

wherever he chooses after the great service he has provided to the Congress.

I want to take a moment to say goodbye on behalf of the Senate to a man we know quite well. I know Senator DASCHLE is going to join me in this and make some comments, either in a few minutes or later. I am talking about Jim Talbert, who is Superintendent of the Senate's Periodical Press Gallery and is retiring this week after 32 years of service.

Jim and I came to the House of Representatives in the same year, 1968. He was hired in the House Daily Press Gallery, and I was hired as an aide to then-Congressman Bill Colmer, chairman of the Rules Committee. Twenty-three years and five Speakers later, Jim crossed the DMZ in the Capitol to the Senate to be Superintendent of the Periodical Press Gallery.

Early on, Jim figured out what it took to get things done around here: know the rules. He knew them. That is why he became such a valuable resource. His expertise on congressional procedure is widely recognized and consulted by rookie reporters, veteran correspondents, and, yes, even by an occasional Senator or House Member who knows that he spent those many years in the House. His generosity in sharing his knowledge and time has brought him a great many friends on the second and third floors of this Capitol.

I have a letter from the Executive Committee of Correspondents that describes in the reporters' words all Jim has accomplished on their behalf in the Senate. I ask unanimous consent that that letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
SENATE PERIODICAL PRESS GALLERY,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2000.

JIM TALBERT,
Superintendent, Senate Periodical Press Gallery, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR JIM: The Executive Committee of Correspondents conveys its gratitude on behalf of the more than 250 publications and 1,700 reporters who benefited from your nine years as superintendent of the United States Senate Periodical Press Gallery.

The transformation you have made running the press gallery has been nothing short of historic. The gallery has never operated in a more professional manner. The gallery staff was never better educated about the legislative process nor more knowledgeable of what is happening at any given moment on the Senate floor. Reporters never had a better opportunity of snagging a seat and testimony at a crowded hearing. Functions such as accrediting reporters and publications never operated in a more even-handed, efficient manner.

During your tenure, there was never a doubt that a reporter calling the gallery to ask about pending legislation would get an immediate and informed answer.

You deserve credit for what you have accomplished. You also earn our praise for leaving in your wake a highly trained and

motivated staff. The personal zeal you displayed in understanding the often complicated legislative process was infectious and you were a good teacher.

While replacing Jim Talbert is out of the question, since you certainly are one of a kind, the mark you leave on the gallery will remain long after you enter your well-deserved retirement. The seeds you sowed will help reporters covering Congress for years to come.

We wish you and Judy a happy retirement to South Dakota filled with good health and mild winters.

Sincerely,

RICK MAZE,
Chairman.
CHERYL BOLEN,
Secretary-Treasurer.
RICHARD E. COHEN.
JAY CARNEY.
HEIDI GLENN.
AMY BORRUS.
TIM CURRAN.

Mr. LOTT. While Jim no longer will be toiling with us every day, he is keeping his favorite jobs: husband, father, and grandfather. I am a little envious, to tell the truth. He and his wife, Judy, whom he met while working in the Capitol, are moving to her native South Dakota.

It is typical of Jim that he didn't want a big bang, a big fuss over his departure. But we couldn't let him go without first wishing him well and saying, "Thanks, Jim. You have earned it."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in his commendation of an extraordinary part of this wonderful institution. Jim Talbert, as the majority leader has indicated, is retiring at the end of this week as the Superintendent of the Senate Periodical Press Gallery. He is one of hundreds of members of our Capitol family whom C-SPAN viewers never see but without whom this institution would simply not function. He has served Congress with distinction for 32 years.

Born on February 22, 1943, in Washington, D.C., he has resided here all of his life. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in journalism in 1964 and began his career on Capitol Hill in 1966, covering politics for the Timmons News Service.

In 1968, he joined the House Daily Press Gallery where he worked for 23 years. Much to our good fortune, he came to the Senate in 1991 as the Superintendent of the Senate Periodical Press Gallery. The periodical gallery is one of three press galleries in the Senate. It is the nerve center for Capitol Hill reporters representing national and local magazines and newsletters. More than 1,700 journalists representing 250 different news organizations are credentialed to use the Periodical Press Gallery to file stories, stay in contact with home offices, and get information on Senate activities. As head of the periodical gallery, Jim approves credentials for reporters cov-

ering Capitol Hill. He acts as a liaison between the press and Senate staff and keeps up-to-the-minute information on what is happening on the Senate floor.

Reporters do not turn to Jim simply for information about where a press conference is being held or when a bill might be coming to the floor. They also depend on his vast knowledge of Senate history and legislative procedure to make sense of our sometimes confusing parliamentary rules. He is a professional, an efficient and fair-minded person in carrying out all of his duties. He is also generous and always has a humorous story to share.

While his departure will have reporters scrambling to find a good source on Senate procedure, he can leave knowing that the periodical gallery staff he has worked so hard to train is committed to maintaining his same high standards.

Besides his retirement, Jim will celebrate another happy milestone this year. In 1995, Jim was diagnosed with throat cancer. In his 5-year fight to beat cancer, he endured several rounds of radiation treatment and surgery and missed only 1 month of work. Recently, Jim was declared cancer free.

Finally, I always sensed that there was something unusually wise about Jim. That hunch was confirmed recently when I learned that he and his wife, Judy, will be moving to her hometown, Brookings, SD, home of South Dakota State University. I can't think of a better place to retire. I am glad to call them constituents and look forward to seeing them many times in my State and now their State.

I wish Jim and Judy well. Jim has served this Senate with dedication and distinction. I look forward to being able to serve with him, for a change, as his Senator. I wish him and Judy all of the best as they begin their new life in South Dakota.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Virginia be recognized to offer a series of cleared amendments to the pending DOD authorization bill, and following the disposition of the 41-plus cleared amendments, the DOD authorization bill be laid aside and that the Senate then turn to the House Transportation appropriations bill and the Senate bill be immediately offered as an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also had intended to ask consent that when the Senate resumes the DOD bill, the Smith amendment be laid aside and Senator DOD be recognized to offer his amendment regarding a Cuba commission. I am informed that Senator MCCAIN would object to that, but I assure Senator DASCHLE and Senator