

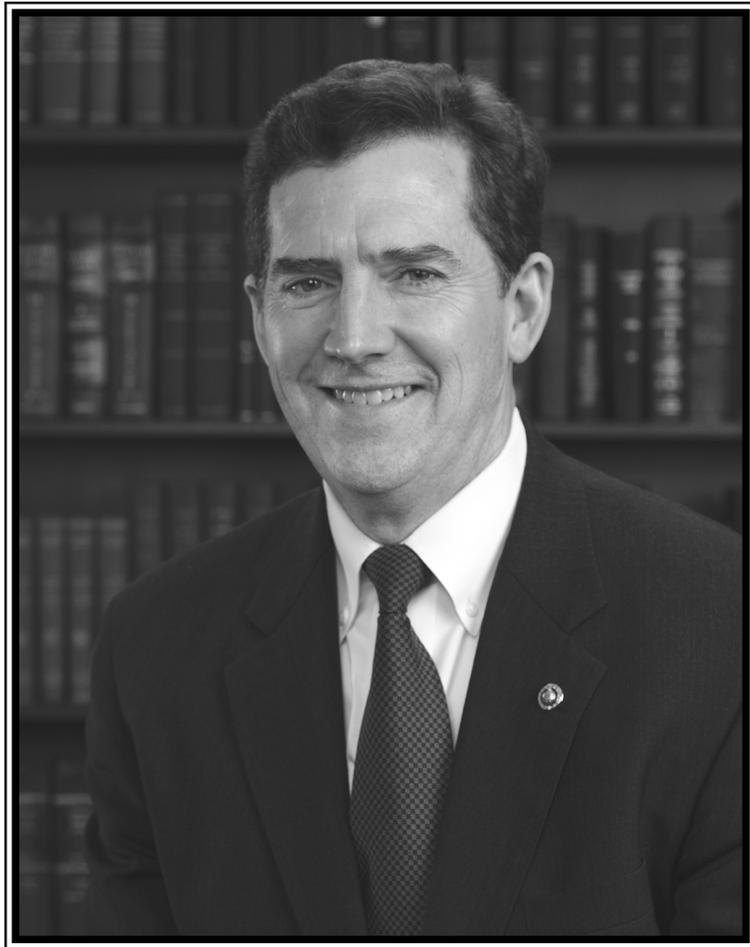
Jim DeMint

U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

TRIBUTES

**IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES**





Jim DeMint

Courtesy U.S. Senate Historical Office

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Jim DeMint

United States Congressman
1999-2005

United States Senator
2005-2013



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of the
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BIOGRAPHY

JIM DEMINT was born in Greenville County, SC, on September 2, 1951. He graduated from Wade Hampton High School in Greenville in 1969 and became an active volunteer and community leader. He earned a BS from the University of Tennessee in 1973 and an MBA from Clemson University in 1981.

As the owner of a Greenville-based market research firm, he became an expert in positioning products in a crowded marketplace, a skill that made him an effective legislator and representative. When he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1998 his colleagues recognized his unique attributes and elected him president of the Republican freshman class. He served in the 106th and two succeeding Congresses, January 3, 1999, to January 3, 2005. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, reelected in 2010, and served until his resignation on January 1, 2013.

Senator DEMINT quickly established himself as one of the most effective conservative leaders in Washington, DC, seeking to enact innovative solutions to improve America for future generations. He has been a tireless advocate for smaller government, individual liberty, a strong national defense, and traditional values.

JIM DEMINT has earned national acclaim for his work to end the system of earmarks, also referred to as the “congressional favor factory.” Following the November elections in 2006, the Senator stood up against big spenders in Congress and stopped over 10,000 wasteful pork projects. Famed Washington journalist Robert Novak called him a “hero.” *Wall Street Journal* editor Steve Moore said the Senator’s actions saved Americans about \$17 billion and called him the “taxpayers’ greatest ally.” In early 2007 JIM DEMINT also fought for commonsense immigration reform by leading the effort to defeat the amnesty bill and calling on government to first secure our borders, enforce the laws already passed, and streamline the legal immigration system.

