

Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blunt
Boehlert
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Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
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Collins
Combest
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Cook
Cooksey
Costello
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Cramer
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Dunn
Edwards
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Gejdenson

Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
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Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
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Hayes
Hayworth
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Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
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Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
King (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo

Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Scott
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson

Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancredo

Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Vitter

Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—58

Baldwin
Barrett (WI)
Blumenauer
Brown (OH)
Capuano
Conyers
Coyne
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Doggett
Duncan
Ehlers
Eshoo
Filner
Frank (MA)
Ganske
Gutierrez
Hooley

Jackson (IL)
Kucinich
Lee
Lofgren
Luther
Markey
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
Meeks (NY)
Metcalfe
Miller, George
Minge
Nadler
Oberstar
Obey
Owens
Paul
Payne
Peterson (MN)

Ramstad
Rangel
Rivers
Rush
Sanders
Sanford
Schakowsky
Sensenbrenner
Shays
Stark
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Upton
Velazquez
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner

NOT VOTING—9

Baca
Barton
Boswell

Campbell
Klink
McIntosh

Smith (WA)
Souder
Vento

□ 1445

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, OWENS, MCDERMOTT, RANGEL and MEEKS of New York changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. GRANGER changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PAUL COVERDELLE, SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 558) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 558

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Paul Coverdell, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the part of the House to join a committee appointed on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is with profound sadness that I rise today to offer a resolution of condolences on the passing of Senator PAUL COVERDELLE. PAUL COVERDELLE was the senior Senator from the State of Georgia and, more importantly, he was a dear friend.

It is with deep sadness that we say good-bye to our good friend, our colleague and our brother, PAUL COVERDELLE. PAUL COVERDELLE's unexpected death is so sad and so hard. I have known him for many years, almost 30 years. As young men, we both campaigned for an open congressional seat in 1977. Later, we both came here to Washington to represent the people of Georgia.

Over the years, we shared many rides together back and forth to Washington. We would often see each other here and in Georgia, and we spent a lot of time talking about life and about what is good for the people of Georgia and for the people of our Nation.

PAUL was not just another colleague. He was like family to me and to so many of our colleagues. His passing, his death, hurts. It is painful. It is more than sad. We have not just lost a friend, but we have lost a member of our family.

PAUL COVERDELLE's intelligence, commitment, ethics and leadership stood out. He was a friendly, peaceful man. He cared for his colleagues, his friends, the people who elected him, and even people he did not know. He was wonderful to work with, to be with, to travel with. He was good to be around. A wonderful man. One of the good guys. He was my friend, Mr. Speaker. He was my brother.

We occupied different sides of the aisle, and we did not always agree, but always had the utmost respect and admiration for this man. For three decades, as a Georgia lawmaker, Peace Corps director, United States Senator, PAUL COVERDELLE was a man who could be trusted to get the job done. He focused on the war on drugs, worked to improve education, and fought for the farmers and small business people of Georgia. He was always prepared to help out and take on any task that was required.

But PAUL COVERDELLE never sought out the limelight. He never sought the headline. He would never grandstand. He worked hard behind the scenes without seeking any recognition. In today's political climate, PAUL COVERDELLE was an unusual and extraordinary

man who will be forever missed from among our midst.

When PAUL was director of the Peace Corps, he would come in to see me from time to time after he had just come back from a trip abroad. He was so enthused about what he saw and what the Peace Corps was doing, whether in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, Central America or South America, that his enthusiasm rubbed off on me during those meetings. I looked forward to talking with him and working with him on those concerns. He wanted to help people meet their basic needs, food, water, shelter, and he wanted to stop them from having to struggle. I admired his commitment and his work with the Peace Corps. PAUL COVERDELL will be remembered not just as a citizen of Georgia, an American, but as a citizen of the world.

Mr. Speaker, his death is a tremendous loss for the members of the Georgia delegation, for the people of Georgia, and a personal loss for me. We are all very sad, not just the people of Georgia, but all of his colleagues in the Senate and in the House. He will be deeply missed.

My heart and prayers go out to PAUL's wife, Nancy, to the other members of the Coverdell family, and his staff here in Washington and in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), a member of our delegation from the State of Georgia.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for bringing this proposal to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I met PAUL COVERDELL in 1972. He was one of 22 or 23 members of the State Senate who were Republicans, out of 56 members, and 3 years later I was one of 19 members, I believe it was, out of 180 members in the Georgia House who were Republicans. And PAUL never stopped a moment from trying to build a party, to be competitive, not because he thought Republicans were better than Democrats, but he thought more Republicans would make the Democrats better.

PAUL had an unbelievable appetite for work, and those who worked with him understand that he had one failing in that appetite, and that was that he always wanted to have meetings. Whatever he came up with, he called a meeting. I recall helping him in 1977 in the race the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) referred to, a special election. I said, PAUL, how can I help you? He said, we are having a meeting at 5:30. I showed up at his office and we talked strategy for an hour; and then I said, I have to get going and distribute some of this literature. And he said, well, we are going to have another meeting tomorrow at 5:30. I said, No, you, are going to have a meeting at 5:30; I am going to be out doing work.

He did that because he did not want to go off on his own on any issue and he wanted to talk things through. It was not uncommon to hear the phone ring at 11:30 at night, and when I answered it, it would be, JOHN, PAUL, I have to talk to you about something; and he would talk for a long time.

I would play tennis, he would study politics and policy. To him they were exactly the same. Politics and policy were not separate issues. He cared about them both and he cared nothing about attention for his successes. There is a reason why we did not see him on TV a lot because he preferred to work very quietly, very much behind the scenes, bringing people together, building coalitions as no one has in my lifetime.

I woke up this morning and thought there is a huge hole in my life, because PAUL has been a large part of it for 25 years; and he will be missed. I am sad that most of America will not know how much he is missed because his work was so quiet and so behind the scenes.

