

school at BYU, Jace and Cori made the move to Washington, DC, so he could attend graduate school at George Washington University and earn his MBA.

While Jace was still in school, he actually worked in my office as an intern. He didn't stay long, however, because as the saying goes, he had bigger fish to fry. By the time he returned to Capitol Hill to work on a more permanent basis, he had already achieved remarkable success in the business world. After working for a few years at Visa International, he became the director of finance at the Corvis Corporation, a cutting-edge network and media solutions company. Jace was the third employee to be hired at Corvis when it was still a startup, and while he was there he helped secure financing for the company as it prepared to go public in the year 2000. Jace's contribution to Corvis allowed the company to grow from a small startup employing a handful of people into an international company with more than 3,000 employees and a value of \$40 billion.

Jace joined my staff in 2002, coming on as a legislative assistant, working mostly on telecommunications issues. In that position, he demonstrated the keen understanding and strategic thinking that had made him such a success in the business world. After 3 years, I appointed him to be my legislative director, and in that position he continued to excel and became a vital and integral part of my efforts here in the Senate. I grew to depend on him more and more, and in January of 2008, Jace took over as my Chief of Staff.

I used to joke with him that working for me was only a hobby, because he didn't need the money. Of course, anyone who knew and worked with Jace can attest that is simply not true. He put his heart and soul into his work in the Senate. For Jace, failure wasn't permissible, so he spent early mornings and late nights ensuring the work was done and done right. His commitment to me personally and to my work here in the Senate was rooted in his belief—a belief he reiterated at every opportunity—that what we were doing was in the best interests of our country and for the people of Utah.

I think what I appreciated most about Jace is his unwavering honesty. In a town filled with people who only want to tell you what they want you to hear, Jace was refreshingly direct and straightforward. I have always attributed this to the fact that he is, to put it bluntly, just a little bit smarter—maybe not just a bit smarter, a whole lot smarter—than most people. People who don't see the big picture and who can't predict what might happen down the line have the need to hedge bets, cover bases, and speak without committing. Jace Johnson has never had that problem. When a goal is identified and a plan set in motion, he is usually

a few steps ahead of everyone else and he can see where problems might arise. Chances are he has already come up with solutions to those problems. An individual with that kind of rare insight and understanding has the license to speak directly where others would hem and haw. I was lucky enough to be the beneficiary of Jace's ability to speak frankly and honestly, and on more than one occasion that meant I was on the receiving end. I think I can speak for every Member of the Senate when I say that that kind of support from staff is a treasured commodity.

It is very clear I will miss Jace Johnson on my staff. However, I think it would be even more telling to hear from some of the people of Utah who have high praise for Jace and the service he has rendered.

Utah Governor Gary Herbert had this to say:

Jace is a man of great insight and understanding. He is able to think strategically and anticipate potential roadblocks, which has, and will continue, to serve him well. I wish him the best of luck and success in his new position.

Jason Perry, Governor Herbert's Chief of Staff, said:

I have had the opportunity to work with Jace for many years. His uncanny ability to diffuse potentially difficult situations, coupled with his pleasant and approachable nature, has proven invaluable on several occasions.

Utah Senator-elect Mike Lee said:

I have looked to Jace Johnson on many occasions for his keen insight, depth of wisdom, and wise counsel. He has proven to be a tremendous resource and has truly made a difference for me, Senator HATCH, the people of the great State of Utah, and for our country. His legacy of service will stand as a benchmark of excellence for years to come.

Former Utah Republican Party Chairman Stan Lockhart said this:

Jace Johnson is a class act. In positions of responsibility and authority, he is approachable and down to earth. In an environment of hardball politics, he maintains integrity. With many issues to deal with on a daily basis, he understands the big picture and small nuances of good policy. I always liked the fact that he understands the private sector, with a successful background in the technology industry before he came to Washington, D.C. I'll miss Jace.

A prominent Salt Lake City lawyer and a political leader, Doug Foxley, in the State said about Jace:

Behind that I-am-just-a-boy-from-Black-foot-Idaho, was a keen, astute political mind who always had Orrin's interest at heart and had a quality of making everyone feel that he was their best friend. Not diminishing any other person who has worked for Orrin, but Jace was a delight and any trip to D.C. without seeing Jace was not a trip. A true committed conservative who was not an obnoxious ideologue, but one who truly believed what he espoused: hard work, honor, commitment, dedication to family, Church, and country and imbued with a belief in limited government and in the private sector were guiding principles. This, coupled with compassion for those less fortunate, is the Jace Johnson legacy.

