

invasion of Iraq. Accordingly, he talked about how bad it would be and voted against it. CARL LEVIN was right and a lot of us were wrong. I have said before on the Senate floor, of all the votes I have cast during the time I have been in government, the worst was voting for the Iraq war. But I did. CARL LEVIN did not.

But for all of his accomplishments in Congress, his greatest achievements reside in his home. CARL and his wife of over 50 years, Barbara, have three beautiful daughters: Kate, Laura, and Erica. Landra and Barbara are good friends. They are part of a book club. They have had a wonderful relationship over these many years. So as CARL retires from the Senate, I know he is going to cherish the time he is going to spend with his family.

But also CARL and I have had a long, long ongoing conversation. He and his brother SANDER own about 100 acres. They have had it for a long time. CARL LEVIN is not a man of wealth, but he and his brother bought this 100 acres that has nothing on it but trees. He calls it his tree farm. He has shown me pictures of it. I have not seen it lately, but I have had for 15 or 20 years a hat he gave me—a green baseball-type cap—that says “tree farm” on it. I used to tell him I still have that cap. And I still have that cap, CARL.

He will be missed here in Washington. He will be missed in the Senate by all of us. But he will be missed more by his older brother SANDY, who is the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee in the House. They have served together in Congress for 32 years.

I have said this on the floor before, and I will say it again. I will remember CARL LEVIN for a lot of things, but when I was in the House, I came over to visit with him. I was thinking about running for the Senate. I said: CARL, I came to the House with your brother SANDY. He looked up at me and said: SANDY is not only my brother, he is my best friend. That speaks well of the person who CARL LEVIN is.

It has really been a privilege and an honor to serve with CARL. I will miss him so very, very much. I will miss having somebody to take the difficult issues to, to get his view as to what we should do, how we should handle it.

His voice will be missed here in the Senate. I congratulate him on his incomparable career in the Senate, and I wish him the very best.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

Mr. President, it is said that you do not choose your family, and that is true. We are born into our families. We have no way to determine the family we are born into. Yet as a 27-year-old JAY ROCKEFELLER chose to make the people of West Virginia his family. How did that happen? How did JAY ROCKEFELLER, born in New York to one of the most famous American families, one of the great dynasties in the history of this country, end up in West Virginia?

He was an undergraduate student at Harvard. He decided he did not like

some of the things Harvard was doing, and so he left. He dropped out of school and went to Japan. He spent 3 years in Japan. He became an interpreter. He knows the Japanese language extremely well. He loves the Japanese people. He started out at Harvard. As I indicated, after his junior year, he left for Japan. He was there for 3 years. He came home, returned to Harvard, and finished his degree.

JAY ROCKEFELLER, as a 27-year-old, could have done anything, gone anywhere, gotten any education, started any business, or he could have sat around at a home on one of the beaches around the world and just done nothing. But that is not JAY ROCKEFELLER. He wanted to do something. He did not know what he wanted to do. This ROCKEFELLER wanted to do something that was different.

A friend of his published here for many years a magazine called the Washington Monthly, a guy by the name of Pete Peters. He was a man-about-town. Everybody liked him very much, but he was very close to JAY ROCKEFELLER. So JAY talked to him one day trying to find what he should do in life. Here he was, one of the wealthiest men in America. He had a Harvard degree.

“What should I do?”

Pete Peters told him: “What you should do is go someplace and work with poor people.”

“Where should I go?”

“Why not West Virginia?”

“West Virginia?”

“West Virginia.”

So he joined AmeriCorps. As a VISTA volunteer, he moved to the small mining community of Emmons, WV. That was in 1964. This man of means, this man of stature, this man of notoriety went to this small little town in West Virginia.

It was not easy for JAY ROCKEFELLER to suddenly find himself in a setting he had never imagined. In the first 6 months he was there, he could hardly get anyone to talk to him. He is kind of an intimidating man. His name is ROCKEFELLER. He is 6-foot-7. But eventually his goodness came through. The people of Emmons, WV, started talking to him, and they really liked the man. From 1964 when he moved there, he knew he wanted to identify with poor people, and that is what he has done since 1964.

In 1966 he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates assembly.

In 1968 he was chosen to serve as the secretary of state in the State of West Virginia.

He then became the president of West Virginia Wesleyan College and served there for 3 years.

He then was twice elected Governor of the State of West Virginia. He served from 1976 to 1984.

Governor ROCKEFELLER became Senator ROCKEFELLER in 1985. From the time he first stepped onto the Senate floor, he made it clear he was here for one reason: to fight for the people of

West Virginia. Senator ROCKEFELLER fought to provide his constituents with health care. He was an architect of CHIP, a children’s health program. It is an insurance program. The Children’s Health Insurance Program is one of the most important health initiatives in America’s history for kids. He fought to protect Medicaid for half a million West Virginians but for millions and millions of Americans.

He has been a senior member of the Committee on Finance, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and chairman of the Intelligence Committee. What a remarkable career he has had. He fought very hard to protect the American people from President Bush’s efforts to privatize Social Security. He has protected retirement disability benefits by doing that for millions and millions of Americans.

His efforts to help West Virginia have not been confined to this building. As the senior Senator from West Virginia, this big man—I repeat, 6-foot-7—with a very, very long reach, has used that reach to bring jobs to his home State as Governor and as Senator. Because of his recruiting, there are thousands and thousands of West Virginians employed at the Toyota factory in Buffalo; Hino Motors in Williamstown; and at the Kureha plant in a town called Belle. Thousands and thousands of jobs. Diamond Electric, Nippon Thermostat, and NGK Spark Plugs are all companies Senator and Governor ROCKEFELLER helped bring to West Virginia.

The people of West Virginia have been blessed to have Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER as a family member for the last 50 years. They have been blessed to have a person of his integrity and tenacity looking out for them in the Senate.

My respect for JAY ROCKEFELLER is unlimited. He has been my colleague for the entire time I have been in the Congress—32 years. Now, as his time in the Senate comes to an end, he will be sorely missed.

I am sure JAY is looking forward to spending more time with Sharon, this wonderful, wonderful woman—and by the way, whose father was a U.S. Senator—and their children John, Valerie, Charles, and Justin, and their six grandchildren.

I so admire this good man. I congratulate him on a very distinguished career, including five terms in the U.S. Senate, two terms as Governor. I wish him the very best in life.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided in the usual form.