

now stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:14 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair; whereupon, at 3 p.m., the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. COLLINS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

IN HONOR OF SENATOR JOHN
CHAFEE

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, today is a sad day for America; today is a sad day for the Senate, for Rhode Island, but especially for JOHN CHAFEE's family.

Senator CHAFEE was, indeed, a remarkable man and a good friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family—his wife Ginny and five children—as they pass through this most difficult time.

I believe it can be said without hesitation that few individuals have served America with the distinction that JOHN CHAFEE exhibited in his many years of public service. From his active duty in the Marine Corps—where he saw action in both the Second World War and Korea—to his early years as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, to his years as Governor and his work as Secretary of the Navy, to, of course, his 23 years of service in the Senate, JOHN's patriotism was beyond philosophical; it was pragmatic and it was concrete.

He had a keen sense of duty—a profound sense of responsibility. As a Senator, he knew his constituents, and he served them with such devotion that he was elected in 1976 and returned to Washington four times, despite the fact that he was a Republican in an overwhelmingly Democratic State. Much of his effectiveness was in his ability to find bipartisan cooperation, and to stand fast on issues that were important to the individuals and families he represented. Among these issues was a deep concern for the environment and for quality and affordable health care.

He was a tireless advocate of the underprivileged and a strong proponent of American leadership and economic opportunity. I understand how important these issues were to JOHN—not only because we served for so many years as colleagues and friends on the Senate Finance Committee—but because, like JOHN, I represent a small coastal State in the Northeast, much like you, Madam President. Many of the issues and concerns we faced were the same. In fact, one of the truly great honors I have received as a Senator is to be given the Ansel Adams Award by the Wilderness Society. It is the highest award that prestigious organization gives out, and there are only two Republican Senators who have ever received it. And I must say that it was

awarded to JOHN first—2 or 3 years before me.

Madam President, along with you and all our colleagues, I am saddened by his death. But I am grateful for the time we spent together; I am grateful for his leadership and example; and I am grateful for his supportive family. Along with all my colleagues, I express my condolences to them as well as my most profound gratitude for sharing Senator CHAFEE with America.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I, like countless Americans, am very saddened over the news that JOHN CHAFEE is no longer with us. The news of his death was a shock to me. I was with Senator CHAFEE just last week. I teased Senator CHAFEE about the fact that he was using a wheelchair, and I was accusing him of doing wheelies and racing down the aisles. He spent at least an hour with many of us in the Finance Committee discussing a number of issues, including health care, which was one of the issues in which he was most interested and of which he was a real champion for all Americans. This is a loss for so many, because of his great service to this country.

JOHN CHAFEE spent 23 years in the Senate. He was concluding his fourth term as a U.S. Senator. He had a very exceptional Senate career that encompassed many areas. He was a leader in education, health care, the Environment and Public Works Committee, of which he was chairman, dealing with issues such as clean air and clean water, and reauthorization of many very vital programs.

His service was not only limited to the Senate, however. In addition to his 23 years in the Senate, he served 6 years as Governor of Rhode Island. He also had about 7 years as a marine. He fought in both World War II and in the Korean war. He fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal.

I remember when I was on a trip speaking with leaders in Korea, and I wanted to learn more about the Korean war. They suggested I read a book. I believe the name of the book was "This Kind of War." It is a very thick book. I read it with great interest, and I read about Capt. JOHN CHAFEE, who was a hero during the Korean war. That was something he never mentioned. If you wanted to find out he was a hero, you had to talk to somebody else.

If you go all the way back to his service as a marine officer in World War II and the Korean war, his service

in Rhode Island in the State legislature and as Governor, and his 23 years in the Senate, it has been a record of exemplary service. I think it is a total of 44 years of public service, not counting his 7 or 8 years as a marine. In over 50 years of public service, JOHN CHAFEE has dedicated his life to serving his State and his Nation. What great service, what great sacrifice he has made for our country.

I also was pleased to get to know him fairly personally. JOHN and his wife Ginny were married 49 years. What a wonderful, beautiful example. I knew him also as a wrestler. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, which is quite an honor. Not many people know that he was captain of the Yale wrestling team and undefeated in his wrestling career prior to the war. That is pretty special; that is not an easy accomplishment. It shows that he had a certain amount of toughness and will.

He was always willing to compromise and always willing to negotiate, but he was tough, he was sincere, he was energetic, he was a tireless campaigner and a tireless worker. He was a very dedicated individual.

JOHN CHAFEE is going to be missed in the Senate. His State will surely miss him to. They have so much for which to be grateful, to have had him as their leader, one of the real valued leaders, both as Governor and Senator, as a captain in the Marines, and as a fantastic colleague, devoted husband for 49 years, father of John, Jr., Lincoln, Zechariah, Quentin, and his daughter Georgia—five wonderful kids who, I know, are very proud of their father.

I know JOHN was very proud of his children. I was with Senator CHAFEE and his son "Linc" last week at a campaign event. You could sense, when Senator CHAFEE was introducing his son, the love and the bond they had between them. It was a wonderful thing to behold.

I have a special comment about Senator CHAFEE and his wife Ginny. I have had the pleasure of knowing them for my 19 years in the Senate. I have been in their home—a wonderful, beautiful, loving couple. I just want Ginny to know that our thoughts are with her and with her children. We want them to know we share their loss and they are very much in our thoughts and our prayers. I want them to know what a great honor it has been for me personally, and I think for all Senators, to have the privilege and pleasure of serving with JOHN CHAFEE in the Senate. He will be missed in Rhode Island, and he will be missed throughout the country.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in this era of partisanship, harsh sound bites and bitter politics, JOHN CHAFEE wanted to have none of that. He was, in my view, the gold standard as far as public service is concerned. He wasn't full of himself, always humble and low key, always bipartisan.

I especially admired that he was always standing up for people without power and without clout. I think of all the times over the years I had a chance to serve with him—close to 20 years—that JOHN CHAFEE stood up for children, stood up for the disabled, stood up for folks who are always falling between the cracks in the health care system, people who never had a voice.

Reflecting on his background—a family of means, Ivy League education—one would not think a person with those roots would be there for the kind of causes and the kind of people JOHN CHAFEE was for again and again during these years in public service.

His contributions are going to be documented in many areas but especially in the areas of health care and the environment. We all ought to take some time and reflect on what JOHN CHAFEE contributed to our country. His fingerprints are on every hallmark piece of environmental legislation, going through two decades, in terms of clean air and clean water.

JOHN CHAFEE, in his low-key, dignified way, always made it clear we should push to do better. In debates where various interest groups said, it isn't possible, Mr. Chairman, to get as far as you would like; we can't do it without wrecking the economy, JOHN CHAFEE would always point out time and time again when we pushed ourselves we could make these huge strides in terms of cleaning up the environment.

One of the measures of an individual and an individual's work on Capitol Hill is what his staff thinks of him. I don't know of any staff on either the House or the Senate side who stayed with a Member of Congress longer than JOHN CHAFEE. Those were the most loyal people in Washington. It was because they were working for an individual who they knew was in public service for only honorable reasons.

I hope in the days ahead we think about what JOHN CHAFEE contributed, think about his approach to solving problems, always trying to find the common ground, always trying to bring people together in a bipartisan way for the kind of government people have a right to expect in the 21st century. That is the kind of government Americans believe will help solve the intractable challenges of the day.

