . There are so many other Senators I want to speak about today [besides Daniel Inouye], but let me turn to a few, if I might, and give some insight for the folks who only see Members of this Chamber on cable TV shows or in

the give-and-take of election season or who only know them as the cutout and caricatures that the public thinks of as Senators. If there is a common thread between them, it is that they share that loyalty, work ethic, and humility that so characterized Senator Inouye in his decades here. . . .

Serving with Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia has been an honor. He, too, is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. As a retiring colleague, he knows there are things in this world and in our lives more important than our politics. He was a decorated marine, a celebrated author, a former Secretary of the Navy, and now a respected Senator. His tireless work has helped to make the world safer, our veterans stronger, and our criminal justice system more fair. I will truly miss his company. . . .

So here we are, 5 days before my family celebrates Christmas and 12 days before the new year and the beginning of the so-called fiscal cliff. Our politics have paralyzed this Chamber and this town. But what the example of all of these remarkable Senators has shown us, what it has taught me is that we can still be better than our politics.

The humanity of this place, too often shoved aside by the politics of the moment, shows us that we can do better. One by one, these Senators, in delivering their farewell addresses to this Chamber, stood at their desks and each in turn urged us to find a way to return to the days when Senators knew each other and worked together. What will it take to get us to that point again—a horrific tragedy in an elementary school, a dangerous economic cliff, some devastating attack, a cyberassault on America?

Our retiring colleagues are each telling us, each in turn, that it is not too late to restore the humanity of this Chamber and make a positive difference in the lives of all we serve. Will we heed their call? I hope and pray we will because we can do better. We must do better. In the spirit of each of these departing colleagues, I will do my level best. I hope we all can commit to doing the same.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

FRIDAY, *December 21, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as we have all learned, it doesn't always take a lifetime of service to make a difference, especially here in the Senate. JIM WEBB is one of those unique individuals who had an impact here although he only

served for one term before deciding to retire. I know I will miss him and his great support for our Nation's military and his heartfelt concern for our Nation's veterans.

As I have had the opportunity to come to know JIM a little better, it is clear that he is a man of strong convictions. As we say in the West, he is someone who means what he says and says what he means. He walks his talk.

When he first arrived in Washington he made it clear he wasn't going to be someone who could be taken for granted, especially when it came to those things in which he strongly believed. He put his home State of Virginia first and he was going to work hard to ensure that the concerns of the people back home were heard—and heard clearly—whenever an issue was taken up that was going to have an impact on them.

A Vietnam veteran himself, he had a great interest in national security issues. His determination to make a difference in that area became clear right from the start. Serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee he worked hard to ensure that our veterans were able to access the benefits they had earned with their service.

JIM is a good writer and he has several books to his credit. They have received a great deal of notice, and one of his stories has been made into a movie.

I know I join with many of my colleagues in wishing him all the best as he returns to Virginia. I don't know what his next great adventure will be, but I do know his skills and talents will provide him with a number of opportunities to choose from in which he can continue to play an active part in his State.

Thank you, JIM, for your willingness to serve—not only here in the Senate but in our Nation's military. The recognition you earned with your efforts will continue to inspire others. Because of you our Nation's veterans have had a champion in committee and a warrior on the Senate floor who did everything you possibly could to ensure our veterans would never have to settle for anything less than the best. They have earned that and so much more with their service, their many sacrifices on our behalf, and their unsurpassed love for our country.

THURSDAY, *December 27, 2012*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, although he has served just one term in the U.S. Senate, retiring Senator JIM WEBB is no stranger to public service. A highly decorated combat veteran of Vietnam, JIM WEBB's prior public service as an Assistant Secretary of Defense and a former Secretary of the Navy uniquely suited him as a fierce defender of our troops serving overseas, and when they come back home.

Senator WEBB has been a positive force on a number of issues, and particularly through his roles on the Foreign Relations Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. His commitment to our Nations' veterans and to supporting and strengthening our military has been a cornerstone of his Senate career.

I worked with Senator WEBB on a number of issues in the last 6 years, especially on prison reform and the criminal justice commission. His initiative is something the Senate and our judicial system should follow and set as a guide.

Senator WEBB brought a unique perspective to the Senate based on his years of dedicated public service. He has been a powerful advocate for military and veterans' issues and criminal justice reform, all while promoting Virginia's best interests. I wish him and his family the very best in the future.

FRIDAY, *December 28, 2012*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the Senators who will not be returning when the 113th Congress commences next month. I have already spoken about Senator Kyl and about Senator Inouye, one of the truly great Americans and giants of this institution. At the time of his death, Senator Inouye was just a few weeks short of celebrating 50 years of Senate service. Only Senator Byrd served in this institution longer.

