CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

CONGRESSMAN HULL

August 2, 1996

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Connecticut’s most colorful and witty politicians, Connecticut State Supreme Court Justice T. Clark Hull. Known for his penetrating intelligence and passion for justice—and perhaps better known for his warmth and good spirit—T. Clark Hull, had the rare distinction of serving at the top levels of all three branches of state government—executive, legislative, and judicial.

Born in, Danbury, CT in 1921, T. Clark Hull attended many prestigious academic institutions including Philips Exeter Academy, Yale University and Harvard Law School, and yet he always retained the perspective of a common man.

His political career spanned some 33 years, beginning with his election to the Connecticut State Senate in 1962. He was known as a liberal Republican who charmed many conservatives, and his Irish humor and zest for public service eventually earned him the
nomination for Lieutenant Governor in 1970. He went on to win the election as the running mate of Thomas J. Meskill and served until his appointment to the Connecticut Superior Court. After serving for 10 years, he was nominated by Governor William A. O'Neill to the Appellate Court, before becoming a justice on the highest court in Connecticut on September 25, 1987.

Justice Hull’s political career earned him the reputation for being a gifted writer and captivating speaker. A colleague once said his decisions would “forever enrich the literature of the law.” Justice Hull had great aspirations for the people of Connecticut and was one of the few politicians who managed to be well-liked on both sides of the aisle. Throughout his illustrious career, he maintained an optimistic activism that continually propelled the interests of Connecticut and its people forward. Justice Hull was a dedicated public servant who “had an enthusiasm for public office that was contagious.”

Justice Hull was a champion of the people and was one of the few to truly believe that government and politics should be “positive, energizing celebrations in life.” Though he was small in stature, T. Clark Hull’s charming personality and exuberance for serving the public made him a giant in the eyes of others. Upon retiring from the State Supreme Court in 1991, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, Justice Hull continued to serve the public as a State referee and as chairman of a commission to study government efficiency. The commission made many recommendations to streamline government, and under the chairmanship of Justice Hull, Connecticut underwent the biggest reorganization in state government in nearly two decades.

T. Clark Hull has doubtless had a distinguished career. While he gained prominence as a long Connecticut politician, Justice Hull gained the respect of his colleagues and the general public for his good humor, exuberance for life, and his love of public service. The people of Connecticut are truly blessed to be able to call T. Clark Hull one of their own.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Betty Jane, and his three sons Steven, Josh, and Treat.

U.S.S. “LANDING CRAFT INFANTRY” (G) 450

Mr. Brown. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the members of the U.S.S. Landing Craft Infantry (G) 450. This ship was commissioned August 26, 1943 and participated in three major campaigns in the South Pacific during World War II. The U.S.S. Landing Craft Infantry (G) 450 was originally designed to carry troops, run up the beach, disembark the troops, and then itself from the beach. This troop carrier was later converted to a gunboat, indicated by the symbol (G) in its

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. Leahy. Mr. President, on July 1, 1946, 27 World War II veterans formed the first ever military unit and the Vermont Air National Guard was born. Today, when the 158th Fighter Wing pilots strap into the technological marvel that is the F-16, the Revolutionary War soldier painted on the hull stands as a stark reminder to us all: there is a direct lineage between the militia tradition that our Nation was founded on and which is very much alive today here in Vermont.

The original Green Mountain Boys were mostly farmers who left their homes in the 1700’s to defend against encroaching New Yorkers and then fought enthusiastically against the British in the Revolutionary War. The Vermonters wore homespun civilian clothes, often with only a sprig of evergreen in their caps to identify each other in the field.

But the Green Mountain Boys were citizen soldiers, and throughout most of our history the American people have relied on the militia to defend them. It has only been in the recent past that we have created a large peacetime standing army. Now with the former Soviet Union gone, we are seeing a renewed emphasis on National Guard and Reserve forces as the Nation’s premier insurance against worldwide aggression.

When I go to Vermont in the coming weeks, I will be giving the Vermont Air National Guard a token of my appreciation for the tremendous service that they have shown over the last 50 years.

The list of aircraft that have been flown by the Vermont Air Guard reads like a who’s-who of American air power—the P-47 Thunderbolt, the P-51 Mustang, the F-94 Starfighter, F-89 Scorpion, the F-102 Delta Dagger, the EB-57, the F-4 Phantom, and now the F-16 Falcon. Those who have served in Vermont have different memories depending on the aircraft and people of each time. The Vermont Air National Guard is always on call and has remained constant over the years.

Having said that, Randy Green, one of America’s most renowned aviation artists, has painted a very special picture that perfectly captures the spirit of the Vermont Air Guard. Entitled, “Vermont Thunder,” it is a depiction of a Vermont F-16 flying into a stormy sunset. To me it represents the great contrasts of flying military aircraft; that the quiet of flight is tempered by the responsibility and danger of military service. It is my sincere hope that this painting will serve as a small reminder to future Air Guard members of our State’s proud past.

In a dire reminder of that past, it is fitting that we remember here on the floor of the U.S. Senate the memories of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service. The following is a list of Vermont Air National Guardsmen who have died in the line of duty since 1946:

LIEUTENANT THOMAS A. MUNDY, MAJOR CARROLL A. PHYLBBIO, LIEUTENANT JOHN WILLIAMSON, LIEUTENANT FRANCIS W. ESCOTT, COLONEL ROBERT P. GOYETTE, LIEUTENANT JEFFREY B. POLLOCK, MAJOR JOHN J. ULIRICH, CAPTAIN JOHN A. HARRELL, CAPTAIN BERTRAND R. WHITE, JR., CAPTAIN CHARLES W. DIGGLE III, CAPTAIN ROBERT W. NOBLE, LIEUTENANT STEPHEN L.C. TAYLOR.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. Brown. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the welfare reform bill that passed this body yesterday.

Much has been said on the House and Senate floor and in the media about the impact of this bill on children and the working poor. Those who have spoken out against the bill have called it, draconian, and legislative child abuse. Well, I disagree.

For the past 61 years we have allowed a program originally designed to help families through a difficult time to become a welfare program that discourages able-bodied citizens from working. The current welfare system takes away the dignity and self respect that comes from earning an honest living and has replaced it with generation after generation of families dependent on public assistance.

In the past 61 years instead of teaching our children about work ethics, responsibility, hard work and determination, we have taught them how easy it can be to live off public assistance. Now, ladies and gentlemen, that is abuse.

Everyday men and women get up in the morning, dress their children and get them ready for the day. After the morning routine, these same men and women get into their cars and negotiate traffic on their way to work. Everyday these people work long hours to provide for their families, pay the bills and if they are lucky put a little money away in a college or retirement fund. All this bill asks is that those who are able to work to perform a service for their benefits.

The working men and women of America have been doing their part for