

important that is, and it has been easy to be a foot soldier in the ranks, with PETE DOMENICI leading the charge.

There is a phrase that has been used and vastly overused around these halls in Washington for a long time, but it applies accurately to PETE DOMENICI. He truly has been a national treasure, and we shall miss him but wish him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEVIN). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, what a privilege it has been for myself and many of my colleagues to sit here in the presence this afternoon to not hear a goodbye to the Senate, because the Senate, Senator DOMENICI, will always look up to you. You will be the model which young men and women coming to the Senate will wish to follow.

I don't know whether anyone can do what you have done throughout the Senate with greater feeling and sincerity. Mr. President, when Senator DOMENICI greets and visits with you, he always finishes that with "I love you, brother" or "I love you, sister."

God bless you and your family.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN WARNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise also today to pay my respects to another retiring Member of the Senate, the squire from Virginia, a longtime colleague of the occupant of the chair, and a truly remarkable man.

It is not a stretch to say that if most Americans were asked to conjure up in their minds the image of a U.S. Senator, the man they would see is the senior Senator from Virginia. To most people, JOHN WARNER seems as though he were born to be a Member of this body, and in a remarkable 30-year career, he has proven they were right. He has matched the image with the skill and, though it certainly never was, he made it look easy.

Virginians are very proud of their history. They are proud of their traditions. And JOHN WARNER has lived up to the best of them. Like our Nation's first President and Virginia's most famous son, he has always been a patriot first.

The son of a World War I field surgeon, JOHN first heard the call to serve while still in high school, dropping his studies at age 17 and enlisting in the Navy in the closing months of World War II. The call to serve later led him to interrupt law school in order to join the Marine Corps in the Korean war. After that, it led him to fulfill his mother's dream by becoming Secretary of the Navy; to take charge of America's bicentennial in 1976; and, for the last three decades, to serve America and the people of the Old Dominion with distinction in the Senate. These are the deeds that define JOHN WARNER.

They are the only things that can explain a career that has been as significant to the strength of our Nation—and as beneficial to the people of his State—as his.

JOHN always balanced the interests of his State and the Nation masterfully. Virginians have honored him for it, sending him back to the Senate four times after that first election in 1978, and he has repaid them time after time.

Over the years, JOHN has earned a reputation as one of the most knowledgeable, hardest working, respected Senators on Capitol Hill. He has distinguished himself among his colleagues on both sides of the aisle as a man of intelligence, deep humanity, and courage. The people of Virginia can be proud of his many years of service in the Senate. JOHN's entire Senate career speaks of his skills as a legislator and his love of Virginia and country.

But any list of his legislative accomplishments would have to begin with the work he has done on behalf of the men and women in our military. He has vastly improved the quality of life for military men and women by fighting for substantial increases in pay, including increases in separation, hardship duty, and imminent danger pay.

He has played a central role in improving benefits for widows and survivors of fallen soldiers.

And many of us are not too young to recall JOHN leading the fight for the 1991 gulf war resolution.

He played a major role in ensuring that America's missile defense system was built, and deployed.

On being named chairman of the Armed Services Committee from 1999 to 2001, and then for 5 more years from 2003 to 2007, he worked closely with Democrats and Republicans to ensure that the interests of American security and the interests of our servicemen and women were met.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER saw an emerging threat from radical terrorists that many others overlooked. And he acted on it by creating a new Emerging Threats Subcommittee on terrorism, chemical and biological warfare and cyberwarfare.

He pushed and succeeded in approving a major increase in the Nation's submarine fleet.

He has guided the annual Defense authorization act through Congress for years, using it in recent years to modernize our armed forces and to meet current and emerging threats in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has been a firm supporter and a trusted friend to the brave men and women bravely serving the cause of freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Closer to home, Senator WARNER secured major Federal funding to rebuild the Woodrow Wilson Bridge that connects Alexandria to Maryland, easing the commute for millions and improving the flow of commerce along the I-95 corridor between Maryland, Virginia, and the DC area.