Turnover is a natural occurrence, but it's important to acknowledge that the Senators who are departing have served in the Senate for a combined total of 237 years, or nearly 20 years per Senator, on average. Add Senator Inouye, and the total is close to 300 years. That service represents an enormous amount of expertise on issues ranging from national defense and foreign affairs to the Federal budget to energy policy. The departing Senators will also

take with them vast institutional knowledge and bipartisan friendships and working relationships that will leave a void we will need to fill. . . .

Mr. President, Senator JAMES WEBB is a highly decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam war, the first Naval Academy graduate to serve as a civilian Secretary of the Navy, lawyer, and accomplished author. Senator WEBB grew up in a military family and noted in his 2004 book, *Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*, that his ancestors fought in every major American war. Senator WEBB's father, a career officer in the U.S. Air Force, flew B-17s and B-29s during World War II, and dropped cargo during the Berlin Airlift. After Senator WEBB graduated from Annapolis, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a first lieutenant during the Vietnam war he served as a platoon commander with Delta Company, 1st Battalion 5th Marines. He earned a Navy Cross, the second highest decoration in the Navy and Marine Corps for heroism in Vietnam. He also earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. Senator WEBB's son Jimmy has continued the Webb family's long, proud record of military service to our Nation as a rifleman and Marine Corps sergeant, serving a tour of duty in Iraq with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion 6th Marines.

Senator WEBB has served just one term but he has made it a productive one, passing the 21st century GI bill to provide the same educational benefits to post-9/11 veterans that the World War II Greatest Generation received. He introduced the bill his first day in office, and saw it enacted into law. Thousands of veterans have since received educational benefits through the program. What a wonderful legacy for Senator WEBB to have.

Senator WEBB also dedicated his time in office to refocusing and rebalancing our relationships in East Asia. He has long argued that getting mired in Iraq and Afghanistan was a strategic mistake, and that our long-term interests lie with Asia. As chair of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asia Subcommittee, he visited nearly every country in the region, focusing particularly on the countries of mainland Southeast Asia and our treaty allies. His 2009 trip to Burma was the first by a U.S. leader in 10 years; the visit is widely credited as the beginning of efforts to change our relationship with that country. Senator WEBB remains the only U.S. leader to have met with General Than Shwe, the former junta leader, and he also met with Aung San Suu Kyi while

she was under house arrest. Senator WEBB has worked continuously to resolve the basing issues with our main ally in the region, Japan, and to help pass a trade agreement with South Korea.

A hallmark of Senator WEBB's lifelong service to our Nation is his willingness to tackle the tough, unglamorous issues. Here in the Senate, he led an effort to reform our criminal justice system, introducing legislation to establish a commission of experts to review the entire spectrum of the American criminal justice system from drug laws to sentencing, prison conditions, recidivism, and judicial reform.

Mr. President, these men and women who will be leaving the Senate soon have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve our Nation. We are fortunate that they have chosen to spend significant parts of their lives in public service. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude. Those of us who will be in the Senate next month when the 113th Congress convenes can best honor the legacy of our departing colleagues by reaching across the aisle as they have done so many times to forge bipartisan consensus and solutions to our Nation's most vexing problems. The men and women who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this Congress understand that compromise isn't a dirty word; it is the genius at the heart of our political system. We will miss them.

MONDAY, *December 31, 2012*

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize my colleague JIM WEBB for his distinguished service and leadership on behalf of our country and the people of Virginia.

I will always have a special place in my heart for JIM WEBB, and that is because he and I were members of the same incoming class of Senators back in 2007. We ran for the Senate at the same time in 2006, and to this day I will never forget how he wore his son's old combat boots on the campaign trail. Day in and day out, no matter where he went, no matter what the weather, JIM was walking tall in those boots.

Since his very first days in office, JIM has been a tireless champion for our men and women in uniform. On day one, he introduced a 21st century GI bill to deliver the most comprehensive educational benefits since World War II. It led to legislation that was eventually signed into law, and it has

made it possible for thousands of post-9/11 troops and veterans to afford a college education.

While JIM is best known for his leadership on defense and military issues, he has also earned a reputation for being a problem solver who takes a commonsense, bipartisan approach to legislating. Time and again, JIM has reached across the aisle to put politics aside and get things done for the good of the country. He has been a clear and consistent voice for energy independence and a stalwart advocate for policies that benefit the middle class. As a former prosecutor, I have greatly admired his work to improve our criminal justice system from top to bottom—not just by strengthening law enforcement, but by addressing systemic challenges of reentry and recidivism.

JIM, it would be impossible to do full justice to your legacy in a single statement. So instead allow me to end by saying this: The Commonwealth of Virginia is better because of your leadership, and so is our country.

You will be missed in the Senate, but given everything you accomplished before you were elected—as Secretary of the Navy, as an Emmy award-winning journalist, as the author of nine books—I'm confident you will find some way to occupy your time in retirement. I know you will continue to find ways to improve our great country and give back to the State you love so much. Thank you, Senator WEBB. I wish you the best.

THURSDAY, *February 7, 2013*

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

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 the retiring Members of the 112th Congress.

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

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