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Tim Johnson

U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

TRIBUTES

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THE UNITED STATES

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Tim Johnson

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Tributes Delivered in Congress

Tim Johnson

United States Congressman
1987–1997

United States Senator
1997–2015

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BIOGRAPHY

TIM JOHNSON learned early the value of a good education and the necessity of hard work. The son of a college professor and a homemaker, TIM's roots run deep in the State.

A fourth-generation South Dakotan, he was born in Canton to Van and Ruth Johnson. He has a brother, Tom, and a sister, Julie. His great-grandfather was a homesteader in Centerville, SD, and instilled in TIM the importance of a hard day's work and an understanding of the State's farming and ranching community.

TIM attended school in Canton, Flandreau, and Vermillion, where he graduated from high school in 1965. He then attended the University of South Dakota (USD), graduating with Phi Beta Kappa academic honors. TIM went on to earn both a master's degree in public administration and a law degree from the University of South Dakota.

While earning his undergraduate degree at USD, TIM met Barbara Brooks of Sioux Falls, whom he married shortly after graduating. During their early years together, Barbara and TIM quickly learned how to balance family needs with academic and professional pressure. After completing his graduate studies, TIM worked as a budget analyst for the Michigan State Senate appropriations committee while Barbara completed her master's degree in social work. During that time, the couple welcomed their first child, Brooks.

In 1975, TIM began a private law practice in Vermillion and the couple welcomed their second child, Brendan. Three years later in 1978, TIM was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives, and was later reelected in 1980. It was during his second term in the State house that their daughter, Kelsey, was born. During that time, Barbara put her master's degree to work and became very active in children's issues and services. Despite their schedules, both parents remained committed and active in their children's lives.

Following 4 years of service in the State house, TIM ran for the State senate and was elected in 1982 and again in 1984. During his years in the South Dakota Legislature, TIM earned a reputation as a hard-working, effective author of sound fiscal and social policy. His achievements did not go

unnoticed. In 1979, the Vermillion Jaycees presented him with the "Outstanding Citizen Award." In 1983, he was the first recipient of the "Billie Sutton Award for Legislative Achievement" presented by the South Dakota Democratic Party.

After 8 years in the State legislature, TIM decided to take his commitment to hard work and South Dakota values with him to Washington. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986 with nearly 60 percent of the vote. During his first term in Congress, he was responsible for passing more legislation than any of the other 50 first-term Members. TIM received national awards by the National Farmers Union, Disabled American Veterans, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Within the House Democratic leadership organization, TIM served as regional deputy whip from 1991 to 1994. TIM served as South Dakota's Congressman for five terms before being elected to the Senate on November 5, 1996. TIM was reelected twice, in 2002 and again in 2008.

TIM served on several important committees, including the powerful Appropriations Committee; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Indian Affairs Committee. He served as chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs from 2011 to 2015.

As South Dakota's senior Senator, he worked to improve the lives of South Dakotans while establishing a strong record in the Senate. As an appropriator, TIM worked to secure $10 million to fund a deep underground science lab at the Homestake mine in Lead, and created incentives to benefit the State's ethanol industry and farming community. TIM proved to be a strong voice for South Dakota in Washington, defending the State's interests time and again, including fighting to save Ellsworth Air Force Base and keeping important projects like the Lewis and Clark Water System on track.

Both TIM and Barbara have faced challenges together and have always fought to overcome them. In 2004, TIM battled prostate cancer. Barb, a two-time breast cancer survivor, was crucial to his recovery. The two remain committed to raising awareness about cancer prevention and early testing.

On December 13, 2006, TIM suffered an intracerebral bleed caused by a congenital arteriovenous malformation. Following surgery and as his rehabilitation progressed, TIM remained committed to South Dakotans, working from home until he returned to his Senate office on September 5, 2007.

While thanking South Dakotans for their prayers and support at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in August 2007, Senator JOHNSON said, "The greatest honor in my life has been to stand by your side and fight for you in Washington. Never in my life have I been so grateful that you have been standing by my side as well."

TIM remains an active member of numerous policy-based organizations and remains committed to advancing the lives of all South Dakotans and continues to be routinely honored for his work. In 2008, TIM joined the Operation Homefront Congressional Advisory Board, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency support and morale to our troops. When invited to join, the group noted TIM's commitment to the members of our armed services, their families, and our veterans. Also that year, he was honored by the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Farmers Union, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

TIM and Barbara's oldest son, Brooks, is in the National Guard following Army service in Bosnia, Kosovo, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In May 2004, Brooks married Naida Snipas Johnson of Massachusetts. They have two children, a son Arijus and a daughter Aureja.

