

constituents as best he could. As a veteran of the Vietnam war, HANK was especially sensitive and knowledgeable concerning issues that came before the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he worked hard to ensure that America never forgets those men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect the interests and ideals of the United States. I have no question that should HANK BROWN have chosen to stand for reelection, the grateful voters of his State would have easily and overwhelmingly returned him to office.

Mr. President, in a case of life imitating popular lore, HANK BROWN is going to saddle up and ride west into the sunset at the end of the 104th Congress. As he makes his journey back to his home State with its glorious Rocky Mountains and crystal clean air, he can reflect on a distinguished and well respected career in the U.S. Congress. In the course of almost two decades, HANK worked hard to forge compromises, reach agreements, and to fight for what is right. His efforts benefited the people of Colorado and the United States, and his presence will certainly be missed in this Chamber. Some say that HANK may run for Governor, and if that is the case, the Mile High State, will be in good hands, but regardless of whether or not our friend seeks that office, we commend him for his service to the Nation and wish him great success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SHEILA FRAHM

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay a tribute to Senator SHEILA FRAHM, who is retiring at the end of the current year.

Many of our colleagues will be leaving us at the end of the 104th Congress. Some of these people have been here for decades, and some for only a very short time. Today, I rise to pay tribute to one Member of this body whose service has been brief, but in no way less than sterling, Senator SHEILA FRAHM of Kansas.

Senator FRAHM joined us just this year after being appointed to the seat vacated by the resignation of the former majority leader, Bob Dole. SHEILA FRAHM came to this position well prepared to carry out its duties as she held a number of important offices during her years in State government, including that of Lieutenant Governor.

I came to know Senator FRAHM through her membership on the Senate Armed Services Committee. I was impressed by the determined manner in which she took her duties and responsibilities as a member of the committee. She worked hard in an attempt to make informed and considered decisions on the matters that came before us and were critical to the defense of the United States. It would have been easy for someone in her position to simply bide her time until the end of the Congress, but I think Mrs. FRAHM knew that the men and women of the

"Big Red One" at Fort Riley, KS, and that soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines throughout the world were grateful for her excellent service.

Mr. President, Senator FRAHM will leave this Chamber at the end of the 104th Congress and return to her native Kansas. Though the duration of her service was short, it was critical. SHEILA FRAHM can be proud of the contributions she made to governing of the United States and we will certainly be sorry to see her go.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR J. BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay a tribute to Senator J. BENNETT JOHNSTON who is retiring at the end of the current year.

As we all know, the South is a region that is rich in heritage and tradition, and one of its most time-honored practices is returning people to Congress year after year in order to build up power and seniority. For the past 24 years, J. BENNETT JOHNSTON has served his native State of Louisiana tirelessly and selflessly, and in the process, has gained great influence in the Senate, which he has masterfully used for the betterment of his constituents and his State.

First elected to the Senate in 1972 BENNETT JOHNSTON set immediately to work in behalf of the people who had sent him to Washington. He secured positions on several important committees, including the Committees on Appropriations, and Energy and Natural Resources, that were especially beneficial to the economy and people of Louisiana. For the next twenty-four years, Senator JOHNSTON dedicated himself to his efforts in this Chamber, accomplishing many significant things, including helping to create new jobs for Louisiana, spurring economic development in his State, helping to provide for the defense of the Nation, overseeing the creation of national parks and refuges in the Sportsman's Paradise, and having a significant role in the shaping of America's energy policies.

Mr. President, as many of our colleagues are doing this year, Senator JOHNSTON has decided to retire from this body. After more than two decades of commendable service, nobody can fault our friend for feeling his work here is done. As he heads back to Louisiana, BENNETT can take pride in his many accomplishments and the exemplary manner in which he has worked to make Louisiana and the United States better and stronger. Unquestionably, he is a man of integrity, ability, and dedication and we all appreciate the great service he has rendered this Nation. I join my colleagues in wishing him good health and great happiness in the years ahead.

I also wish to commend BENNETT's wife, Mary, for the great service she has rendered to the U.S. Botanical Gardens here in Washington. Additionally, she is involved in many activities that

benefit our Nation and her native State including being an advocate for immunization and historical preservation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I revise my unanimous-consent request of a while ago so that, before commencing my 15 minutes, the Senator from New Jersey be given 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 15 minutes to be followed by the Senator from California for up to 15 minutes.

ON MY RETIREMENT

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I always preferred moving to standing still. As a small forward with the New York Knicks, as U.S. Senator from New Jersey, I think I have had two of the best jobs in the world. Each kept me on the move, each offered a unique perspective on America, and in each there came a time to go.

Tomorrow, the Senate will probably adjourn and in a few months I will be leaving the Senate. I believe that U.S. Senator is the best elective job in the world. I thank the people of New Jersey who gave me their votes and their trust; each of my three senatorial races drew me closer to them and forced me to grow in new and different ways. Election day is democracy's most intimate and important ritual. For all the polling and media and political strategy, I believe that there is an essence in any campaign that conveys the bond between the candidate and the electorate on that particular election day. Ultimately, it is the bond that determines the outcome.

For nearly 17 years, almost 18 years now, my most memorable moments have come from the people that I have met. I thank those New Jerseyans who told me their stories through their letters and during our encounters along the shore, at commuter terminals and diners and town meetings and countless other settings. It is from the stories of people's lives that I have been moved and that I gained hesitancy about universal solutions. It is from their stories that I saw what a small role Government plays in most people's lives and, paradoxically, it is where I felt the impact of decisions taken here in Washington. I have received much more inspiration, insight, and good cheer than I could ever say. They reminded me daily of the resilience and the power of the human spirit.

Their New Jersey stories gave me substance and emotion, and lent both substance and emotion to abstractions about democracy. Now each of their stories has become a part of my own story. I have tried to listen to those I serve while using judgment that I believe they elected me to exercise. Sometimes they vented their anger and frustration, and just by my listening,