CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
September 19, 2001

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN
FLOYD SPENCE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last month, the U.S. Congress lost one of the finest public servants I have had the honor to know. As my colleagues may know, Congressman Floyd Spence, who represented South Carolina’s 2nd District, passed away on August 16, 2001. Floyd Spence may no longer walk the halls of Congress, but the countless contributions he made over the last three decades will continue to influence South Carolina and this great Nation.

Floyd was a humble public servant who was proud of his modest background, often introducing himself as “Floyd Spence, dirt farmer.” He was a principled man who could disarm anyone with his friendly disposition and his distinct chuckle. It was difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to dislike him.

Too often we take life for granted, but not Floyd Spence. As a beneficiary of two organ transplants, he knew too well he had been given not just a second, but a third change at life. As a result, Floyd lived life to the fullest, dedicating it to the service of others and his Nation.

Floyd’s generosity was demonstrated by his willingness to lend an ear to those who faced the frightening prospect of a transplant, or the even scarier possibility of not receiving an organ in time. Having faced these fears himself, he welcomed the opportunity to comfort individuals from across the United States who called to ask him about his experience.

My friend, over the Southern gentleman, leaves behind a legacy of dedicated public service. For almost fifty years he loyally served the people of South Carolina. Floyd was also an outspoken advocate for our Armed Services and had served as Chairman for the House Armed Services Committee. As a retired Naval Reserve Officer, he recognized the importance of a strong military and worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our Armed Services were addressed.

He was a true patriot, a dedicated public servant, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Floyd is an inspiration to all, and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to his devoted wife Debbie, and his fine sons, David, Zach, Ben, and Caldwell, and to his dedicated staff.

CONFIRMATION OF BRUCE COLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to express my strong support of the nomination of Bruce Cole to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Cole is a noted art historian and a Distinguished Professor at Indiana University. He served as Visiting Professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and previously held the George E. Bush Chair of Excellence at the University of Memphis. Dr. Cole is a former member of the National Council on the Humanities, and he will bring impressive stature and experience to the Humanities Endowment.

We have been fortunate over the past three decades to have many distinguished academics and humanists lead this agency. I believe that Dr. Cole will serve in that tradition and be an impressive leader for this important agency.

In conjunction with the consideration of his nomination by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I submitted a number of questions to Dr. Cole, and I wanted to share his answers with my colleagues. I ask unanimous consent that they may be printed in the RECORD.

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

QUESTIONS BY SENATOR KENNEDY FOR DR. BRUCE COLE

1. Do you support the mission of the National Endowment for the Humanities and believe that there is a federal role in support of the humanities?

Answer: Yes. I believe firmly that the NEH plays a crucial, and necessary role in our democracy. Although the NEH is a small agency, its impact is great. As the only federal program dedicated exclusively to the national dissemination of the humanities, it affirms our government’s support for the humanities. This support ensures the humanities make us aware of our shared human condition and enlarge our worldview. The humanities are the principal means of transmitting our shared democratic values to future generations. As a pivotal civilizing force in human life, the humanities are essential to the well-being of any democracy.

The importance of the humanities is recognized in the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act establishing the NEH. This act states: “That a high civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future.” The legislation also states that “democracy is grounded in the study of the humanities; and that “the study of the humanities requires constant dedication and devotion.” These words remain as true and meaningful today as when they were written more than three and a half decades ago. If confirmed I hope to serve the nation by furthering the NEH’s mission to make the humanities an integral part of the lives of all Americans.

2. Are there any circumstances under which you would support the elimination of the agency?

Answer: No.

3. Due to budget cuts and the impact of inflation, the NEH’s spending power is about 30% of what it was in 1980. This decline in funding has reduced the agency’s reach and...
impact. How do you view current funding of the agency? Will you advocate for higher spending in the humanities?

Answer: I cannot answer this question presently because I do not have detailed knowledge of the NEH’s current budget and how it is allocated. If I am confirmed, as NEH Chairman I shall devote my energies to ensuring that the NEH always has funds sufficient to enable it to disseminate the humanities to all sectors.

RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS

4. You bring distinguished academic credentials and considerable experience to the NEH, what is your view of the importance of scholarship in the humanities. How do you feel these programs should balance other agency activities?

Answer: As a researcher, author, and teacher, I believe that it is the proper size of the humanities scholarship is one of the Endowment’s most important activities. Serious scholarship adds directly to our knowledge and understanding of our past and present. Humanities scholarship also informs and enriches classroom teaching.

The NEH’s broad mandate to support the humanities requires that it maintain a balance of their programs and activities—including education, preservation, public programming, research and scholarship, as well as challenge grants and the Federal-State partnership. I am committed to supporting the best grant proposals in all of the agency’s programs.

5. Over the past 20 years, the proportion of NEH appropriations for scholarly activity has declined as a percentage of the budget. Do you feel that this is appropriate? Do you have any ideas as to this time about programmatic priorities for the agency?