I thought a little while ago, when I was talking to a reporter about this, that I cannot think of a single former friend of PAUL COVERDELL's, not a single friend, who ever left his side in anger, because he was such a decent and gentle man. He has people working for him today in volunteer capacities who have been with him since 1970. They are still there because he was such a decent and gentle man, and he included them, gave them opportunities to excel, gave them their head and let them achieve, and then let them get the credit. They are all there, too, to this day. His loyalty to the people around him got that loyalty back from them.

I am sad beyond words. There is little left that we can do but to say to Nancy and his mother and loved ones and staff that we offer ourselves as poor substitutes for their beloved PAUL, and urge upon them the words of the Psalmist, who, feeling the pain that we here today feel, was moved to write "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and those who are crushed in spirit, he saves."

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding me this time. I am deeply saddened today by the loss of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL. His passing is not only a great loss for Georgia and our Nation, it is indeed a personal loss for me.

I first met Senator COVERDELL in 1974, when he came to Columbus, Georgia, where I lived, and he did his best to recruit me to run as a Republican for the State Senate. Senator COVERDELL was not successful in that endeavor,

but he impressed upon me his commitment to integrity in government and his commitment to our two-party system.

I eventually ran for the legislature 2 years later as a Democrat, and I have served with PAUL, I guess now for nearly 20 years, both as a member of the General Assembly and as a member of our State's delegation here in Congress. He and I worked together on a number of issues over the years, and he was an extraordinary leader whose flexibility, his ability and commitment, and his integrity were recognized by anyone who knew him and had the opportunity to work with him. He was a thoughtful and soft-spoken man, but he was a tenacious fighter for all of the causes that he believed in.

Shakespeare wrote, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and their entrances; one man in his time plays many parts . . ."

So it was with PAUL. He was a soldier, having served in the Army in Korea and the Republic of China. He was a legislator, and emerged as one of the most ardent defenders of our American freedoms and our democracy, as a real true fighter for our two-party system. He was a Senator. He was elected by his colleagues to leadership in the U.S. Senate where he served as adviser, counselor, supporter, confidant for the Republican Party, and he gave an important voice to how our government conducts its business.

As a humanitarian, PAUL dedicated a segment of his life to leading the Peace Corps, an organization that needs no accolades in its efforts to lift the untouchables to places of respectability and to bring life and quality of life to people all across the world.

□ 1500

That was PAUL COVERDELL's commitment. He made numerous contributions in the Peace Corps, such as redesigning the agency's mission to serve the emerging democracies in Europe.

PAUL was a family man. He loved Nancy and his family, and he always held them dear. But PAUL was also a statesman; and everything that he did, he did it with dignity and with respect and with courtesy.

I have two personal stories or recollections and memories of PAUL. I have shared one, and that was his efforts in our conversations as he worked to try to recruit me as a Republican candidate for the State Senate in 1974.

But even more important than that was the kind of individual that PAUL was, the kind of integrity that he had. He was a man who was committed to integrity, who was committed to fairness, and who was committed to that which was right.

My colleagues may remember that former State Senator Julian Bond had been a member of the Georgia State

House of Representatives and had made some statements regarding the Vietnam War which angered his colleagues in the Georgia House. They got together, passed a resolution, and expelled him from membership in the Georgia House. So he could not take his seat.

Then Representative Bond filed a lawsuit, took it all the way to the Supreme Court; and the Supreme Court had to order the State House to grant him his seat to represent his constituents.

Shortly thereafter, Julian Bond ran for the State Senate and was elected overwhelmingly and became a member of that august body. But the hostility was so great in the Georgia House because of the resentment for Senator Bond and what he stood for that any piece of legislation that he offered that passed the Senate, even if it passed unanimously, once it got to the House it was doomed to a certain death, a certain death.

So PAUL and Julian were friends. Anything that Julian felt so strongly about that he wanted it to be passed he discussed with his friend, PAUL COVERDELL. PAUL would take Julian's ghost-written legislation and he would offer it under his name; and when it got to the House, it would secure the usual passage.

PAUL did that not because he wanted the limelight, not because he wanted the credit, but because he believed in doing that which was right; and if it was a good piece of legislation, he felt that it did not matter who wrote the bill. What was important was the result.

PAUL COVERDELL set an example for all of us in elective office to follow. It is not important that we be concerned about the partisanship as it is that we be concerned about the policy.

Yes, all the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players. Each has his entrance and his exit. One man in his time may play many parts.

And so to Nancy and to the Coverdell family, our prayers go out to you; and we will wrap our arms around you, and we urge the Almighty to grant you the peace of spirit that only he can grant at a time like this.

PAUL was our friend, PAUL was a statesman, and we will miss him very deeply.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) very much as the dean of our delegation for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Normally, we come down here to the well of the House to debate bills; and while we are sometimes loud and in heated debate, we are always having fun down here. This is one of those

times where we are not necessarily here having fun, although I cannot help but think about PAUL COVERDELL and some of the fun times we had together and some of his traits that have been coming back to me over the last couple of days.

I am reminded particularly about the fact that, I do not care where you saw PAUL, he always had that same white shirt and tie on. I have the great pleasure of representing the Okefenokee Swamp. We were down at the Okefenokee a couple years ago, and some of my colleagues were down there, and we were doing a press event. It was as hot as blazes. We were out there in the middle of the swamp, and all of us were dressed in our golf shirts and our khaki pants. Just as the news conference starts, here comes PAUL driving up with his white shirt, his suit pants, and his tie on. What a classy guy.

Two years ago I was doing an event for him, and I remember it was a farm event and we were over in Terrell County. And again, it was in August. August in Georgia, my colleagues, particularly south Georgia, is hot. We were out in the middle of a field looking at some peanuts out there. And again I am in my golf shirt and my khakis, and PAUL is out there just as cool as he can be in that white shirt and that tie.

As we sat under the shade tree that day talking to a group of farmers, he was just so impressive, not just in what he was saying but in the way he looked and in the way he carried himself. That is the PAUL COVERDELL that I am going to remember.

PAUL and I had a habit of talking to each other about once a week over the last couple years just about things in general. We did not always get a chance to sit down face to face. Sometimes we missed a phone call. But the guy had more political insight, not just partisan political insight, but political insight about things in this country.

