

members of my staff have helped make this an experience I will cherish.

I have undoubtedly left out a number of individuals whom I want to thank and I have tried to thank.

I also thank the people who have made this a very good experience for my wife Lynda, particularly the prayer groups. She has been associated with several of those. I understand she gets to continue her membership in the prayer groups and the spouses group, even though I will become a former Member and will leave these premises.

Mr. President, I say to all of my colleagues that they are a group of principled, compassionate, caring men and women, many of them friends. We may have disagreements. Some of those are principled disagreements. In fact, I just attended what may be the last Democratic conference called by our leader. I say once again, I heard members express in passionate terms their commitment to doing what they believe is in the best interest of their State and the Nation, and I think that is something that may not always be apparent. Again, that occurs on both sides of the aisle. I am particularly grateful to many who have demonstrated the courage to stand up and be counted when it was not always politically popular.

Finally, I want to make a brief comment about the leadership. I thank the majority leader for the courtesies he and the members of his staff have extended to me.

I conclude with a special note of thanks to someone I consider an extraordinary leader, who is kind enough to be here for these couple of minutes, TOM DASCHLE, the current Democratic and minority leader who will become on January 3 through January 20 the majority leader. As a point of personal privilege, I look forward to that time.

He and the team that he has put together have been exceptional leaders. I see the distinguished whip HARRY REID on the floor, as well. They have led by example. They have led by inclusion. And they have led by listening. They have been friends. They have been effective. They have been leaders in the truest sense in that they have caused us to want to work with them to make the institution run and to get the job done.

So, Mr. President, to you, as a personal friend, and as a representative of our colleagues, and to all of our friends who have been kind to me and have supported some of the things I have done over the years, may I express my profound thanks.

I take leave of the Senate proud to have had the opportunity to serve in this great institution.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I will use my leader time, if I may, at this time.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CHARLES ROBB

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator ROBB on his remarks. I thank him very much for sharing them with all of us.

These past elections brought our caucus nine new members and we hope many new opportunities to address America's priorities. But they also handed us a great disappointment, the loss of our friend and colleague, CHUCK ROBB.

I am appreciative of the opportunity that I had just now to listen to Senator ROBB, maybe for the last time on this Senate floor. I had feared he might leave without giving us a chance to thank him for his remarkable service to the Senate. It would have been like him to do so; he is an enormously modest man.

In an editorial the day before the election, the Washington Post wrote:

Even in the final days of a nip-and-tuck campaign, Senator Chuck Robb seems uncomfortable singing his own praises. While some voters may find this quality refreshing, Senator Robb's reluctance to tout his accomplishments hides them too effectively in a tight race.

CHUCK ROBB's reluctance to promote himself—his commitment to sound policies over sound bites—may have cost him reelection, but they have earned him the respect of his peers and this Nation.

In 12 years in this Senate—and for 8 years before that as Lieutenant Governor and then Governor of Virginia—CHUCK ROBB rarely spoke about himself. He has always been more comfortable speaking on behalf of others—the people whose voices too often are not heard at all.

Today, on what we hope could be the last day of this Senate, I want to say just a few things about him that he will not say about himself, just to remind us what a good man—what a good man—with whom it has been our good fortune to work.

As we all recall, he was elected to the Senate in 1988, with the largest vote total for any office in Virginia's history. It was the first time in 22 years that Virginia had not sent a Republican to the Senate.

He has spent his Senate career working for Virginia and for what he calls the “long-range, big picture, important issues”: national security, a balanced budget, education, and civil rights—for all Americans.

He is a member of the Finance Committee and the Joint Economic Committee. He is the only Member of the Senate ever to serve simultaneously on all three national security committees: Intelligence, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations.

He is a former member of the Budget and Commerce Committees, as well as the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, where he cochaired a task force

that declassified and released vast quantities of information on missing U.S. service members.

Quietly, with little fanfare, he has provided a steady leadership that has helped keep our Nation safe and move us forward.

He is a lifelong fiscal conservative.

In 1993, he voted for the deficit reduction plan that launched the strongest economic recovery in our Nation's history. He remains an important part of the Senate's economic conscience, always reminding us that our job isn't finished, that we must pay down our national debt.

He has been a tireless fighter for education, the chief sponsor of our proposal to help States and local school districts build and renovate 6,000 schools.

