

Commander Dave Manero has been an integral member of my staff and has contributed greatly to the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-prepared naval force in the history of the world. Dave's superb leadership, integrity, and limitless energy have had a profound impact on my entire staff and will continue to positively impact the United States Navy and our Nation. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Dave, his wife Justina, and their children Michael and Elizabeth "Fair Winds and Following Seas" and the best of luck in their bright future.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES B. HECKER, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Air Force officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jim "Scorch" Hecker, upon his departure from my staff. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was selected as an Air Force Fellow to work in my office during the Second Session of the 107th Congress due to his professional reputation and superior knowledge of Defense issues, the United States Air Force requirements process, and the military presence in my home State. He has been a valued team member and it is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and the superior service he has provided the United States Senate, the Air Force, and our Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker, the son of Rick Hecker and Cindy Walker, was a graduate of the Air Force Academy where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Since then, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker has spent the majority of his career patrolling the world's skies as an Air Force fighter pilot. Following flight training, he began his service flying the F-15C "Eagle" in the 8th Fighter Squadron, 49th Tactical Fighter Wing at Holloman AFB, NM. When the F-15C's left Holloman AFB, so did Lieutenant Colonel Hecker. He was reassigned to the 390th Fighter Squadron, 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, ID. During this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was instrumental in bedding down the F-15C aircraft in the first Composite Wing in the Air Force. After this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker attended the Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV with a follow-on tour at the 44th Fighter Squadron, 18th Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. As the squadron Weapons Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was the lead pilot responsible for preparing the squadron to go to war. During this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH where he led combat missions patrolling the skies over Iraq enforcing the no-fly zone. In July 1998, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was handpicked to return as an instructor at the Air Force Weapons

School where he deployed in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker led 10 combat missions and was the focal point in the Combined Air Operations Center C5 Strategy Cell for resolving air-to-air issues. In 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker left the cockpit to serve on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, DC as an Air Force Senate Liaison Officer and then was selected to serve as a Military Legislative Fellow during the 2nd session of the 107th Congress.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker quickly became a valued member of my staff sharing his proven operational experience and insightful knowledge on a number of Department of Defense issues, including defense health care, operational beddown of C-17 and C-130J aircraft, various weapons systems, military construction, university research programs, and economic development projects. Specifically, Jim was instrumental in helping the Air Force gain Congressional support for the F/A-22 aircraft and solve the weather radar problem with the WC-130J aircraft at Keesler AFB. He helped me articulate a successful case for adding funding for additional maintenance training simulators and military construction projects that will help ensure the successful beddown in Jackson, MS of the first ever C-17 aircraft assigned to the National Guard. He successfully negotiated with Northrop Grumman Corporation to move the production of the Global Hawk's wing as well as full assembly of the Fire Scout to Mississippi. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's coordination with the staffs of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee led to over \$108 million in military construction funding for Mississippi's military bases.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker is married to the former Terrie Lee Draney of Colorado Springs, CO. They have two children, 7 year-old son Jaden and 5 year-old son Colton. The Congress and the country applaud the selfless commitment his entire family has made to the Nation in supporting his military career. Among Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Air Force Achievement Medal along with numerous other campaign and unit distinctions.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker will return to the Air Force at Langley AFB, VA where he will once again control the skies in the F-15C. I have appreciated greatly Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's contributions to my team and I will miss him. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Lieutenant Colonel Hecker and his family "Good Hunting and God-speed."

#### HOLLADAY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, our friend and distinguished colleague, STROM THURMOND, has a lost a dear member of his Senate Family. Holly Richardson's courageous battle with breast cancer ended early Monday morning. I do not use the word courageous lightly; if there ever was a courageous cancer patient, it was Holly Richardson. She fought until the end and never gave up.

Holly was one of the most delightful people I have ever met. She was STROM THURMOND's right, hand lady for almost 25 years and she meant so much to the entire Thurmond family. Holly's strong faith helped her immeasurably and while we all mourn her passing, we know where she is.

Her obituary in this morning's Columbia, SC, newspaper, *The State*, poignantly describes this remarkable lady, as does the article about her in today's Charlotte Observer. I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the State, Columbia, SC, Oct. 1, 2002]

HOLLY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON—LONGTIME THURMOND CONFIDANTE  
(By Lauren Markoe)

WASHINGTON.—Holly Johnston Richardson—confidante, gatekeeper and personal adviser to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond since 1978—died Monday of breast cancer.

"Early this morning, I lost one of my closest friends and staff members," Thurmond said in a statement issued by his office. "She was a member of my extended family in every sense of the word."

The Summerville native was 48. Since 1979, Richardson functioned as Thurmond's master scheduler, making sure he was in the right place at the appointed time. Her supersized Rolodex included the numbers for scores of average South Carolinians and several heads of state, and she could get most of them on the phone in seconds.

But generations of staffers say it was her Southern charm, impeccable manners and love for Thurmond that made her one of the most important people in his life.

"I've seen the senator cry twice. When his daughter died and today, when Holly died," said Mark Goodin, a former press secretary and adviser to Thurmond. "She was always there for him. I don't think anybody ever thought she would go before he did."

Thurmond's daughter Nancy Moore Thurmond died in a car crash in 1993. The oldest living and longest-serving senator, he will turn 100 on Dec. 5.

Chris Kelley Cimko, Thurmond's press secretary from 1993 to 1997, said Richardson went well beyond her office duties in her service to Thurmond, particularly before he began living at Walter Reed Army Medical Center last year.

"When she was cooking Sunday night, she would make a double batch of whatever it was and make sure it was in his refrigerator," said Cimko.

"Like all trusted staff members, Holly Richardson had my ear," Thurmond's statement continued. "What she probably never knew fully is that she had my heart."

Richardson met the Thurmond family after joining his 1978 re-election campaign, just