Their second son Brendan is an attorney in Sioux Falls. He clerked for U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier in Rapid City, served as an assistant prosecutor for Minnehaha County, and as a partner in a private practice before being appointed by President Obama as the U.S. Attorney for South Dakota from 2009 to 2015 when he returned to private practice. He is married to Jana Beddow, M.D.; together they have four children: Trualem, Penn Neal, Sutton, and Cooper. The family was blessed when "Tru" and "Pen" joined the family in 2007.

Their daughter, Kelsey, is a 2004 graduate of the University of South Dakota, and received her graduate degree from George Washington University in 2009. She worked for Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (SD), the American Association for Cancer Research, and is currently a project manager for the Sanford Foundation in Sioux Falls.

Throughout his career in public service, TIM JOHNSON has been a strong voice for South Dakota. A champion of fiscal responsibility and the State's agricultural community, TIM's commitment to family and hard work can be seen throughout his legislative accomplishments.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, in 1986 the people of South Dakota elected me to serve them in the 100th Session of the Congress in the House of Representatives. In 1996 they gave me the honor and privilege of being their junior Senator.

When I ran for the House in 1986, I told the people of South Dakota that neither party has all the answers, and that both parties have good ideas, as well as men and women of good will. My job, as I understood it, would be to work in a bipartisan manner, listening to all parties and reaching a good fit—also known as compromise. That is what I still believe.

However, in each year of my 28 years of service this has become more difficult to achieve. Each party, rather than working cooperatively for the American people, is more and more focused on winning the next election. Today, days after the 2014 election, you can walk into the call center for either party and find Members dialing for dollars for 2016. Tonight there will be fundraisers across DC where Members will discuss policy not with their constituents but with organizations that contribute to their campaigns. We have lost our way.

My thoughts are not original. My colleague and dear friend from South Dakota, Senator Tom Daschle, in his farewell called for finding common ground that "will not be found on the far right or on the far left. That is not where most Americans live. We will only find it in the firm middle ground based on common sense and shared values."

Ohio's Senator Voinovich in his 2010 farewell speech said that his greatest frustration was the difficulty in finding common ground on significant issues, saying that "it doesn't happen enough."

In fact, the need for bipartisanship and the lack of it in the Senate is a hallmark of Senate farewell speeches. Rather than expounding on this topic, I would like to share the instances where I have experienced it.

I found it working with my colleague Senator John Thune, as we put aside our political differences and worked as our constituents expected two Norwegians to work. We worked side by side as we pushed for farm bills, highway funding, emergency relief from droughts and from floods. We successfully fought the proposed BRAC closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base. However, honoring our Norwegian heritage, we never hugged.

I found it on the Banking Committee, working closely with Ranking Member Crapo. Together, we reached middle ground on reforms in which both parties gave up significant priorities, compromising, finding the middle ground to pass bills out of committee.

My best and most enduring memory of this magnificent body occurred during my 9-month absence following my AVM, a long and humbling journey. During this journey my committee assignments were respected and my friend from Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed graciously accepted extra responsibilities until my return. Senator Harry Reid told me that during my long absence my colleagues on the other side of the aisle never once tried to take advantage of my absence. More important, in so many ways the kind words and prayers from you and your spouses, on both sides of the aisle, supported both Barbara and me and gave us strength during my long and continuing recovery.

I was grateful and humbled by your support on September 9, 2007, the day I returned to the Senate when almost every chair in this Chamber was filled. Senator Reid and Senator McConnell, I thank you for your welcome back to the Senate family.

In the years ahead, I will miss this family—not the bickering that I mentioned earlier, but the blessings that you have all been to Barbara and me.

I would also like to thank another family that has been critical to my work for South Dakota—a family that goes by the name "Team JOHNSON." This team is composed of highly talented and caring individuals. They have worked tirelessly in the Halls of Congress, in South Dakota, and on campaigns to make our State and our country a better place to live.

I wish I could thank each one of you for your service. Please know how much I appreciated the long hours and late nights that you put in. In the years ahead I hope we will continue to celebrate the friendships we have forged.

To my friend and chief of staff for 30 years, Drey Samuelson, thank you for joining my fledgling, uphill race for Con-

gress in 1986 and for staying with me until we close the Senate office in a few days. Few Members of Congress have been as fortunate as I have been to have the loyalty, friendship, and thoughtful guidance that you have given me.

My legislative directors have all been remarkable, but time limits me to noting the services of two individuals who have served the longest. Dwight Fettig started with us in the House as a young man fresh from his internship with Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota. Dwight rose through the ranks to legislative director and then became my first director on the Banking Committee. Todd Stubbendieck is my current LD, and his legislative guidance for over 10 years has guided the staff in moving critical legislation through the Senate. Todd and Dwight have worked on legislation for projects that now deliver water to hundreds of thousands of people across South Dakota, country of origin labeling bills, farm bills, national historic sites for Lewis and Clark and the Minute Man Missile, numerous projects for Ellsworth Air Force Base and the South Dakota National Guard with efficiency and collegiality. To Todd and Dwight, thank you for your outstanding legislative teams.