He fought to reduce class sizes by hiring 100,000 teachers and to make America's schools safer and stronger.

He helped create new partnerships to connect every school in America to the Internet.

He is as hard a worker as you will find in this body.

In 12 years as a Senator, incredibly, he has missed only 10 votes.

As chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in 1991 and 1992, CHUCK ROBB shattered fundraising records and ended his term with the strongest majority for our party in 20 years.

He cares deeply about the values on which our party is founded. But there are values he holds even more dearly than party loyalty. A reporter asked him recently who his political heroes are. He listed two. One was the late Bill Spong, another thoughtful, effective Virginian, who served one term in this Senate and was the first southern Senator from a State covered by the Voting Rights Act to vote for the act.

He said his other political hero was a man we all knew, our friend, John Chafee, “because he worried about women's health, poor children, and the environment, and reached across party lines to find solutions.”

Reaching across party lines, being willing to work and look in new places for new solutions—that is something Senator ROBB has done his entire life.

He grew up in a Republican family. He is a founder and past chairman of the centrist Democratic Leadership Committee, and one of the original architects for what we now know and call “the third way” in politics.

His ground-breaking ideas on the changing economy, new models of governing, and other ideas helped transform political thinking—not only in this country but in England and in nations all over the world.

Quietly, modestly, throughout his career, he has tried to reach honest, bipartisan compromise on an array of issues.

Here in the Senate, he has worked closely with his colleague, Senator

WARNER, on issues of importance to Virginia and our national security.

As a member of our caucus' Centrist Coalition, he has helped us all try to find a middle ground.

I would be sorry to see CHUCK ROBB leave the Senate at any time. The fact that he is leaving now—when we so desperately need people who are able to see beyond the usual party divisions—makes his leaving doubly sad.

CHUCK ROBB only lost one other political contest in his life, when he ran for senior class president at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Speaking about that loss later to a reporter, he said it gave him something important. As he put it: "I needed a little taking down. Anybody who goes too long without some setback in life tends to lose an important perspective."

One of the things CHUCK ROBB came to understand about himself back then was how much he loved this Nation and how much he felt he owed it.

It was that sense of patriotism that compelled him to enter the Marines after graduating from college. It was that sense of patriotism, too, that made him volunteer to go to Vietnam. He didn't have to go; he could have served stateside. In fact, the Pentagon brass would have preferred it. They worried about what might happen if a President's son-in-law were taken captive and used to extract concessions from the United States. But CHUCK ROBB insisted.

In April of 1968, 2 months after the Tet offensive, he landed in Vietnam, commander of an infantry company. Two weeks later, he was in combat.

In Vietnam, he earned the Bronze Star with the Combat V, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Silver Star, and the rank of major.

Most people who knew him, including his extraordinary wife Lynda, expected Major ROBB to make a career of the military. And he did remain in the Marine Reserves for a long period of time, all the way until 1991, serving a total of 34 years in uniform.

But he also found another way to serve his Nation.

In 1977, the people of Virginia chose CHUCK ROBB as their Lieutenant Governor—the only Democrat elected that year to statewide office. Four years later, they made him Virginia's 64th Governor—the first Virginian Democrat elected Governor in 16 years.

As Governor, he championed many of the same causes he would later fight for in this Chamber. He invested \$1 billion in Virginia's schools—without raising taxes.

He fought for civil rights.

As President, his father-in-law, Lyndon Johnson, appointed the first African American to the U.S. Supreme Court—Thurgood Marshall.

As Governor, CHUCK ROBB appointed the first African American to the Virginia Supreme Court, as well.

He signed the legislation adding Martin Luther King's name to a State holiday that had formerly honored only Confederate Civil War heroes.

His fellow Governors recognized his exceptional talents. He served as chairman of the Southern Governors' Association and the Democratic Governors' Association.

He chaired the Education Commission of the States and the Council of State Governments.

Even during the toughest political fights of his life, CHUCK ROBB did not like to tell people these things about himself.

When others praised him for his accomplishments, he was always quick to say that it was "we" who deserved the praise, not "he."

His genuine modesty is one of the things that makes CHUCK ROBB a Senator's Senator.

Another is his courage to fight for principle, even when he knows it will cost him politically. CHUCK ROBB has done that over and over and over again in this Chamber.

