

many of our colleagues are concluding their careers in the Senate. One member who will not be back with us in January is my friend, Senator DIRK KEMPTHORNE of Idaho.

Senator KEMPTHORNE arrived in Washington six-years-ago and very quickly established a reputation for not only being dedicated to the duties and responsibilities of his office, but for being an individual with a keen mind who approached matters before this body in a very thoughtful and deliberative manner. His opinion on issues was always well regarded and void of partisan rhetoric. Though one will never have every member of this Body agree with their position, everyone gave considerable weight to the remarks and positions of the Senator from Idaho.

One of Senator KEMPTHORNE's committee assignments was to the Armed Services Committee and I quickly spotted his leadership ability, and in a relatively short period of time, assigned him the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Personnel. This was a demanding job, especially in this era when we are not only trying to determine what the appropriate size of the military should be, but also because of a number of highly emotional issues related to personnel matters. Regardless of the issue that was before his subcommittee, Senator KEMPTHORNE worked hard to ensure that he discharged his responsibilities impartially, and with the best interests of our men and women in uniform in mind.

Beyond earning a reputation for being an intelligent student of public policy, Senator KEMPTHORNE also earned a well deserved reputation for being a decent man. He was unfailingly polite and cordial to everyone with whom he dealt. Whether it was a witness before the Committee, a debate opponent on the Senate Floor, or one of the thousands of support staff that work in the Senate, DIRK KEMPTHORNE was pleasant, respectful, and cordial.

It is truly our loss that Senator KEMPTHORNE has decided to leave the Senate and return to Idaho, but the citizens of that state will indeed benefit when our friend is elected Governor. The ability he demonstrated for leadership and civility will serve both he and his constituents well and I am certain that Idaho will be regarded as one of the most efficiently run states in the Union before the end of his first term. My counsel to the members of this Chamber is that DIRK KEMPTHORNE is a man to keep your eye on, and frankly, I would not be surprised if he were to return to Washington one day, though to take an office that is at the opposite end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Regardless, I wish both he and his lovely wife Patricia health, happiness, and great success in the years to come, we shall miss them both.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DAN COATS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, there is perhaps no other legislative body in the world that attracts a more competent group of public servants than the United States Senate. In the almost 45 years I have spent in this institution, I have had the good fortune to serve with a number of very capable, dedicated, and selfless individuals who have worked hard to represent their constituents and do what is best for the nation. One person who is an excellent example of the high caliber of person who is drawn to public service is my good friend and colleague, DAN COATS.

The Mid-West has the uncanny way of producing men and women of imminent sense and decency, individuals who have the ability to see to the heart of a matter and find a way to resolve a problem. Such skill is extremely valuable in the United States Senate, a body by its very design that is supposed to foster compromise between legislators on issues before the nation. Without question, DAN COATS is a Senator who worked hard to bring parties together, find common ground, and to get legislation passed. That is certainly a fine legacy with which to leave this institution.

More than being an able legislator, Senator COATS developed a strong expertise on defense matters, particularly those related to his responsibilities as Chairman of the Airland Subcommittee of the Committee on the Armed Services. In this role, Senator COATS was responsible for providing advice and helping shape policy on matters related to how to describe what the threat and future threats to our Nation are, how our military should be structured in order to guarantee our security, and what sort of ground and aviation assets our troops need in order to do our jobs. Senator COATS had to be well versed in everything from the GoreTex booties that go into the boots of our soldiers to the advanced aerodynamical concepts that are being used in the helicopters and jets being developed for our forces. Few other individuals could have mastered these disparate topics so well, and that Senator COATS was able to do so, and make it look so easy, is a testament to this man's intellect, dedication, and ability.