Our No. 1 researcher, humorist, historian, and go-to person, Luci Weigel, has been with us since we opened the first offices. Thank you, Luci.

To my South Dakota State director, Sharon Boysen, thank you for leading the three State offices, for ensuring that we were responsive to South Dakotans, and for coordinating with the DC office.

Sharon Stroschein, who directed the Aberdeen office, and Darrell Shoemaker, who managed the Raid City office, have been outstanding leaders for 28 years. You and all the State staff have been great advocates for South Dakota. You made sure that I always knew what was on the minds of South Dakotans, that I visited crisis situations, nonprofits, local and tribal governments, promising businesses, schools, and much more. Thank you.

Linda Robison, thank you for your dedication, willingness to go the extra mile, and your outreach to and service for our State's veterans for 28 years.

The Senate office only needed one office manager for the last 18 years. Nancy Swenson is the most efficient, precise, and insightful person I know. The University of South Dakota will be forever grateful when they receive the archives Nancy assembled. Thank you.

To the Senate standing Committee on Banking and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, you have served our Nation well, and I know you will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your leadership on important issues.

I am looking forward to the years ahead and the time we will share.

To my wife Barbara and our three children—Brooks, Brendan, and Kelsey—thank you for your unwavering support, for putting up with late-night dinners, for accepting that my work demanded that I be away so many weekends, and for working side by side with me on challenging campaigns. Without your understanding, love, and support, I could not have done the work I love.

Finally, to the people of South Dakota, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you in our State legislature, the House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate. Thank you for working side by side with me to improve the lives of South Dakotans and our Nation.

Pilamayaye.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

TRIBUTES

TO

TIM JOHNSON

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *December 9, 2014*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the words Hemingway said so clearly—"man is not made for defeat"—applied to anyone in the world, they certainly apply to TIM JOHNSON. He is a testament to this sentiment because he never ever acknowledged defeat. He refuses to be defeated.

TIM never lost an election. He served in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1997—for 10 years. He served in the State legislature. They weren't all easy votes and weren't all easy elections. He won his election in 2002 by 524 votes. Hundreds of thousands of votes were cast, but he won by 524 votes.

Senator TIM JOHNSON refused to succumb to defeat because he knew he was fighting for the people of South Dakota. He fought for South Dakota jobs when he fought to keep Ellsworth Air Force Base open and running. It was based near Rapid City, and he saved it from closing. He worked to this end, saving thousands of jobs, preserving a thriving economy based on that Ellsworth Air Force Base.

During his tenure in the House and Senate he fought for water, which is so important. People from so many other States don't realize how important water is to States such as South Dakota and many Western States. Water is something you always have to keep your eye on. He secured funding for the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Project and the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System. Combined, those two projects provided clean drinking water to some 400,000 people. That is half the population of the State of South Dakota.

Without question though, TIM's biggest fight took place in 2006. I can still remember that so clearly. I got a call from his chief of staff saying, "You need to go to the hospital. TIM has been taken by ambulance to George Washington." So I went there because TIM had suffered a very bad bleed on the brain. He was born with this situation—no one knew of course—but it suddenly hit him. Lots of people have this condition, but most people don't have a bleed on their brain, but

TIM did. I was there in the hospital with him. Barbara was there, his daughter Kelsey, and his two boys, Brendan and Brooks, came in as soon as they could. One was serving in the military after having seen combat duty as a member of the U.S. Army. The other boy is a lawyer and is now a U.S. attorney in South Dakota.

It was a very difficult time for his family and a difficult time for him especially. He was in surgery on more than one occasion. His life was threatened. Many people don't survive this difficult situation he was hit with. But he is a huge man. I, frankly, never realized how physically big and strong he was until I saw him lying there in the hospital. But TIM met these physical challenges, and they were very difficult. Ten months later he was back working in the Senate. He was here on the floor.

After this incident, his physical body would never be the same, but his mental capacity is better than ever. With the support of his wife Barbara, since 1969, and their three children, whose names I have already mentioned, he made this remarkable recovery. It was all very difficult. He had to learn to talk again, he had to learn to walk again, and much of his life now is physically different than it was before. He is now, a lot of times, in a wheelchair, but he has never asked for any sympathy. He has pushed forward as he always has his whole life.

Regardless of these changes to his body, his honorable, indomitable spirit is the same. One newspaper recently said, in speaking of TIM's return to the Senate:

> Loss of integrity is a greater handicap to any politician and, once lost, cannot be regained with confidence. JOHNSON's integrity has never been in question.

