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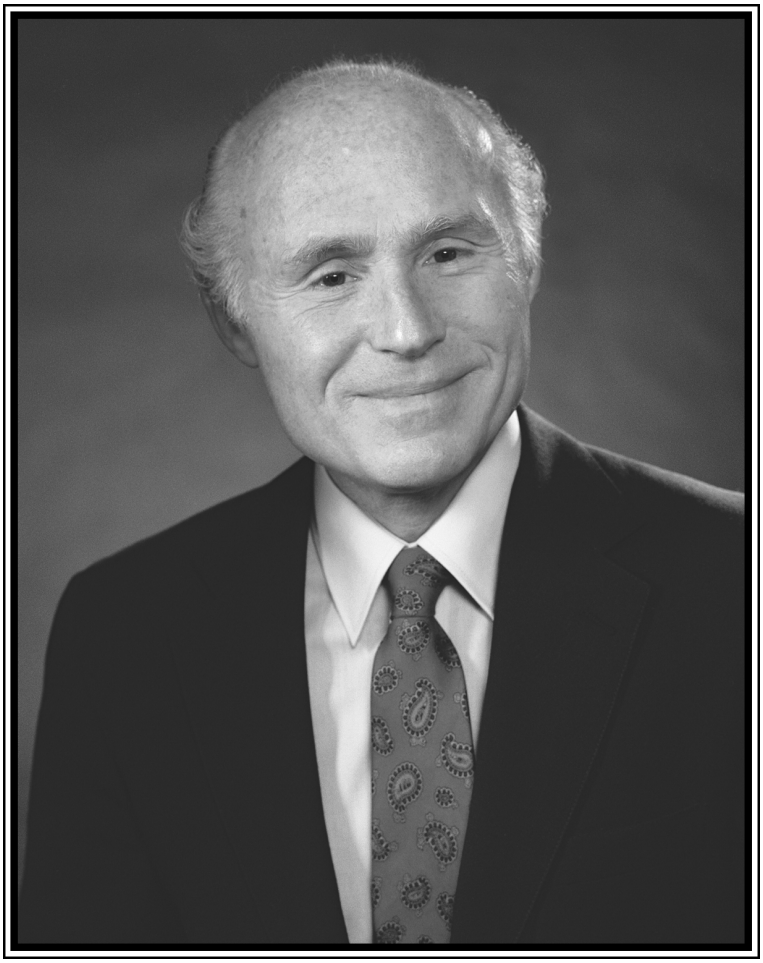
Herb Kohl

U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Herb Kohl

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Herb Kohl

United States Senator
1989–2013

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CONTENTS

	Page
Biography	v
Farewell Address	ix
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Cardin, Benjamin L., of Maryland	16
Conrad, Kent, of North Dakota	8
Coons, Christopher A., of Delaware	12
Durbin, Richard J., of Illinois	20
Harkin, Tom, of Iowa	7
Johnson, Ron, of Wisconsin	10
Klobuchar, Amy, of Minnesota	19
Leahy, Patrick J., of Vermont	15
Levin, Carl, of Michigan	9, 14
Mikulski, Barbara A., of Maryland	3
Murkowski, Lisa, of Alaska	18
Reed, Jack, of Rhode Island	12
Reid, Harry, of Nevada	3, 4, 21
Sessions, Jeff, of Alabama	21

BIOGRAPHY

HERB KOHL was born in Milwaukee, WI, on February 7, 1935. He attended Milwaukee public schools and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with a bachelor's degree in 1956. He received an MBA degree from Harvard School of Business Administration in 1958. Mr. KOHL served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1958 to 1964.

Before joining the Senate, he was a businessman and helped build his family-owned business, Kohl's grocery and department stores. He served as president of the Kohl Corporation from 1970 through the sale of the corporation in 1979. In 1985 he bought the Milwaukee Bucks to ensure the basketball team remained in Milwaukee, and he is recognized as an avid sportsman.

From 1975 to 1977 he served as Wisconsin State Democratic Party chairman. He was elected to the Senate in 1988 and reelected in 1994, 2000, and 2006. He served on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Judiciary Committee, Banking Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging, which he chaired. He was chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the budgets of the USDA, the FDA, and other agencies, which include many programs important to farmers and consumers. He also served as the chairman of the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, where he looked out for consumers to make sure that a competitive free market results in the best products for the best prices.

During his time in office Senator KOHL was recognized as a strong advocate for children's issues. He was author of legislation to expand the school breakfast program and a strong supporter of child nutrition programs. In 2003 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Food Research and Action Center, a leading organization that works to eradicate domestic hunger. He sponsored legislation to increase child support enforcement, a bill based on Wisconsin's system to ensure that more child support payments go to the families they are designed to help. Senator KOHL also sponsored the Child Care Infrastructure Act, a law encouraging

private companies and institutions to build on-site or near-site daycare centers to meet the rapidly growing demand for child care. The bill was featured in *Working Mother* and *Parents* magazines. He was awarded the 2010 Best of Congress Award from *Working Mother* magazine and Corporate Voices for Working Families.