Mr. President, that is high praise, and we have lots of others who feel the same way. I will leave it at that.

During my time here in the Senate, I have been extremely fortunate when it comes to my staff. I have had the privilege of serving with some of the most gifted and devoted individuals our Nation has to offer. Each of them has brought something unique and important to the table. But I have to say that, even among the select fraternity of talented Senate staffers, Jace Johnson belongs in the hall of honor, an elite class that very few have been or will be able to attain.

I have no doubt that Jace will succeed in the new position. Success has been the defining characteristic of every endeavor he has undertaken. While the selfish part of me wishes he would have stayed in the Senate just a little bit longer, I want to wish Jace, his wife Cori, and his whole family the very best going forward.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleagues who are departing the Senate after distinguished service on behalf of their States and on behalf of the Nation. I have been privileged to work with these individuals, to learn from them, to collaborate and cooperate with them, and to, in some small way, help them do what they have done so well—represent their States with fidelity, with great effort, and to move the agenda of the Nation forward.

EVAN BAYH

EVAN BAYH, a colleague and friend. We served together on the Banking Committee and the Armed Services Committee. His lovely wife Susan and their two children have contributed extraordinarily to Indiana as a Governor, and then as a Senator serving the Nation.

I can recall very early on in the operations in Iraq, where it became clear to Senator BAYH that unless we armored our humvee vehicles, thousands and thousands of soldiers would be at risk, and also marines, sailors, and airmen. He fought tenaciously to ensure, against initial opposition, that we were able to begin to armor those vehicles, begin to develop new generations of armored vehicles to protect our soldiers. So, quite literally, his efforts saved the lives of thousands of young Americans. For that alone, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

In every endeavor, from issues of children's health to education policy, he brought a thoughtful, measured, and brilliant mind to bear that is hard to match. I wish him the very best.

ROBERT BENNETT

BOB BENNETT and I served together on the Banking Committee. His thoughtful questioning and his deep knowledge of the subjects were critical on so many different issues. I remember when we were trying to get the extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act completed so the markets—particularly the markets for large properties—would not freeze up, he was instrumental in getting that done. That is just one example of what he has done throughout a career of public service to the people of Utah and of this Nation. I wish he and Joyce the very best as they continue to serve, as I am sure they will, this Nation and their State of Utah.

KIT BOND

KIT BOND and Linda Bond have served with such distinction also. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has made wise and judicious decisions about how we invest in this country. In that process, he never forgot the obligation to groups who are often overlooked.

One of the areas where he has done so much work, and so effectively, has been on the issue of homelessness. His efforts, joined by our colleagues and friends, BARBARA MIKULSKI and PATTY MURRAY, have made a real difference in providing effective and efficient shelter for so many in our large communities and in our rural areas, who otherwise literally would be on the streets of America. One of the most disheartening images in this country is to see people who are forced to be on the streets. There are many reasons for that. But KIT BOND has done a lot to ensure there is at least a capacity to help people who need that kind of help. I thank him for that and commend him for so much of what he has done for the people of Missouri and the people of this Nation.

SAM BROWNBACK

I congratulate Governor-elect SAM BROWNBACK. He has decided to leave the rigors of the Senate for the tranquility of being a Governor. I see our Presiding Officer, who enjoyed the tranquility of being the Governor of Virginia. I know SAM is going to do great, but I think at some moment he might mop his brow and say that it wasn't quite as hectic back in the Senate.

Along with Mary and his family he has distinguished himself. SAM is someone who is indefatigable when involved in an issue. He does it from principle and conscience. We appreciate that.

I was pleased to work with him on legislation I introduced, the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which became law. That is one example of his great skills as a legislator. In foreign affairs he was someone who kept watch on areas of the world which otherwise might have been neglected. His efforts with respect to Darfur, striving to

bring justice and peace to that region, are particularly commendable. I thank the Senator for his service and wish him well as he assumes the daunting responsibilities as Governor of the State of Kansas.