He has worked hard to improve the water quality and to restore wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay. He has designated thousands of acres of National Forest as wilderness, expanded Virginia's National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks, and secured funds to demolish the Embrey Dam.

He led a 3-year campaign to preserve the Newport News shipbuilding shipyard in Hampton Roads—a show of grit and persistence that paid off with thousands of jobs for southeastern Virginia.

Senator WARNER has been unafraid, at times, to part ways with his colleagues when he disagreed with them—but he has never lost their trust, their confidence, their respect, or their deep admiration.

In everything, he has been the consummate Senator, and always a gentleman. And the Senate will never be the same without JOHN WARNER.

On a more personal note, the entire Senate family shared JOHN's happiness when he married Jeanne, not least of all because we all enjoy her company so much.

Elaine and I have valued their friendship over the past several years.

JOHN, I know, is a proud graduate of Washington and Lee.

The school's motto—"Not Unmindful of the Future"—is meant to impress on graduates a sense of responsibility to the future, rooted in the past.

In a long career of service to the current and future good of his country, JOHN WILLIAM WARNER has made that motto his own.

Virginia has produced some of America's greatest leaders. JOHN WILLIAM WARNER is one of them.

His colleagues in the Senate are deeply grateful for his service, his friendship, and his many contributions to this body and to the Nation.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am deeply humbled like my dear friend, PETE DOMENICI. I don't know if I am going to measure the courage to say goodbye to the Senate, but that will wait until next week.

But I remember going back to a day when the Republican leader, then Bob Dole, came to me. I adored him, as I do to this day. He said to me: You need to do something for the Senate.

I said: What is that?

He said: I want you to give up your seat on the Rules Committee because the Senate has been joined by a young man who I believe can best serve the Senate—because of the complexities of the rules of the Senate, because of the problems that face the Senate—if he were to serve on this committee. Senator Dole said: I will assure you if you wish to return you may do so without loss of seniority or otherwise.

So I said: Who is this man?

And he described him.

I said: Well, if that is for the best interests of the Senate, I will step down.

I did, and you, MITCH McCONNELL, joined the Rules Committee. Not long after that, Dole again expressed his appreciation to me, and he said: You

know, I predict that someday that man will become the Republican leader of the Senate.

I was a bit taken aback. I hadn't been here that long, but that is quite a prediction for someone to make.

Well, it has come true. It is almost as if the hand of Providence has directed it because here, in these final hours, these final days that my dear friend, Senator DOMENICI and I will serve in this institution, we will be a part of making a decision, a decision with regard to the future of America and our economy. It is a decision of a magnitude that I am not sure any other Senate has made in its 218-year history, save perhaps during the Civil War, a decision that this body will make affecting every single American—every single American.

I just say in concluding, the Senate, the country is fortunate to have you and others in the leadership role in this institution today, on both sides of the aisle, to guide us through to make that decision. That comes from my heart.

Good luck, God bless you, bless the leadership of the Senate and every Member of this institution as we assemble within the coming days, each of us in our seat, to cast this most important vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

SENATOR PETE DOMENICI

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, if I may, to Senator DOMENICI, with whom I have worked on the Energy Committee since I came to the Senate, I want to give him my accolades and also to wish him well in his days ahead. When I arrived in the Senate some 3½ years ago, he was one of the people who welcomed me here. He welcomed me here as the man from the land of enchantment, la Tierra Encantada, as we say in Spanish in New Mexico. He did so in large part because many of my family members are from the State of New Mexico. My family helped found the city of Santa Fe, the city of Holy Faith, now over 400 years ago.

During many times as I was growing up as a young man, and later on in my professional life, traveling in New Mexico, I would hear about the great Senator of New Mexico, the great PETE DOMENICI. Now, for the last 4 years it has been a tremendous privilege and personal honor for me to be able to serve with him.