He also received acclaim as a strong defender of Wisconsin's farming tradition. He led the effort to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program, which has provided millions of dollars in funding to Wisconsin dairy farmers struggling with plummeting milk prices. He helped establish the MILC Program as part of the 2002 farm bill to end regional fighting over milk pricing policies. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation awarded Senator KOHL the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, the highest individual honor given by the Bureau Federation, for his continued representation of Wisconsin farmers. The Council on Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching, a national organization of agricultural colleges and extension programs, has recognized him for leadership in support of U.S. agricultural research programs. He was also awarded the Congressional Workhorse Award from the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities for his support of agricultural research and education as well as the Golden Triangle Award from the National Farmers Union for his work on behalf of family farms and rural communities.

Senator KOHL was recognized as a leader for his work to help America's manufacturers. He championed the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program, a public-private partnership that uses Federal, State, and private dollars to provide technical support and services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers. He and his colleagues saved the MEP Program when President Bush proposed eliminating it, and since then he has helped secure record funding levels for America's small- and medium-sized manufacturers. His work earned him the Legislator of the Year Award from the American Small Manufacturers Coalition in 2006.

Another focus has been anticrime legislation, especially crimes related to children. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he helped fund an array of juvenile crime prevention and afterschool programs, including Boys and Girls Clubs and the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Program. He secured $7.9 million in funding for the Wisconsin Methamphetamine Law Enforcement Initiative, a statewide project addressing the increase of methamphet-

amine and clandestine laboratories in Wisconsin, as well as the creation and expansion of the Wisconsin High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area to coordinate law enforcement responses to fight the drug trade and related crimes. He helped reauthorize juvenile justice programs and pushed for the most effective and innovative programs to help prevent crime, strengthen communities, and rehabilitate young people. The Senate also enacted his bill to require that handguns be sold with separate child safety locks. The legislation is designed to protect children from some of the thousands of shootings each year that involve children and teenagers.

As chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, Senator KOHL led efforts to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and increase access to affordable generics. He passed a law to improve the quality of care in America's 16,000 nursing homes and created a nationwide grant program for the creation of a comprehensive system of background checks to ensure that people with abusive and criminal histories are not hired to work closely with elderly patients in long-term care settings. He also worked to increase retirement security for older Americans by improving the Nation's 401(k) and pension systems, strengthening Social Security, and expanding opportunities for older Americans to work longer if they so choose.

He made lowering health care costs a top priority. Noting how prescription drug costs are a drain on seniors, families, and businesses, he authored two bills to expand access to affordable generic drugs. His Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act stops brand name drug manufacturers from using payoff agreements to keep cheaper generic equivalents off pharmacy shelves. His Citizen Petition Fairness and Accuracy Act prohibits brand name drug companies from abusing the Food and Drug Administration's "Citizen Petition" review process to delay generic drugs from reaching the market.

Senator KOHL remains active in Wisconsin charitable activities. In 1990 he established the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program, which provides annual grants totaling $400,000 to 200 graduating high school seniors, 100 Wisconsin teachers, and 100 schools throughout Wisconsin. In 1995 he donated $25 million to the University of Wisconsin for a new sports arena.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise for one final time to address the Senate. My remarks will be brief. Actually, I just want to say one thing: Thank you. I wish I could say it with the eloquence of one of my first friends in the Senate, Senator Dale Bumpers, who told his stories and always made his case pacing these aisles like a lion tethered to a specially made, extra long microphone cord, or with the breadth of vision of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd, who sprinkled his classic Mother's Day or Fourth of July speeches with memorized poetry and his vast command of history, or with the fire of my dear friend, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, who would bellow to the rafters his passion for the America that could be and then call on the Senate to make it so.

What a privilege it has been to serve with such men and so many other men and women who have made up this body over the last 24 years. You have been my friends, advisers, sometimes adversaries, always worthy, and my inspiration. I thank you. My colleagues in this body are, to a man or a woman, thoughtful, hard-working patriots. We do not always agree, understandably. But every Senator I have met is pursuing a course he or she believes is best for the Nation and advocating policies he or she believes are best for their States.

When I have come to any of you with my ideas about what is best for the Nation or my State, you have listened respectfully, counseled wisely, and helped whenever you could, and so I thank you.