I hope when the rhetoric next gets a bit shrill in this body—it happens from

time to time—we remember that great Senator who sat just a few feet from the dividing line between Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber, and that all Members remember JOHN CHAFEE's contributions which were so extraordinary in areas including health and the environment but were especially significant because of the way he brought Members together.

Personally, I was involved in half a dozen conferences where tempers got short and late at night everybody was ready to throw in the towel and wrap it up for the day. JOHN CHAFEE would have put in longer hours than anybody and he would keep people at it, trying to almost breed that kind of good will and bipartisanship that were his trademark.

This is a sad day for our country. It is a sad day for the Senate. I hope all Members remember that very special JOHN CHAFEE style in the days ahead. That will be the Senate at its very best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I listened to the comments by my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, and he expresses, as do all Members of the Senate, our profound sadness over the death of our friend and our colleague, Senator JOHN CHAFEE from Rhode Island.

Senator CHAFEE was one of a kind. The 100 Members of the Senate, men and women who come from across the country, work hard and fight hard and get involved in a lot of public debate about some very controversial issues. We all have very different styles and different ways of approaching all of these issues, and JOHN's was unique.

Senator CHAFEE was in the Senate for a long while. He had achievements that will last forever. He was quite a remarkable Senator. He was, as the Senator from Oregon indicated, about as bipartisan a Senator as there was in this Chamber. He cared about results. He cared deeply about a wide range of public policy, including children, the environment, and so many other areas.

I used to visit with JOHN a lot about his grandchildren. JOHN CHAFEE's grandchildren played soccer with my children. The way to bring a gleam to Senator CHAFEE's eye was to go over to the area of the Chamber where he sat and talk about his granddaughter Tribbe and her soccer exploits. He so dearly loved those grandchildren and was so proud of them.

Senator CHAFEE was a war hero. He was a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School. Most important, he served this country in a very distinguished way. As proud as I have been to be able to serve in the Senate, one of the extraordinary opportunities to serve here is to be able to work with people such as the late Senator JOHN

CHAFEE. I add my voice to those of so many other colleagues who come here today to say the Senate has lost truly a great Senator. I know all of us grieve with his family and loved ones and so many Americans across this country today.

Senator CHAFEE worked right through last week. Towards the end of last week, I asked Senator CHAFEE how he was feeling because he obviously was experiencing some difficult health challenges. But as was always the case, last week when I asked him how he was feeling he said, "Oh, fine," because he was not someone ever to complain. They say hard work spotlights the character of people. Some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their nose, and some don't turn up at all.

When people think of Senator JOHN CHAFEE, they will always remember a unique Senator who always turned up his sleeves and said let's get to work together. The result of that is a legacy of accomplishment in the Senate in so many areas: The children's health insurance grant program; the CARE Independence Act; extending Medicare coverage to poor women, children, and disabled individuals; LIHEAP—so many areas. As the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, he was probably the leading voice in this country in crafting the Clean Air Act of 1990 which strengthened the pollution emission standards; the Safe Drinking Water Act—so many different areas of accomplishment.

But most of us in the Senate who had the privilege of working with him will not remember him so much for his accomplishments as we will his capacity as a human being. He was a colleague and friend. We will miss him dearly. I join with my colleagues today to say that. His daughter Georgia and son-in-law John have been dear friends for many years. I talked to his daughter today. She indicated, again, how proud she was of her father and how strongly she feels about the expression of sentiment today from Members of the Senate about her father and her father's work. We will all miss him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor today to speak about JOHN CHAFEE. I first met Senator CHAFEE standing in line to register for Harvard Law School in 1947. We had both returned from World War II and completed college and were freshmen in law school that year.

When you met JOHN CHAFEE in those days, you knew you were meeting a man. He was really an extraordinary man, very capable physically and mentally. I remember kidding him a little bit that he was going to have a tough time in one of our first classes because his uncle was the professor. His uncle,

Zechariah Chafee, was one of the great professors of Harvard Law School in those days.

But JOHN CHAFEE finished law school, and then he went back to war. He went to Korea. He really never gave up his commitment as a patriot to this country because he then became the Secretary of the Navy under President Nixon. I think he served with great distinction here as one who had knowledge of what it means to have been in a war and was trying to assure peace.

He served with great distinction, as others have mentioned here today, on various committees of the Senate. It was not my privilege ever to serve with JOHN on one of the committees in the Senate; our paths were different. As a matter of fact, at times we disagreed. But I was chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee the year he got elected.

He had a very distinguished record as Governor of Rhode Island, and he came to us with a unique approach, really, of a very straight thinking man. He was not bound by partisan politics. He had a Republican philosophy, but he had a commitment to this country that was very deep and one from which I never saw him waiver. I never saw him waiver from something in which he believed. He really didn't care if he was the only person voting the way he decided was the best to vote for his constituents and his country.

I sat here last week and talked to him. He was, as we all know, then in a wheelchair. I was very surprised to see JOHN in a wheelchair, for just 2 weeks ago today we had gathered together here, after the Senate recessed, a group of some 60 of our Harvard classmates, to be with JOHN after he had made his decision not to run for reelection next year. It was sort of a preretirement party, you might say, with the people he had known and still knew very well from throughout the country. It was a great tribute to JOHN, again as a man, because our colleagues came from the west coast, Florida, all over the country, to be with him and Ginny at his first retirement party. Sadly, it was his last because by Friday, when I saw him on the subway, he was again in his wheelchair and was quite despondent about his health at the time. It was sad to see him in that condition, knowing what a vigorous man he was and a great friend.

The Senate has been much better off for having JOHN CHAFEE for so many years because he brought us such an extremely broad scope of opinion from his own experience in life. He was a graduate of Yale, and then he went to Harvard Law School. That didn't happen much in those days, but he decided he would pursue education where his family had a presence. I think his work in the Senate has been extremely significant because of his background in law and his background as a marine. I

know those who served with him when he was Secretary of the Navy swore by him as one of the best.

It is sad to see the passing of another one from my generation. When I came here, I think 70 percent of the Senate had served in World War II. I don't know if I am counting right, but I think we are down to about 7 now—about 7 percent. We see in his passing, really, the beginning of the end of an era, of the generation that fought the last great world war. One of these days, I am going to have to write that book of the story that was written by our generation. I have not done that. But if there was any person who ever served in this body who was a great, shining example of that generation, it was JOHN CHAFEE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, this is a sad day for the Senate. I know a number of Senators have spoken in memory of Senator CHAFEE. I must add I really feel a sincere sense of loss today, and I know the Senate feels that collectively because we truly have lost one of our finest Members.

JOHN CHAFEE was a person who was not afraid to say what he thought about any issue that would come before the Senate. He had, to use the cliché, the courage of his convictions. He had the courage to stand up and say what he thought should be said on any issue, without regard for how it would affect the way he would be viewed by Members of the Senate or by the general public, but simply he felt compelled to say what he thought because he thought it was right and should be said and that was why he was here: to express his views, to try to be an influence in the process, to try to shape policies and legislation in a way he thought would be helpful and for the good of the country.

I admired him considerably and respected him enormously. He was a person of unquestioned character and integrity in every sense you can say those words. He was someone we could all look up to because of those traits, and we will miss him very, very much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, there is a great sadness hanging over the Senate today. I come to the floor to share in our personal thoughts and recollections of a wonderful man. We have all lost a dear friend. JOHN CHAFEE was an extraordinary man, someone respected and loved and admired on both sides of the aisle. I think

all of us are stunned and deeply saddened by this loss.