JIM BUNNING

Senator JIM BUNNING and I served together for many years on the Banking Committee. JIM and Mary Catherine and their family brought so much to not only the Senate as an organization, but to the Senate as a group of individuals. JIM was one of the first and most insightful observers and critics of the growing issues in the securities market. He did it based upon his experience as a financial stockbroker in the world of finance. He did it also with his grasp of common sense and looking at things carefully and pragmatically, based on Main Street not on financial centers. We worked together on the Securities Subcommittee, and we did it in a way that I enjoyed the collaboration immensely.

A focus on the issues and their importance to the country was also in the forefront of his mind. He distinguished himself immensely. I wish him well.

ROLAND BURRIS

Senator Roland Burris brought a great bit of vitality and energy to the Senate in his time here. I wish Roland and Berlean the very best. He has had a remarkable career in Illinois as someone who was in the banking industry and then public service—been a pathbreaker in so many different ways. When he came to the Senate, he came with that same enthusiasm, knowing that his service would be limited in days but not limited by any aspirations or any ideals. He wanted to do the best for the people of Illinois and the Nation. I thank him.

BYRON DORGAN

Next is BYRON and Kim DORGAN and their family. Again, BYRON was an integral part for many years in this Senate. He is one of those individuals whose wisdom you appreciate more and more each day. He is someone who spoke years ago about the offshoring of jobs, and he spoke years ago about a tax system that doesn't reward investment in American jobs but ironically might encourage disinvestment of those jobs. He is someone who spoke with reason, candor, thoughtfulness, and facts about issues that the rest of us are beginning to recognize today are critical to the future of this country.

We will also miss his steady hand on the Appropriations Committee, where he battled to ensure that the reasonable priorities of this Nation were met. His support and help in terms of LIHEAP funding and his help to me personally in so many different ways is deeply appreciated. I thank him for his service. I know he will continue to provide, in his writings and speeches, the wise and thoughtful insights that,

again, as we look back, I think we should have heeded with much more energy and enthusiasm when he spoke them.

RUSS FEINGOLD

Senator RUSS FEINGOLD—and this is said often, but it applies so accurately—is a conscience of this body. He is someone who came here to fight for the principles in which he deeply believes and would not deviate from that very serious challenge. He did it with skill, thoughtfulness, and gentility. I appreciate that very much. He was a champion for so many things—Pell grants, making sure the opportunity was still a watchword of this country. What he was most famous for was his efforts in campaign finance reform. Frankly, we will miss him dearly because of that.

There is a growing concern in this country that elections have become auctions, not about the quality of the candidates and their positions, but simply how much money can be funded and by how many different sources. So at a time when we have to confront again an even more serious challenge of campaign finance reform, we are losing one of the great voices and great minds in that effort. I know he will be helping us in this effort going forward, and I thank him for that.

CARTE GOODWIN

Carte Goodwin served with us for a very brief period of time, but in that time, we saw the incredible talent of this young Senator—his skill, his judgment, his ability to communicate with everyone in this Senate. He has been succeeded by another remarkable gentleman, Senator MANCHIN, who is certainly keeping up the high standards of Senators from West Virginia.

Carte, good luck, and thank you for your service, and I know you will continue to serve the country.

JUDD GREGG

Senator JUDD GREGG and Kathleen are stalwarts in the Senate, with their 18 years of service. I worked very closely with Judd on so many issues but most recently on the Dodd-Frank bill, where we worked collaboratively on this whole complex concept of derivatives. I was impressed with his intellect, his grasp, his balance, and I think we both pushed ourselves to think harder, to do better, and to come up with a solution, frankly, that was much better than I know I could have done individually. So I thank JUDD GREGG for what he did there and on so many other things.

TED KAUFMAN

My dear friend Ted Kaufman and Lynne. We traveled the world together—including Afghanistan multiple times. He served with such distinction. He took up the effort to ensure that our securities markets in particular are well regulated, especially in regard to the new phenomenon of high-frequency trading.

And it is no coincidence that just this week, we had a hearing on high-frequency trading. Ted has not let us forget that very critical issue for the future.

GEORGE LEMIEUX

Senator GEORGE LEMIEUX and his wife Meike. Again, they served here for a short period of time but with such distinction, such character, and such concern. I want to salute him. He and I worked together on the Teacher and Principal Improvement Act. He is a brilliant and a decent civil servant. I thank him.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

BLANCHE LINCOLN. BLANCHE and I served in the House together. She decided to raise her family and then came back to the Senate. I can say without any hesitation that without her very courageous stand with respect to some of the aspects of the Dodd-Frank financial legislation, it would not be as comprehensive, as effective as it is today. She stood up and essentially demanded that we create a structure where you could trade derivatives rather than simply clear them. That is a remarkable achievement, and it is her achievement.