In late 2006, he was elected as chairman of the Senate Steering Committee, which is comprised of the majority of Republican Senators and works to advance conservative leg-

isolation. Last year, just as Ronald Reagan had done over 20 years earlier, JIM DEMINT delivered the keynote address to the Nation's largest gathering of conservative activists at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). He was recently ranked as the Senate's most conservative Member by *National Journal* and as the No. 1 Senator voting for responsible tax and spending policies by the National Taxpayers Union. JIM DEMINT understands the greatness of a country is found in its people and values, not in its government.

The Senator and his wife, Debbie, reside in Greenville, SC, and are the proud parents of four married children. They are also greatly enjoying their new role as grandparents.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I would like to give my farewell address. We spent a lot of time in my office writing out a long speech. However, once I read it, I realized it is more emotional than I thought, and we set that speech aside. Last night I made a lot of notes of what I wanted to say, and then I realized this morning that I was just trying to get the last word on a lot of the politics we have been discussing, so I set that aside and decided to speak from my heart.

Certainly, this is much more emotional than I thought, and as I look around this room, the realization that I am standing on the Senate floor speaking for the last time is a lot to digest. It makes me very appreciative of the privilege we have all been given by the American people, and particularly those who have come before us and who have given their lives for us to have the opportunity to settle our differences in a civil and democratic way. This is a great opportunity and privilege to share a few thoughts before I go on to the next phase of my life.

First, I have to give particular thanks to my wife Debbie, who, for the last 15 years, has spent many days and nights alone as I have tried to change things in Washington. She has often reminded and questioned me how I thought I could change the world when I could not even mow the grass. But she has been a supporter and certainly so important as I left my children, who were still in school when I began serving in the House, keeping them on the right track. I particularly wanted to thank them as well.

All of those who serve here know that when we sign up for public life, we also sign our families up for public life. In a lot of ways it makes their lives much more difficult. So I want to thank my children, my wife Debbie, and my family for putting up with this and being so supportive of me.

I also have to thank the people of South Carolina who have entrusted me with this job in the Senate for the last 8 years, and in the House 6 years before that. All of us who serve our States know that as we travel around and meet

people and tour businesses and speak to groups, it creates a deep love and appreciation for everyone back home.

I look at what we are making in South Carolina in these small businesses. When we drive by we don't know anything is even there, and then we go and find that they are making things and shipping them all over the world. It makes me very proud of what we are doing in South Carolina, and I know everyone here feels the same way about their States.

I am very appreciative that the people of South Carolina have given me this opportunity. I am very grateful to my colleagues whom I have often scrapped with on a lot of issues. I appreciate their patience. I think I can leave claiming to have good friends who are Democrats and Republicans.

I am particularly grateful for a lot of the new Senators. Some are sitting here today. I have had the opportunity to work with the folks in their States around the country. Their respective States have elected some new people to the Senate who are bringing the right ideas and some new voices to those principles that we know have made our country successful. So I feel as I leave the Senate, it is better than I found it, and that our focus now, despite the difficult challenges, is on America and how we turn America around.

I also want to spend some time thanking my staff. I have to say my greatest inspirations have come from the staff who I have had the opportunity to serve with in the House and in the Senate. As all of my colleagues know who are serving here in the Senate, this country is being run by people in their twenties and thirties who get us so busy they have to follow us to meetings to tell us where we are going and what we will be talking about. It is incredible to see that these young people, particularly those whom I have served with, have such a passion for our country and freedom and they are willing to put it all on the line to make a difference here. They feel a lot like my family, and I am certainly going to miss them, but it is encouraging to watch them moving to other offices, taking their ideas and that courage to other places on the Hill.

I want to add my thanks to all the Hill staff, the folks sitting in the front here and those who have worked with us. I know sometimes we have pushed the envelope a little bit on things we were trying to get done, and I have seen a lot of very intelligent, active, and engaged staff all across the Hill, both Democrat and Republican, and I am very thankful for what they do.

About 15 years ago I started campaigning for the House. I had never run for public office. At that time, I believed—and I think it still holds true today—that there were normal people such as myself and then there were politicians. I was a businessman. I had a small business for about 15 years. I had four children. I was active in my church and in the community. I had begun to see that well-motivated, well-intended government policies were making it harder for us to do the things at the community level we know actually worked. That is what I have always been about here. It really was not about politics. I had no strong political affiliation before I decided to run for office, but I saw ideas from the time I was a young person. Ideas that worked.