Without question, we are going to miss the many contributions of Senator COATS, both to the Committee and to the full Senate. He had a wry sense of humor, a civil demeanor, and a desire to serve our nation. His departure from the Senate is truly a loss, but I am confident that he will continue to find a way to serve and to make a difference. I will miss him, both as a friend and a colleague, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish both he and his lovely wife Marcia great success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR JOHN GLENN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, though the 105th Congress will soon come to a close, and each of us will return home to meet with constituents, or take fact finding trips throughout the nation or the world, one of our colleagues has not only already left town, but is headed for a most unusual destination, that of outer space. I speak, of course, of our friend, JOHN GLENN who is ending his career in the United States Senate.

Like most people, I first learned of JOHN GLENN in 1962 when he orbited the Earth, but when the people of Ohio elected him to this Body in 1974, I had the opportunity to come to know him personally. In the subsequent years, we worked closely together on a number of issues, especially those related to national security as we served together on the Senate Committee on the Armed Forces. Naturally, his experiences as a Marine Corps officer gave Senator GLENN valuable insight into defense matters and he played an important role on the Committee and in working to help provide for a military adequately capable of protecting the United States.

The same qualities that made JOHN GLENN a successful Marine and astronaut, served him well here in the United States Senate. Without question, he is a determined man who has earned our respect for his honor, ability, and dedication. His desire to serve our nation is an inspiration, and in keeping with the highest traditions of public service. Without question, he has set an excellent example for others to follow and it is my hope that more people, from Ohio and throughout the United States, will follow his lead and find a way to make a difference in their communities and to our nation.

Mr. President, the United States Senate will just not be quite the same place without the presence of Senator JOHN GLENN. We appreciate the many ways in which he has served so admirably and wish both he and his lovely wife Annie health, happiness, and success in the years ahead.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR WENDELL FORD

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, Kentucky is famous for many things, including its bourbon and the Derby, but what I have come to associate most with the "Bluegrass State" over the past 24-years is Senator WENDELL FORD, who I regret to note is leaving the Senate at the end of the 105th Congress.

Senator FORD is a man with a deep and unwavering commitment to public service. He served in the United States Army during World War II and continued his military service as a member of the Kentucky National Guard. He has held elected office at both the state and federal levels, holding the titles of

state senator and governor before being elected to the United States Senate in 1974.

Each of us understands that our primary job as Senators is to make the law, but many of us also believe that we should use our offices to help the people of our states. This is a sentiment that Senator FORD and I share, and over the years, my friend from Kentucky has worked tirelessly to help his state develop and prosper. While Kentucky, like South Carolina, is still a largely rural state, thanks in no small part to the efforts of WENDELL FORD, the people of Kentucky are enjoying opportunities and economic growth that has been substantial.

During his time in Washington, Senator FORD has held a number of key positions, both in the Senate and in political organizations. His leadership roles as an Assistant Leader and a former Committee Chairman stand as testament to both his abilities and the regard in which he is held by his peers.

I am certain that Senator FORD did not easily come to the decision to retire, but I am certain that he and his lovely wife Jean are looking forward to their new life. I wish both of them health, happiness and success in whatever endeavor they undertake.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DALE BUMPERS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, one of the things that makes the Senate such a unique and enjoyable place to work is the fact that there are 100 unique personalities that make up this institution. While each member takes his or her duties seriously, I hope that I do not offend anyone when I say that not all are gifted orators. One person who definitely can engage in articulate and compelling debate, and is also able to bring a little levity to our proceedings through his wit and ability to tell a story is the Senator from Arkansas, DALE BUMPERS.

First elected to the Senate in 1974, Senator BUMPERS arrived with an already well established and well deserved reputation for having a commitment to serving his constituents and our Nation. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, as well as the Governor of Arkansas, having been elected to that post in 1970. Clearly, his training as the chief executive of his home State, along with experiences as a trial lawyer, gave him the skills that would make him an effective and respected Senator.

For the past more than 20-years, Senator BUMPERS has worked hard to represent his State, and in doing so, has made many valuable contributions to the U.S. Senate. I regret that we have not shared any committee assignments, but I have always respected and valued the opinions of the Senator from Arkansas. His exit from the Senate leaves this institution without one of its most impressive and effective advocates.