The Senate is often referred to as a family, and that is certainly how I feel about my staff, many of whom are gathering today to say our goodbyes. Perhaps what I will miss the most on leaving the Senate is coming to work every day in Washington and in Wisconsin with such a bright, creative, and dedicated group of people constantly focused on what is best for our Nation and my State, challenging and pushing me to be the best Senator I could be. You cannot be a cynic about the future of this country when you work in an office

such as mine and have the privilege of interacting with generations of intelligent, civic-minded, and loyal staffers.

I thank them all for making a hard job not just easy but enjoyable and for serving the people of Wisconsin tirelessly and exceedingly well.

My final thanks go to the extraordinary people of Wisconsin. Thank you for letting me pay back, in part, the great debt my family owes to the State that took in my immigrant mother and father and allowed our family, including my brothers, Sidney and Allen, and our sister Dolores, to grow and thrive. Thank you for taking a chance on me in that first election 24 years ago and renewing my contract three more times. Thank you for trusting me with your problems and concerns, your hopes and dreams.

Please know we have listened to you carefully and fought for you always. Every Wisconsinite who wanted it, Democrat or Republican, rich or poor, farmer or city dweller, got full consideration in my office. Whether it was arranging a Capitol tour, finding a lost Social Security check, pushing for legislation to reform the Federal dairy program, or reviving the shipbuilding industry in Marinette, WI, every Wisconsinite had an ally and an advocate in us.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve these 24 years in this hallowed institution, alongside my fellow Senators and my staff and as the voice for the people of Wisconsin. For that, I thank you all one last time.

TRIBUTES

TO

HERB KOHL

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *November 29, 2012*

Mr. REID. . . . I would now yield to my friend, the senior Senator from the State of Wisconsin. I will have more of an opportunity at a later time to say things about Senator KOHL, but I have had a wonderful experience in getting to know this quiet, very productive man. I have enjoyed his innate skills. He is one of the best businesspeople we have in America today, one of the best Senators we have in America today.

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. . . .

A comment about HERB KOHL, another brother appropriator, the very essence of civility. He brought a businessman's savvy with a deep compassion and commitment to the people of Wisconsin. Now we all know the Kohl family. They own basketball teams, they own department stores. I tell you, that HERB, he understood retail, whether it was in politics fighting for the people and their day-to-day needs or the national policy of looking out for working families as they build their lives. He stood up for Wisconsin cheese, the Green Bay Packers, his basketball team. But most of all, he stood up for the people. With HERB, what a sense of honor. His hand-

shake was always good. You could count on him. It was a binding contract. . . .

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. REID. Mr. President, we on the Democratic side are going to recognize that seven of our Senators are retiring, and that is unfortunate, but that is the decision they have made. As I have indicated on more than one occasion, parting is sweet sorrow. We had a celebration last week and talked about those seven Senators and it was truly a wonderful evening.

I have come to the Senate floor to talk about these individual Senators, and today I am going to talk about Senator HERB KOHL. HERB KOHL, as has happened to other Members of this body, has had to overcome adversity to become a Senator.

The history of HERB KOHL and his family touches me. He is a very humble man. He doesn't talk very much, and even though we have served together for 24 years, I was stunned last week when we had a guest rabbi, Rabbi Kohl, from Canada. Hearing the name didn't mean much to me because it is a fairly common name. But after the rabbi finished, HERB KOHL, this man of humility, stood on the floor and gave us all a little bit of his background, which we had never heard before.

Senator KOHL's cousin, Rabbi Baruch Kohl, served as guest chaplain and offered the invocation to convene the

Senate. After the benediction, HERB KOHL, the senior Senator from Wisconsin, shared the family history.

HERB KOHL's father Max and Rabbi Kohl's father Jack were brothers. During World War I, when Max and Jack were teenagers, the brothers were captured by the Russian military, jailed, and forced to march more than 150 miles, with little food, no proper clothing, and the constant threat of physical violence. On occasion, they didn't have shoes, and they were walking basically to Siberia, which is where they were headed. The boys' parents didn't know where they were for more than 2 years.

Max and Jack were then convicted by a czarist army as spies and sent on an epoch 5-month journey by rail across Siberia. In 1916, the brothers were dumped off in a remote corner of that wintry waste. Exile was frequently a death sentence. Fortunately, in this instance, it was not. The brothers survived relying on the kindness of strangers, and 2½ years later Max, HERB's father, made his way back to his hometown.

During their exile, young Jack looked after the even younger Max. Max eventually—this would be HERB KOHL's father—immigrated to the United States. He sent for his older brother after he had earned a few dollars here in America. So the Rabbi's dad was brought to America by his brother—HERB KOHL's dad.

The brothers' bond passed through the generations to their sons. Senator KOHL and Rabbi Kohl are first cousins, and it was very dramatic to see the connection they shared on the Senate floor. The success enjoyed by Max Kohl, a Polish immigrant, and later by his son, a Senator for 24 years, is a testament to the American dream.