JOHN CHAFEE was one of the most reasonable and, increasingly, one of the most respected and important voices in the Senate. The fact that his voice has been silenced is a loss not only to the people of Rhode Island but to the people of our country.

He was a public servant in the fullest and finest sense. He was a soldier, a State representative, a Governor, a Secretary of the Navy, and a Senator.

There aren't many people who have served or who are serving who dedicated themselves more to public life and to public service and did so with such integrity, such conviction, as did JOHN CHAFEE. Few will leave a more significant legacy.

It has been noted on the floor that JOHN was an accomplished wrestler in high school. Whatever talents he had physically, intellectually JOHN continued to wrestle with ideas throughout his life. Ideas mattered to JOHN CHAFEE. He didn't care whether they were liberal or conservative ideas, Republican or Democratic ideas. He didn't care whether they were his ideas or someone else's. JOHN CHAFEE loved ideas and wrestled with them daily.

There was certainly nothing doctrinaire about him. He was a man of deep political conviction and unusual political courage. It seems fitting that the last desk he occupied on the Senate floor was once used by another independent and equally principled voice: Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

His achievements in education, in the environment, on health care, on maritime issues, and for the people of Rhode Island will live on long after those of us who served with him are gone. As ranking member and as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, no one was more instrumental in passage of the major environmental legislation of the latter part of this century than was JOHN CHAFEE.

The clean air and water laws, the efforts he made on the construction of important public projects throughout America, were his ideas. They were his accomplishments. But it seems to me that of all of the bridges JOHN CHAFEE helped build, it wasn't a bridge across a river as much as it was the bridge that spanned political divisions that represents his greatest achievement.

JOHN CHAFEE knew how to build bridges. He built them here every day when he came to work. They spanned the divisions based on race and gender and ethnicity and income and generation and every other sort of arbitrary decision we all too often tend to make.

The blue-blooded son of a Rhode Island family, he was a man of uncommon gift and privilege. Yet he had such a common touch. He believed in the concept of noblesse oblige. He believed that to those to whom much is given,

much is expected. And he kept that faith, that dictum.

In an interview with the New York Times in June of 1995, JOHN CHAFEE worried aloud about the possible effects of the cuts of Medicaid then being proposed. He said: There are not many lobbyists around here for poor children or poor women. Today, sadly, there is one less lobbyist in the Senate for poor women and children, one less leader, one less friend, one less advocate, one less giant.

It is right that we offer praise and admiration for JOHN CHAFEE today. He more than earned it. But it seems to me the best tribute we can offer our friend is to try to fill the considerable void he leaves now, to try, as he did, to build bridges instead of walls, to try a little harder to respect each other's opinions and see things from each other's perspective, to speak for the people and principles he championed so eloquently for more than 40 years as a public servant from the State of Rhode Island.

JOHN CHAFEE deserves at least that much from us. He was an extraordinary man. He was an extraordinary inspiration. Each of us can be proud to say we knew him and could call him our friend.

Our hearts and our prayers go out to Virginia and to all the Chafee children and grandchildren.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair.

I wish to follow behind the distinguished minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, in his remarks about a great loss for the Senate and for our country; that is, the loss of the senior Senator from Rhode Island, JOHN CHAFEE. We have all lost a friend. We have lost a man of immense dignity, a man of immense courage.

I have had the privilege of serving in this body for almost 3 years. One of the individuals with whom I became acquainted early was Senator CHAFEE. As our friendship developed, he and I would talk about his service in World War II in the South Pacific, where it happens that my father served at the same time, same places, Guadalcanal, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Australia. My father served in the Army Air Force; JOHN CHAFEE served as a marine. CHAFEE never penalized my father for less service, being in the Army Air Force. If my father were alive today, he would be very proud of the friendship I established with JOHN CHAFEE. In fact, my father died when I was 16 years old. My father was just a day younger than JOHN CHAFEE.

We don't often have an opportunity to get to know our colleagues in intimate ways, in ways that show the younger Senators what has developed this amazing Senator, a Senator's Senator, but as you spend time with your

colleagues, you appreciate how they were molded, how they were shaped, and why they had, in the case of JOHN CHAFEE, such an immense capacity to serve—as has been noted this afternoon, the illustrious career of this magnificent individual.

Let me share for a moment a couple of personal stories. When Senator CHAFEE and I were in Kyoto, Japan, in December of 1997, we were on the opposite sides of that issue. He used to say to me: HAGEL, you're a bright boy. One of these days you will understand what I am trying to teach you about the environment.

So after 4 days at Kyoto, I said to Senator CHAFEE: Why don't I take you to China. Senator CHAFEE had been to China a number of times, as I had been. So we went to China for 5 days, and I took him deep inside China where he had never been. We spent some time at fertilizer plants. On one occasion we were out in the field with a farmer in China, and he took a picture of me. Then he had a picture taken of both of us around a two-wheeled garden tiller. He had that picture framed when we came back to the United States, and he inscribed it and sent it to my office. It still hangs in my conference room. It says: To my friend, CHUCK HAGEL, just another typical day out on the Nebraska prairie with a Nebraska tractor. Signed, your friend, JOHN CHAFEE.

I am very proud of that picture, which will hang, as long as I am in the Senate, in my conference room. And whenever I leave this great institution, I will take that photo with me. I think he was always a little amazed that I was able to get us in to see the Premier of China during that trip. He asked me that night, after we were having dinner, how I did that. I said I used his name. He was quite astonished that his name would have that much appeal to the Chinese but actually the Chinese knew all about Senator CHAFEE.

It is rare that an individual leaves an institution so much better than he found it, as JOHN CHAFEE leaves the Senate; it is rare that an individual leaves the world so much better than he found it, as did JOHN CHAFEE. We shall miss him for his counsel, his wit, his friendship, but we will probably miss him most because he always elevated the debate. He did it with eloquence, elegance, and dignity.

As an old army sergeant, I sign off to a Secretary of the Navy, and I do so with great pride and great humility, knowing that we are all better off because JOHN CHAFEE touched us. We salute you, Secretary CHAFEE.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE, is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I found out this morning, as many other Senators, that Senator CHAFEE passed away. I see the beautiful flowers

on his desk. I have been in the Senate now for 9 years, and while I did not know Senator CHAFEE as well as some Senators here, I admired him. I think he was tough in debate. He had positions that he took on issues, but he was substantive. In a way, I think he was a model of what we are about because he was interested in the debate on the issues. He was always a civil, warm, good person.

Sheila and I were talking to support staff today and they were saying what a nice man Senator CHAFEE was. That is what they said, that he was such a nice man. I think Senator JOHN CHAFEE was a kind, decent, caring human being. He was a great Senator with a highly developed sense of public service for Rhode Island and for the country. I know we are going to miss him and the country is going to miss him. I want to extend my love, as a Senator from Minnesota, to Senator CHAFEE's family and to the people of Rhode Island.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened to have to note the unexpected passing of our friend and colleague, Senator JOHN CHAFEE of Rhode Island.

I doubt that anyone expected that this week would begin by learning that Senator CHAFEE had been felled by a heart attack last evening. He was a man of relatively young age, great vigor and vitality. He was in his last year of a distinguished Senate career of almost twenty-five years, and I know he was looking forward to returning to Rhode Island to enjoy life with family and friends in what is a beautiful, coastal state.

Senator CHAFEE was a proud New Englander, and he exhibited many of the fabled characteristics of those who live in the northeastern region of our nation. He was a thoughtful man, as was demonstrated by both his consideration for others, as well as the careful examination he would give to the issues put before him. JOHN CHAFEE marched in lockstep with no one, he was guided by his principles and beliefs and by a firm conviction of what was right and wrong.