I actually saw this statement the other day which I wish to read because it reflects what I think a lot of us know works in our country. This is one thing I will try to read today:

I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon. If I can seek opportunity, not security, I want to take the calculated risk to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for dole. I prefer the challenges of life to guaranteed security, the thrill of fulfillment to the state of calm utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence, nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master, save my God. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud, and unafraid, to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations, to face the whole world boldly and say, "I am a free American."

I saw this on a plaque called "The American Creed." In South Carolina, at least, we have adopted this as what we call "The Republican Creed." It is really not a Republican idea or a political idea, it is an American idea. The ideas in this statement are ideas we all know work, and ideas we would hope for our children and everyone around us. We know there are people all around us who are having difficulty, but this idea of helping them to become independent, self-sufficient, and responsible creates the dignity and fulfillment in their life that we know we want for all Americans. This is not for a small few. This is an American idea, and it is an idea I know has worked in my life, and I have seen it work all around me.

That is what I wish to talk about for a second today; not political ideas but ideas where we can look back through history and all around us today and point to them and say, "That is working." I think if we did that more here in the political sphere, we might find a lot more consensus.

As we look around the country today, we can see a lot of things that are working. Sometimes we couch them in our

political rhetoric, but I can guarantee my colleagues they are not being done for political reasons at the State level; they are being done because they work and they have to get things to work at the State level.

We saw last week the State of Michigan adopted a new law that gave workers the freedom not to join a union. They didn't do it because it was politically expedient or because they thought it was a good idea. Actually, it probably will get a lot of the politicians in hot water in Michigan. What they did is look at 23 other States that had adopted the same idea and see they were attracting businesses and creating jobs, and these States, without raising taxes, had more revenue to build schools and roads and hospitals. It is just an idea that worked. It is not a political idea to give people the freedom not to join a union; it is an American idea and it is an idea that works.

We can look around the country today—and, again, we make these things political and give them labels that are good or bad, depending on I guess which party one belongs to—and see that a number of States have been very innovative and creative with what they are doing with education. We see what they have done in Florida, creating more choices, and in Louisiana particularly, forced by Hurricane Katrina to start a new system, in effect. They see that more choices and opportunities for parents to choose are helping low-income, at-risk kids, minority kids. We can see it working. It is not political. It is an American idea to give parents more choices to put their children in an environment where they can succeed. It is an idea that works.

We can look around the country at States that try to create a more business-friendly environment not because they are for businesses or for any political reason, or they are for special interests, but because they know the only way to get jobs and prosperity and create opportunity is to create an environment where businesses can thrive. We make it political here and we ask our constituents to make choices between employers and employees, but States such as Texas have created a business-friendly environment with lower taxes and less regulation. They have passed some laws that reduce the risk of frivolous lawsuits. What they have seen is businesses moving to their State. They have seen jobs and opportunity created not for the top 2 percent but expanding a middle class, creating more opportunities and more tax revenues to do the things at the State government level that we all want

for everyone who lives there. This is not for a few; this is for 100 percent.

We see specials now on television comparing California and Texas, businesses moving out and delegations from California going to Texas to try to figure out why businesses are moving and families are moving there. It is not political at all. We make it political and we talk about it in political terms, but creating an environment where businesses can thrive is an American idea and it is an idea that is working. We see it all over the country, where some States are going down one road, with higher taxes, bigger government, and more spending, and they are losing to States such as Texas, and I hope more and more like South Carolina. They are moving to where they can thrive. This benefits every American.

We look at energy development and we talk about that at the national level of how it can create prosperity for our country if we open it up. We don't have to guess at whether it works. We can look at North Dakota, we can look at Pennsylvania—States that have gone around the Federal rules and figured out how to develop their own energy and are creating jobs and tax revenue for their governments. They are able to lower their taxes and use the revenue to improve everything about their States. Here we make it political and partisan, whether our country can develop more energy, but at the State level it is about what works. All we have to do is look at what works.

This is not rocket science. I came to Washington as a novice in politics, believing in the power of ideas, seeing how ideas could revolutionize different industries, can create new products and services, meeting the needs of customers everywhere. That is what I hoped we could do here in Washington. Maybe naively, I went to work in the House, often working with the Heritage Foundation, to create a better product here in Washington. I saw Social Security—and not too many people look below the surface—but we knew it was going broke. We knew people were paying for this Social Security retirement benefit, but we were spending it all. I thought, what an opportunity it would be for future generations—for my children—if we actually saved what people were putting into Social Security for their retirement, and we didn't have to do too much math to see that even for middle-class workers, Americans could be millionaires when they retired if we kept even half of what was put into Social Security for them. It seemed like a good idea to create

wealth and independence for individuals in retirement, but we made it a political idea and somehow convinced Americans it was riskier to save their Social Security contribution than it was to spend it.

