

Constitution did not have to be amended to balance the budget and that hard work and hard choices are what is needed in budgets, as in life.

Senator LAUTENBERG and I share a commitment to our transportation infrastructure and we have made it one of our top priorities. He is the ranking member of the Transportation Appropriations subcommittee. I have worked very closely with my friend from New Jersey, who serves with me on that subcommittee. We have toiled together on a wide variety of projects important to West Virginia and the Nation. And we have been doing this for a long time. When we were in the majority, when I was chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, FRANK LAUTENBERG was the chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee. For too long, the Federal Government has underinvested in our Nation's highways. As a key member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, FRANK LAUTENBERG played an active role in crafting TEA-21, the historic transportation bill that was enacted last Congress which is an important step toward fixing past mistakes and assuring Americans of safer, more modern highways and improved public transit. We share the belief that a strong infrastructure is vital and makes a profound and positive difference for hundreds of millions of Americans by saving lives, reducing injuries, increasing business investment, expanding employment opportunities, and producing savings to the public and to the private sectors.

Senator LAUTENBERG has also worked to make transportation safer. He championed laws to make 21 the national drinking age, which has saved an estimated 12,000 lives since 1984. And he has sponsored legislation—and I have been proud to cosponsor it with him—to make .08 blood alcohol content the national standard for the illegal operation of a vehicle. In addition, Senator LAUTENBERG and I have worked together on efforts to combat underage drinking.

Senator LAUTENBERG is a strong environmental leader who helped to write the Superfund, Clean Air, and Safe Drinking Water Acts. Most Americans take safe drinking water for granted; however, the sad fact is that, in this, the most prosperous Nation in the world, millions of people rely on possibly contaminated water supplies. FRANK LAUTENBERG understands that. He understands that like improved highways and bridges, effective and efficient and clean water systems are vital to the continued economic expansion of our Nation and the health and safety of our people.

In his statement on February 17, 1999, announcing his plans for retirement, FRANK LAUTENBERG cited as one of the main factors of his decision his frustration with the overwhelming amount of

financial resources needed for his upcoming reelection campaign. That is a shame; that is a shame. He believes—and has so stated—that without meaningful campaign finance reform, special interest funding will grow substantially, and even larger amounts of money will be necessary. That is a shame and a disgrace. I regret that we have not been able to address campaign financing in a meaningful way. I regret that the deplorable influence of money—filthy lucre—in politics has had such a detrimental impact on the Senate.

Senator LAUTENBERG knows what it is like to start from nothing and less than nothing and make the most of every opportunity. He has worked to make the lives of his constituents, and all Americans, better. From building up our country's infrastructure, to battling those who would attack our constitutional liberties, to protecting our environment, Senator LAUTENBERG has worked to provide a brighter future for our Nation. He has worked to improve our public schools. I have no doubt that my good friend and colleague will not rest on his laurels after he leaves the halls of Congress. FRANK LAUTENBERG will continue to serve so that others will have the opportunities that have lifted him to a place where he could serve the greatest Nation on Earth.

I thank Senator LAUTENBERG for his service to the Senate and to the Nation. I tried to talk him out of retirement. I urged him to think again, change his mind, change his decision for the good of the Senate and for the good of the country and, I am sure, for the good of New Jersey, but I know that it would be for the good of the Senate. I wish he could still change his mind. I am sorry he made that decision, but he had his reasons. He did what he thought was best, I am sure.

I thank him for his service to the Senate. He won't be leaving this afternoon or tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, but the time for him with us is all too short. The Senate will have lost a good man and a fine, fine Member. America will have lost a good servant. But, as I said, it may be that he will serve elsewhere. In any event, I wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

As I say farewell to him, I recall these words from the great American author of the 19th century, Ralph Waldo Emerson. It is entitled "A Nation's Strength."

What makes a nation's pillars high  
And its foundations strong?

What makes it mighty to defy  
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand  
Go down in battle shock;

Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,  
Not on abiding rock.

