

his Senate sojourn with the singular achievement of being the only person in history to be elected to the Senate in that fashion.

As he began his Senate service with a "first" he also leaves it by setting two more records—that of being the longest serving Senator in U.S. history and also being the oldest person to serve in the U.S. Senate. May I note here that he is also the only person in the Senate who is old enough to be my big brother. But, Strom, like Casey Stengel, I'll never make the mistake of being 70 again.

Strom Thurmond's life is not just about length and achievement, it is about personal service and commitment.

Now, I am not speaking here about Strom's well-known appreciation for the gentler sex. I am speaking about his love of his country and his commitment to serve it.

Consider the fact that Strom Thurmond volunteered for service in World War II. He did that when he could have stayed safely at home. Strom was beyond draft age in 1942. Additionally, as a judge, he held draft-exempted status. Yet he went. And in 1944, Strom Thurmond was part of D-Day—the invasion of the beaches of Normandy that signaled the defeat of worldwide fascism. He risked his life to serve the nation he loved.

After the war, Strom Thurmond served the State that he loved by becoming its Governor.

In 1948, Governor Strom Thurmond tried again to serve the country that he loved by running for President as a States rights Democrat. He carried four States and won 39 electoral votes. Undaunted, in 1954 Strom found another way to serve his beloved State and country by being elected to the U.S. Senate. It is in this role, that of U.S. Senator, that we have come to understand the extraordinary service of this man from South Carolina.

Strom Thurmond is a man who, because of the quantity of his years, has seen enormous change—the rise and fall of Nazi Germany; the Russian Revolution; the rise and fall of the Soviet empire; two world wars; space exploration; civil rights upheaval; and incredible advances in technology and medicine. Indeed, the world is very different from the one that Strom Thurmond knew as a young man. He has been witness to the "vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave."

And yet Strom has never lost his desire to serve, to make his contribution, to add his voice and his views to the rich conglomeration of beliefs and viewpoints which, when mixed together, yield an idea called America.

Strom is never one to become discouraged, disheartened or disenchanted. He loves his country, and he has been a faithful and devoted defender of the Nation's need for a strong defense. No summer soldier, no sunshine patriot, he.

Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of red cheeks, red lips and supple knees. It is a temper of the will; a quality of the imagination. Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for a adventure over a life of ease. This often exists in a man of 50, more than in a boy of 20. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years; people grow old by deserting their dreams.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Whether 70 or 16, there is in every being's heart a love of wonder; the sweet amazement at the stars and starlike things and thoughts.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence,

as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

In the central place of your heart, there is a wireless station. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, grandeur, courage, and power form the Earth, from men and from the Infinite—so long are you young. When the wires are all down and the central places of your heart are covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then are you grown old, indeed!

In the words of Pericles: "It is only the love of honor that never grows old."

Today, it is not the length but the quality of Strom Thurmond's life which we celebrate. For that marvelous life of character and courage I salute him. It is a privilege to know him, an honor to serve with him, and an education to ponder his remarkable life.

MULTIPLICATION TABLE OF HAPPINESS

Count your garden by the flowers
Never by the leaves that fall;
Count your days by the sunny hours,
Not remembering clouds at all;
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your life by smiles, not tears,
And on this beautiful December afternoon,
Count your age by friends, not years.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an American political icon, patriot, war hero, and lifelong South Carolinian, Senator Strom Thurmond. While many will recall Senator Thurmond's half-century career on the political stage, I shall fondly remember the many kindnesses he extended to my family and me. He was a warm-hearted, gentle man, and I will count it as one of my life's honors to have served with him in the U.S. Senate.

I join my colleagues in extending my heartfelt condolences to his family who have lost a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Strom was a legend in the Senate and touched many of us during his long career. In fact, I will always remember Senator Thurmond's 90th birthday party when he turned to the audience and said, "If you all eat right, exercise, and don't drink whiskey, you'll be here for the 100th birthday party." Strom Thurmond was a remarkable American; I don't think we'll see another one like him for a long time, if ever.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we mourn the loss of Strom Thurmond, the legendary Senator who held his first public office in the late 1920s and who died on June 27 in his hometown of Edgefield, SC. The State of South Carolina lost a beloved native son and the Senate lost a cheerful, robust, honorable, and dedicated colleague. He was someone who was always eager to help me and to accommodate my concerns. It was an honor to work with him on issues of national defense, foreign policy, and many other matters important to the people of the United States.

South Carolinians' outpouring of respect when he died was massive. Senator Thurmond had been a judge, a soldier who landed in Normandy as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in 1942, a Governor of South Carolina, and chairman of the Judiciary and Armed Services committees in this body. He was also someone who

changed his mind on an issue of great import—race in America—and he was a fine example to his fellow citizens on that score.

Strom Thurmond was an indomitable spirit. He represented continuity in the U.S. Senate, becoming, in 1996, its oldest serving Member and, in 1997, its longest serving Member. Those are for the record books. But on a personal level, I can say I admired tremendously his buoyant spirit. I appreciated him for assisting me in so many ways, and for his stalwart service to our country.

THAILAND'S BUSINESS AS USUAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in the struggle for freedom in Burma, I am becoming increasingly convinced that Thailand is on the side of the representative junta in Rangoon.

To with, the Foreign Minister of Thailand was recently quoted: "We are trying to find an exit for the Myanmar Government, the also reduce pressure from the international community."

Instead of trying to find an "exit" for the repressive State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, Thailand should be trying to secure the release of democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other democrats jailed in the wake of the brutal May 30 attack on the National League for Democracy, NLD.

Thailand's "business-as-usual" approach places that country at odds with other Associated of Southeast Asian Nation, ASEAN, members—including Malaysia. Given the SPDC's refusal to release Suu Kyi and other Burmese democrats, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir rightly commented that Burma could be expelled from ASEAN "as a last result."

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra must defend democracy in Burma and should join with Malaysia and other ASEAN members in holding the SPDC accountable for their actions.

Thailand should take note that I included a provision in S. 1426, the fiscal year 2004 Foreign Operations appropriations bill, that conditions United States assistance to that country on a determination by the Secretary of State that Thailand: one, supports the advancement of democracy in Burma and is taking action to sanction the military junta in Rangoon; two, is not hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in Thailand who have fled Burma; and three is not forcibly repatriating Burmese to Burma.

It is past time for Thailand to prove its commitment to the cause of freedom and the rule of law in Burma. The Thai Foreign Minister has an opportunity to set the record straight in Bali this week. He should not miss it.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA FLATT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my fellow Nevadan, Linda Flatt, from Henderson, NV.