Despite a rough start in life, Max founded a chain of Wisconsin grocery stores. HERB eventually became president of the Kohl's chain, with one little store, but he was a successful businessman before he took over his dad's chain of stores. He became the CEO of that chain started by his dad.

Initially, after getting his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin and his MBA at Harvard, HERB founded a successful real estate and stock investment firm. At the time he also served as an Army Reservist. He took over as president of Kohl's grocery and department store in 1970. He successfully grew the company for a decade.

As strong as his passion for business is, Senator KOHL was an even greater athletic fan. He had a passion for sports. In 1985, he bought the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks to keep the

team from leaving Wisconsin. He couldn't stand the thought of an outsider buying the team and moving the team from Milwaukee, and that was the talk everybody had heard.

Everyone said HERB KOHL made a bad deal. Why did he pay so much money for that basketball team? But his decision to buy the Milwaukee Bucks, which at the time some said was crazy, proves doing the right thing and doing the profitable thing are often one and the same. Today, the Bucks are worth ten times what HERB paid for the team, and they are an important pillar of that vibrant Milwaukee community.

HERB was also one of the original investors in the Milwaukee Brewers, owned by his childhood friend Bud Selig. Senator KOHL and Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig were roommates at a fraternity at the University of Wisconsin, but they knew each other when they were little boys. They lived in the same neighborhood. HERB and Bud still have lunch at Jake's Deli whenever HERB is back in Milwaukee, which is almost every week. They do this on Saturday.

Senator KOHL is also passionate about education. He founded the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program, which awards grants and scholarships to graduating seniors, teachers, and schools all across Wisconsin. He donated $25 million to the University of Wisconsin to build a state-of-the-art, new athletic facility—the Kohl Center.

Since he was elected in 1988, HERB KOHL has been a champion of public education, fighting to give students the tools they need to succeed in a modern workforce. He has also made fighting crime in Wisconsin and across the Nation a priority, advancing investments in antidrug and antigang programs. He has worked to reduce juvenile crime and ensure proper funding of State and local public safety agencies, and he has been a strong voice for Wisconsin dairy farmers.

HERB has also been a valued member of the Appropriations Committee, the Banking and Judiciary Committees, as well as a strong chairman of the Special Committee on Aging. He has done so much for the aging populations we have in America today.

He has been a leader on many different legislative initiatives. HERB KOHL is a fine man, a wonderful human being, and I so admire and appreciate him. He is a distinguished Senator, a devoted representative of the people of Wisconsin,

and his presence will be missed in the Senate. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the close of the 112th Congress, our good friend and colleague Senator HERB KOHL is retiring after four terms of dedicated service to this body, the people of Wisconsin and the United States. As a Senator, HERB KOHL has shown the same dedication and work ethic that previously allowed him to build his family-owned business into a nationally known brand name. Indeed, during his 24 years in this body, he has been a classic workhorse Senator, as opposed to a show horse Senator. Few Senators have been more willing to shun the limelight and share the credit in order to get important things done for the people of this country.

Senator KOHL is also a proud and principled progressive. His work in the Senate brings to mind the great words of the late Senator Hubert Humphrey:

> The moral test of government is how its government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.

Senator KOHL has been respected as a leading advocate on children's issues. For instance, he authored legislation to expand the school breakfast program and has been a strong supporter of child nutrition programs. He also authored legislation requiring that handguns be sold with separate child safety locks.

Of course, as chair of the Special Committee on Aging, he has led the charge in the Senate on issues affecting older Americans, something especially important in my State of Iowa.

In particular, I salute Senator KOHL for authoring the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which was included in the Affordable Care Act. The Sunshine Act, which was the focus of a series of hearings chaired by Senator KOHL, will require transparency and disclosure on payments made to doctors and surgeons by drug and medical device companies.

Senator KOHL has been our leader in improving the safety and quality of nursing homes, ensuring criminal background checks for employees in nursing homes, and working with CMS to institute new and meaningful quality ratings for nursing homes.

Senator KOHL and I worked together in my capacity as chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Com-

mittee, on legislative reform of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation and its outside board.

Senator KOHL also deserves enormous credit for his committee's indepth hearings and reports identifying financial scams and abuses targeting seniors and the elderly.

HERB KOHL is a good friend, and he has been an outstanding Senator. He has accomplished many things during his four terms in the Senate. I can think of no greater accolade than to say, simply, that HERB KOHL is a good, decent, honorable person with a passion for social and economic justice and a determination to make life better for ordinary Americans.

I join with the entire Senate family in wishing HERB the very best in the years ahead.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I honor my colleague, Senator HERB KOHL, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this term. Senator KOHL has served the people of Wisconsin for 24 years since first being elected to the Senate in 1988. Throughout his time in Congress, Senator KOHL has stayed above political partisanship, while remaining true to his Midwest roots. He has represented the people of Wisconsin well and answered to no one but the citizens of his State. When he announced his retirement from the Senate, he said "The office doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the people of Wisconsin, and there is something to be said for not staying in office too long." These words describe a humble man who truly believes that it is his duty to represent the ideals of his constituents, even in an era of political polarization.