TIM JOHNSON has his integrity. He has his unbreakable determination to fight for the people of South Dakota and just fight to do the things he needs to do.

TIM is retiring after 18 years in the Senate and 10 years in the House. To say he will be missed by the people of South Dakota is a gross understatement. He worked here with my predecessor, the Democratic leader Tom Daschle, and they got so many good things done for the State of South Dakota. Senator Daschle is missed as TIM will be missed, but their friendship is something I have long admired.

To show the type of person he is, the person he beat by 524 votes came back the next election and endorsed him—a Republican and longtime Member of the House and Senate, Larry Pressler. He endorsed TIM JOHNSON in his reelection.

That is the kind of integrity TIM JOHNSON has. People admire him very much.

TIM JOHNSON leaves the Senate as he entered it, undefeated. I will miss him very much. My wife will miss Barbara. They are members of a book club, and I have seen their exchange of emails back and forth as to what books they should read, what they thought of the book, and where they are going to meet. So the Reids will miss the Johnsons. South Dakota will miss the Johnsons. But TIM will still proceed forward and be a great blessing to the State of South Dakota, as he has always been, and to his family.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to salute my colleagues who are departing the Senate at the end of this year with the conclusion of the 113th Congress: Mark Begich of Alaska, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Tom Harkin of Iowa, Mike Johanns of Nebraska, TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Carl Levin of Michigan, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, Mark Udall of Colorado, and John Walsh of Montana.

They have all worked hard, ceaselessly giving their energy and considerable time and service to their constituents, to their home States and to our country. I want to thank them for their service and for their kindness to me over many years in so many cases. In particular, I want to say a few words about these colleagues. . . .

TIM JOHNSON and I served in the House of Representatives together. We came to the Senate together in 1997. As chairman of the Banking Committee, he has been an extraordinary leader. He has dedicated himself particularly to community banks and to rural housing, which is consistent with the interests of his constituents in South Dakota.

He has worked to build bipartisan compromise on issues like TRIA and FHA reform, among so many other matters. As the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies he has been a tireless advocate for our military personnel. I thank him. . . .

Along with all of my other colleagues who are leaving us at the conclusion of the 113th Congress, let me thank them for their service, their dedication to improving the lives of

Americans, and on a very personal level for their friendship. I wish them all well.

WEDNESDAY, *December 10, 2014*

Mr. DURBIN. I have some tributes here for my colleagues who are retiring, leaving the Senate. It is a lengthy list of tributes. . . .

TIM JOHNSON and I came to the Senate together, TIM from South Dakota. He eventually became chairman of the Banking Committee after he faced one of the toughest physical challenges any Senator has ever faced, a debilitating brain injury that left him physically limited but never limited in spirit and intelligence. Thank God, with Barb at his side, he continued in public service to serve the State of South Dakota.

I am going to miss my great friend TIM JOHNSON.

He and I go back quite a ways. We served together in the House—and we came to the Senate together in 1996. That year, TIM JOHNSON was the only Senate candidate to defeat an incumbent U.S. Senator in a general election.

He won that first Senate election the old-fashioned way—with dedication, hard work, and a lot of shoe leather. I think he knocked on every door in South Dakota—twice. Dedication, humility, and unbelievable hard work—those are the values TIM learned as a fourth-generation South Dakotan. They are the values that have exemplified his entire career.

In 1986, TIM JOHNSON was a semi-obscure State legislator from Vermillion, SD, when he decided to run for his State's only seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. TIM might have been the only person who thought he had a chance of winning that race, but he surprised people. He did win—and he has never lost an election since. Eight consecutive statewide victories and zero losses. That is quite an accomplishment.

Here is another interesting fact about TIM JOHNSON: During his first term in the House, he was responsible for passing more legislation than any of the other 50 first-term Members.

In his 36 years of public service, TIM JOHNSON has been a strong voice for family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and across America. He is a longtime advocate of Federal support for renewable energy—especially ethanol and wind energy. He helped lead the effort to pass the Country

of Origin Label Act—the COOL Act, for short—to let consumers know if the meat they feed their families was raised in America.

Senator JOHNSON has been a leading advocate for Native Americans. He has fought especially hard for the members of the Lakota and Dakota tribes—descendants of the legendary Indian leaders Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse—who call South Dakota home.

TIM JOHNSON has fought for a livable minimum wage. He helped strengthen America's health safety net by voting to create the Children's Health Insurance Program and to expand Medicaid to those who need it. He voted for the Affordable Care Act, which passed this Senate without a vote to spare. That was a difficult vote for many but I believe that history will show it was the right vote for America, and TIM JOHNSON was on the right side of history.