I will always remember the fact that if I called him and talked to him about an ag issue, which I did on a regular basis, we talked about whatever it was; but then PAUL would get off and he would, SAXBY, let me tell you what we are doing with the Straight A's bill, this education bill that is going to mean so much to the children that your wife teaches and to other children all across this country.

And you would be talking to him about a defense issue, again which we do on a regular basis; and we talk about our 130s or our F-22 problem, whatever it was, and PAUL would say, Well, let me tell you about one other thing that I am working on, this drug issue with the Colombian drug bill that we are working on. Let me tell you what that is going to do for America. Let me tell you what a difference that is going to make to people all across this country.

That is the PAUL COVERDELL that I am going to remember.

He was a very unique individual, a person who had the ability to take difficult issues, to deal with difficult people with difficult issues and bring common sense and political responsibility to the forefront.

PAUL COVERDELL was truly a unique Member of the United States Senate. He was a great colleague of all of ours, whether you are Republican or Democrat; and that is evidenced by the fact that this is being done in a bipartisan way. Yesterday, on the floor of this House, it was evidenced in a bipartisan way that there was tremendous respect for PAUL COVERDELL.

We will miss him very much. We certainly wish the best for him and his family. His staff are just great people that my staff has had the pleasure of working with every single day that I have been a Member of this House.

PAUL COVERDELL had gotten so political in his thoughts that he probably designed his death to take place on the day of the Georgia primary, which happened to be yesterday. And I am betting you when he got to the pearly gates last night, the first thing he asked St. Peter was for a copy of the Republican election results from yesterday. That is the kind of guy that he was.

He was a great friend, a great individual. This country will miss PAUL COVERDELL.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I guess it is not a secret, PAUL COVERDELL and I were about as different as night and day. But vastly different paths in life led us both to serve in the Georgia legislature and then on to Congress so that we could work together on behalf of the people of the great State of Georgia. And when it came to the interests of the people of Georgia, we often saw eye to eye.

I want to send all of my deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Coverdell family and to all the people who knew and loved PAUL COVERDELL.

Immediately after the 1996 election, when I had been redistricted and had a vastly changed district and we were able to pull out a victory in a very close race, PAUL COVERDELL and I got together and decided that we needed to build bridges with each other so that we could do the work that the people of Georgia sent us both to do.

Our first project together resulted in about \$20 million being protected on the Senate side for my constituents who live in and about the environs of Peach Tree De Kalb Airport.

PAUL COVERDELL's latest project that we all were working on was a veterans cemetery for our Georgia veterans.

But more than anything else, I have to say that I am struck by the finality

of death and the incomplete way many of us in public life lead our lives. We are so busy, we are rushing here and rushing there and going to meetings and going here and going there and always, always, always in a rush and too busy to appreciate the people around us, too busy to stop and say "I love you," too busy to stop and say "I thank you" to the people who make a difference in our lives.

This past weekend, I was looking at the Coverdell report on television; and now I am standing here today sending condolences to PAUL COVERDELL's family.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the dean of our delegation, for providing us this resolution so that we can pay our respects to our senior Senator. I want to thank all of the people who are responsible for all of us being here serving our people of our State.

I would like to thank my colleagues, who, through difficult times, have stood beside me in particular. And perhaps I have not said thank you appropriately enough, but I want to say thank you today. I want to say thank you to my Georgia delegation members. Because we do not see eye to eye on a lot of issues and we do not even meet as often as we probably should, but I do not think there is a single issue that will benefit the people of our State that we do not come together and work on.

And then finally, I would like to thank the Coverdell family for sharing their leader with the people of our State and the people of our country for about 30 years of public service.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this resolution to the floor.

This is a sad day for all of us, and I am dearly impressed with the eloquence of my colleagues who have already spoken.

PAUL COVERDELL was indeed a good friend of ours. And it is difficult on occasions like this to say anything that lends full value to the life that he shared with all of us. I realize that labels and slogans themselves are often inadequate. But I will be very brief, and I have a few labels that I would like to put on PAUL COVERDELL.

The first is that he was a defender of democracy. That may seem to be a very bland statement, but he truly believed in this Republic that we have here as a country.

He believed that one of the great things that it embodied was the free enterprise system. And he, as a small businessman, grew his business to a successful national enterprise. So he was indeed a defender of democracy.

And he was a proponent of peace. We have heard the statements about his service as the Director of the United States Peace Corps. But in all of his dealings, both politically and personally, he was indeed a man of peace.

□ 1515

And he was, of course, a patriot with passion. You have heard of his service as a captain in the United States Army overseas. But he also brought that same degree of passion and patriotism to his public service, having been recognized by educational institutions and by other public institutions for his service both at the State level and here in Washington. And he was a statesman with stature.

Like many of my colleagues, we served with PAUL at the State legislative level. PAUL was in the State Senate when I arrived in 1981, and even though he was in the minority in that body, he was respected, because he displayed the kind of dedication to public service that all of us would like to have.

I recall that he was on the retirement committee. I want to tell you, folks, when you get assigned to the retirement committee in the Georgia legislature, you really do not aspire to that position. But he was one of those individuals that everybody, regardless of political party, would go to to ask about those intricate, detailed, often boring and mundane issues relating to retirement, and PAUL always knew what the answer was, because he was willing to do his homework. He was willing to work on the things that other people would want to cast aside because there was not enough public attention given to the subject. But PAUL knew how important things like that were; and that is, of course, what distinguished him here as well and made him a statesman with stature.

He was also and lastly a friend without reservation. He was somebody that you could talk with on a personal and intimate basis. You could rely on his judgment. You could trust the fact that he would keep confidences and he would give you the best and sound advice that he possibly could, both politically and personally.

Lastly, I would simply like to say that PAUL COVERDELL was a quiet man of courage, and he will be deeply missed.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, PAUL COVERDELL's passing is a great loss to the United States, to the other Chamber, to Georgia, to his wife, Nancy, and his family. He was a hardworking, thoughtful legislator who possessed the rare gift of leader-

ship and the even rarer gift of being a good man. The news of his death hit me hard, because I saw PAUL as more than a colleague. I saw him as a true friend, and more than that as a mentor.