Born and raised in Wisconsin, Senator KOHL is known throughout the Senate as a philanthropist. He had a successful career in business, eventually purchasing the Milwaukee Bucks. Throughout his time in Congress, Senator KOHL has proven that he is as openminded as he is honest, while continually holding on to his core principles. From expanding the coverage of health care to promoting education advancements, Senator KOHL's legislative history is truly impressive.

Wisconsin and North Dakota have a lot in common. We share a similar culture and geography as well as an agriculture industry that is a crucial component of both our States' economies. In 2011 the National Farmers Union recognized Senator KOHL as a champion of dairy and competition issues. That is only part of the story concerning Senator KOHL's support for family farmers. Senator KOHL has served as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agri-

culture. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in ensuring that the partnership between the Federal Government and rural communities contributes to economic development throughout rural America. He has enhanced the conservation of our natural resources and ensured the United States remains at the forefront in agricultural research and innovation. In addition, Senator KOHL has been a stalwart supporter of food assistance programs for those who are the least fortunate among us.

On a personal note, Senator KOHL recommended my wife Lucy for a position with Major League Baseball. It has been my wife's dream job, so I am personally indebted to him for that.

Senator KOHL's commitment to the people of Wisconsin has been unwavering. The Senate will miss his honesty and hard work. I thank Senator KOHL for his service in the Senate and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Wisconsin should be proud of Senator KOHL, he remained true to his 1988 Senate campaign slogan, serving as "Nobody's Senator But Yours."

WEDNESDAY, *December 19, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in his four terms representing the State of Wisconsin in this body, Senator HERB KOHL's focus has been precisely where it should be: the welfare of the people of his State and of our Nation. Whether in supporting American manufacturers and the jobs they provide, in fighting for protection from crime and for adequate nutrition for our children, in protecting senior citizens from elder abuse, or in preserving the Great Lakes that our two States share, Senator KOHL has accomplished much on behalf of American families.

I have been fortunate to work closely with Senator KOHL on issues of vital importance to our States. He has long been a strong supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers with technical support and services that make them more efficient and competitive in the global marketplace. His support for adequate MEP funding has made a significant difference for American companies and workers.

Now, we in Michigan bow to no one in our love for the Great Lakes, but even I would admit that Wisconsin, second only to Michigan in its length of Great Lakes coastline, is a

close competitor. As a member of the Great Lakes Task Force, which I cochair, he has supported cleanup of toxic hot spots, the fight against invasive species, protecting Great Lakes water quality, and sufficient funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

We have also shared an interest in consumer protection. Senator KOHL chairs the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, and from that platform, he has battled those who would prey on American consumers, whether they are abusive credit card companies or oil-exporting cartel nations.

Where Senator KOHL has left what may be his most lasting impression is in his hard work on behalf of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens: children and seniors. He has long advocated solutions to help make college more affordable. He has helped expand the availability of nutritious breakfasts for school-age children and programs to help parents afford food on the table for their families. He has worked to strengthen afterschool programs. In 2007 and again in 2008, he introduced the Patient Safety and Abuse Protection Act, which allowed employers to perform background checks on nursing home employees to help prevent elder abuse. When this legislation was included in the Affordable Care Act in 2009, it was a major step forward for patient safety.

I will miss working with HERB KOHL on these and many other issues. I will miss the opportunity to give him a hard time whenever our Detroit Pistons beat his Milwaukee Bucks. I hope we can continue the important work he has helped move forward: protecting good jobs, our Great Lakes, our students, and our seniors.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has been generous with his time, his treasure, and his heart, to his friends, his family, the State of Wisconsin, and to America, Senator HERB KOHL.

America and Wisconsin have always been defined by immigrants arriving in this country seeking freedom, opportunity, and a better life for themselves and their families. Such was the case for Senator KOHL's father Max, an immigrant from Poland, and his mother Mary, an immigrant from Russia. Their family's story was just one among the many millions of stories of fulfillment of the American dream.

Max and Mary's son HERB attended Washington High School in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1956 and went on to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1958.

Senator KOHL's service to his country started at a young age. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve after receiving his MBA and served in the military for 6 years. After his military service, he began contributing to our Nation not in government but in the private sector. During the 1970s, he managed his family's well-known retail businesses. The stores built by the Kohl family remain the legacy that all Wisconsin respects and appreciates.