As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee these last 3 years, TIM JOHNSON has played a historic role in helping to implement the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law and prevent a repeat of the kinds of abuses that nearly crashed our economy in 2008. He has moved forward despite intense opposition to reform from both inside and outside of Congress.

One of the most important of the Dodd-Frank reforms was the creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Chairman JOHNSON pressed successfully for Senate confirmation of Richard Cordray to head that new bureau so it would have a strong leader at the helm.

While he is justifiably proud of the legislative victories that bear his imprint, TIM JOHNSON may be even more proud of the constituent services he and his staff have given the people of South Dakota. Helping a veteran secure a proper disability rating or helping a senior citizen receive the Social Security and Medicare coverage he or she is due may not make headlines, but it makes a huge difference in the lives of individuals. TIM JOHNSON and his staff understand that.

I will never forget seeing TIM JOHNSON walk onto the Senate floor on September 5, 2007—less than a year after a brain hemorrhage nearly killed him. The courage and strength it took to come back from such a trauma is hard to imagine. Senator Mark Kirk, my partner from Illinois, told me that during his own recovery from a stroke, if he ever felt like giving up, he would ask himself: "What would TIM JOHNSON do?"

Dedication to public service is a family trait in the Johnson family. Barb's work on behalf of children and families has made life better for so many. Kelsey is an advocate for breast cancer awareness and research. Brendan is the U.S. attorney for the District of South Dakota. And Brooks is in the National Guard following Army service in Bosnia, Kosovo, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Some time ago, the chief and people of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe honored Senator JOHNSON by bestowing on him a Lakota name. His Lakota name is Wacante Ognake. In English, it means "holds the people in his heart."

That is the spirit that has guided TIM JOHNSON throughout his public life.

I wish TIM and Barb the very best in all their future endeavors.

Mr. COONS. . . . As I close, I would also like to thank those of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate after the New Year.

It is an incredible privilege to work in this Chamber and to represent the people. Every day I am awed by the dedication and talent of many of my colleagues, public servants who come to work to fight for their States and their government.

To those who are ending their service in the Senate, know that I value your friendship and partnership. It has been an honor to work with you, and I thank you for all you have done for our Nation.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague from South Dakota, Senator TIM JOHNSON, who is retiring at end of this year. TIM has an impressively long career in public service, representing his home State of South Dakota in Congress for the last 28 years.

TIM is often described as "a workhorse, not a show horse," and with good reason. His values, passion, and work ethic are reflected in the projects he has championed and the constituent services he has provided for the people of South Dakota. Following his AVM in 2006, Senator JOHNSON came into the national spotlight which he so seldom sought. All were inspired by his perseverance and dedication to the people of South Dakota to return to do the work he loves, and the Senate has been better for it.

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, TIM championed important water projects to bring clean drinking water to rural communities and Indian

reservations, pressed for the development of renewable fuels, and supported efforts to build vital infrastructure throughout rural America. Through his position on the Appropriations Committee, he fought to see these efforts through from planning to completion.

Farmers and ranchers throughout his State could count on TIM to be a strong voice for agriculture, advancing their priorities in numerous farm bills. His leadership on country of origin labeling, COOL, laid important groundwork to support our Nation's producers and ensure consumers know where their food comes from—a fight that continues today.

TIM has also been a champion for veterans, working to improve the benefits they are owed and connecting South Dakota veterans with support and services in their communities. He was able to secure advanced appropriations for the Veterans Administration, providing budget certainty and ensuring access to health care for those who have so bravely served their country.

TIM has a strong relationship with the tribes in South Dakota and is considered a steadfast and valued friend in Indian Country. He has tirelessly pressed for the Federal Government to meet its treaty and trust responsibilities. While significant challenges remain, TIM JOHNSON's legacy as an advocate for Native American issues has improved the quality of life on many reservations. This commitment will be missed both in the Senate and on the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator JOHNSON brought his passion for rural and Native American issues to the Senate Banking Committee. Under his chairmanship, the work of the committee highlighted the often-overlooked needs in these communities—and he was a champion during our efforts on housing finance reform to make sure they could receive the resources they so desperately need. Strengthening small community banks, improving housing, and reauthorizing critical highway and transit programs are just a few of the initiatives Chairman JOHNSON undertook, and it was a pleasure working under his leadership.

Throughout all of these accomplishments, accolades, and challenges, TIM has remained true to his roots. He has never taken his public service for granted and has always considered it a privilege to serve the people of South Dakota. The impact of his work during his time in Congress will be seen in communities throughout his State for years to come, and he has certainly left his mark on South Dakota politics. I

wish him the very best as he and his wife Barbara embark on this new chapter and get to enjoy more time with their family back in South Dakota.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014.