It is the sword? Ask the red dust  
Of empires passed away;

The blood has turned their stones to rust,

Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown  
Has seemed to nations sweet;  
But God has struck its luster down  
In ashes at His feet.

Not gold but only men can make  
A people great and strong;

Men who for truth and honor's sake  
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,  
Who dare while others fly—

They build a nation's pillars deep  
And lift them to the sky.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The Senator from New Jersey.

#### SERVING IN THE SENATE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, what a wonderful coincidence it is that I came to the floor to hear my good friend, Senator BYRD, make such exaggerated remarks about my accomplishments but never about our friendship.

Around here, our seats are based on seniority. You kind of move to the middle or to the front as your seniority improves. But it is not where you sit that counts; it is where you stand.

Senator BYRD has stood for the right things for this country for more years than any of the people in this room will remember because it has been such a long history. It is not newly emplaced.

There is a commercial around that is often seen on television and radio that says—I think it is for PaineWebber—when PaineWebber speaks, everybody listens. That is an adaptation because when Senator BYRD speaks, everybody listens. And everybody can read Senator BYRD's books on the history of the Senate to learn what it really takes to be a Senator.

It takes more than just getting a slice of the largess that we call funds; it takes more than the incredible loyalty, as profound as it is, such as Senator BYRD has to this State—it transcends those things—that, frankly, has made a difference in the world in which we live. Whenever there is a question, whenever Senator BYRD speaks—and my experience is principally on our side of the aisle because we have our weekly meetings and occasional get-togethers—people listen because he is the historian of the Senate. He is, in many ways, the conscience of the Senate. He is a spokesman for the Senate, not just because he is an eloquent speaker but because of his knowledge and character.

I thank the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, my friend, ROBERT C. BYRD, for his comments. There is always a degree of eloquence and recall when he speaks. And if you have some spare time, if you ever want to hear about the history of battles that took place in Roman times or the list of Kings and Queens of the UK from a time earlier than William the Conqueror to the present date, how

they died and what they stood for or what counts in terms of the Constitution of this country, Senator BYRD has that knowledge. Senator BYRD walks around with the Constitution in his pocket just as people walk around with phone numbers, and it is used and remembered.

It was a happy day for me when I was able to get on the Appropriations Committee and join Senator BYRD on so many issues for which we have fought. He reminds us that there is kind of a cultural aspect in the United States that so many of us want to give something back. I learned to give back by watching my parents as they struggled to raise a family in very tough times, with very modest wages and opportunities. I understood it in the Army when my father was on his deathbed, my mother was 36 years old, and my sister was 12. That was our family. My father was 42. I did it because it was my duty. At that time, I saw what happened to a family that was without health insurance, without any Social Security, without any kind of a benefit that would really help a widow with a small family.

Not only did my father die and leave the grief that followed, but his sickness, which lingered for a year, took any and all resources the family had. As a matter of fact, debts piled up as my father disintegrated. So I saw what happens to people who don't have a way of taking care of these needs. I saw what happens when a family is bereft of the opportunity to recover from that kind of a challenge.

I was lucky in some ways because as we lost a great man in our household, I was the beneficiary of an opportunity to help my family later on. The GI bill allowed me to go to a university that otherwise would have been out of my reach, no matter how far we stretched. We didn't have student loans and the kind of scholarships that exist now. I was a soldier and I had the GI bill. It armed me with an avenue to the future not simply because, as I have said here before, of the subjects I studied but because of the horizons that were opened to me about what could be, not that to which I was accustomed.