Though most of us knew JOHN CHAFEE from his tenure in the United States Senate, he was already a committed public servant long before he was elected to this chamber in 1976. As a United States Marine, he risked his life in two conflicts, World War II and Korea, and like so many of his generation, JOHN sought to make a difference through public service. He held office as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, as Governor of Rhode Island, and as Secretary of the Navy under President Richard M. Nixon. Unquestionably, the experience he gained throughout his career was

most beneficial to him as a United States Senator, for he always demonstrated a mastery and depth of issues that was almost unparalleled. Furthermore, JOHN was a gentleman, and no matter how heated the debate, one could always count on him to weigh-in with what was a considered opinion; and, more often than not, was one that reflected that famous common sense approach for which New Englanders are renown.

Through his work, Senator CHAFEE leaves an impressive legacy of legislation, and his contributions to this body and the United States will not soon be forgotten. For his wife Virginia, daughter Georgia, and sons John, Jr., Lincoln, Quentin, and Zechariah, he leaves an even more important and valuable legacy, that of a loving and devoted husband and father. We mourn for the loss the Chafees suffered, we mourn for the loss of our colleague, we mourn for the loss of a good friend and a good man.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, 30 years ago this fall, I met JOHN CHAFEE. President Nixon had just been elected and he had appointed Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. I aspired to be the Secretary of the Navy. Laird called me to his office and he said, "I want you to meet a very special person." Now, mind you, I had been closely associated with then-Vice President Nixon and worked on his campaign. Senator CHAFEE had been very closely associated to Governor Nelson Rockefeller. There was a little bit of a difference between Vice President Nixon and Nelson Rockefeller. I felt that I should be the Secretary of the Navy because CHAFEE hadn't been quite the supporter that I had been for these many years. But Laird said to me, "I am going to introduce you to a man that you will respect, work for, and end up loving." I will never forget that. And so late in November, the two of us were informed, and he became Secretary of the Navy and I became his Under Secretary.

We served under Melvin Laird for 3 years of the most difficult period of the war in Vietnam. Unlike myself, with very modest military service in the closing days of World War II and again in Korea, JOHN CHAFEE had been a rifleman at Guadalcanal. Those of us who had been privileged to wear marine green in the generation of the World War II era we knew full well that those who had served on the canal had seen the roughest of the fighting. It was referred to as the "old breed." Those who came in later years were never quite the same as the old breed.

In the many years that I had been with JOHN CHAFEE, very closely associated, I never was able to get out of him all the facts—to this day—about his

service in Guadalcanal. One day just a few weeks ago, we were walking down the hall. I can't remember exactly the occasion, but we saw a Marine general who had medals from up on the shoulder all the way down to his waist. I said: JOHN, that is different than the old days, where occasionally a decoration was given in the Corps. It must be different today. He said, "Yes."

I said to him: Did you ever get a decoration besides the Purple Heart? He said: No; didn't deserve it; didn't get it. Mind you, he served on Okinawa, on Guadalcanal, survived, got malaria, went to Australia, recovered, was picked to go to officer candidate school, and served in officer candidate school. He became a platoon leader on Okinawa. He survived the kamikaze attacks going in, and the fighting in that battle was as rough as any of them. The Japanese knew they had their backs against the wall. It was very tenacious, very rough and tenacious.

He told me a few facts about those years. But then just a few years after World War II, surprisingly—4 or 5 years—suddenly we were in another war. We were in Korea. JOHN called up for active duty. I am sure he could have found a way not to have gone because he had served so much in World War II. But he went. When he reported for duty and went to Korea, he became a company commander. In the Marine Corps and in the Army, and the other services, that unquestionably is the toughest of all jobs, with 230-plus men depending on you, with a reinforced company, an infantry company, whatever it may be. But JOHN was there.

I remember not long ago the author of this book, "The Coldest War," came through and visited with JOHN and me. I had been in Korea, but I had been in an air wing as a communications officer. He used to joke with me about how I slept in the tent with a little bit of a stove, which was true, and he slept in a bunker out in the open. He always used to tease me. But in this book, they captured JOHN CHAFEE. The author discussed his bravery as a company commander and his love for his men—any man who served under JOHN CHAFEE—whether it was in the Marine Corps or, indeed, in this institution.

How privileged I was to sit just in front of my distinguished big brother in this Senate. Any man who served with JOHN CHAFEE inherited a great deal. I say that modestly. But we all profited so much from our personal association with this marvelous man.

I called former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and talked to him by phone. He sent me a short memo.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF MELVIN R. LAIRD ON SENATOR JOHN H. CHAFEE

Our close and lasting friendship goes back for more than 45 years and will always be remembered. All of John's friends will remember his quick smile, his lack of pretense, his loyalty, his warm compassion, his good common sense judgment, and his special quality as a person. John, in every way, showed he cared about all of us, his Rhode Island constituents, and our country in a most wonderful way.

But his real love was his family. Ginny, most of all, was a very special love. John loved his children—Zechariah (Zach), Quentin, Lincoln, John Jr., and Georgia, and was a special grand dad to his many grandchildren. They will all miss him very much.

There were many unusual associations we had over these past 45 years—going back to Republican National Conventions, his service as Governor, his service as Secretary of the Navy, and his years in the United States Senate. His last interview in office occurred just last Friday with Dale Van Atta, who is working on a book on the Laird-Packard Pentagon Team.

I remember the call I received from John back in 1965 when he was the Governor of Rhode Island criticizing me for my planned attendance at a fund-raiser for my Democratic colleague in the Congress, John Fogarty. The Brick Layers Union had built a special library and so-called "outhouse" in John Fogarty's Rhode Island back yard. The dedication ceremony turned into a fund-raiser for Democrat John Fogarty and it upset John Chafee somewhat that I, as a Republican, was the speaker at the Fogarty building dedication and fund-raiser. I told John of the close working relationship John Fogarty and I had as the ranking members on the House, Education, Welfare and Labor Appropriations Committee. My advice to John was that the best thing he could do as far as his future political career in Rhode Island was concerned, was to be at the dedicatory program. John showed up and he never regretted his attendance.

I remember calling John in December 1968 and asking him to be Secretary of the Navy on the Laird-Packard Team in the Pentagon. There were many candidates suggested for this position—President Nixon had a candidate, as did Senator Dirksen (IL), Senator Hugh Scott (PA), Senator George Murphy (CA), and many others. Under the arrangement I had with President Nixon, it was my choice and I never regretted that choice—John Chafee was terrific!

John was an outstanding Secretary of the Navy. I hated to encourage him to leave the Pentagon and return to Rhode Island to prepare for a Senate bid, but knew that was his heart's desire. The responsibilities of Secretary of the Navy were turned over to his very capable Under Secretary, John Warner. We had a Change of Command ceremony at the Marine Corps base here in Washington and although we had a great replacement (our friend John Warner) there was much sadness in seeing John Chafee return to Rhode Island. We were all so very proud of his accomplishments for the Navy and our country, but sorry to see him leave the Pentagon. His election victories for the United States Senate followed.

His magnificent record in the United States Senate is known by all of you. John's leadership ability to forge a consensus on highly contentious issues of our times is unparalleled in the United States Senate. He will truly be missed.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, Mel Laird was a great public servant, and he still is. He said about JOHN CHAFEE:

Our close and lasting friendship goes back for more than 45 years and will always be remembered. All of John's friends will remember his quick smile, his lack of pretense, his loyalty, his warm compassion, his good commonsense judgment, and his special quality as a person.