When I was first elected to the Georgia Senate, he and I took a walk through his neighborhood to talk about the job that I would be facing. That was his style, quiet and purposeful. He was a teacher who was less concerned about who received the credit than he was of getting the job done.

Mr. Speaker, many others in Georgia's Third Congressional District feel the loss of PAUL COVERDELL. I spoke with several this morning who worked with PAUL to build the Republican Party in Georgia or who served with him in the Georgia legislature, people like Barbara Scruggs, chairperson of the Third Congressional District Republican Party. She said, "I've known PAUL since the first election he ran. I always admired how hard he worked for us. He was always quiet and unassuming and a great leader of the State of Georgia."

Former Congressman Bo Callaway said this morning, "This is such a shock to have PAUL in his prime of life so suddenly taken from us. I really think the people of Georgia and America will never know how much we have lost, for PAUL COVERDELL was really on the way to becoming one of our great leaders. It will be hard to imagine going on without him."

Ted Land, who served in Georgia's Senate with PAUL, said, "PAUL COVERDELL was a man of highest integrity. I never in my 10 years with PAUL ever heard him speak a mean-spirited word about anyone on either side of the aisle. A man of boundless energy, he was totally dedicated to serving his State and his party. The void created by his death will be extremely difficult to fill."

Former State Senator Arthur "Skin" Edge summed up PAUL in one word: patriot. He said that as he heard of the death of PAUL last night, the one thing that kept coming back to his mind is that PAUL COVERDELL is a 21st-century patriot. He stood for the principles that this country was founded on and fought for them all of his life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's Third District, we mourn PAUL COVERDELL's death, and we cherish the memories of his friendship.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD).

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) as dean of our delegation for bringing this resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, PAUL COVERDELL was a sterling example of what a United States Senator should be all about. He provided the kind of leadership for Georgia, America, and the world that

will be sorely missed. PAUL COVERDELL was unshakeable in his resolve to support the right policies for Georgia and America. Yet in 6 years of serving with him in Congress, I never heard him utter an unkind word toward any opponent. He was a man of reason, of principle, and provided a shining example of civility in action in the arena of public debate. That is unusual to find a man such as that.

He never to my knowledge backed down on principle; yet he held his ground with dignity and respect for the position of those who disagreed. And he never gave up.

Since coming to Washington in 1993, Senator COVERDELL fought to improve the education of America's children. That fight continues today. But because of his effort, I believe that fight will eventually be won because of his enthusiasm and his sincere belief that we could make it better. When it is, the final product will have the fingerprints of PAUL COVERDELL on every page.

Senator COVERDELL was likewise a champion of those who served this country in our Armed Forces. When Congress forgot the promises made to our veterans, PAUL COVERDELL reminded us all of those commitments. His legislation to restore those promises is still pending in both Chambers, and the finest tribute I think we could all pay to this true statesman would be to pass that measure into law before this session ends. Today, I recommit myself to helping make that happen.

There are far too many issues to mention in which Senator COVERDELL played a decisive role. But we need to reflect on PAUL COVERDELL's public service before he became a Senator, I think, because it reflects a lifetime of public service.

He began adult life, of course, by serving America in the U.S. Army in Korea and the Republic of China. He served his State in the Georgia Senate for nearly 2 decades. He served America and the world as the director of the Peace Corps, as we have heard, where his leadership in building democracy was vital in reclaiming much of Eastern Europe from the dictatorship of Communism.

Our hearts go out to Nancy Coverdell and the entire Coverdell family. They should be and are remembered in the prayers of this Nation in their hour of loss. And we should remember the loyal staff of Senator COVERDELL. Perhaps the strongest confirmation of the basic decency of a Member of Congress can be found in the affection of those who work with him every day, many times under the most trying circumstances. From the true grief that I personally know his staff to be feeling today, the decency of this great American is affirmed in full measure.

That slender thread of life by which we were tied to PAUL COVERDELL is now

broken. But the wisdom, the generosity, the civility, the patriotism, and the dedication which he brought to this Congress will never die. The leadership of PAUL COVERDELL will continue to live in the legislation he has enacted and has sponsored. We can best honor his memory by seeing the mission through, from giving our children a choice in education to restoring the health care of the defenders of America.

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to a great leader by picking up the fallen banner of Senator PAUL COVERDELL and carrying it through to victory. I personally feel a great loss for a dear friend; indeed, we all do, a man that we have all become very close to and loved, a quiet, gentle giant in the Government of America.

Today we pray for PAUL's soul and pray God will give comfort to Nancy and the Coverdell family.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of the resolution authored by the dean of the Georgia delegation, the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Let me first say to PAUL's lovely bride, Nancy, you have the love, the affection, and the prayers of this entire body on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Rotunda. We pay tribute today to the hardest-working man in the U.S. Senate. Although his venue has changed, the job description has not. PAUL COVERDELL is now the hardest-working man in heaven. I can hear him already, sleeves rolled up, white sleeves, of course, tie impeccable, saying, There must be some unfinished work up here in heaven, Lord. Point me in the right direction. I'm ready to work.

While PAUL COVERDELL never spoke from this well, but rather from the well on the other side of the Rotunda in the United States Senate, you could often hear his voice here, in front of this American flag that he loved and the country that it represents that he loved so deeply and so passionately. You could hear PAUL COVERDELL whenever we debated such issues of fundamental importance to the American people as those he had championed and loved: education, national defense, and always the needs, wishes, hopes, and desires of our citizens of his and our beloved State of Georgia. You could hear the passion, the conviction, and the patriotism always of PAUL D. COVERDELL. Those words, that passion, that commitment will echo out now forever across the ages as part of what former President Ronald Reagan called in his second inaugural address, the American sound. PAUL COVERDELL is now part of that American sound that

President Reagan identified as the sound of love, decency and compassion that has always echoed out across America and through the halls of its leadership and around the world, representing the very best of mankind.