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

THURSDAY, *December 11, 2014*

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to my colleague and friend Senator TIM JOHNSON.

TIM has deep roots in South Dakota and in the towns of Canton and Vermillion in particular. He has served our State for more than 35 years, first in the State legislature and then, after winning a highly competitive primary against two well-known Democratic opponents, in the Halls of Congress. In 1996, after a decade in the U.S. House of Representatives, TIM won his first of three terms in the U.S. Senate. I am well acquainted with his second election because I came out on the short end of that stick. But I have had the privilege of serving with TIM now in the South Dakota delegation for over 16 years, and the last 10 have been here in the Senate. Today I want to pay tribute to his many years of public service and all he has done for our home State.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Senator JOHNSON's staff for their dedicated work. They have worked closely with my staff for many years, and I am grateful for their efforts.

Like many South Dakotans, I will always remember TIM as a fighter. South Dakotans are tough, rugged folks, and TIM has exemplified that spirit every day in the Senate. A big part of his legacy as a public servant will be his tenacity, his work ethic, and his unwavering focus on the policies he believed to be in the best interest of South Dakota.

TIM and I haven't always seen eye to eye on every issue, but we have always been able to come together and work with South Dakotans in times of crisis. From drought relief, to flood and tornado responses, to protecting the Black Hills

from wildfires, Senator JOHNSON and I have always been able to quickly respond to the needs of our State regardless of party differences or past disagreements.

Mr. President, when you represent a State like South Dakota—what some people like to call a flyover State, a State some of our colleagues here in the Senate occasionally mix up with North Dakota—there are days when it can seem as though the concerns of rural Americans aren't given fair consideration and the needs of rural America are not being heard by the administration or the more densely populated areas of our country.

I have had the great pleasure of working with TIM to bring a voice to the concerns of rural America and those of us who hail from the middle of the country. To highlight just one of the many examples I could bring up, since his first term in Congress TIM has fought tirelessly for water infrastructure to deliver clean drinking water to families in South Dakota and throughout the Great Plains. Water is a vital resource in the rural expanses of South Dakota, and TIM's efforts have helped meet this basic need in underserved Indian reservations, small towns, and rural areas across the State. These investments will pay dividends well beyond his tenure in the Senate.

Throughout TIM's long career in public service—from his beginnings in the legislature to his ascension to the chairmanship of the Senate Banking Committee—he has had a hand in numerous efforts that will help South Dakotans and Americans alike for generations to come.

I know I speak for all South Dakotans when I say thank you, TIM, for your dedication and your service to our great State. It has been an honor to serve with you here in the U.S. Senate. Thank you for your example, your efforts on behalf of our beloved South Dakota, and most of all for your friendship. On behalf of my wife Kimberly and me, I wish you, Barbara, and your family the very best as you begin your retirement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

FRIDAY, *December 12, 2014*

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, it is a tradition here in the Senate to take a moment before the end of each session of Congress to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of the year. It is al-

ways a difficult time to lose some of our best and brightest. One fellow Senator I know we will all miss is TIM JOHNSON.

TIM has had quite a remarkable career and legacy of service to South Dakota of which he should be very proud. He came to the Senate to work for the people of his State and he did such a good job they kept sending him back. It has been a mutual admiration society—the people of South Dakota and TIM.

TIM followed a proven path of success for his service in Congress by first serving in the South Dakota State Legislature. He had a knack for getting things done there that it prompted him to serve in the House as South Dakota's at-large Representative. He quickly developed a reputation in the House as someone who had an abundance of good ideas. As a freshman he had a list of bills he had dropped in that was longer than any other freshman in the House. It was clear to everyone that TIM was the kind of person who knew how to get results.

TIM and I were part of the same freshman class of the Senate. Over the years I have enjoyed having a chance to come to know him. He has proved to be a good friend, a great ally, and someone who was willing to work with Members on all sides to get things done for South Dakota and our Nation.

For me, it meant a great deal to have a Senator from a neighboring State who had an understanding of our agriculture industry. As I have often said, urban life is very different from rural life and it was good to have someone to work with whose background made those issues and the need for action clear to him.

That is one of the reasons why TIM has such a strong understanding of one of the key issues of the West—water. For many of us water is something that we take for granted. It is easy. You turn on the tap and you can have as much as you want.

Unfortunately, for our rural communities, it is not that easy. Water is a precious commodity—down to the last drop. In fact, just about everyone from the West has heard the old adage, "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting!"

It is a message that has stayed with TIM throughout his service in the House and the Senate. It has been a priority for him to ensure that good, clean water supplies are available to everyone in South Dakota and the West. That is why you will find his legislative record of accomplishments filled

with his efforts to pass infrastructure projects to ensure our water supplies would be both reliable and available.