I want to make two comments about him—first, in terms of the substance of the legislation that we have worked on together. We have passed three significant pieces of bipartisan energy legislation with him—in 2005, the Energy Policy Act of that year; again, we passed another energy package in 2006; and again in 2007. In the passage of those major pieces of legislation, it was Senator DOMENICI, working closely with his good friend, Senator BINGAMAN, who said that we could agree on

things for the future of this country on this signature issue that is so important to our national security and to our economic prosperity. He brought us together to make sure that we would work on those things that we all agreed upon. That is why we were able to pass those very important pieces of legislation. I very much appreciate what he has done in that committee.

Second, as he and I have talked many times over the last several years, there are issues that are unique to the West, the issues of public lands, where much of our lands—for example, in my State of Colorado, 33 percent is owned by the Federal Government. It takes an understanding of those realities, of issues like payment in lieu of taxes, or how we deal with the mining law in the West, or how we make sure that the water issues of the West are protected, and how we recognize the compacts of our States as being important. For all those issues he has been a tremendous leader and an inspiration.

I will miss him dearly as a friend. He has been a dear friend. But I also will miss his leadership because on so many issues he has worked across the aisle. I appreciate his leadership as well in what he has done for mental health parity for the United States of America.

There will be not hundreds of thousands, not millions, but hundreds of millions of Americans who will come to benefit from his leadership on the mental health parity issue. Also, the building blocks he has laid for us to try to take the moon shot that will get us energy independence. Those building blocks will remain in place for decades and for generations to come.

So I appreciate his leadership, and I appreciate his service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend, Senator SALAZAR, from the State of Colorado. I don't know what brought us together on our Energy Committee. Maybe it was a little bit of common language—we both spoke a little Spanish to each other, and it made us both understand and feel like we were friends. But we became that, we became friends rather quickly in his short 4 years.

I obviously remember your very first 6 months when we became friends and worked on many issues. I compliment you on your constant effort to work in a bipartisan way on issues. It is tough around here. It is going to have to move in that direction or we are going to continue to have trouble getting things done. For that, I hope you will stand your ground and at least keep trying.

I appreciate the kind words you said in my behalf. Let's hope we see each other frequently, if not in your State, in New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment.

Thank you very much, Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, these are one of the periods of our lives in the Senate we shall always remember. My good friend, the Senator from New Mexico, steps down and departs the floor. But you will be a Member of this decisionmaking body through the next few days, which will be critical when your vast experience will be brought to bear on this decision, as it will.

Mr. DOMENICI. Senator, I tell you, I said a little bit in my remarks a while ago about it. I get very excited and anxious because it takes too long. But that is the deliberative body. But we don't have a long time to give the Secretary of the Treasury the kind of authority he needs to fix a broken train.

We have had a wreck—lots of wrecks. All the freeways are clogged. We have to take away the things that are clogging them. We could look at it as a freeway with cracked-up cars, but actually the assets that are piled up there are the toxic assets that have been accumulated by those banks. If you don't get them out of the way, the line continues growing because of the broken-down cars, the toxic assets. The running cars can run no more. They are stopped in place. They contain everything that has given us a decent life in America.

We have to fix that. I am going to be here. Let's hope our negotiators will put something together that the executive branch tells us will work and that the world accepts it with confidence. When we come off this floor, when we vote that in—whatever it is, Monday or whatever—we will join, you and I, with great confidence that we have once again done something important.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was present today in our group of Senators. When you spoke, you inspired them. We have got to rebuild the confidence in America. That is what underlies this decision. I also wish to say a few words about our dear friend from Colorado. I cannot altogether make these remarks without divulging I have a bias. I have visited that beautiful State many times. But my daughter makes her home there, together with my grandson, and the Senator from Colorado allowed my grandson to be an intern in his office. He served as an intern briefly in my office, both without pay to the taxpayers, I hasten to say, when I make these remarks.

But he has been a great friend. We have worked together on many things. He has dignity. But above all it is his enthusiasm and love for this institution. There is not a day when he walks on this floor, either to say to other Senators or to say it quietly to himself: How fortunate I am to be a Senator, to come here to represent the people of Colorado, to represent the people, as each Senator does, of the whole of the United States.

So as I step down, and others, we do so with a sense of confidence, behind us remain individuals like yourself and indeed the distinguished Presiding Officer who for 30 years, he and I have