PAUL COVERDELL is a friend. Though we briefly found ourselves, he and I, in a competitive race in the primary, in the primary runoff in 1992, we were friends before that race. Indeed, PAUL was my very first political friend when I moved to Georgia in the 1970s.

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I was referred to him by our mutual friend and my former boss at the CIA, George Bush. We remained friends throughout those two races in 1992, and we remained ever closer friends both immediately after and in the years since PAUL was elected with honor and dignity to the United States Senate in 1992.

I am reminded today in closing, as a man of God, I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is, too, of Matthew who tells us in chapter 5 in those words that are so familiar to all that there Beatitudes, blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

PAUL COVERDELL was a peacemaker. PAUL COVERDELL is a child of God, now and for the ages. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and God bless PAUL D. COVERDELL and his family.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this resolution to the floor today. Mr. Speaker, I thank each of my colleagues from Georgia for paying tribute today to our dear friend, and I hope everyone in this room and I hope everyone listening recognizes that 11 Georgians, Democrat and Republican alike, sit today under this symbol and in this room and pay tribute to a man who transcends politics and who in our State, as we have heard from each speaker, through example after example, changed lives and made them better.

Mr. Speaker, rather than repeat everything that has been said, I would just say this to those of us who are not from Georgia; if you have ever flown through Hartsfield International Airport, PAUL COVERDELL touched your life. If you ever came into Atlanta and rode on its rapid transit, PAUL COVERDELL touched your life. If you are a Georgia citizen whose life or the life of a loved one was saved because of a seat belt, PAUL COVERDELL touched your life.

While so many politicians talk a good game, PAUL COVERDELL lived one; but, you know, at a time like this when a contemporary of all of ours dies, it puts life into perspective.

It makes us think for just a minute what if I die. But for those of you who did not know him, let me just tell you this, PAUL did it all. He did it with dignity and with grace. He did it with passion and with understanding, and he did it with not a single evil touch to anything he ever did. He did it for the best of the United States of America and for the people of Georgia.

In my Sunday school class, in Marietta, Georgia in the Methodist church, we have a little book called *Leaves of Gold*, and in it there is a poem, and I cannot remember, but twice before that poem has been recalled to me in paying tribute to an individual, but it just seems to fit the life and the legacy and the lasting memory of PAUL COVERDELL.

I hope I can get through it, but it goes a little bit like this: I would rather see a good person than hear about one any day. And I would rather have a good person walk with me than merely point the way. For my eyes are better pupils and more willing than my ear, and fine counsel is confusing but examples crystal clear. And the best of all the people are the ones that live their creeds, for to see the good in action is what everybody needs. Oh, I will be very glad to do it if you let me see it done, but your tongue too fast sometimes may run. And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and very true, but I would rather get my lecture by observing what you do. For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give, but I will never misunderstand the way you act and the way you live.

Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with all of my colleagues to pay tribute to a man who acted and lived a life exemplary of the finest in public service, the finest in commitment to his wife and to his family and in the finest tradition of public service.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Nancy Coverdell has lost a great husband, as has the Coverdell family lost a great member. The United States of America has lost a great Senator. Georgia has lost a great leader and the Republican party in Georgia has lost the father of our party.

PAUL COVERDELL was the minority leader in the State Senate. He was the State Republican party chairman. He was the official Georgia connection to the Bush White House. He was the director of the Peace Corps. He was the United States Senator, and then also in the great Bush-Coverdell legacy, the official contact for the George W. Bush campaign.

He put our party on the map, and the reason I underscore that is, I believe

the State and its citizens are better for it. I believe that having two parties gives our voters every day a choice, and I believe I am a better Republican because of Democrat opposition. I hope that our Democrat counterparts, and I am sure they will agree, they would say they are better Democrats because of Republican opposition.

The State, indeed, is the winner. PAUL COVERDELL was a great strategist. I remember in 1974 my mother, who is a great newspaper clipper, sent me an article called the Gospel According to PAUL. And it was talking about this young guy running for the State Senate in Atlanta, who was doing strange things, like going door to door and having living room coffees and roadside sign wavings. And he was struggling in an uphill battle in a Democrat-controlled State to win, but he did win. I believe, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) has already said, there were only three Republican Members in the Senate at the time. I know by the time I got to the State House, there were a whopping nine Senators.

COVERDELL was the minority leader. But while he did not have numerical superiority, he did not let that keep him out of the ideas arena. And he was very competitive on ideas. At that time, Governor Joe Frank Harris was introducing a number of DUI laws.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) will remember COVERDELL passed and sponsored a bill in the Senate that said, you know, it is not just enough to give somebody a heftier DUI penalty, what we have found through research is a lot of these people are addicted to alcohol. We need to put in a component of mandatory assessment to see if they are addicted, and then we cannot just leave them addicted to alcohol, we need to have mandatory or at least optional treatment. This was a solid idea.

Mr. Speaker, I remember being on the Motor Vehicles Committee as he pushed that. PAUL COVERDELL was an ideas man. He also had a great world view. As director of the Peace Corps, he did not just use this, okay, this is my political plumb for helping President Bush along the campaign trail. He used it to promote farming in Third World countries, economic growth and development, medical help. Indeed, he saw the formula for world prosperity meant world peace, and it was great and important for the United States of America to be there leading the way.

PAUL COVERDELL was a sobby-eyed patriot in many ways. I remember when he was running for the U.S. Senate and I had him in my living room for a coffee, and at that time all of these people came, and they were asking very lofty intellectual questions about the world situation. PAUL was hanging in there with the best of them. In the middle of this, my small daughter,

Ann, 4 years old at the time, had left the playground where all of these kids were, came running into the living room, crashed through the circle of adults to the middle of where this dignified U.S. senatorial candidate was speaking, and said, Daddy, it was my turn in line to go down the slide and they pushed me down the slide and I fell down and hurt my heinie to which the whole audience starting laughing.

Senator COVERDELL was there, acknowledged the little girl and her plight and went on with his speech. And I thought it was so cute because he did not lose control, he kept that COVERDELL dignity through the whole thing. And, indeed, he carried that dignity and that gentleman manner with him everywhere he went.