I am leaving the Senate to work on ideas I know work. I have seen them work all over our country. We can look all over our country and showcase these ideas that are working. I know there is power in ideas. However, I have learned one thing about the political environment: Unless there is power behind the ideas, they will not emerge here in the Congress. There is too much pressure from the outside to maintain the status quo. No matter how much we show it is working, it won't be adopted here unless we are able to win the argument with the American people.

I spent most of my life in research and advertising and marketing and strategic planning. What I hope I can do from this point is to take these ideas and policies I know work—and the Heritage Foundation for 40 years has been creating the research and analyses that show these policies work—and what I hope I can do is to help connect those ideas with real people, real faces, and to show these people that these ideas are not theory, they are not political policies, but they are ideas that are working right in their State or the State right next to them. If we can win the arguments, if we can win the hearts and the minds of the American people with these ideas, I know we can engage them and enlist them to convince all of my colleagues here to set the politics aside, the parties aside, and to adopt those ideas that work. My hope is to make conservative ideas so pervasive, so persuasive across the country that politicians of all parties have to embrace those ideas to be elected.

I am not leaving to be an advocate for the Republican Party. I hope we can create more common ground between the political parties by showing everyone that ideas that work for their constituents and our constituents are right in front of our faces if we are willing to set aside the pressure groups, the special interests, and just focus on what is working.

Over the next few years, we are going to see more and more States doing the right things, becoming more prosperous, creating a better environment for people to live and work. We are going to see some States that will continue to raise taxes, to create more regulations, and make it harder to start businesses and be profitable in those States. They will continue to lose businesses and people. Many of those

States will come to Washington and ask us to help them out from their bad decisions.

I hope at that point we can show, by pointing at these States and their right ideas, that we know the solutions at the State level and we also know we can change how we think at the Federal level and make our country work a lot better.

I leave with a lot of respect for my colleagues. I know my Democratic colleagues believe their ideas with conviction, and I know my Republican colleagues do too. I hope we can look at the facts. I hope we can look at the real world. I hope we can look at what is working and set aside the politics and realize what makes the country great and strong is when we move dollars and decisions out of Washington back to people and communities and States. It works not for 2 percent but for 100 percent of Americans.

I feel our customers in the Senate, at the Heritage Foundation or wherever we go are 100 percent of Americans for whom these ideas can work to build a better future and a stronger America. I am not leaving the fight. I hope to raise my game in my next phase, and I hope I can work more closely with all of you, as well as Governors and State legislators, to take these ideas and to convince Americans, as well as their legislators, their Senators, and their Congressmen, that we have the solutions all around us if we have the courage to adopt them.

I thank you for this opportunity to serve. Certainly I will miss my relationships. I hope we will have the opportunity to continue to work together for what is the greatest country in the world, in what I believe is a generation that could be the greatest and most prosperous generation of all if we just look to the ideas that work.

Thank you, Madam President. I thank my colleagues.

TRIBUTES

TO

JIM DEMINT

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 6, 2012*

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I wanted to be recognized for 10 minutes to talk about the decision by Senator DEMINT to leave the Senate next year.

I met with JIM DEMINT this morning. To say I was stunned is an understatement. JIM indicated to me that he will be retiring from the Senate next year and taking over the presidency of the Heritage Foundation, one of the great conservative think tanks here in Washington.

My reaction for the people of South Carolina is: You have lost a great, strong conservative voice, someone who has championed the conservative cause and represented our State with distinction, sincerity, and a great deal of passion. On a personal level, I have lost my colleague and friend. JIM and I have known each other for almost 20 years. I think we have done a pretty darn good job for South Carolina, at times playing good cop bad cop, but always trying to work together. What differences we have had have been sincere.

