

and sundry requests that have been made by the very distinguished Senator. I want to compliment, also, the Parliamentarian. It was a joy to hear the Chair intervene at the right place and to say the right things for the RECORD. I saw that he was being guided by the Parliamentarian. So much of the time, I think we do our work in a rather shoddy fashion here. I am glad to see the Parliamentarian very alert, watching, listening, and prompting the Chair. That is the way it should be so the RECORD will read today in such a manner as will make us proud. Sometimes, I guess, we forget that future generations will be reading the RECORD. Not only that, but we Senators should learn as well how to handle these matters. It does me good to see a Chair who is alert and a Parliamentarian who is alert.

LISA TUIITE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, once in a while an individual comes along who shines with such a special light that it illuminates the darkness for others. I have been fortunate to employ one such individual on my staff for the last 8 years: Lisa Tuite. Lisa achieved her master of arts degree in national security studies from Georgetown University in 1990 and her bachelor of arts degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. She came to my office as a legislative fellow from the National Photographic Interpretation Center. I soon recognized her talent. Lisa was employed in my office to serve as a legislative assistant for defense and foreign affairs and to assist me on the Armed Services Committee. She has done all of these things and done them well. Eventually she rose through the ranks to become my administrative assistant.

Multitalented, thoughtful, with an encyclopedic grasp of detail, Lisa Tuite has been an inspiration to my staff and she has been an inspiration to me.

I have been here on Jenkins Hill for 48 years, longer than anybody else who is in the Congress today in either body. JOHN DINGELL is the dean of the House of Representatives. I served with JOHN DINGELL's father in the House. I speak of JOHN DINGELL in a very admiring fashion. He is a man of tremendous talent, a fine, fine Member of the House. But I have been around quite a while, and I have seen a lot of people come and go in the Chamber here, as well in my employment, as one can imagine—48 years, starting out in the House of Representatives with five persons on my staff a long time ago.

I have seen Senators come and go. I have seen our staffs at the front desk come and go. But this particular individual, of whom I speak today, merits my highest compliments. I have rarely employed anyone with her patience, her writing ability, her organizational

instincts or her boundless energy. She is that rare breed of Senate staffer, seemingly born for the job and eager to do it. Moreover, as anyone who knows Lisa can attest, she is resolute, unflappable, and unfailingly cheerful. I have seldom seen her discouraged, and there is literally no task that she will not assume with relish, and always un-failing in her courtesy. I shall miss her.

She has the soul of a gardener. It is a hobby at which she excels. She is a cultivator of beauty and a nurturer of growth. I am speaking not only with respect to plants and flowers and, yes, crops; but I am speaking also with reference to other individuals. For my other employees, she has been an inspiration as well. The young staffers whom she has so carefully tended and so artfully encouraged have blossomed, blossomed like the daffodils, blossomed under Lisa's tutelage. She has graciously focused her sunshine upon them all, upon all who work with her.

Alas, as all good things come to an end, at least all things that are mortal, Lisa will be leaving my staff to spend more time with her husband Jim, her mother and father, and her adorable daughter Rachel. And I am the loser. I am saddened to lose her, but I know that she will grace whatever she puts her heart and hand to in the future years as she has done in my office for the too brief time that she worked among us and with us and lent us her gracious smile and her scintillating personality, her wit, her good sense, her good judgment, her dedication, her loyalty.

So to Lisa, my staff and I say:

The hours are like a string of pearls,
The days like diamonds rare,
The moments are the threads of gold,
That bind them for our wear,
So may the years that come to you,
Such health and good contain,
That every moment, hour, and day,
Be like a golden chain.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, soon, the 106th Congress will draw to a close, and with that final bell, the Senate careers of a number of very fine Members will also, suddenly, draw to a close. Such are the wages of service in this Republic. Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, Senator GRAMS, Senator ASHCROFT, Senator ABRAHAM will have answered their final rollcall. They will have waited through their final quorum calls and they will have left the Senate floor, as a Member of this body, for a final time. Oh, they may be back to visit, and I hope they will come back to visit. They will always be welcome here. But I am sure that the Senate floor is not quite the same when one is not allowed to vote or to make a statement.

However, these distinguished Members will always be a unique part of the Senate family and of the Senate's his-

tory. In the history of this great Republic—I do not speak of it as a democracy, I speak of it as a Republic; as a representative democracy, yes—in the history of this great Republic, there have only been 1,853 men and women who have served here since April 6 of 1789. In January 2001, that number will rise to 1,864. These names can be found listed in rank order, a list that is immutable and irreplaceable.

More than that, each Senator becomes a part of the institution of the Senate. Each Member's actions help to shape the precedents and the practices of the Senate, just as a Member's amendments, bills, and votes shape the legislative history of the land. The singular honor of serving in the United States Senate leaves its mark on each Member. I am tempted to say that each Member leaves his or her mark on the Senate, but that would not be accurate. Few Senators perhaps leave their mark on the Senate, but the Senate leaves its mark, unblemished, unstained, on the life of every Member.

I wish today to speak of two of these departing Senators with whom I have worked closely over the years: Senator CHARLES "CHUCK" ROBB and Senator SLADE GORTON. Senator GORTON's number among the roll of Senators is 1,752. Senator ROBB's number is 1,788. They are listed on the roll of Members of the United States Senate. Senator ROBB, Senator GORTON, and the other departing Members, will carry the badge of Senate service with them. It is a badge of honor that they will carry with them.

These men are much more than a name or a number, of course. Senator ROBB has been a dedicated public servant. He has served his country in many ways. I have served with him on the Senate Committee on Armed Services where he was most recently the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. He was also a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and he was for many years a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

As a former marine, as well as a representative of a Commonwealth with a very large military presence, Senator ROBB was a tireless advocate for the men and the women who labor in uniform and in other intelligence and supporting roles to protect our great Nation. Senator ROBB has also sought to protect and further the economic health of the Nation.

He has served this Nation in many ways, from active duty as a United States Marine to Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia to United States Senator. To his service here, he has brought a conscience. He charted his own course, made his own votes and his decisions using his moral compass rather than polls or media campaigns.

I will always remember Senator ROBB for his gentle courtesy, his calm and