John Chafee knew who he was. He never had to boast, he never had to brag, he never stopped to take credit, because this man knew who he was. He had tremendous inner self-confidence and a tremendous ability to be self-effacing.

Laird goes on:

John, in every way, showed he cared about all of us, his Rhode Island constituents, and our country in a most wonderful way. But his real love was his family. Ginny—

I talked to Ginny this morning at the crack of dawn. We exchanged a few words. Then we immediately recalled the happy days together throughout these 30 years—and laughter, for both of us, for a few minutes on the phone. She had the courage, like JOHN, to muster laughter in a moment such as this.

He loved his children—Zechariah, “Zach,” Quentin, Lincoln, John Jr., and Georgia, and was a special granddad to his many grandchildren. They will miss him very much.

Yes, JOHN was a hero in every sense of the word. But he was the greatest hero to his family.

Laird goes on:

There were many unusual associations we had over these 45 years—going back to Republican National Conventions, his service as Governor, his service as Secretary of the Navy, and his years in the U.S. Senate. His last interview in office occurred just last Friday with Dale Van Atta, who is working on a book on the Laird-Packard Pentagon Team.

That was the team JOHN and I joined 30 years ago.

For 2 hours I worked with JOHN last Friday setting up a hearing on the Environment and Public Works Committee, where I was privileged to be his deputy, second always in command. I will never be first. Even though he is not here, I will still get his orders. But we were there working last Friday.

Yes, he was a little less spry in his step as he was recovering from his operation. But we have to remember every day in this great institution that, yes, we have our debates, we have our differences, but the man or the woman to your left or right in this magnificent institution could be gone the next day by the will of God. I always think of that. We have to treasure and value every moment we have with each other in this great institution because it brings us together.

This paragraph in Laird's letter I am amused by:

I remember calling JOHN in December of 1968 and asking him to be Secretary of the Navy on the Laird-Packwood Team in the Pentagon. There were many candidates sug-

gested for this position—President Nixon had a candidate, as did Senator Dirksen, Senator Hugh Scott, Senator George Murphy, and many others. Under the arrangement I had with President Nixon, it was my choice, and I never regretted that choice—John Chafee was terrific.

There are so many. I think in the days to come I will seek the privilege of speaking again of JOHN CHAFEE solely for the purpose of introducing into the RECORD some marvelous statements. I worked with his personal staff today in collecting some of his statements and with the staff of the Environment and Public Works Committee. There are so many lives this great American touched.

He loved his work in the Pentagon for those 3 years because it brought into focus everything he had learned as a young marine on Guadalcanal, as the platoon commander on Okinawa, and as a company commander in Korea.

I remember one day so well. Laird called us up. Laird was short, got on that phone, and issued an order quickly. It was Saturday. Of course, we worked Saturdays. The war was on. Absolutely, we wanted to be there. It was our choice. It was a heavy burden and responsibility. We were losing tens of thousands of casualties every week.

We just finished this engagement in Kosovo casualty-free. In Vietnam, thousands of men and women were killed and wounded week after week. It is so hard to believe now. It is so hard to explain war to the current generation.

But anyway, Laird called up, and he said: You two guys go down to The Mall and give me a report on what is going on.

There was a demonstration down there. CHAFEE and I were dressed in our blue suits as worn by the Navy today. We stripped them down and put on some old khakis. We had some tennis shoes. He and I used to play a little squash in the Pentagon. We put on a couple of old T-shirts. We got into an old car. We had chauffeur-driven cars in those days. Forget them. We got in an old car and drove down to The Mall. I will never forget that sight. There were over 1 million young men and women, in a peaceful way largely, demonstrating against that war in the heart of the Nation's Capital on The Mall between this building and the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. There they were—1 million.

I could see JOHN was so terribly upset because it brought back the carnage he had seen in his previous military experience when the whole nation, every American, was solidly behind every person in uniform (abroad or at home). The Nation stood in solid support.

We went back to the Pentagon that afternoon, and we sat in Laird's office.

As I reminisced this morning, Laird had only been in office a comparatively short time and there was a lot of thought about how we were going to

get America disengaged from that conflict, how we were going to stop the casualties. JOHN CHAFEE from that moment on became a very special counselor to the Secretary of Defense and, indeed, to the President on the need to bring that conflict somehow to a termination with regard to these losses. Over 50,000 young men and women were killed in uniform in that conflict in Vietnam.

Tough? Yes, he was a tough man. He was tough as they come. They used to say at Yale he was a wrestler; you will not get JOHN CHAFEE's shoulders to the mat; you will not get them to the mat. No one ever got them to the mat. I never did. I tried. I don't think in his distinguished career anybody in this great body ever did.

The interesting thing about that man, so full of courage and so full of toughness, I never heard him use a word of profanity, never a curse word. When JOHN would get upset and he was concerned about something, he would say: “Oh, dear.” Remember that, colleagues? How many of you heard him say, “Oh, dear”? That was his way of saying, hey, we have a problem, but we are going to solve it. A remarkable man.

We will remember him for his modesty. I searched his web page: 40 years of public service condensed to one page. A modest man, never boasted. He had the self-confidence. I was asked, Who will take his place? Without thinking I simply said: No one. No one will take his place.

God bless you, JOHN, and your family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank our wonderful dear friend from Virginia for his very moving and eloquent personal comments about his wonderful friend, a friend of all Members, JOHN CHAFEE, whom we lost today.

Let me begin by expressing my deep sympathies to the CHAFEE family, to Ginny and the children and the grandchildren. I have come to know them over the years, being the neighboring Senator of the wonderful State of Rhode Island. I express to his family, the people of Rhode Island, and to his staff and friends and acquaintances over the years, what a terrible loss the death of JOHN CHAFEE is, to all who care about public service and care about this country.

The words of “scholar,” “soldier,” “athlete,” and “statesman” I use quite frequently to describe people. But in the case of JOHN CHAFEE, each one of those words has special meaning. He was truly a great scholar as we know from his academic work at Yale and Harvard Law School. He was truly a wonderful soldier, as JOHN WARNER has recounted. If one did not take the time to discover the service JOHN CHAFEE

gave to this country in both World War II and Korea, one would not know it if one solely depended upon JOHN CHAFEE to describe it.

JOHN CHAFEE saw service in uniform to his country as not an extraordinary action but one that any good citizen would engage in during a time of serious conflict. Certainly his service in the Marine Corps and the Pacific, and again in Korea, were remarkable periods of our Nation's history. He served our Nation so wonderfully well in that capacity.

He was also a great athlete. Captain of the Yale wrestling team in 1941, he went undefeated. He was also quite a squash player. My brother-in-law, Bernie Buonanno, is from Rhode Island. Bernie and JOHN CHAFEE were regular squash competitors in Providence. I heard great tales about the battles between my brother-in-law and JOHN CHAFEE on the squash courts. I know CARL LEVIN and JOHN WARNER and others play not very far from this Chamber. They have wonderful times there. He was always in great shape, always had a tremendous amount of energy he brought to his work in the Senate.

Last, he was a statesman. That is hardly last. I first got to know JOHN CHAFEE almost 40 years ago. I was a freshman in college in Providence, RI, when JOHN CHAFEE became Governor of the State of Rhode Island. He was elected with an overwhelming margin of 398 votes in that year. He went on in 1964 and 1966 to huge margins. At that time in Rhode Island, Governors only had a 2-year term. During my entire career as a college student, JOHN CHAFEE was the Governor of the small State of Rhode Island. What a wonderful reputation he had as a Governor of that State.