That is the word I would use about Senator DEMINT. He sincerely believes in his causes. He is a conservative voice that people in our party look to for leadership and guidance. What he has done over the last 4 to 6 years to build a conservative movement to get people involved in politics, such as Marco Rubio, whom JIM helped early on in his primary, I think is going to be a great legacy. From a State point of view, we have lost one of our great champions. JIM and Debbie have raised four wonderful children. They have great grandkids. I know JIM is looking forward to staying involved and pushing the conservative outside the body. He was an effective voice in the Senate, whether you agreed with JIM or not. He really did strongly and passionately advocate for his positions and did it very effectively.

JIM made the Republican Party, quite frankly, look inward and do some self-evaluation. Conservatism is an asset, not a liability, as we try to govern this country in the 21st century. I look forward to staying in touch with JIM and to working

with him at the Heritage Foundation to see what we can do to improve the fate of our country so we will not become Greece.

No one is more worried about this Nation's unsustainable debt situation than Senator DEMINT. I have seen him evolve over time as someone who could not sit quietly anymore, who had to take up the cause.

In the 2010 election cycle he was one of the strongest voices we had telling us that we had lost our way in Washington. I know JIM to be a very kind, sincere man. He is an individual who is a joy to be around.

When it comes to what is going on in America, I think JIM understands that if we don't make some changes and make them quickly, we are going to lose our way of life. That is what has driven him above all else. He is trying to keep this country the land of the free and the home of the brave, where people's hard work is rewarded—not punished—where we have a chance to come from nowhere to be anything, including President of the United States. JIM is right to say our debt is unsustainable, that Washington does too much, and there is a better way.

I will look forward to working with JIM in the private sector. From a personal point of view, we have had a great ride together. It has been fun, it has been challenging, and I think we put South Carolina on the map in different ways at different times. To people back in South Carolina, I hope if they get to see JIM any time soon, say thank you. Because whether they agree with Senator DEMINT, he was doing what he thought was best for South Carolina and the United States.

At the end of the day, that is as good as it gets. Because if someone is doing what they truly believe in and not worried about being the most popular or people getting mad at them, then one can do a good job in Washington. To the people back in South Carolina, everything JIM has tried to do has been motivated by changing the country, making South Carolina the best we could be at home.

So if you get a chance, run into JIM any time soon or in the coming days, please say thank you because he did his job as he saw fit. He did what he thought was best, and he didn't worry about being the most popular or taking on people when he thought he was right.

I can tell you this. When it comes to me, he has always been a friend, somebody I could count on personally. We enjoyed our time together. I was stunned this morning. JIM has

an unlimited bright future in the private sector. I will say more next year when his time comes to an end.

On behalf of all of us in South Carolina, I wish to say to JIM and Debbie, thank you very much for taking time away from your family, fighting the good fight, and pressing issues you passionately believe in. I wish to thank JIM and Debbie both for being my friends. You both mean a great deal to me, and I am confident the best is yet to come for both of you.

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, great job, well done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I will associate my remarks with Senator Graham and say how much I have appreciated working with JIM DEMINT. He is courageous, determined, and principled. He has a vision for America, and he has advocated for it every single day. He stood, sometimes alone, to advocate for those views. He is smart, he is intelligent, and he is good. It has been my pleasure to work with him and actually to support him.

I have consistently felt his values and views were beneficial to America, and we can all disagree sometimes about how to accomplish them, but we can't just go along all the time. Sometimes we have to rock the boat, and he was willing to do that. I so much have enjoyed working with him.

WEDNESDAY, *December 19, 2012*

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madame President, I would like to speak this morning in tribute to an unexpected addition to the list of retirees on the Republican side of the Senate, Senator JIM DEMINT of South Carolina.

They say success has many fathers, but it is hard to think of anyone who has done more than JIM DEMINT to raise the public's awareness on spending and debt, and the threat that big government poses to our liberties.

JIM has been a powerful voice for conservatism during his time in the House and the Senate. I have no doubt he will be extremely effective in his new post over at the Heritage Foundation. I wish him every success. Because the truth is, the Nation simply cannot continue on its current path, and if JIM can help more people understand that from his new

perch on Massachusetts Avenue, then it will clearly have been worth it.

So while JIM's voice will be missed here in the Senate, we are glad to see he will be putting his considerable talents to good use by helping to arm his former colleagues and many others with the arguments they will need to make the case for constitutional conservatism in the years ahead.