One instance I will always remember came last March when he stood on this floor and explained—in a deeply personal, eloquent way—why he opposed amending our Constitution to make flag burning a crime.

As someone who saw too many good men die for what our flag represents, he said he felt a sense of revulsion when he saw the flag treated disrespectfully.

But—in Senator ROBB's words—"they died for liberty and tolerance, for Justice and equality. They died for that which can never burn. They died for ideals that can only be desecrated by our failure to defend them."

Someone once asked Senator ROBB why he took such politically risky stands—especially in an election year.

He said that—because he had been in combat—"I thought that I could speak out on some issues with less concern about the downside than some other Senators might have to think about."

I don't know if he was right in that calculation.

I do know this: On this day in 1791, the Bill of Rights was ratified when Virginia approved it.

One reason it has never once been weakened—in all these years—is the brave and principled stand of Virginia's Senator, CHUCK ROBB.

There are many things about the next Senate which I look forward to.

I deeply regret, however, that CHUCK ROBB will not be with us. His departure is a loss not only for our caucus but for this entire Senate and for our Nation.

Our Senate family will also deeply miss Lynda Johnson Robb, who is here today.

She has given so much to our Nation throughout her life. And she continues to serve America as the National Chair of Reading is FUNDamental, and as

Vice Chairman of America's Promise, the national service partnership.

Last week, CHUCK and Lynda celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say we wish them belated congratulations—and best wishes on their future endeavors.

In that same interview in which Senator ROBB listed his political heroes, he was also asked: What is your most inspirational quotation?

He cited the words of Teddy Roosevelt:

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena—whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood . . . who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions—and spends himself on a worthy cause—who at best, if he wins, knows the thrill of high achievement—and if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly—so that his place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory, nor defeat.

Throughout his career, CHUCK ROBB has lived up to those words.

He has been in the arena.

He has fought for worthy causes.

And he has inspired us all to be better Senators.

I am proud to call him a friend. We will all miss him.

Let me also take this opportunity to say thank you, and best wishes, to our other fellow Senators who will not be rejoining us next year: On our side of the aisle: Senator DICK BRYAN, Senator BOB KERREY, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, and Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN.

And our friends across the aisle. . . . Senators ABRAHAM, ASHCROFT, GORTON, GRAMS, MACK, and ROTH.

It's an honor to have served with all of them. I wish them well in all of their future pursuits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Democratic Senators, I express our appreciation for the kind words about our friend CHUCK ROBB. I sent him a note after the election, and he, of course, in his typical fashion responded. But I so much appreciate the Democratic leader covering his extraordinary life. One thing the leader didn't mention is that he is really a son of the West. He was born in Arizona. Of course, he went to high school in Fairfax and did a great job there.

One reason I so admire CHUCK ROBB—and the leader touched upon that—is his military record. I have not served in the U.S. military. I look at CHUCK ROBB with so much admiration. He went to the jungles of Vietnam. He didn't have to go, but he did. Not only did he go there, but he served in combat and was given a medal for valor. That says it all about CHUCK ROBB.

CHUCK ROBB's service for the 12 years he has been in the Senate has been one of valor. We have asked him to take credit for things he did, and he would not take credit. We have asked him to

come forward on issues in which maybe he just had some tangential involvement. He said: No, that is not my legislation; I am not going to do it.

He is a man of great integrity. As the leader indicated, he doesn't promote himself. Of course, he doesn't do that.

But the thing I admire about CHUCK ROBB more than any other—more than his public service and more than his military record—is how he treats and talks to his family. He has three daughters and a wonderful wife.

With a heavy heart, I look at CHUCK ROBB here on the Senate floor for one of the last times. My life is better because of CHUCK ROBB. He has made me look better personally. He is a man of great integrity and a man of character. I will never forget the things he has done for me personally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator ROBB. He is truly one of the most honorable individuals I have ever met in my life. I thank him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I will just take one minute to thank my friends and colleagues for their eloquent and very greatly appreciated words. I have never been very good at showing emotion. I am not very good at saying thank you. But I want you to know that your words, your friendship, your leadership and your example have always been appreciated well beyond my ability to express it.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 2:30 with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CHUCK ROBB

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, during the last few moments, several of our colleagues gave tribute to our friend. He is my friend and is someone so many of us admire here in the Senate. He is someone who has made a difference in this body and this country with his deep commitment to public service.