Answer: If I have the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the NEH, I will carefully examine one of the programs and activities to determine if scholarly activity is receiving an appropriate level of support. As a professor and department chairman who has worked in the humanities over thirty years, and as a recipient of an NEH fellowship which was critical for my development as a scholar, I know that NEH is often the sole source of funding for humanities scholarship. NEH funding for individual fellowships and for large-scale collaborative research projects remains a fundamental factor in the growth and development of talented scholars and teachers in the humanities.

6. NEH has been a key national resource for the collection and editing of the papers of American historical and other important cultural institutions. What priority would you assign this type of project?

Answer: In my view NEH support for these projects, especially in the spiritual role the agency plays in creating humanities resources for scholars, students, and citizens alike, NEH’s involvement in projects that are producing scholarly editions is one of the agency’s crowning glories. These projects stand as among the most important and long-lasting contributions the NEH can make to the advancement of American humanities and the understanding of our past and present. Providing adequate resources to these and other excellent humanities projects will be one of my priorities if the Senate honors me with confirmation as NEH Chairman.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

7. How do you feel that the agency can best support humanities in the higher education community?

Answer: Higher education projects supported by the Endowment—notably, the academic year programs at the major research universities and other important cultural institutions—stand as NEH’s most effective tool in fostering and encouraging humanities scholarship. I would like to see the NEH become a national leader in the development of Regional Humanities Centers.

8. Do you agree that the state humanities councils should also be eligible to compete for other programming funds?

Answer: The state humanities councils serve their audiences well and I understand from NEH staff that in recent years state councils have been eligible to compete for funding in other programming areas of the NEH. This has, I am told, resulted in support for a number of excellent projects. As with the previous question on the state council’s overall budget, I cannot give an informed answer to this question until I have had an opportunity to study this policy in detail.

9. How do you feel that the agency can best serve higher education by continuing to support model projects like these that others can emulate? I understand that the Endowment has also been quite active in recent years in encouraging projects that make use of the Internet and other electronic technologies to teach history, literature, languages, and other humanities subjects. While I expect to continue to encourage humanities projects that employ digital technology, I plan also to consult with NEH staff and with humanities educators to explore other ways the Endowment might strengthen its work in higher education.

10. Do you think that NEH should strengthen teacher training in the humanities in elementary schools?

Answer: Yes. The NEH already does this most effectively through its Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers program. These programs make school teachers students again for a few weeks as they study a great range of significant humanities topics, such as “The Myth of William Cather,” the history and culture of the American West or the Civil Rights Movement, the theater of Antonio Buero Vallejo, Dante’s Divine Comedy or Indian narratives, Mozart and his Vienna, cultural responses to the Holocaust in America, and so on. These programs help teachers renew and revitalize their understanding of specific areas of the humanities and better communicate to them to their students. I think that it is critically important that American elementary and secondary schoolchildren be taught by instructors who are well-versed in the subjects they teach. As someone who has helped design humanities programs for schools, I understand the importance of the humanities in the elementary grades, as well as in other grades, is of paramount importance and worthy of an appropriate level of NEH support.

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIPS

9. The state humanities councils receive an earmark of about 30% of the agency’s programmatic appropriations. This partnership between the federal and state entities is an effective tool to expand the reach of humanities programs and relatively scarce financial resources. Do you feel that the present distribution of programming funds is appropriate?

Answer: I enthusiastically support the state humanities councils. They extend the reach of the NEH’s work through programs tailored to meet local needs, and they strengthen the cultural and educational infrastructure throughout America. These councils are funded by state governments not only of those who inhabit America’s great cities but also of those who live in the nation’s many small towns. I have always supported NEH’s strong policy that the state humanities councils could be even more effective than they are now in helping the NEH fulfill its mission. As I said above, I am a strong supporter of the state humanities councils and the excellent work they do.

REGIONAL HUMANITIES CENTERS

12. What priority will you place on the development of Regional Humanities Centers?

Answer: I was an early supporter of the regional centers idea when the project was in its embryonic stage. However, I do not now know enough about how this initiative has progressed to offer an informed opinion. If confirmed, I will make a considered judgment about its priority.

ENTREPRISE

13. Due to budget cuts and an interest in expanding the reach of the agency’s programs, I suspect that you may have specific interest in raising private funds to support its own activities and to supplement grants to other organizations. Do you feel that the agency should actively pursue private funds?

Answer: If given the honor and opportunity to serve as Chairman of NEH my central task will be to make sure that the funds Congress appropriates to the NEH are spent wisely and in the service of our citizenry. I do not expect that the NEH would engage often in activities that would require it to raise monies in addition to its federal appropriation. Should that occur I would make sure that such fund-raising is done in a way that would not compete with NEH grantees and other important cultural institutions that may also be looking to the private sector support.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL T. MICHAEL MOSELEY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize one of the finest officers in the United States Air Force, Major General T. Michael “Buzz” Moseley. On August 3rd, General Moseley retired from his job as Director of the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison to become the Commander, Ninth Air