As a young boy, JIM developed a knack for sales by necessity. His mom ran a ballroom dancing school out of their home as a way to keep food on the table for her four children, and part of JIM's job was to recruit the students. He says he still runs into people who attended the DeMint Academy of Dance and Decorum. "Our home sometimes seemed like boot camp," JIM once said, because to survive as a single parent his mom enlisted all four kids for daily duties starting at 6 a.m. It was "the closest I would come to basic training." Interestingly, part of JIM's responsibilities involved filling in for folks who did not have a dance partner.

When JIM wasn't busy in the ballroom, he was working his two paper routes or bagging groceries at the grocery store. On weekends, he fed his love of music as the drummer for a band called "Salt and Pepper." He was best known for his vocals on the song "Wipe-out" and the song's distinctive opening cackle. JIM says he could have been a rock star, if it weren't for the fact that he had no voice or musical talent. So as an adult, he stuck with sales, and it was from there that he launched his political career.

It has not been easy. JIM has always worked hard to ensure that Debbie and the kids remained at the center of his life. I know how much he admires Debbie for keeping her focus on their kids over the years. Theirs has been a true partnership almost since the day they first met all the way back in the seventh grade.

JIM was not always all that political. In fact, those who know him best say that one of the most surprising things about his career is how such a shy and gentle spirit could be viewed by so many as a take-no-prisoners firebrand. As a young marketing executive, he recalls thinking that he had a wife, kids, and a business—and that was basically his universe. He did not even know who his Congressman was. To this day, one of the things JIM enjoys doing most is working on his lawn back in Greenville. While he has gotten his share of awards in Washington over the years, I don't think any of them compare with the one his neighborhood associa-

tion gave him a few years back for “Best Lawn.” He is really proud of that one.

JIM’s interest in politics came about when the government started to intrude more and more into his business, and when he started to notice how it unwittingly harmed others. “The more I learned about how things operated,” he once said, “the more I understood how problems in our society such as broken homes, crime, and school dropouts were a direct result of well-intended but misdirected government policies.”

So he got involved.

In 1992, Bob Inglis walked into his office and asked for his help in running a race in South Carolina’s Fourth District. JIM took the job and for the first time began to think about running for political office himself. When Inglis retired, JIM decided to run as his replacement. He was 47 years old, he had never run for anything in his life, and Debbie thought he was crazy. But the voters liked what he was selling, and so did his colleagues in the House. They voted him president of their freshman class in 1999.

Six years later, JIM was elected to the Senate. He has been a leader here as well, working to cut Federal spending and reform how we spend taxpayer dollars. A conservative stalwart, JIM leaves with a stellar 98.77 lifetime rating from the American Conservative Union. Crucially, he has made a difference. One member of the press corps once referred to JIM as the patron saint of lost causes in the Senate. Frankly, I don’t think we will be abolishing the Tax Code anytime soon, as JIM has suggested, but that’s to miss the point. Great causes almost always start out with a constituency of one, and JIM has never been afraid to take up important and unpopular causes early, and let the polls and punditry take care of themselves.

After becoming what he called a “recovering earmarker,” he succeeded in convincing others to give up the practice. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he was also instrumental in resolving a serious problem in Honduras a few years ago after the Obama administration misconstrued the legal ouster of a president with a political coup. JIM enlisted Miguel Estrada to figure out what was really going on down there, and I was happy to help him travel to Honduras to investigate in person. JIM soon reported back that it was instantly obvious it was not a coup. The story eventually had a happy ending: the Honduran people held a new election and inaugurated a new president and the Obama adminis-

tration grudgingly backed down. None of this would have happened without the leadership of Senator DEMINT. “The Senator kept the administration honest,” Estrada later said. “He was invaluable.”

Senator DEMINT and I share a profound commitment to free speech, and he has written eloquently on its importance for our Nation. “Good government,” he has written, “is a result of freedom debated.” He has called the right to free speech the “most treasured benefit of living in a free and democratic nation.” He has certainly exercised that right to the fullest both here in the Senate and across the country.

Throughout his political career, JIM has always been guided by an unwavering commitment to freedom, and I know it is that same commitment to defend and enlarge our freedom that led him into this next chapter in his life. It is this passion to defend freedom, both for Americans here at home and for our allies around the world, that has struck a chord with so many Americans and helped make JIM a national figure—not to mention a best-selling author.

In addition to the fact that he and his staff have helped address more than 30,000 constituent inquiries during his time here in the Senate, it is also why JIM has remained so popular with his constituents back home, and it is why his colleagues here in the Senate are so sad to see him go.