Reference was made this afternoon to Senator ROBB and his service in Vietnam. He fought for our country and served in the Armed Forces. Because of his strong beliefs and commitments to the values of the Nation, he made it his

responsibility to respond to the Nation's call.

This is a real reflection of the strong commitment and the basic integrity of this extraordinary Senator and friend. He fought in Vietnam for the values he believed in deeply. He came back to this country served as a distinguished Governor of a great State, the State of Virginia. And he continued that service in the Senate.

CHUCK ROBB was a neighbor of mine. We have lived as neighbors for a number of years. He and Lynda have been good and valued friends over a great many years.

I have enjoyed working with him in the area of education. He has a fierce passion to try to make sure every child in this country is going to have a good quality education. Even though he is not a member of the education committee, he mastered this subject and also provided very important leadership in it.

I think so much of what is included in this dual appropriations legislation—which we hope we will have an opportunity to address in these next several hours and days—is really a tribute to the strong stands he took on good quality education for the children not just of Virginia but the children of this country.

I think he was always concerned about the balance between the expenditures and what the economy could stand. He is in every respect a fiscal conservative. He believed deeply in making sure we had a budget that was going to reflect our values, but also that we were going to take care that our resources were going to be well spent in the national interest.

Finally, I want to mention an additional field where his leadership was very much in evidence; that is, in knocking down the walls of discrimination in all of the forms and shapes that have been presented in recent years. That is a defining issue for our country. America will never be America until we free ourselves from all types and all forms of discrimination.

There was never a battle in any of the areas involving discrimination in which CHUCK ROBB was not a leader. I will miss him on this Senate floor.

I join with my other colleagues in paying tribute to his service to the Senate, but most importantly to his State and also to our Nation. He has a great opportunity in the future for continued service. I think all Members in this body wish him well and look forward to opportunities of work with him closely again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

THE HISTORY OF OLDSMOBILE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to comment on a development that took place in my State this week.

It was with great sadness that I heard of the phasing out of the Oldsmobile line of cars within the General Motors family. Over the last 105 years, Oldsmobile has been a Lansing, MI, and a State institution and, obviously, a national and international one as well. It was started 105 years ago when Ransom Eli Olds of Lansing, MI, teamed with Frank Clark, the son of a small carriage shop operator, to achieve what many believed impossible. They successfully produced a self-contained gasoline-powered carriage, and with it Oldsmobile was officially born in 1897.

Throughout its history, Oldsmobile has enjoyed a number of firsts: the first assembly line; and with the production of the curved dash, the first mass producer of gasoline cars; in 1905, two Oldsmobiles finished the very first transcontinental race from New York to Portland, OR, in 45 days; in 1940, models featured the Hydra-Matic drive, making this lineup the first vehicles with fully automatic transmissions; in 1966, Oldsmobile introduced the Toronado, the first modern-day front-wheel drive car; in 1974, that Toronado became the first American car to offer a driver's side airbag.

Millions of Americans have come to love their Oldsmobiles. An Olds convertible was the standard for transporting a Homecoming queen or a float parade when I was growing up. And an Oldsmobile sedan was the epitome of the middle-class family dream. All of this was made possible by the hard work and the commitment to affordable quality that was the hallmark of Oldsmobile in that division of General Motors.

On a personal level, I have a special stake in all of this, as well. Not only did I grow up in Lansing, MI, the home of Oldsmobile, but for almost 20 years my dad worked on the line at the Oldsmobile main assembly plant there. It is where he got his start, where my family came to truly appreciate how much the automobile industry means, not just to families such as ours but to our State, and especially how much the Oldsmobile meant to Michigan—Lansing, in particular.

I am sad, therefore, to see the Oldsmobile go, as we have known it, but I am confident General Motors will continue to make quality, safe automobiles for generations to come. As we bring down the curtain on the Oldsmobile, I rise today to offer my praise to that company, to those who started it, and their families and descendants who still remain in the Lansing area and in Michigan; also, to all those workers who, as my father, worked over the years for that Oldsmobile division of General Motors. I think each and every one of them took to their jobs a great satisfaction, a commitment to hard work, and a tremendous pride in the craftsmanship that went into making the automobile for many