REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues today to express my profound and heartfelt sadness on the passing of Senator Robert C. Byrd, as the U.S. Senate, the people of West Virginia, and our entire Nation mourn the loss of a giant of public service—a self-educated man, Senator Byrd's knowledge of Shakespeare, the Holy Bible, and the pillars of thought from ancient Greece and Rome formed the basis of an eloquence and service that will reverberate not only in the hallowed Halls of Congress, but also throughout his beloved home State—which he served so passionately—forever.

Indeed, his roots in West Virginia were ever-present and the indispensible libeflowl that spurred him to political and legislative heights that were the capstone of his landmark tenure in public service. Indisputably, he never forgot where he came from, and in fact, always remembered he stood on the shoulders of every West Virginian who sent him back to the U.S. Senate term after term. And as much as Senator Byrd revered Congress, the Constitution, and his fellow West Virginians, nowhere was his devotion to his heart. A fierce protector of the American story of the self-made individual, Senator Byrd was an ardent believer in American independence, an arbitrator of constitutional prerogatives, and a catalyst for personal and professional success. A self-educated man, Senator Byrd's knowledge of Shakespeare, the Holy Bible, and the pillars of thought from ancient Greece and Rome formed the basis of an eloquence and service that will reverberate not only in the hallowed Halls of Congress, but also throughout his beloved home State—which he served so passionately—for generations to come.

As a Senator from Maine, it is only fitting that I pay tribute to Senator Byrd by citing the opening lines by the immortal American poet and Son of Maine, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a story that still rings true today in our memory on the Senate floor... "Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union, strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years..." Our Ship of State sails better for Senator Byrd's having lived, served, and led. But today, our Ship of State sails at a slower pace as we pause to pay our respects and mourn the loss of a man whose like we will never see again. The Senate will not be the same without the Senator from West Virginia, Robert C. Byrd.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and dear colleague, Senator Robert C. Byrd, who left us on Monday, June 28, 2010 at the age of 92. Senator Byrd was the longest serving member of the Senate. It is noteworthy that he was sworn in as a U.S. Senator on January 3, 1959, the day Alaska was admitted as the 49th State.

How does one do justice to a life as full, as human, as authentic, as uniquely American as that of Senator Byrd's in just a few minutes? Born in poverty, a self-described foster son of an impoverished coal miner, a product of a two-room schoolhouse, he went on to walk with kings, to meet with prime ministers, and to debate with Presidents. Only in America could one come so far from so little. His is a textbook case of American exceptionalism.

Robert C. Byrd was a man of principle who was unwavering in his priorities. The Lord came first, his family second, and then the business of West Virginia and Nation. Senator Byrd was an ardent believer in the principle that the problems of the world are the problems of the United States. He was a man who fought to ensure the preservation of the U.S. Senate and its prerogatives. His was a long and hard work of ministering to mind, body, and spirit.

No one fought more to ensure the preservation of the U.S. Senate and its constitutional prerogatives than Senator Byrd. No one was more masterful in comprehending and harnessing the powers of parliamentary procedure in the upper Chamber. No one was fiercer in battling against any encroachments that would dilute or diminish the role of Congress as a coequal branch of government. And no one possessed greater command of Senate history and used it to better effect than Senator Byrd, who himself authored a four-volume history of the Senate.

The capstone of which Senator Byrd demonstrated his allegiance to the legislative branch was every bit as evident in his unshakable dedication to the U.S. Constitution itself—a pocket-sized copy of which he carried at all times. In fact, like many of my colleagues, I will never forget as a member of the "Gang of 14," which was forged at a time when the very institution of the Senate was caught in the middle of a struggle over judicial nominations, how each of us received a copy of the Constitution from Senator Byrd. With one symbolic gesture as only he could, Senator Byrd spoke volumes about the historic imperative that was ours to seize if we were to justify the partisanship that threatened our Chamber.

Senator Byrd's reverence for history stemmed of course from the premium he placed on education, and as much as anyone who ever occupied a seat in the Senate, Senator Byrd exemplified the American story of the self-made individual. During his remarkable trajectory from humble beginnings in the southern coalfields of West Virginia, Senator Byrd was an ardent believer in the American dream and in the role of American exceptionalism in American life, but as a catalyst for personal and professional success. A self-educated man, Senator Byrd's knowledge of Shakespeare, the Holy Bible, and the pillars of thought from ancient Greece and Rome formed the basis of an eloquence and service that will reverberate not only in the hallowed Halls of Congress, but also throughout his beloved home State—which he served so passionately—for generations to come.