When Wisconsin's NBA team, the Milwaukee Bucks, was considering moving out of the State for financial reasons, Citizen KOHL stepped in and purchased the franchise. He prevented the team from leaving and preserved professional basketball as an integral part of Wisconsin's strong sports tradition. Suffice it to say, Citizen KOHL had established himself as a very successful member of this Nation's business community. But he didn't hoard his financial success; he shared it and he shared it generously.

Senator KOHL's philanthropy was widespread, but he particularly seemed to enjoy directing his generosity to helping Wisconsin students and educators. In 1990, he established the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program. This program provides a total of $400,000 to hundreds of students, teachers, and schools throughout the State of Wisconsin each and every year. In 1995, Senator KOHL continued his generosity to education and sports in our State by donating $25 million to the University of Wisconsin Madison for a new sports arena. The Kohl Center, as it is now known, is the home for the school's basketball and hockey teams.

Senator KOHL was first elected in 1988 and even though his duties required him to spend time in Washington, his heart has always been with the people of Wisconsin. For the past 24 years, he has maintained a strong passion for Wisconsin's children, seniors, farmers, and manufacturers.

As a man whose life has been distinguished by generosity, it is worth noting that his final speech on the floor of the Senate was not a long list of his many accomplishments; instead, it was a short heartfelt speech of gratitude to those who made him the generous man he is today, those he served with, and those he represented in the Senate for four

consecutive terms. Now it is our turn to thank Senator KOHL for the honorable 24 years he has served his State and this Nation.

During his first election, the slogan of Senator KOHL's campaign was "Nobody's Senator but Yours." There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that he has lived up to that promise each and every day.

On behalf of all the citizens of Wisconsin, I wish to thank Senator HERB KOHL for his generous spirit and his many years of service to Wisconsin and America.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

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.

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. . . .

I remember in my first few months here that Senator KOHL, my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, spoke so rarely that when I first heard him speak at an event on the manufacturing extension partnership—one of his passions, and mine—I was struck by the power and reach of his voice. It is because he uses it so sparingly, but his example speaks even louder. He never sought the spotlight here but worked tirelessly to make a difference fighting for the little guy on antitrust issues in the Judiciary Committee.

He believes, as do I, if an American entrepreneur has a great idea, we should help protect that idea by preventing trade secret theft and other intellectual property threats. We also share a deep commitment to the idea that higher education should be more accessible and affordable to every student who wants to pursue it. I am honored to have the opportunity to take up from Senator KOHL's work on these and other important issues.

Outside this Chamber Senator KOHL has just as strong a voice and broad an impact with his philanthropy, but we would never hear him speak about it; that is just not his style. He has earned my abiding respect with his unassuming grace and his determined leadership. . . .

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 be-

cause 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, now that the 112th Congress is coming to a close, we have an opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of our fellow Senators who will be retiring at the end of the year. HERB KOHL, one of those who will be returning home when the gavel brings to a close the current session of Congress, will be missed, for he has been very active and involved in the day-to-day work of the Senate for many years.

My first contact with HERB came about when I found out that he had a ranch in Wyoming. I shouldn't have been surprised. As I have had a chance to come to know him, it seemed pretty clear that he had a lot of Wyoming in him. He is a gentleman and a gentle man in every sense of those words. He says what he means and he means what he says. For him, those words aren't cliches, they are an indication of the way he lives his life.

I know I am not the only one who thought that about HERB. That is why he has a well-earned reputation for being a calm, thoughtful legislator. He has a knack for taking on a problem, giving it his full attention, and then working with Members on both sides of the aisle to develop a workable solution to solve it. That is why he has been so successful on a number of issues.

HERB's ability to patiently pursue an agenda, and then focus on a solution that would receive the support necessary to pass, has been a hallmark of his service. Never one to seek out public attention for his efforts, he has been rewarded with something far more important—the knowledge that he has done a good job. His commitment to the future of his home State and our Nation has made it possible for him to have an impact on several issues of great importance to people from every corner of the United States.

HERB has been such a successful legislator in part because of his small business background. He understands better than most the important role our businesses play in our local, State, and national economies. He is a man of vision who put his great talents into action when he helped to take

the family business to the next level. His success in that effort helped to put him on a path that made it possible for him to do some things that a lot of us only dream about.

One of those great dreams he was able to make come true was his ownership of a professional sports team, the Milwaukee Bucks. There had been some speculation that the team might be bought and moved out of Milwaukee. HERB made sure that wouldn't happen. He bought the team and kept them in Milwaukee, and the people of Wisconsin appreciated his efforts to keep the home team—at home.

None of that would have been possible if not for HERB's ability to organize his time so that he could make the best use of that precious commodity. That has been one of his greatest assets in the Senate, too. Back home, his constituents know that he is a thoughtful person who is interested in them and is always on the watch for those things he can do as their Senator to make their day-to-day lives better.