I could go on about his other accomplishments and our work together on agriculture issues but I would be here for quite a long time and not begin to make a dent in what he has been able to achieve during his career. Let me just say that the work TIM began in the State legislature and continued when he came to Congress has helped to make South Dakota what it is today. I think by any standard he has done a good job and made the people of his home State proud.

Through the years, TIM has had some health problems, but he never let them stop him or slow him down in his work for South Dakota. Sometimes I think of him as a warrior—a quiet one—who is blessed with a spirit to work for the people of South Dakota that just cannot be diminished.

When I think of TIM I will always think of him as someone who leads the best way, by example. I have learned a lot from him over the years and I think we have made a difference together in our shared commitment to our Nation's agriculture industry. We have worked on a lot of bills together and by placing both our names on a bill we made it a bipartisan effort that I would like to think drew a lot of other Members to our side to work with us.

Thank you, TIM, for your service, not only to South Dakota but to the West and to all our Nation. You have a lot to look back on with the satisfaction that comes from having done a job and done it well. Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you for your hard work and determined effort to address the problems and challenges of our Nation. Thanks, too, for your friendship. Good luck on the next chapter of the great adventure of your life.

MONDAY, *December 15, 2014*

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the senior Senator from South Dakota, TIM JOHNSON, is as fine a public servant as I have known. These are words I have used before about Senator JOHNSON. As he approaches his retirement from the Senate, they are as true now as ever before.

Senator JOHNSON embodies the traits of a dedicated public servant. He represents South Dakotans with every fiber of his being. He is the great-grandson of a homesteader who settled in South Dakota when it was still a territory. And he has never lost sight of the interests of the constituents he

has served in Congress for more than 25 years. Never one to rest on the job, he introduced more legislation in his freshman term than any of the almost 50 new Members of Congress that term.

Vermont and South Dakota share similar rural challenges, and in Senator JOHNSON, I have found a partner in such efforts as protecting rural schools and giving them a voice in national competitions like Race to the Top. He and I share a strong commitment to supporting small family farms, an effort he has been recognized for by the National Farmers Union and others. Through the Appropriations Committee, Senator JOHNSON has been a stalwart defender of our Nation's veterans, and through his chairmanship of the Banking Committee, he has fought for middle class families with steadfast diligence.

Senator JOHNSON has faced no shortage of challenges in his life. But with his wife Barbara by his side, he has met all of these challenges with determination and with grace, and he remains a fierce defender of South Dakota and a friend. As he retires from the Senate, I wish him, Barbara, his children and grandchildren and his entire family all of our best wishes.

TUESDAY, *December 16, 2014*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as we wind down the final days of the 113th Congress, it is a good time both to reflect on the past and to look toward the future. I have been very moved as I listened to the farewell speeches of our departing Senators, and I wish I had time to pay tribute to each one of them. They have all been wonderful colleagues, and I enjoyed working with and getting to know every one of them. I wish them all the very best in all their future endeavors. They will most certainly be missed. . . .

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, before this Congress ends, I wanted to pay tribute to several of my colleagues who will not be here when we convene next year. Some chose not to run again, and others unfortunately lost their reelection campaigns, but we will miss them all next year. I begin in order of seniority.

Mr. President, I wish to begin with Senator TIM JOHNSON. After several years of service in South Dakota, where he received the Outstanding Citizen Award and the Billie Sutton

Award for Legislative Achievement, TIM was elected to the House of Representatives in 1986. He served there for 10 years, earning many distinctions, among them, one for passing more legislation than the other 50 first-term Members. In 1996 he was elected to the Senate, where he has served three terms. In recent years Senator JOHNSON has served as chairman of the Banking Committee, of which he has been a member since 1997. Over the years he has advocated for community banks in South Dakota, worked to pass the Safe and Fair Deposit Insurance Act of 2005, which updated the Federal deposit insurance system, and pushed to deal with the special needs of consumers in rural areas. TIM has also shown immense courage in dealing with health issues and has been an exemplary public servant. We will miss him next year and wish him and Barbara well. . . .

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions of Senator TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota, who is retiring at the end of this year.

Senator JOHNSON has served South Dakota in the House and the Senate for nearly 28 years. He was elected to the House in 1986 and was elected to the Senate in 1996. During those 28 years, Senator JOHNSON has been an advocate for bipartisanship to get results in Congress. In fact, bipartisanship could be considered one of the campaign platforms that first got him elected to Congress. As he related in his farewell remarks on this floor last week, when he first ran for the House of Representatives, he told the people of South Dakota that neither party had all the answers, that both parties had good ideas, and that both parties had men and women of good will. "My job, as I understood it, would be to work in a bipartisan manner, listening to all parties and reaching a good fit—also known as compromise."