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out to hold hands as we wheeled our chairs to the well of the Senate. Like Ted, I loved Robert C. Byrd. Yet I regret that I never had the opportunity to enjoy the close friendship that my colleague Ted Stevens did.

Yes, they had their spats, but Senator Stevens and Senator Byrd regarded each other as family. Senator Stevens’ daughter Lily referred to Senator Byrd as an uncle. Senator Byrd published part of CongressionAl Record excerpts from Lily’s senior thesis from Stanford, “The Message of the Dome: The United States Capitol in the Popular Media.”

Senator Stevens began working with Senator Byrd in 1963. In 1972, they joined each other on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Both served as President pro tempore of the Senate, a position reserved for the most senior member of the Senate in the majority party when that party is in control. Senator Byrd was my role model. Within two years of his death, I lost him and seven great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren to the people of West Virginia, and to all who knew and loved this great American.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, and fellow Senators, two more American troops have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to honor their service and sacrifice by including their names in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Since I last submitted the names of our fallen soldiers on November 2, 2009, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 313 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten, and I therefore submit their names into the RECORD:

SSG Jesse W. Ainsworth, of Dayton, TX; Sgt Donald R. Edgerton, of Murphy, NC; SPC Joseph W. Dimock II, of Wildwood, IL; SPC Robert W. Crow, of Kansas City, MO; PFC Anthony W. Simmons, of Tallahassee, FL; PFC Michael S. Fridheim, of Louisville, KY; SPC Roger Lee, of Monterey, CA; SSG Marc A. Arizmendiz, of Anaheim, CA; Sgt Jerod H. Osborne, of Royce City, TX; SPC Keenan A. Cooper, of Wahpeton, ND; PFC Jacob A. Dennis, of Powder Springs, GA; Sgt Andrew Lavelle, DE; SSG Christopher F. Cabacoy, of Virginia Beach, VA; PFC Edwin C. Wood, of Omaha, NE; Sgt Jordan E. Tuttle, of West Monroe, LA; SPC Christopher D. Heid, of Parkersburg, WV; PFC Clayton D. McGarragh, of Harrison, AR; SPC Louis R. Fastuca, of West Chester, PA; Capt. David A. Wisniewski, of Moville, IA; PFC Ryan J. McIver, of Blytheville, AR; SPC Johnny W. Lumpkin, of Columbus, GA; SPC Morganne M. McBeth, of Fredricksburg, VA; SFC Kristopher M. B. Baeple, of Florence, SC; Capt Barry D. Harris Jr., of Thornton, CO; SPC Matthew R. Hennigan, of Las Vegas, NV; SSG Brandon M. Silk, of Orono, ME; SGT David W. Thomas, of St. Petersburg, FL; SSG Eric B. Shaw, of Exeter, ME; SGT David A. Holmes, of T Gillespie, GA; PFC Bryant J. Haynes, of Eppe, LA; SGT John M. Rogers, of Scottoe, CA; PFC Robert K. L. Reepke, of Knox- ville, TN; LCpl William T. Richards, of Trenton, GA; PFC Russell E. Madden, of Dayton, KY; Capt Donald E. Deboer, of Ludington, MI; SFC Jared C. Pletcher, of Waterbury, OK; SPC Blair D. Thompson, of Rome, NY; Sgt Joseph D. Caskey, of Baltimore, PA; SSG Edwardo Loredo, of Houston, TX; SGT Robert N. Bart- ton, of Houston, TX; SPC Russell E. Madden, of Dayton, KY; PFC Anthony T. Justesen, of Wilsonville, OR; Cpl Joseph N. Spain Va- ley, WA; Cpl Kevin A. Cueto, of San Jose, CA; Cpl Claudia Patino IV, of Yorba Linda, CA; Sgt Andrew R. Looney, of Owasso, OK; PFC David T. Miller, of Wilton, NY; ISBN Eddie Turner, of Fort Belvoir, VA; SPC Jacob P. Dohrenweil, of Milford, OH; LCpl Timothy G. Serwin, of North Tona- ho, NY; 1st Lt. Christopher L. Brummund, of Towson, MD; SGT Joseph J. Schmaus, of Brooklyn Park, MD; Sgt Derek L. Shanfield, of Palm Coast, FL; Sgt Drek L. Shanfield, of Hastings, PA; SGT Steve M. Theothold, of Goose Creek, SC; SGT Michael C. Bailey, of Park Hills, KY.

On behalf of Alaska’s people, I extend my condolences to Senator Byrd’s daughters Mona and Marjorie, his five grandchildren and seven great-grand-children, to the people of West Virginia, and to all who knew and loved this great American.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S5779

July 13, 2010