

Why can't we come together to join and be a nation?  
 And why can't it be that no one was prejudice or racist?  
 And why can't we take out all the bad and use truth and kindness to fill it in?  
 But if I could change it I wouldn't, because I'm going to leave that to God!•

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### DECISION TO LEAVE SENATE

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, 35 years ago Lois and I, along with John Jr. and Bill Breaux, rented a U-Haul truck and headed north to Washington, D.C.

Lois tells the story about Bill the night before we left saying his prayers and concluding with "Good-bye God, we are moving to Washington." And, we had to pull John Jr. from under the house.

Well, today, John Jr. is 38 years old. Bill is 37, and Beth is married to Jeff Shepherdson and has three children—Anna Kate, 6, Campbell, 4, and C.J., 2 years old, and Julie, our youngest is now 28, works in New Orleans, and is here with us today.

I'll always remember that trip. My mother, who is deceased, and my father, followed us to D.C. We got there at night. I had never even visited Washington, so we drove right to the Capitol, and that evening the Marine Corps band was in concert on the Capitol steps. It was beautiful, and I thought they were playing just for us.

It's been a great 35 years—a few years as a staff person, 14 years as a Member of the Congress, representing southwest Louisiana, and it will be 18 years as a U.S. Senator, representing our State of Louisiana. I had the privilege of serving with five Governors and seven Presidents.

I have said for a year now that I would announce my decision whether to seek another term as U.S. Senator after the governor's election this year. I further said that I would make that announcement between November 15 and December 15. The difficulty of that decision is shown by the fact that today is December 15.

Lois and I have spent a lot of time discussing this decision—not formally, but, "what do you think?" type discussions. Although one time she actually sat up in bed, drew a line down the middle of a page, and listed the pros and cons of running—not surprisingly, they came out just about even.

We have received lots of advice—from my staff, from family and supporters here in Louisiana, and from around the country. Some of the letters from total strangers were so touching and heartfelt that we will forever treasure them.

My colleagues in the Congress, especially in the Senate, spoke to both Lois and me frequently with their thoughts and suggestions. Colleagues, actually from both sides of the aisle, urged me to run again, and for their encouragement and friendship I cannot begin to

say how much Lois and I appreciate them. My special appreciation also goes to TOM DASCHLE, HARRY REID and MARY LANDRIEU.

The citizens of Louisiana have greatly honored my family and me by allowing me to serve these 30-plus years as their Congressman and U.S. Senator. I can honestly say I enjoyed every moment and appreciated the opportunity that I have had to serve.

But there comes a time in every career when it is time to step aside, and let others step up and serve. And for my family and me that time has arrived. I will not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate.

Throughout my years in Congress I have been guided by a simple philosophy to make government work for everyone. I did not go to Washington to get nothing done other than argue about whose fault it was when we failed to make government work.

My sincere hope is that future Congresses will be able to pursue the center-out coalitions that I have advocated. It is my hope that cooperation and legitimate compromise between our political parties will not be seen as political failure, but rather as a means of building a stronger democracy that better serves our Nation.

To my wife Lois, we started this journey together many years ago and you have been there every step of the way—through the good times, and there were many, and through the not so good times, and there were a few. I could not have asked for a more helpful and supportive partner and friend. No one has been more lucky and fortunate than me in finding you.

To my staff here in Louisiana and in Washington, let me say I could not have accomplished anything without you. Our office has the greatest of reputations and all of you are truly part of our family—and will always be.

To my father Ezra and to Lois' mom, Doris, I say thank you for putting up with all the things we dragged you through, whether you wanted to be there or not. And to our children, John, Bill, Beth and Jeff, and Julia, I say thank you for being there—you have made us very proud every step of the way.

I am not leaving today. There is still a lot to get done this Congress. We have to get the energy bill passed, and I want to get started on legislation for the 40 million Americans who have no health insurance. I look forward to co-chairing with Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco the very important summit meeting on healthcare in Louisiana.

So this is not goodbye. After working more than half my life on issues important to Louisiana, I intend to continue that involvement in the future, but in a different capacity. But for now, thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Louisiana and our country.•

#### HONORING MARCIA COGGS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to remember Marcia Coggs, a

trailblazer in Wisconsin politics and a dear friend, who passed away in December.

Words cannot fully express the impact Marcia Coggs had on the lives of the people of Wisconsin. She was the first African-American woman elected to the State's legislature and was widely known as "the Conscience of the State of Wisconsin." Marcia also became the first African-American to sit on the State legislature's joint finance committee. Better housing, the best in public education, integration and human rights were just some of the causes Marcia championed during her 16 years in the Wisconsin Legislature.

First elected to the State assembly from Milwaukee in 1976, she forced the State to listen and pay attention to the troubling issues people in her district often faced. Civil rights, both in Wisconsin and throughout the world, were always at the forefront of her mind. Those who knew her were not surprised when she protested against apartheid in South Africa, even joining a demonstration outside that nation's Washington, DC, embassy in 1985.

I had the honor and privilege of working with Marcia on several issues, including a successful effort to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a legal holiday in Wisconsin. We also joined together in fighting to establish a private cause of action for civil rights violations.

I am honored to have been associated with her and proud to have called her both a mentor and a friend. Marcia made an outstanding contribution to the lives of countless Wisconsinites and left a legacy that the people of my State will honor for many years to come.•

#### RETIREMENT OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS FREDERICA MONIQUE WILLIAMS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American a true patriot: Hospital Corpsman, First Class Petty Officer Frederica Monique Williams, a resident of Selma, AL. Petty Officer Williams began her career as a deck Seaman Recruit at Naval Hospital Great Lakes as an administrative clerk. There she was selected for Hospital Corpsman "A" School at Great Lakes in October 1984, and upon graduation, she was assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune as a general duty corpsman where she refined her exceptional patient care and organizations skills, and developed into a strong leader and manager.

Petty Officer Williams served overseas on numerous occasions to include a tour at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. While in Rota, she worked on a busy Labor and Delivery Unit. Once again her proven clinical experience, caring demeanor, organizational ability and "can-do" leadership style allowed her to excel. While assigned to National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland, Petty Officer Williams deployed