Twenty-eight years later, it is clear that he not only understood his job well then, but his efforts to compromise have paid big dividends for South Dakota. Over the years he has worked on a number of issues, from the farm bill, to highway funding, to flood relief and to protect South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base.

No one Senator can deliver results on their own, but by working across the aisle, TIM has not only done well for his constituents but has gained a good reputation here in the Senate. He has served in leadership positions on the Senate Banking Committee, which he currently chairs, as well as the Senate Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Indian Affairs Committees. On each of these commit-

tees, Senator JOHNSON has championed issues that are important to the people of his State but has always done so with an eye toward fairness—listening to all parties, promoting compromise, and doing what is right for working people across the country.

For these reasons, Senator JOHNSON is well-respected and has earned the good will of the Senate. When he was faced with the challenge of a lifetime—a brain hemorrhage in 2006—he was supported by a Senate community that set aside partisanship and political calculations. Everyone wanted to see him recover. When he returned to the Senate after months of recovery, he was welcomed by the whole community. TIM continues to be a profile in courage.

His legacy is one of compromise and collaboration—two attributes that are critical to the functioning of this body and two attributes which we would do well to remember.

We will all miss Senator JOHNSON in the Senate. Aloha to him, his wife Barbara, his three children, and his six grandchildren, and a hui hou, "until we meet again."

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate and thank the 13 outgoing Senators who have worked tirelessly to represent their home States in the Senate: Senator Mark Begich, Senator Saxby Chambliss, Senator Tom Coburn, Senator Kay Hagan, Senator Tom Harkin, Senator Mike Johanns, Senator TIM JOHNSON, Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Mark Pryor, Senator Jay Rockefeller, Senator Mark Udall, and Senator John Walsh.

I have worked side by side with these men and women for years—some for decades—and witnessed first hand their extraordinary commitment to public service and to the people they so proudly represent.

Even when we didn't see eye to eye on every issue, I always deeply respected and admired their service to our Nation and their dedication to fight for what they believe in.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside each and every one of these extraordinary colleagues. I will miss their leadership and their friendship, and I wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter.

FRIDAY, *January 2, 2015*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a man I have admired throughout my career in this Cham-

ber, Senator TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota. I am proud to call TIM my friend.

Long before Senator JOHNSON and I crossed paths in the Senate, we were both studying at Michigan State University—I was an undergrad while Senator JOHNSON was doing postgraduate studies. In fact, his parents retired in the East Lansing area. I know that Senator JOHNSON considers the University of South Dakota to be his alma mater, but I will always think of him as a fellow Spartan.

All of us here are committed to public service, to defending the Constitution and to protecting our Nation against foreign threats, but few of us have had our commitment tested as Senator JOHNSON has.

In 2004 Senator JOHNSON learned that he had prostate cancer, but he was determined to beat it and to continue representing the people of South Dakota. "I wish this was something that wasn't happening to me," he said. "But I will deal with it head on," and he did. He had surgery, then he made a full recovery, and was soon back to work.

In 2006 we were all shocked to learn that Senator JOHNSON suffered a brain hemorrhage—and for weeks we hoped and prayed for him and his family. Incredibly, he again made a full recovery—and he again came back to work.

That is commitment. That is a Senator with a deep appreciation for the privilege of serving the people of South Dakota. That is TIM JOHNSON

Despite the personal health issues Senator JOHNSON experienced, he succeeded in leading passage of the Safe and Fair Deposit Insurance Act of 2005, a law that 3 years later was critical to keeping America's deposits safe during a time of great economic turmoil. As chair of the Senate Banking Committee we have relied on his leadership and judgment in reducing risk in the financial sector and in ensuring that Dodd-Frank reforms were implemented effectively.

I will miss our work together to improve the health care of American veterans, and I will miss the opportunity I have had through the years to work with Senator JOHNSON on empowering small family farms to compete in the modern marketplace and to help ethanol producers expand their place in our Nation's renewable energy future.

Knowing how important it was for ranchers to be able to tell consumers their meat products came from the United States, Senator JOHNSON has been a champion of country of origin labeling since going back to the 2002 farm bill, and since then he has helped to strengthen and fully implement

the law, a mission that carried over to the 2014 farm bill that I authored as chair of the Agriculture Committee.

In addition, Senator JOHNSON has been a forceful advocate for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration rules that ensure that family farmers and ranchers are able to compete on a level playing field.

I know how much Senator JOHNSON has loved policymaking, so I know he must have agonized over this decision. But I also know that the love and devotion he has for his family comes first, and now he will be able to spend more time with his wife Barbara, his two sons, his daughter, and all his grandchildren.

TIM, thank you for being such a strong, resilient, and resourceful partner and friend through the years. I wish you a happy and successful retirement with your family.

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