As the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) has already said, he was a great organizer and a communicator. I remember in the 1992 campaign during the runoff one day, he was at Georgia Southern University, all kinds of people there, and he had done a TV and a radio interview, and he turned on his watch and he said, Jack, we have to go to this event. I said, PAUL, the game has not started. He said, well, we have got a schedule. I said but, PAUL, all of these people are here. He said, well, we really need to get to Savannah and keep our schedule. Indeed, we did leave and go to Savannah.

I was totally amazed and a little bit irritated by this, and only later did I realize the importance of him in terms of strategy; it meant everything, and that is why he could accomplish all of the things that he did accomplish. In our area, he fought as, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) said, for the veterans, the active soldiers at Fort Stewart, but the veterans in our area.

Agriculture, we all know in south Georgia good old "Senator Cloverdale." That is what the farmers would always call him. Well, let us just go ask Cloverdale. And they loved Mr. Cloverdale.

Education, if I go to talk to the teachers about educational savings acts, they like that idea. If I talk to seniors about Social Security and lockbox ideas, they like that idea.

PAUL COVERDELL had the uncanny ability, not just to have an opinion on every issue, but have a thought on every issue and a consequential action. He was a man of action.

His civility, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) knows, he worked with him very closely on passing the C.B. King Courthouse in Albany, Georgia. I remember, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) knows, he was friends of Mr. Bond. When Mr. Bond left the State Senate to run for the congressional seat, which the gentleman was successful in obtaining, PAUL COVERDELL was one of the men in the Georgia Senate who stood up and

gave a great farewell speech for Julian Bond.

I remember watching that and saying here is a liberal Democrat and the conservative Republican leader of the State. What is he doing? I said there is a lesson here. Bipartisanship and civility is important, and you should never let politics rule over policy.

A week ago, he called me at my home on Sunday. We had an issue in our area with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and we kind of got off path. He said, Jack, I think we are a little out of sync here. I just want to make sure that you and I are okay on this.

It was typical of COVERDELL, because I think so many of us, including me, and especially me, would have said, all right, you are way off base, I am right and you are wrong; not PAUL, he made it so that it was just so easy to get along.

He also told me a couple of weeks ago in a private conversation about committing to the team, when you are a Member of Congress, when you are a Member of an issue and you are associated with that issue, commit to your team and be proud to be on that team, even if the vote is an uncomfortable one.

He talked to me about Nancy. He said, you know, we are doing a little bit with real estate. I have to tell you Nancy is better at real estate than I am. She is real good at it. I will tell you what, you men know. It is a rare man who really privately one on one takes time to brag about his wife to another man, and that is a sign of a great marriage and a great husband and true love.

PAUL COVERDELL was a good Republican, a great strategist, a great ideas man, had a world view, had civility and integrity, a great organizer. He was energetic. He was a great communicator and a loyalist.

In short, PAUL COVERDELL was a statesman. Years ago, there was another Paul on this earth, and he tells us in a scripture that it is better to wear out than rust out. I would not submit to you that PAUL COVERDELL wore out, but I would also say he certainly did not wear out, and maybe in this institution which he loves so dearly we could say, and he would agree, the gentleman's time expired. But while the gentleman's time has expired, I also think we could evoke the words of St. Paul, one more time and say, well done, that good and faithful servant.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida, (Mrs. FOWLER), formerly from the State of Georgia.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I did grow up in the State of Georgia, and it was with a really heavy heart yesterday when I learned of the loss of PAUL

COVERDELL. PAUL and my dad served together in the Georgia State legislature, and though they were in different parties, they became good friends, and shared many funny stories together as they served.

When I came to the U.S. Congress 8 years ago, PAUL sort of took me under his wing and was such a dear friend to me and a mentor, and I could always go to him for advice and know I could always rely on it. He was such an outstanding man. We have been hearing people talk today about all the wonderful qualities that PAUL had, and when I think of PAUL, I think of someone who lived life with zest and enthusiasm, who loved his family, who loved his country, who loved serving the people.

He was the finest example of a public servant that I have ever known, a decent, honorable man, such deep integrity, who loved people so much and loved doing for them. I look back when he was director of the Peace Corps and all he did to guide and mentor those young people that were serving all around the world.

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So really today, as we all have very heavy hearts because we will all miss PAUL deeply, miss his friendship, miss his service, miss his strength that he brought to the representation of the State of Georgia in the United States Senate but most of all, PAUL, we are going to really miss you.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this resolution to the floor at this time. It is with deep regret that I rise to join my colleagues in mourning the loss of the remarkable public servant, Senator PAUL COVERDELL of Georgia. As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Senator PAUL COVERDELL was dedicated to fostering good relations with our neighbors in the Americas.

Among his many contributions, PAUL actively and ably cochaired our inter-parliamentary meeting with the Mexican Congress, and I was pleased to have had a personal relationship with PAUL in relation to his work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Last year, Senator COVERDELL was extremely proud to be able to host our Mexican colleagues in Savannah, Georgia. PAUL went to great lengths to make all of us feel welcome, including delivering a substantial portion of his opening address in Spanish, and I recall PAUL and Nancy guiding Georgia and I through his hometown and pointing out where they lived and pointing out

his offices. He had a great deal of pride in his city. It was certainly one of the most productive and pleasant inter-parliamentary meetings we held in Savannah.

Fortunately, PAUL was able to see the Mexican people secure full democracy for themselves through their recent elections on July 2, something that PAUL was strongly supportive of.

It was my privilege to work with Senator COVERDELL on a number of important regional issues. He was dedicated to defining and defending American interests abroad, and when it came time to stand up to support our efforts in our fight against illicit drugs, PAUL COVERDELL never failed the American people; always taking the lead in galvanizing support in the Senate for moving a substantial, meaningful aid package to help our troubled neighborhoods in the Andean region of South America and more recently particularly in Colombia.

Just last week, President Clinton signed into law a bipartisan emergency supplemental aid package for Colombia, and it was gratifying that PAUL was able to see the consummation of his extraordinary efforts to help our neighbors to the south.