During the latter part of that term, the Vietnam war issue, which JOHN WARNER talked about, began to boil over on campuses. JOHN CHAFEE handled that leadership role as a Governor of his State with great style and with great leadership in terms of understanding the diverse constituency, even of a small State such as Rhode Island.

In 1976, as we know, he came to the Senate. I arrived in 1981 and had the privilege of serving with him for the past 20 years. We didn't serve on committees together. I never had the privilege of being a member of one of the committees of which JOHN CHAFEE was a member. However, he certainly led in so many areas, particularly in environment. There were few who were JOHN CHAFEE's peers when it came to their longstanding concern about being good custodians and guardians of this planet Earth. Certainly throughout his career on numerous pieces of legislation JOHN CHAFEE was the leader, the voice, that we all looked to when it came to deciding what path to follow as we tried to determine the best course of action, balancing the economic and environmental interests of our Nation.

The Presiding Officer knows this year, as someone who has been deeply interested in child care legislation, I lobbied hard to the Presiding Officer if she would be a cosponsor with me of my child care bill. I will never forget Senator COLLINS saying to me: I will go along with you on your bill on one condition. I am thinking, here it comes; what is the condition, some new provision has to be written in, some new amendment added. And she said: The condition is, if you can get JOHN CHAFEE to support your child care amendment, then I will join in your child care bill.

I talked to JOHN CHAFEE. I said: JOHN, if I can have your support, I can think of at least one or two, maybe four or five other Members of this body who will work with us on this issue. He gave his support to that issue.

This calendar year we have had four votes on child care amendments, and each has carried because JOHN CHAFEE decided to be a working partner on this issue.

That is another example of the kind of quiet leadership JOHN CHAFEE could give to an issue that was important to not only his constituents but to many across the globe and across this country, particularly.

The Presiding Officer, coming from New England, will appreciate this as well. We oftentimes find in antiques stores or flea markets the New England samplers. They are oftentimes framed. Home Sweet Home is the one with which most are familiar. There is another sampler we can find from time to time throughout New England. The sampler says: Leave the Land in Better Shape Than When You Found It. It is an old New England tradition. Our land was not particularly well suited to agricultural interests when that expression was coined; the rocky soil, the difficult winters make it hard to eke out a living. Each generation of New Englanders over the years has tried to clear another field, build another barn or shed, in some way make the land they pass on to the next generation healthier and better suited to serve the next generation.

JOHN CHAFEE was the quintessential New England statesman, in my view. He was not tight when it came to a dollar, but I called him a fiscal conservative when it came to budgetary matters. He was also a person who believed one ought to carefully invest capital in areas that would be critically important to the well-being of any enterprise. And in public life, investing in the environment of our country, investing in the educational needs, the transportation needs, seeing to it that all Americans have a chance to enjoy the wonderful opportunities of our Nation, and the Tax Code, are all wonderful examples of JOHN CHAFEE making wise investments, the wise New England approach to the well-being of our Nation.

So in many ways, JOHN CHAFEE epitomized, I suppose—for me, anyway—what a good Senator from New England ought to be. In many ways, as I think about that old sampler you can find in these bazaars in New England from Maine to Connecticut, "Leave the Land in Better Shape Than when You Found it," JOHN CHAFEE epitomized that simple expression.

Wherever he is at this moment—and I know he is with our good Lord and Savior—he will be looking down knowing—and he should know—that even for that brief amount of time, the few short years, 77 years, he had as a scholar, as a soldier, as an athlete, and as a statesman, JOHN CHAFEE truly left his State and his country and the world in which we live far better than when he found it. For the immense difference he has made, we thank him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I understand the junior Senator from Rhode Island is on the floor and would like to make remarks, too. I ask consent he be allowed to succeed my remarks in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, this morning I was actually in Lexington, KY, with my son and daughter and grandson. I think in a way that made me even more melancholy and mournful about this day and the loss of our good friend JOHN CHAFEE.

I started thinking about JOHN and his life. It made me realize that, day by day, in our regular duties, we go busily about our business and we do not stop, sometimes, to look at the beautiful surroundings, this historic building we are in. We don't stop, sometimes, to thank the staff member who has been particularly helpful to us. Also, sometimes we don't stop to think that we walk with men and women in this institution who have been giants in their lives. JOHN CHAFEE was one of those men. Sometimes we just forgot JOHN CHAFEE had done so much for his country, for his fellow man, for his State, and for his Nation. It was easy to do that because JOHN was not the kind of guy who demanded attention and demanded he be treated with reverence or any extraordinary respect. He was a soft-spoken gentleman, and he was truly a "gentle" man. The word fit him perfectly.

I was just talking to Senator WARNER, his good friend, his successor as the Secretary of the Navy. I never had quite thought about one other thing: JOHN CHAFEE was not one given to temper, not one given to profanity. He was just a dedicated, hard-working, good Senator for his State and for our country. So I believe we truly have lost one of the best servants we have had in the Senate in my time here, our friend

JOHN CHAFEE, the senior Senator from Rhode Island.

I first got to know JOHN CHAFEE some 30 years ago; it is hard to believe, I say to Senator WARNER, who was his deputy over there at the Navy Department. JOHN was the Secretary of the Navy. I had the occasion to meet with him as a staff member because there was a little disagreement between his State and my State about a Seabee base. But he was always so fair in all his dealings; it impressed me then. I didn't realize at the time that he had already been Governor and he had such a distinguished military career. There he was, the Secretary of the Navy.

Then, of course, he went on to be elected to the Senate. Only after I came to the Senate did I realize he truly was a war hero, a marine. He was very proud of it. He defended his country, and he was a highly decorated combat veteran. He served his people so well as Governor of that State, and he also served the people of that State as a Senator since 1976.

I have given a lot of thought about Senator CHAFEE today; also, the fact the last time I saw him and spoke to him personally, last Thursday, he was not feeling particularly well. He wanted to know if there were going to be any more votes. But he was staying right back here, waiting to see if he was going to be needed anymore, attending to his duties, even on Thursday night of last week.

I think it is belated but appropriate that we say a few kind words about Senator CHAFEE and his service. We extend our best to his wife Ginny and to his family.

By the age of 39, JOHN CHAFEE was already a combat veteran in two wars. You will not find it in his official biography, but he earned at least two Purple Hearts, among many other service distinctions. He had left his undergraduate studies at Yale University to first enlist in the Marines. He served in the original invasion forces of the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II. Following that, he resumed his studies at Yale and went on to earn his law degree at Harvard.

JOHN was recalled to active duty in 1951, and while in Korea he commanded Dog Company, a 200-man rifle unit in the 1st Marine Division. Perhaps Senator WARNER has already recounted all of that, but it is such an impressive part of the man he was.

After 6 years in the Rhode Island General Assembly, including 4 years as his party's leader in the House of Representatives, JOHN was elected Governor of Rhode Island in 1962 by 398 votes—not one to waste any votes, or anything else for that matter. He was reelected in 1964 and 1966 by the largest margins in Rhode Island's history.

The newly-inaugurated President Nixon appointed JOHN CHAFEE to be Secretary of the Navy in 1969, a post he

held for 3½ years. He was elected to his fourth term in 1994 with 65 percent of the vote. He was the first Republican elected to the Senate from Rhode Island in 68 years.