I am certain that DALE and his lovely wife Betty will enjoy the more deliberate lifestyle and pace that bring out of politics will afford them and I wish the both of them health, happiness and success in the years ahead.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN H. DALTON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, as the framers of the Constitution worked to lay out the foundation of the United States, they very wisely decided that the military forces of this nation should be subservient to civilian leadership. For the past 224 years, this arrangement has worked well proving the wisdom of the men who drafted the document that serves as the cornerstone of our democracy and government.

One of the reasons that civilian leadership of the military has worked so well is because Presidents search tirelessly to find qualified individuals to fill the critical positions of the service secretaries. If we were to look across the Potomac and into the "E" ring of the Pentagon, we would find a group of selfless men and women serving as the civilian leadership of America's armed forces. One of those individuals is Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, who will be stepping down from his position at the end of this year.

When John Dalton raised his right hand on July 22, 1993, swore his oath and became the 70th Secretary of the Navy, he came to the office well trained to discharge the duties of his new office. Not only was he a successful corporate executive with invaluable experience in managing a large organization, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and served as an officer aboard the submarines USS Blueback and USS John C. Calhoun. Additionally, he served in the Carter Administration as a member and chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

The challenges of essentially being the first post-Cold War Secretary of the Navy were significant. Secretary Dalton had the unenviable task of being responsible for the reshaping of the Navy and the Marine Corps to meet the security needs of the United States in a world that is no longer bi-polar. Under his direction, the Navy and the Marine Corps implemented the new doctrines of "Forward, From the Sea: Anytime, Anywhere", and "Operational Maneuver from the Sea", both which will help America meet its short and long-term tactical and strategic needs. Furthermore, Secretary Dalton worked to achieve acquisition initiatives seeking to establish practices resulting in the procurement of the best equipment for our sailors and marines, at the fairest cost to the taxpayer. The new attack submarine teaming arrangement, the DDG-51 multi-year procurement, and the testing and evaluation of the F/A-18 E/F are all examples of such successful endeavors.

Unquestionably, the Navy and Marine Corps that Secretary Dalton will turn over to his successor are institutions that have benefitted from the leadership of this charismatic and kind Texan. His efforts have earned him the respect and accolades of people in the Congress, in the Executive Branch, in industry, in academia, and around the world, and even resulted in his being awarded with the National Security Caucus' prestigious International Leadership Award in 1997. He is the first service secretary to be recognized in this manner and his winning this award is a testament to the regard in which he is held.

Mr. President, I have worked with a lot of service secretaries in my almost 45 years in this body and I say without reservation that John Dalton is one of the finest individuals to have ever served in that capacity. He is a man of honor, ability, and dedication and he will certainly be missed. I know that everyone in this chamber joins me in wishing him "fair winds and following seas" as he completes his public service to the Department of the Navy and the United States of America.

PASSAGE OF THE YEAR 2000 INFORMATION AND READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT, S. 2392

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Y2K bill demonstrates successful bipartisanship and cooperation, and how well Congress can work together when it wants to. Under the leadership of Vice President GORE, Senators HATCH, BENNETT, DODD, THOMPSON, KYL and I, along with others, have worked with the Administration and the House of Representatives to create and pass this legislation. I thank them for their hard work and dedication to this issue.

Four-hundred and forty-nine days from now, millions of computers controlling our air traffic, recording stock and credit card transactions, running electric and telephone systems, tracking bank deposits and monitoring hospital patients may crash in befuddlement. All of this is due to the short-sighted omission of a couple of digits, a one and a nine, from computer chips. Passage of this bill is a signal to the world that by acting now, we can work together to avoid these problems.

The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act will not eliminate the millennium bug—regrettably, no legislation could do that. However, it will greatly increase the chances that industry, university and government experts will work cooperatively to come up with the solutions.

One of the scariest aspects of the Y2K bug has been the silence of businesses and industries in the face of this common enemy. Liability concerns have muted industry experts, dashing the best hopes for developing fixes for this problem. The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act was designed to overcome this isolation and create a free flow of constructive information.