The stories told by lawyers practicing before Judge Johnson were many and some were legendary. None were better told than those by the long-time federal prosecutor, Broward Segrest, who practiced in Judge Johnson’s Courtroom throughout his career. No one knew more of the courtroom events and could tell them better than Broward Segrest.

There were almost as many Frank Johnson stories as Bear Bryant stories. The point is this: yes, he was famous. Yes, he played an historic role in making this land of equality. And, yes, he was brilliant and fearless. He stood for what he believed in no matter what the consequences at risk to his life. But, it was not just in these great trials that one could divin the nature of his greatness. It was also in the lesser cases that he saw. As God gives us the determination to make justice come alive in his court, for every party in every case.

Lawyers who failed to follow the rules of court or to do an effective job for their clients were in big trouble. Because they knew what he expected, what he demanded, they came to his court prepared and ready to do justice.

There is so much more than can be said. He once called himself a “conservative hillbilly” and that statement could be defended. To Judge Johnson, no one was above the law or above any person who appeared in his court. All were equal. Though a Republican, he was the perfect democrat—with a small “d”. Neither power, nor wealth, nor status, nor skilled lawyering counted a whit in his court and everyone knew it. He loved democracy, fairness and justice. Judge Johnson was vigorously indignant at crime and corruption. He fully understood that those who stole or cheated were predators and were acting in violation of morality and law. This he would never tolerate. While he was always committed to providing a fair trial, he was known as a prosecutor’s judge. He would not tolerate criminality.

Judge Johnson loved democracy and fairness and justice. He sought to make that real in his courtroom by finding the truth and skillfully, with intellectual honesty, applying the truth, the facts, the law. In the face of great cases and small, at risk of his life, with skill and determination, and with courage and vision, over a long lifetime is worthy to be called great. Frank M. Johnson, Jr. is worthy.

NASA AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 1653, the NASA Authorization Act for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002. Many of my colleagues and their staff have worked hard on this legislation. This is a good bill. It ensures NASA is authorized at the appropriate level to continue its role in Space Flight and Exploration, Earth and Space Science, assembly and operations on the International Space Station, and Aeronautical Research.

Over the last decade, the U.S. commercial space launch industry has lost its technological advantage and now only holds 30 percent of the worldwide space launch market. As a result, sensitive U.S. technology is often launched into space by either Chinese, Russian or French rockets, increasing the risk of unwarranted U.S. technology transfer to foreign nations. The delayed development of modern, less expensive launch systems in this country needs to be rectified. This high cost of space transportation has greatly curtailed U.S. efforts in space research, development and launch. This bill includes important provisions to address this issue which I would like to highlight.

Mr. President, NASA is currently conducting research programs, such as the X-33 and X-34 that would result in important technological advancements applicable to future reusable launch vehicles and reductions in space transportation costs. In addition, there are existing hardware and engine systems, that if evaluated, could make an immediate contribution to reducing the cost of access to space by a factor of 10. The information gained from these evaluations can be incorporated into design plans for the Spaceliner 100 series of vehicles and ultimately reduce the cost of access to space by a factor of one hundred. In the Commerce Committee, I amended the Senate NASA bill to add $150M for Fiscal Year 2000 to accelerate these future space launch programs by one year. Accelerating the efforts that gain us cheaper access to space will help the U.S. recapture the space launch business and save on future launch costs. American companies would not have to look overseas for cheaper launches, thereby minimizing our technology exposure to foreign governments.

Also, I am pleased to see the portion of the Earth Science budget supporting NASA’s Commercial Remote Sensing effort is sustained. These programs, managed by the NASA Stennis Space Center’s Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office in Mississippi, are contributing to the birth and growth of a new international industry. Wall Street has predicted this industry will grow to the $10 billion level by 2010. NASA Stennis personnel working together with the private sector, university researchers and other Federal agencies are already producing viable commercial products. New efforts are underway to coordinate the potential impact of these commercial products with the Department of Transportation. I have been told by DOT officials that remote sensing technology infused in the right way to DOT’s planning efforts could result in significant savings in highway planning and construction. That is a very good potential payoff for a small investment in the commercialization of remote sensing technology.

Mr. President, this is a good bill. I hope that the Senate’s differences with the House can be resolved quickly so that the bill can be presented to the President for signature.

ON THE KENNEDY/BESSETTE TRAGEDY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last week was one of unimaginable shock and sorrow for the families of John Kennedy, Jr., Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and Lauren Bessette. We prayed as we first heard the news that their plane had disappeared. We hoped against hope as the Coast Guard, the Navy and the National Transportation Safety Board conducted their “search and rescue” mission, and we anguish when they shifted to “search and recovery.” Now, as John, Carolyn and Lauren are laid to rest in the ocean that claimed their lives, we grieve.

Much has been said these past weeks—in this Chamber, across the country, and around the world—about these three exceptional young people. We have heard again and again how John, Carolyn and Lauren loved life. We have heard so many stories of their compassion and grace, their generosity and their considerable talents. We’ve heard, most heartbreakingly, about their potential. They had, each of them, the capacity for greatness. That is part of what makes their loss so profound.

The great poet William Wordsworth wrote:

What though the radiance which was once so bright
Be now for ever taken from my sight
Though nothing can bring back that hour
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind.

Nothing can bring back the splendor of their lives, or their potential. We are left now with only our memories of John Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn, and her sister Lauren. With that in mind, Senator LOTT and I are introducing a resolution to authorize the printing of “Memorial Tributes to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr.” These are the words that the Kennedy Bessette Kennedy and Lauren Bessette. Mr. President, this is a good bill. I offer the Senate to pass a resolution so that we may share our tributes with the families of John Kennedy, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and Lauren Bessette. I can only hope the Kennedy, Bessette and Freeman families are able to find some small strength in the memories of their loved ones, and in the words