In the Senate, he rose to become chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee where, once again, he worked very aggressively on issues about which he felt strongly. He was a Senator who really did care about the environment. But he tried to make it an issue where we reached across the aisle to each other. He wasn't interested just in making a statement or trying to drive up his ratings with one group or another. He wanted to get results.

I remember he came to me when I had first been elected majority leader in 1996. He said: I believe we can pass this safe drinking water bill. It had been stalled in the Senate and the House, and it was stalled in conference.

I said: JOHN, it's too late. We can't do it.

He said: If we come to agreement, will we get it up for a vote?

I said: If you can get Dirk Kempthorne and the others involved and get Democrats involved, and we can get a bill that will be good for America, to have safe drinking water, why, surely we will do it.

I think it was the last day of the session, but right at the end we got it done because JOHN CHAFEE would not give it up. He wasn't interested in making a statement. He was interested in getting a good bill for his country—Safe Drinking Water—a worthy cause and one of which JOHN CHAFEE was very proud.

Even recently, he was working on efforts that are certainly worthwhile and have been very difficult to bring to closure. The day will come when we will get a new Superfund bill, and when we do, we ought to dedicate it to the memory of JOHN CHAFEE because he has charged that mountain as a good marine, time and time again. We never have quite made it. One of these days we will top the crest, and we will all think about JOHN CHAFEE when we do.

He was an important member of the Finance Committee. He chaired the Social Security and Family Policy Subcommittee. Again, just last week I arrived late at a Finance Committee meeting before we went out to mark up a bill providing assistance for hospitals, nursing homes, and home health care, a bill that would put back some Medicare money as a result of the balanced budget agreement. It was about to come apart. The wheels were coming off. Senators were disagreeing. It looked as if what was going to be a bipartisan package, easily passed out, that had been crafted by the chairman, Senator ROTH, and the ranking member, Senator MOYNIHAN of New York, was going to fall apart right there in that little anteroom before we went into the Finance Committee meeting.

One of the last people to speak was JOHN CHAFEE. He said: Good work has been done on this; it is not everything we would want—typical of JOHN CHAFEE to say that—but it is a good step. We ought to do it. We ought to go out here right now, take this bill up, and pass it out of the Finance Committee.

Thirty minutes later, by a voice vote, with only two dissenting audible nays, we passed that bill out.

He did his part on the Finance Committee, too. He served as a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, where he had a real interest in making sure about the intelligence capabilities of our country, to make sure we did not drop our guard in that area, and we started rebuilding our intelligence community after years of problems, going back, I guess, to the 1970s.

He was chairman of the Senate Republican Conference for 6 years, the No. 3 leadership position in the Senate.

In the Senate, we knew JOHN as a genuinely independent New Englander, respected on both sides of the aisle, who worked to bring opposing sides together for the common good. All of us regretted his decision announced earlier this year to leave the Senate, but it was characteristic of JOHN to work to the very end. He leaves behind 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and a legacy of a lifetime of service to Rhode Island and to his Nation.

If the Biblical quote ever applied to any Senator, this quote should apply to JOHN CHAFEE: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join the majority leader and my colleagues in paying tribute to the senior Senator from Rhode Island, JOHN H. CHAFEE. I do so not only on my own behalf but on behalf of the people of Rhode Island, for they have suffered a grievous loss.

First, I extend my condolences to Mrs. Chafee and the Chafee family. Above all else, JOHN CHAFEE was a devoted husband, a devoted father, and a loving and caring father and grandfather. Indeed, his family is a living tribute to his remarkable life.

This is a personal loss to his family, to his friends, to his colleagues, but it is also a personal loss to the people of Rhode Island. For over 40 years, he has played a central role in the life of our State, and Rhode Island is a special place for many, many reasons, but it is a special place in particular because it is a place where everyone knows everyone else, and literally every Rhode Islander knew Senator JOHN H. CHAFEE.

If you had to ask Rhode Islanders what they felt and thought about this man, one word would come quickly to their lips: respect. This respect transcended party politics, social position,

every category that we ascribe, sometimes arbitrarily, to people.

This respect was a function of a recognition, first, of his qualities as a man. He was a man of integrity, intelligence, tenacity, and fairness. He was a gentleman. When I arrived in the Senate—and previously as a Member of the other body—he treated me with graciousness and cooperation and help, and I thank him for that from the bottom of my heart.

The respect which Rhode Island holds for this great man is also a function of his selfless service to the Nation. He began that service as a young marine on Guadalcanal. He spent his 20th birthday there. JOHN CHAFEE, the son of privilege, could have found an easier way to serve his country during World War II, but he chose the very hardest way, so typical of the man. He chose to go ashore with the invasion force of Guadalcanal at a time when it was not clear we would prevail. It was only clear we would give everything to win, and JOHN CHAFEE was prepared to do that for his country, for his community, indeed, for decency throughout the world.

Later, after serving in World War II and going back to law school, he was ready to assume the privileges and the rights which such service won him. But another war beckoned, and characteristically, JOHN CHAFEE heard the summons of that trumpet and went to Korea to lead a marine rifle company. Again, he could have found less dangerous assignments but, once again, if American sons were at risk, JOHN CHAFEE would lead them.

After his service in the Marine Corps, he did return home, finished his law school studies, and came back home to Rhode Island. He served as a member of our general assembly with distinction, and in 1962, he was elected Governor of our State, clearly the most Democratic State in the country, but through arduous campaigning and through his personal qualities, he was elected by over 300 votes. Not a landslide, but enough to give him a chance to serve the people of Rhode Island, and serve he did.

Long before it was popular and chic to be an environmentalist, JOHN CHAFEE was an environmentalist. With innovative visionary legislation, he began our State's acquisition of open spaces so our quality of life would not be diminished by economic development. In fact, long before many others, he recognized that a good economy and a good environment not only can go hand in hand but must go hand in hand. This was the early sixties, long before Earth Day, long before the organized environmental movement, but he knew in his heart that quality of life was important to maintain. He knew also that our environmental legacy is a gift from God which we must revere, we must cherish, and we must pass on. And he did so.

He was also a builder because it was this time in our history that route 95 was being developed right through the heart of Rhode Island, and he was there. In fact, he joked that it was a great opportunity for a Governor because every time they completed 2 or 3 miles of interstate, he could hold a press conference and talk about the progress. But it was something that was close to him, not because of notoriety, but because he saw this as a way to improve the economy of Rhode Island, to link us more closely to the national economy. Indeed, even up to his last days, he was working to improve the infrastructure, particularly the transportation infrastructure of Rhode Island, a mission he began as our Governor more than 30 years ago.

As my colleague, the senior Senator from Virginia, pointed out, he served with great distinction as Secretary of the Navy. After his family, his State of Rhode Island and the Marine Corps were his great loves. These two passions—his State and the naval service—helped mold his life and, indeed, he in turn helped mold these great institutions—our State and the naval service.

He served with distinction at a time when the Navy was being stretched, the tumult of Vietnam was spilling out into our streets, and still we had to fight a superpower adversary in the form of the Soviet Union. He served with characteristic vision, innovation, and distinction.

He was then elected to the Senate, and for four terms he has shown us all what it is to be a Senator. In fact, it is characteristic that Senator JOHN H. CHAFEE literally died on active duty serving his Nation and serving his State as a Senator. He spent his whole life in service to the Nation.

The respect for Senator CHAFEE also emanated from the recognition that he always had an unswerving commitment to principles. He was schooled in the hardest test: Always do the harder right rather than easier wrong.