JIM leaves with a legacy. He has been a real champion for limited government and constitutional conservatism on the national stage. What has always guided him most over the years is the conviction that most decisions are best made at the local level. Whether it is his work with veterans, in promoting adoption, or in reforming education, that is what he has always stressed.

So I want to thank the Senator from South Carolina for his sterling service to the Palmetto State and to our country. I wish him and Debbie and the entire DeMint family all the very best in the years ahead. Godspeed, Senator DEMINT.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to say a few words about my colleague JIM DEMINT. We have had a lot of really good people during my service here on both sides of the aisle. I have friends who have passed on and who made such a difference around here. I have to say that JIM DEMINT has been a rock-ribbed conservative who I think has made a great difference in this body and for whom I have a lot of respect. I have profound gratitude that he has fought as hard

as he has for the principles he believes in, most of which I believe in.

I wish him Godspeed as he works over at the Heritage Foundation. I can't imagine a better place for somebody who loves the issues, wants to play a role, has played a role, understands this body, understands the political nature of this country, and has been very active in trying to change this country for the better. JIM has those kinds of abilities. I wish him well, and I sure hope he will have a great time while he is over at the Heritage Foundation. I have great respect for him. I think most people who really know him have great respect for him. I always respect people who really do what they believe, and JIM DEMINT has exemplified that as well as anybody I know.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2012*

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. . . .

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.

FRIDAY, *December 21, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, one of our traditions here in the Senate is to take a moment as the current session of Congress draws to a close to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of all those Members who will be leaving when the gavel brings to a close the 112th Session of Congress. I know we will miss them all—especially those like JIM DEMINT who have played such an important role in the work we do every day in committee and on the floor.

I know I wasn't the only one who was surprised to learn that JIM DEMINT was leaving the Senate to become the president of the Heritage Foundation. It is a great opportunity for him, and I know he will make the most of it in the years to come. We will miss him, though, because in a short time he had become an important voice in the Senate for the issues that meant a great deal to him.

Looking back, I have no doubt that JIM learned at an early age that the law is a great teacher and by coming to Washington to help draft our laws he could help to teach people all across the Nation what it means to be a citizen. He could also help to ensure that our government responds more fully and substantively to the needs of the people of our Nation. I think that is what most interests him about the Heritage Foundation—the knowledge that it will be another opportunity and provide him with a different platform from which he can continue to have an impact on those issues that mean so very much to him.

Over the years I have come to know JIM as he has taken his place as one of a very few who have been known as the conscience of the Senate. He is an individual of strong principles and core values and he brings his sense of direction to the work of the Senate every day.

As I have watched him in action, I have seen his ability to bring our attention both carefully and forcefully to the flaws in the legislative matters we had taken up for deliberations. In everything we did, JIM would take a close look at the wording of each clause and every proposed amendment and make it clear to us the reasons why he believed something needed to be changed. Then as we began our debate,

he would then present his points with greater clarity and substance as he made clear his strong opposition to or support for the issue that was before us.

His views on how the Senate functions and how we could make it more effective and more efficient are clearly presented and strongly espoused in his books. I have no doubt that JIM's books could change the Senate if we could get every one of our colleagues to read them, consider them and then put some of his ideas into practice.

Thank you, JIM, for your willingness to serve and for all you have helped us to accomplish during your time in the Senate. You have presented us with some strong, bold ideas about our future as a nation and I have no doubt they will continue to have an impact on the Senate for a long time to come. Thanks for sharing them with us.

The new adventure you will now begin with the Heritage Foundation sounds like a challenge you will fully enjoy. I know we will continue to hear from you in your new post and we are looking forward to it. You have an important viewpoint to bring to our deliberations, and it would be missed if you didn't continue to make your thoughts and concerns known. We will be watching and listening for your comments and suggestions in the days to come. Good luck and keep in touch.

WEDNESDAY, *January 2, 2013*

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator JIM DEMINT of South Carolina, which shall be printed in the *Record*.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2012.

Hon. NIKKI HALEY,
Governor, State of South Carolina.

DEAR MADAM GOVERNOR: I hereby give notice of my retirement from the Office of United States Senator from the State of South Carolina. Therefore, I tender my resignation effective at 11:59 p.m., January 1, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

JIM DEMINT,
U.S. Senate.

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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