My experiences taught me about giving back. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to give back, whether it is to help create an industry—Senator BYRD referred to our business success. Two colleagues and I started a business, as they say, without a dime. Today, that company employs not 16,000, as it did when I came to the Senate in 1983, but 33,000 people. It is a business that was begun by three kids, literally, who came from the wrong side of town—the right side of the street but the wrong side of town. On our side of the street there were hard-working people. Most of them were immigrants, I would say. They knew they had to work with their hands to make a living. They weren't

the scientists, the doctors, and the professionals we see today coming out of colleges. They didn't even have a chance, for the most part, to get to high school. So we created an industry, not just a company. What good fortune there was in our lives. The fact is that we are all healthy and we have terrific grandchildren. I have eight of them and the oldest is only 6, and they are more satisfied to see and talk to Senator BYRD than anything else in life.

The next great honor to me, after fatherhood, was to come to the Senate and to be able to be in this body—even with all of its defects—which reflects the structure of man and the structure of community. But if you look beyond the defects, you can see how many great people have come through this place and how many great people have yet to be recognized who are now Members of this great institution.

Mr. President, I leave with considerable misgivings. I am not happy about the decision I have made to leave. I do know this: Just as we came at different times in our lives, others will follow us who will also make contributions, who also will do the right thing for the people of our country. This country is in good hands. Every moment may not be a great moment, but this country's fundamentals are in place to make sure society will continue to grow and progress and harmonize in the years ahead. When we look at the defects, we see problems here and there and everywhere. But look beyond that. Look at the number of great people we have in our country who are fair-minded people. Look at what is happening now in the Presidential race, where one fellow is an Orthodox Jew who has been accepted and embraced across the country because the country is so fair. They are looking at this person as an individual and judging him on his ability to serve. That is what tells us about the character of our people. When you look at places in Government, you see people who, though listed as minorities, are great achievers, whether in administrative posts or law or science. That is what we are looking at as we look ahead into this 21st century.

I thank all of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats. I believe that I am considered at times an argumentative fellow by some of my colleagues on the other side. That doesn't mean there is no affection.

One of the things that Senator BYRD portrays is character—a very special kind of character.

It is amazing to me how much respect and admiration one can have for people with whom one can have enormous differences and yet have incredible affection for them because they are respected for their beliefs, even though those beliefs may differ at times with the ones you hold. Whether it is the most ardent progressive or liberal or the most ardent conservative,

they are done honestly. They are expressed honestly with respect for people.

That should be our mission—not to try to overturn or lecture people at various stages, but when someone comes here, having been selected by his or her State to serve, that is their entrance to the debate; their entrance to legislate; their entrance to decision-making and how this country is going to function.

I don't want to leave here with a tear in my eye. I may feel that way, perhaps, but I am so proud that I was able to serve my country and to be a part of the Senate.

Senator BYRD could give you the statistics immediately. I round it off. I think it is about 1,820 people—1,853. I knew Senator BYRD would be precise—1,853 have had the privilege of serving here since the founding of this country.

Think about it. Millions of people have lived and passed through society, and, in all those 200 years, 1,853 have been granted the honor and the privilege of serving here.

When it comes time to pack up the bags and leave, I will not do it necessarily willingly, but I will do it gratefully, knowing that I have had a chance to be here to witness history in the making, which occurs almost daily, and to know that someday one of my grandchildren—the oldest is six; he has some way to go before he goes to college—will be able to look in the database from his home, from his school, and say: There was my grandfather. He was the one who stopped smoking on airplanes. He was the one who raised the drinking age to 21—saving thousands of families from having to mourn the loss of a child. But he was the one who did other things to help this country that will last way beyond his service in the Senate.

I say to Senator BYRD that when he gives testimonial, it has meaning and credibility. It is special, and I truly appreciate it.

Mr. President, I ask whether the Senate is going to remain open for a while or do we have an order that would have us be closing down soon?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no such order.

#### THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am thoroughly upset about what is happening in the Middle East—watching people cower in fear, and some dying moments later as violence escalates. It is a terrible sight to see on television. It is a terrible sight to see in pictures and in the newspapers. It is terrible news to hear reports that after so much effort and so much concern for peace there is this carnage.

I think everyone probably knows that I have had a longtime interest in Israel. I have been there many times.