Senator COVERDELL was a principled man. He was a leading voice in the Congress, calling for a firm response to the undermining of democratic institutions through the illegitimate elections in Peru; and we should honor Senator COVERDELL's leadership by strongly supporting his respect for democracy in Peru.

My spouse, Georgia, joins with me in extending our deepest condolences to PAUL's widow, Nancy. PAUL and Nancy were loved by many. We extend our sympathy, too, to the many people in Georgia and elsewhere who admired and followed this remarkable public leader.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of the Georgia delegation for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here with my colleagues from Georgia and other parts of the country to talk about our friend PAUL COVERDELL. No one could ask for a better friend than PAUL COVERDELL. I first met him when he was appointed director of the Peace Corps in the late 1980s, and at that time the attention in this House and around the world was focused on the emerging democracies of Eastern and Central Europe. In several meetings that we had in my office, PAUL COVERDELL was talking with such enthusiasm about creative ways in which we could help the people of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and other countries that were starting to get that first taste of freedom.

I was so struck with the dedication that this man showed that I made a decision early on that I wanted to do anything that I possibly could to help him. So he took me up on that. He took me up on it when in 1992 he called me and told me that he was going to run for the United States Senate. I thought, what a great idea. He asked me to help him, so I did; and I will never forget the day that I was flying to Atlanta from what is now, and I see Mr. BARR here, affectionately referred to as Ronald Reagan National Airport; and I was standing in the terminal with a former colleague of ours from the other side of the aisle, and he said, Well, why are you flying to Atlanta?

I said I am flying down to help PAUL COVERDELL win his election to the United States Senate.

Well, this former colleague of ours from the other side of the aisle laughed hysterically because he did not believe that PAUL had much of a chance to win, and there were a lot of people who did not think PAUL had a great chance to win. In fact, I suspected that this former colleague of ours from the other side of the aisle kind of thought that PAUL had about as much chance of winning as he did of losing.

So the fact of the matter is, we saw in PAUL COVERDELL a stick-to-itiveness that was very, very impressive. He was dedicated to his work.

I spent time traveling in Georgia with him, and he had a couple of events. There were a few people who attended a number of those events. I assumed it was because they had announced that I was going to be there. But the fact of the matter was, this guy never gave up. He was a real fighter.

One of the things that we have so often found in these Members who worked with him closely in Georgia for decades know that whenever someone wanted a job to be done, the person to whom they would look was PAUL COVERDELL because when this guy said that he was going to take on a job and do it, he did it.

We so often hear the juxtaposition between work horses and show horses in this place, and we all know that PAUL COVERDELL epitomized the work horse. He was a guy who was extremely dedicated.

I am so happy that the chairman of the Committee on International Relations reminded us of his having hosted the Mexican Interparliamentary Conference along with, I remember the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) was there with us when we held that meeting and PAUL was so proud of the opportunity to host that very important meeting.

I served with him as a cochairman of the Republican House-Senate Dinner. Boy, that guy was absolutely relentless when it came to our goal of building a strong Republican Party, and as has

been said by our colleagues from the other side of the aisle, he, working for a strong Republican Party, knew that ultimately working in a bipartisan way was the only way that we could actually get things accomplished.

My thoughts and prayers go to Nancy and other members of the family, and I cannot say what a shocking and devastating loss this is, not only for this great institution of ours but for the Nation as a whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The Chair advises that the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) has expired.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XVII, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 1 hour on the resolution.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe for the ages Senator PAUL COVERDELL will be remembered as one of the most thoughtful, diligent, and detail-oriented Members in the history of the United States Senate. Who would have ever thought this time last week that we would be here today paying tribute to the memory of Senator COVERDELL?

There are times here where everything seems to stand still, and this is one of those days where we come together at the water's edge, as people, as God's children, no differences, to pay the proper tribute to a truly great public servant. A lot of political people skim the surface, stay on the surface from fear of the details, from fear of the slip of the tongue, from fear of incompetency on very complicated matters of the day, but not Senator COVERDELL.

My experience with him was a fearless master of details and complexity, never worrying about how far deep he would swim into issues, about whether he could comprehend them or always carry a host of things going on at the same time. Unbelievable, really, in his capacity to carry all of the different issues with him and stay that intricately involved. It really bodes well for public service in America that people like PAUL would dedicate his life to others through public service.

As a Tennessean who was born in Georgia when my dad was on active duty at Fort Benning, my dad always said that it cost \$12 for me to be born at Fort Benning, and he still wonders if he got his money's worth; but that is my Georgia roots, and I am a Southerner. Georgia mourns the loss today of a truly great United States Senator, but the South has lost one of its greatest leaders as well.

I come as a Southerner today to say, Nancy, we are sorry; to the Georgia delegation, we are sorry that they have

lost their friend and lifetime companion in the flesh.

Last October I was coming to the Chattanooga Airport to leave right after Payne Stewart had died tragically at the height of his career, and you think about PAUL at 61 years old, he is really politically at the height of his career and he is gone in the flesh, right at the height of his ability to effectively carry out the responsibilities as a United States Senator and he is gone.

I said to R.V. Brown, a pastor who I know who I ran into at the airport, Reverend R.V. Brown is that not unbelievable that Payne Stewart just vanished like that in the flesh? And here is what he said, and it was a great comfort to me, and I hope it is great comfort to Nancy and others who mourn the loss of PAUL COVERDELL. He said sometimes the Lord picks the ripest fruit to have the greatest impact on everyone around that individual.

I believe that the United States Senate, the United States House, the State of Georgia, the South, the United States of America, mankind at large can come closer together and truly appreciate each other more because of this moment when we forever and ever memorialize a fine person and a great public servant, Senator PAUL COVERDELL. Good-bye, sir.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), the chairman of the Morning Prayer Breakfast each Thursday, for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the deputy whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for yielding the floor to me.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday some of us took the floor in an unanticipated moment to wish the very best and to extend our thoughts and our prayers to Senator COVERDELL, his wife, Nancy, and to their family, as they struggled with this unanticipated challenge. Today, just a few hours beyond, almost exactly 24 hours beyond, the time that we were so hopeful in those last moments of PAUL COVERDELL's life that he would continue to be with us, beyond the time when we thought that if anybody could come back from any challenge it would be PAUL COVERDELL, beyond the time when we thought that if anybody else could do this, could be back in a year, he could be back in a few months, we are here today with a person who has been so important in this building to both the House and the Senate and so important to the country, gone from us.