His constituents have greatly appreciated his work in Washington on their behalf, and that is why they returned him time after time so he could keep doing such a good job of representing them. HERB has compiled an important record that he should be proud of because it reflects his commitment to the future of his home State and our Nation.

THURSDAY, *December 27, 2012*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the people of Wisconsin have elected and reelected Senator HERB KOHL to represent them in the U.S. Senate four times. Since coming to the Senate in 1989, I have been honored to serve with him on the Senate Judiciary Committee, where his commitment to matters involving antitrust, juvenile justice, and technology has afforded us many opportunities to work together. We have partnered in other important areas, too, from our States' shared interest in a vibrant and supported dairy industry to important housing assistance.

Everyone likes Senator KOHL. He is a consensus builder, and is always seeking a bipartisan solution. That approach led to a bipartisan investigation in the Judiciary Committee over Ruby Ridge. It led to enactment of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act, and economic espionage bills.

Senator KOHL has been a constant champion for the Nation's dairy farmers from those in Wisconsin to those in

Vermont. His Superb Milk House at the Wisconsin State Fair is a hit every year. A tradition he began in 1990, it still sells glasses of milk for just 25 cents. I was delighted to hear he intends to keep the Milk House running even after he leaves the Senate. Wisconsin and Vermont dairy farmers have not always agreed on how best to support the industry, but Senator KOHL's commitment has never wavered.

As chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, Senator KOHL has kept the needs of some of the most vulnerable around us—the elderly—front and center during his time in the Senate. His support for the Housing Assistance Council, which helps improve housing conditions for the rural poor with an emphasis on the poorest of the poor has been steadfast, and I was pleased to work with him to ensure that in an age without earmarks, this important council was qualified to compete for Federal financial support. He has been a longtime partner in rural housing issues—a partnership I will miss.

Senator KOHL has worked tirelessly for the people of Wisconsin both as a Senator and as a philanthropist. Since 1990, he has provided annual grants totaling $400,000 to Wisconsin students, teachers, and schools through the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program.

When Senator KOHL announced his retirement, he stated that he never believed it was his Senate seat, but that it belonged to the people of Wisconsin, and that is just who HERB KOHL is. Even in retirement, I have no doubt he will remain dedicated to the people of Wisconsin. Serving with him for more than two decades has been an honor and a privilege. The Senate will miss him.

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 HERB KOHL embodies the American dream. His parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland and Russia who started a chain of grocery and department stores. Senator KOHL earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1956 and a master of business administration, MBA, degree from Harvard Business School in 1958. Between 1958 and 1964, Senator KOHL was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. Senator KOHL had a highly successful business career before he was elected to the Senate in 1988 with 52 percent of the vote. In each successive reelection effort, his share of the popular vote rose, all the way up to more than 67 percent in 2006.

I have served with Senator KOHL on the Judiciary Committee and have seen first hand his commitment to ensuring the fairness of our legal system.

Senator KOHL introduced legislation to create a tax credit for employer-provided childcare after Congress passed the welfare reform bill in 1996, to help families move from welfare to work. The credit was codified in section 45F of the Internal Revenue Code as part of the package of tax cuts passed in 2001. Section 45F offers a tax credit for 25 percent of what it costs a business to build and maintain an onsite childcare facility and 10 percent of their expenses for childcare resource and referral services. It is capped at $150,000 a year per company to target the benefit to small businesses.

Throughout his career, Senator KOHL has championed the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, MEP, a public-private partnership that provides technical support to small and medium manufacturers. Since MEP arrived in Wisconsin in 1998, its 2 centers have created or retained over 13,000 high quality manufacturing jobs with almost $2 billion in economic impact throughout the State. In 2007 and 2010, Senator KOHL introduced bipartisan legislation to authorize appropriations for MEP and, in both instances, those bills became public law: the former as part of the America COM-

PETES Act of 2007; the latter as part of the American COMPETES Reauthorization of 2010. For over a decade, and despite budgetary pressures, MEP has received the resources it needs to continue to help small manufacturers in Wisconsin and across the Nation, prompting the American Small Manufacturers Coalition to name Senator KOHL a "champion for small manufacturers."

Senator KOHL's quiet but effective contributions to our Nation aren't limited to his service here in the Senate. He is a committed philanthropist, too. For instance, he donated $25 million to the University of Wisconsin at Madison for the construction of its new sports arena. It was the largest single donation in the University's history. In 1990, he established the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program, which provides annual grants totaling $400,000 to 200 graduating seniors, 100 teachers, and 100 schools throughout Wisconsin. And he is much beloved in his hometown for purchasing the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team in 1985 to prevent the team from being moved to another city. . . .

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.

SUNDAY, *December 30, 2012*

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to recognize Senator KOHL as he prepares to retire after 24 years in the U.S. Senate.