There are extraordinary numbers of examples to attest to this dedication of principle. I can think of several, but let me just suggest that, again, before so many people took up the cause of gun control, Senator CHAFEE stood solidly to control the violence in the life of America, to reasonably restrict access to weapons, to ensure that the lives of our children are protected.

I can recall being with him at a rally he organized in Providence, RI, where he had Sarah Brady come in. We were literally enveloped by a large group of counterdemonstrators with bullhorns, pressing in on us, trying to literally disrupt this rally to control guns in our society.

But anyone who waded ashore at Guadalcanal and fought in Korea was not easily intimidated. And he was not. He not only stood his ground that day,

but he stood his ground every day to try to argue for more sensible rules with respect to handguns. And that is just one example of where he did, in some respect, the unpopular thing because it was the right thing to do.

This respect also emanates from the recognition by my fellow Rhode Islanders that, more than so many others, he always sought to find the common ground that would bring different groups together, that would result in progress, both in terms of legislation but more importantly progress in terms of the lives of the American people.

He was a pragmatist. He was committed to advancing the well-being of his constituents and the people of this country, and, indeed, the people of the world. He was always looking for practical ways to do that. He was wedded to the strong principles of the Constitution. But he was able to find ways, through the details, to advance those principles, to bring others aboard, to move forward.

When he became impatient, it was an impatience borne of the distractions that we sometimes find ourselves in in this institution and the posturing that we sometimes find ourselves in in this institution—because he was here to do the job of the people of Rhode Island: To improve their lives, to give them more opportunities, to give them more freedom, so they can use it not only for their advancement and the advancement of their children but the advancement of this great country.

He had a special concern for children and those Americans with disabilities. It was a concern that he did not trumpet about, but it was a concern that resonated throughout his entire legislative career.

Today, we have done much to ensure that the poorest children of America have health care through our Medicaid Program. And that was the handiwork of JOHN CHAFEE—not through press releases but through the hard work of legislation, the detailed intricacies of the Internal Revenue Code, and the Social Security laws. He expanded coverage because, while others would be disheartened by failure of comprehensive reform, he dug in and every day advanced the cause of health care, particularly for children in this country.

He always had a special place in his heart and in his service for disabled Americans. I know that because the disabled citizens in Rhode Island revere and treasure this great man for what he has done—again, long before public acclaim or public notoriety. And why did he do it? Because it was the right thing to do.

In March of this year, Senator CHAFEE announced he was leaving the Senate and going home. Last evening, he began that final journey home—

home to Rhode Island, a State made infinitely better by his effort and example, a place that mourns but will forever revere his service and take pride in his achievements and inspiration from his life.

In the words of the Poet William Butler Yeats:

The man is gone who guided ye, unwearied,
through the long bitter way.
Ye by the waves that close in our sad nation,
Be full of sudden fears,
The man is gone who from his lonely station
Has moulded the hard years. . . .
Mourn—and then onward, there is no return-
ing

He guides ye from the tomb;
His memory now is a tall pillar, burning
Before us in the gloom!

Senator CHAFEE will allow us to mourn, but insist that we move forward to do the unfinished work, which is the hope and promise of America. And with him as a guide we shall. And he would want it that way.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHAFEE, OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 206, and I ask that the resolution be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 206) relative to the death of the Honorable JOHN H. CHAFEE, of Rhode Island:

S. RES. 206

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John H. Chafee, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

Resolved, That Senator Chafee's record of public service embodied the best traditions of the Senate: Statesmanship, Comity, Tolerance, and Decency.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 206) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues to express our profound

sorrow at the loss of a dear friend and an outstanding Senator. JOHN CHAFEE was probably the finest gentleman ever to serve in this body. We offer our sincerest regrets, our sympathies, and our prayers to his family.

I stopped by his office today and expressed my sense of loss to his staff. We express, collectively, our deep sorrow to the people of Rhode Island, but, beyond that to the people of the entire Nation who in many different ways, in many different areas, were served so well by JOHN CHAFEE throughout his career.

We have just heard very eloquent remarks from the majority leader and his colleague from Rhode Island, summarizing some of the many things that JOHN CHAFEE has done. It would take several volumes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to go through his list of achievements and the things that he has done for the least among us to further the causes in which he felt so strongly.

But I rise today to express gratitude and to celebrate the legacy that he left us. If you had to ask somebody: Who is the most decent person that you know of in politics? chances are, JOHN CHAFEE would be at the top of that list. He was a man, as has been said, who had very strong feelings.

He fought hard for principles, but he fought so with unfailing courtesy, with compassion and kindness and consideration for others who had differing views.

I had the privilege of working with him on a health care task force in 1993 and 1994. I sat in a room and listened to him bring together people of very strongly opposing views. Always, without fail, he guided the discussions away from bitterness, away from harshness, into constructive channels.

I was pleased to work with him on environmental and public works issues. And he was a great leader of a committee that has very contentious issues. He worked together with his leadership. We made progress, sometimes in areas where people thought progress could not be made.

I followed his work on so many issues affecting health care and children from his position in the Finance Committee. He was there to move not just this body but the country forward in assuring that we would meet the needs of children. Whether it was Medicaid for poor children or the foster care bill that he was recently championing, he was always looking out for those in need; but he did so in a manner that is a good lesson for all of us.

When somebody got carried away and attacked him, perhaps a little too strongly, he turned it away with a warm smile and understanding. When views got very heated and the arguments got passionate, he would calm it down with a kind word and steer the discussion and the debate back in a constructive pattern.

When some of us had personal reverses, JOHN CHAFEE was there quietly, as a friend, to lend support, to lend encouragement, and to let us know that we had a friend, somebody who cared for us. If there is one thing I hope this body will remember, it is that record, that unfailing, consistent pattern of being, first and foremost, a concerned human being who was a dear friend.

I hope that legacy can guide this body, that all of us can strive to emulate his service, his compassion, and his caring. As our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his loved ones, and to all who will miss him, I hope we will remember and hold high those principles which he not only espoused but he lived.

I am from Missouri. One of our slogans is: Show me. JOHN CHAFEE's life showed us every day, every hour in this body what a fine human being can do to move the process of government forward on a constructive path. I only hope we can hold dear and remember those lessons he taught us.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, with JOHN CHAFEE's passing, the Senate has lost a great leader, Rhode Island has lost a great Senator, and I have lost a great friend.

This afternoon I had the honor of presiding over the Senate and was able to hear firsthand the tremendous outpouring of affection and respect and sadness from my colleagues, as they came to the Senate floor one by one to pay tribute to this remarkable man. Indeed, Senator CHAFEE's legacy exceeds that for which any of us could have wished. He has been a leader in his commitment to children, to improving health care, to preserving our environment.

I wish to talk for just a few moments about what JOHN CHAFEE meant to me personally. From my very first day in the Senate, JOHN CHAFEE took me under his wing. He was always there for me. He encouraged me. He taught me the ropes. He guided me, particularly on contentious issues. He was always a steady voice of reason. He taught me how important it was to reach across the aisle to attempt to achieve a consensus, compromises based on common sense. Indeed, he very quickly enrolled me in one of his favorite projects, and that was the Centrist Coalition, which he chaired, along with our colleague from Louisiana, Senator JOHN BREAU. Together this group of about 20 Senators would meet periodically to hash out contentious issues, to try to achieve a compromise on budget and other important issues of the day. Always we were guided by JOHN. JOHN had a tremendous ability to pull people together, to bring out the best in everyone.