I was moved by the observation that our friend, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), just made about how the Lord may take someone at such an inopportune time in their life to challenge the rest of us to meet a

new standard in our life, a new standard with each other, a new standard of public service, a new standard of being able to reach out as PAUL was famous for to others and say, gee, you have got a lot to do here, can I help you? At the same time, we know that PAUL every time he was saying that it seemed that when you would think about it that he surely had more to do than the person he was offering to reach out and help, but his predisposition in life was to help other people.

I did not know PAUL COVERDELL when I came to Congress 3½ years ago. In fact, I did not really know him except to speak to him in the hallways of the House and the Senate where he was always friendly to me until about a year and a half ago when he and I were both asked to be on the exploratory committee for Governor Bush. That was a 10-person committee. Our jobs were to represent the governor with the House and the Senate in that year and a half. There was not a week that we did not talk on the phone, and many weeks that we saw each other, just to compare notes, just to talk about what was happening.

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Even in that relationship, he would often say, well, you have 200 people over there that you are talking to and dealing with and I only have about 55 over here. Can I help you do anything to make your job in the House easier? I usually observed that probably it was easier to deal with a couple of hundred House Members than 55 people from the other body. He would always smile.

Mr. Speaker, I told somebody not too long ago that there were many good reasons to do that particular job, as the liaison for the Bush Committee, but I would have done it knowing what I knew then, and this was 2 or 3 months ago with no anticipation of this moment, certainly. I would have done it all just to have the chance to work with PAUL COVERDELL. He was that kind of person. He was the kind of person that all of us who got a chance to work with him I am sure were looking forward to a couple more decades of that relationship, not thinking that each time we saw him might be the last time we saw him; but thinking, now, I wonder what it is that we can next do that allows us to work together, because it was such a joy and a privilege to work together with him.

I told someone earlier today that one of the things that one really noticed when one dealt with our friends on the other side of the Capitol was the interesting oil that PAUL COVERDELL added to the process just to make things work that otherwise you did not quite know during a meeting how they might have worked if Senator COVERDELL had not been there. Of course now we are challenged to know how they would work, but we do know the example he

set of making things work, the example he set of being willing to reach out to other people, the example he set of always trying his best to appear to be the most humble guy in the room, the person who would be the most likely to take the most difficult assignment, the person who would never show any sense that there was any job that needed to be done that was below or beneath him as an individual. It is a standard that is hard to achieve, frankly, in politics and government, and even hard to achieve in this building; but it is one that he established so well that he made serving others and doing the most menial job seem like that, somehow, that was the most important thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss him in this building. We will miss him in our relationships between this House and our friends on the other side of the Capitol. We will miss his willingness to work, his capacity, his insight. But as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) observed earlier, maybe there is a challenge here. There is a purpose in most things in life; and if we search for the purpose of this, one of the purposes might be to emulate some of the things that are so easy to say about PAUL COVERDELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is written somewhere, we will miss him tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, the honorable JOHN LEWIS, the dean of the delegation, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the other members of the Georgia delegation, affording us this time to speak about Senator PAUL COVERDELL. The Rules of the House do not permit us to refer to the other body or Members of the other body, and we seldom do speak about them. This is exceptional, because PAUL COVERDELL was really an exceptional person. I think he did touch our lives. Certainly those of us who live in Florida who have to fly through Atlanta understand very well the meaning of having the Atlanta airport there.

What I wanted to talk a little bit about today is the loss to Nancy and his family, to the State of Georgia, and to our country. I think it is pretty much of an incalculable loss, and it is obviously very painful if we have listened to the speakers who have gone before.

We are going to miss PAUL COVERDELL deeply, and we are going to miss him for a very long time to come, not only as a person, but for the skills he brought to the art and science of

crafting legislation and people persuasion here in these hallowed halls of the United States Congress.

To me, he had several distinctive hallmarks. They were honor and decency, things that count for a lot here. And effectiveness and accomplishment, of course, the way we are measured. Those of us who were privileged to work with him knew of this literally unrelenting energy. He was a man who could tire out the most hard working of us. He certainly had the intellect to challenge us as well. We all admired his ability, as we have heard testimony to, to find common sense solutions that seemed to work for all sides in a given debate. Those are wonderful people skills. As the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) said in his testimony on the floor, that unquestioning integrity was also another PAUL COVERDELL trademark. That is very high praise.

I well recall his commitment to fighting the war on drugs, just one of the many things he did here, and to his finding a way to get the money to pay for fighting the war on drugs, which is the harder part. His contribution to that was characteristically second to none; and more importantly, he was successful. And that success is now being employed on the front lines in Colombia and in other meaningful ways, and that will affect America as well and those who are concerned about the scourge of drugs on our youth and on our quality of life in this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say for my wife and myself and other neighbors in the neighboring State of Florida, we send our condolences, our keen sympathy, and our love to Nancy and the people of Georgia. PAUL COVERDELL was a man who gave so much. He was taken too soon.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family and staff of Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

I admired and appreciated Senator COVERDELL's commitment to stopping the flow of illegal drugs across our borders and his tireless efforts to expand educational opportunity in America. Senator COVERDELL demonstrated the effectiveness of quiet, but persistent, leadership. He has been hailed as a workhorse and, indeed, his dedication to public service is an example to every official at every level of Government who works for the public good.

My former chief of staff, Ziad Ojaki, is the chief of staff in the Senator's leadership office. On behalf of all of us who are friends of Z and have worked with him over the years, I wish to convey our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and staff of Senator PAUL COVERDELL. They are in our prayers.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the Georgia delegation, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. LINDER, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BARR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DEAL and Mr. COLLINS, I move the previous question on the resolution.