Senator KOHL was born and raised in Wisconsin, the State he tirelessly represents to this day. He attended public school in Milwaukee and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before obtaining his MBA from Harvard University in 1958. His business ventures proved incredibly successful,

and he was acting president of Kohl's grocery and department stores for nearly a decade. In 1988, he took his business and education experience to the U.S. Senate.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator KOHL on the Appropriations Committee for the past 4 years. His bipartisan cooperation is outstanding, and together we have worked on numerous hearings and bills. He has been an asset on the committee. We will miss his dedication, intuition, and eagerness to work with others to find solutions.

As a mother of two and former PTA member, I also appreciate Senator KOHL's zeal in advocating children's issues. He authored legislation to expand the school breakfast program, strengthened child nutrition programs, and has worked to meet the growing demand for childcare. His work on the Appropriations Committee ensured the continuation of important programs such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Families and Schools Together Program. This hard work did not go unrecognized. In 2010, Senator KOHL received the Best of Congress Award from *Working Mother Magazine* and Corporate Voices for Working Families. I will always admire Senator KOHL for his hard work on behalf of families and children across the United States.

Senator KOHL's charitable endeavors will also remain an important part of his legacy. In 1990, he established the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program. This program provides annual grants to 200 graduating high school seniors, 100 Wisconsin teachers, and 100 schools in his home State.

I cannot thank Senator KOHL enough for his service over the past few decades. I am honored to have worked by his side and wish him the best.

MONDAY, *December 31, 2012*

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize my colleague HERB KOHL for his many years of distinguished service and leadership on behalf of our country and the people of Wisconsin.

It has been an incredible honor for me to serve with HERB as neighboring Senators these last 6 years. He is a statesman in the truest sense of the term, not to mention one of the most genuinely kind and steadfast public servants of our time. This is the reason he is so admired in the Senate, and

it is how he came to be known as one of the most beloved and respected public figures in the State of Wisconsin.

Like HERB, my mom was born and raised in Milwaukee. I have many fond memories of visiting Wisconsin and can personally attest to how loved and respected HERB KOHL is throughout the State. People know him for the jobs he created as a businessman. They know him for the scholarship program created in his name. And of course, they know him for the way he "saved basketball" by keeping the Bucks in Milwaukee. But above all, people know HERB for his consistent record of putting Wisconsin first.

From strengthening Wisconsin's manufacturing sector and keeping jobs in the State to improving the MILC Program and better supporting our dairy farmers, HERB has touched and improved the lives of people across Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. At the national level, he has earned a reputation as a masterful policymaker with a quiet, commonsense approach to legislating that is the stuff of Senate legend. But don't be fooled by HERB's even keel.

When it comes to protecting consumers and standing up for the middle class, few people are as fiercely committed as HERB KOHL. As chair of the Antitrust Subcommittee, he has been a truly tireless champion for consumer rights and competition policy. I've seen this first hand, while working with him on legislation to crack down on captive shipping in the rail industry and to restrict the so-called pay-to-delay deals that keep affordable prescription drugs off the market.

Senator KOHL, it would be impossible to do full justice to your legacy in a single statement. So instead I will simply say this: Wisconsin is better off because of your leadership, and so is our country. Thank you for all of the friendship, wisdom, and support you have shown me over the years. You will be missed, but I know that even in retirement you will continue to find ways to improve our great country and work for the people of Wisconsin.

TUESDAY, *January 1, 2013*

Mr. DURBIN. . . . Now, last night I bid farewell to Senator HERB KOHL of Wisconsin. I am going to miss him more than most people can imagine because HERB KOHL spent the time and understood America's dairy program.

Madam President, I confess, I do not understand this program. Vaguely, yes; but if it was on the final, I would flunk.

So I used to go, on dairy issues, to Senator KOHL. Wisconsin dairy farmers and Illinois dairy farmers always saw eye to eye.

I said, "HERB, you are my dairy expert. You tell me. You are my adviser." Well, HERB is retiring. I will need a new adviser. . . .

THURSDAY, *January 3, 2013*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, as the year ends, we face the sadness that surrounds the departure of good colleagues. I want to take a minute to express my pleasure in having the opportunity to know and work with HERB KOHL. We have served 16 years together on the Judiciary Committee and in the Senate. He is one of the most accomplished and courteous Members of the Senate. His powerful intellect along with his vast private sector experience have given him valuable insight into the issues of our time. We shared a strong belief in the importance of the Littoral Combat Ship and in the end were both pleased to see that program move forward. As a senior participant on the Judiciary Committee, Senator KOHL was a faithful member who had a remarkable ability to win the affection and respect of Members. He always sought common ground rather than confrontation. It's been a real pleasure for me to get to know and to work with this remarkable, talented, and good man. He has given much to the Senate. My best wishes are extended for this next chapter in his life.

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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