ARLEN SPECTER

Finally—and I beg the indulgence of my colleague from Vermont, who I know is scheduled to speak—let me say to ARLEN SPECTER and Joan Specter, thank you for such service. Senator SPECTER is the champion of NIH. It is an incredible achievement, what he has done to fund that over the years.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

And also to Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH and Janet Voinovich, thank you so much for what you have done. GEORGE VOINOVICH has been someone who has really tried to be the watchdog for all Americans. He has also been an advocate for infrastructure investment and for early childhood care and education.

To all of these colleagues and their families, my deepest appreciation and my profoundest respect.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes and that Senator SANDERS be recognized upon the conclusion of my remarks.

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

RECOGNIZING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE

DEBORAH AUTOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise again to recognize the service of another great Federal employee. This is a tradition that was started by our friend and former colleague, Senator Kaufman, and I am proud to carry on that

tradition. But I want to first say that I appreciate the remarks of the Presiding Officer about our colleagues who are leaving this body, and I share his great respect for not only Senator Kaufman but all of the colleagues who are leaving the body at the end of this Congress.

Mr. President, oftentimes we forget that thousands of Federal employees go to work every day with the sole mission of making this country a safer place to live. Ms. Deborah Autor is one of those employees.

As we enter into the cold and flu season, there is great concern about harmful medications that may fall into the hands of our children or other loved ones. As Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Drug Compliance Office, Ms. Autor works to protect public health by minimizing Americans' exposure to unsafe, ineffective, and poor-quality drugs that enter the marketplace.

Ms. Autor is particularly focused on removing potentially dangerous prescription medicines, including cough medicines, anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines, and migraine medications, just to name a few. Under her leadership, the FDA has taken enforcement action to remove more than 500 unapproved prescription drugs from the market. She is also credited with designing a program used to identify unapproved drugs, evaluate the public health consequences, and explore any potential legal challenges.

Many believe Ms. Autor is the brains behind the FDA's aggressive enforcement efforts. In conducting the research for these remarks, we found a quote from Mr. Steven Galson, a former Acting U.S. Surgeon General, and this is what he had to say about Ms. Autor:

She developed the program under budget constraints, withstood scrutiny and criticism from some in the drug industry and Congress, successfully navigated the internal FDA process and took aggressive action to clamp down on illegal drug marketers.

There are many others who have sung her praises and highlighted her commitment to public service.

Prior to work at the FDA, Ms. Autor was a trial attorney for the Office of Consumer Litigation at the Department of Justice, where she served for 7 years. In this role, she litigated civil and criminal cases on behalf of the FDA.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Ms. Autor for her dedicated public service and important contributions to our Nation's health and safety.

I would also add that in these challenging fiscal times, as we approach and go through the holiday season, I hope we all recognize the enormous contribution all of our Federal employees make. The Presiding Officer many times reminds all of us of the enormous role our men and women in the armed

services play, and our thoughts and prayers are with all of them. But I think it is also important to recognize these great Federal employees such as Ms. Autor and literally the countless others who oftentimes—and sometimes at the disdain of folks in elective office—are the folks who provide enormous public service to all Americans. So I hope we keep them in our thoughts as well during this holiday season.

Before I conclude my remarks, I also wish to thank my friend, the Senator from Vermont, who is a passionate advocate for trying to end the growing income inequality in this country. I know he is going to be making some impassioned comments, and I appreciate his giving me a couple of moments to recognize this Federal employee, and I look forward to hearing his comments.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking my friend from Virginia for doing what is very important. I think the essence of what he is saying is that today there are millions of Federal employees, people in the Armed Forces, who are doing the very best they can. In many instances, they are doing a great job to protect our country, to keep it safe. And very often, to be honest with you, these folks get dumped on. So it is important that people such as Senator WARNER come here and point out individuals who are doing a great job, people of whom we are very proud. So I thank Senator WARNER for that.

Mr. President, as I think everyone knows, President Obama and the Republican leadership have reached an agreement on a very significant tax bill. In my view, the agreement they reached is a bad deal for the American people. I think we can do better.

I am here today to take a strong stand against this bill, and I intend to tell my colleagues and the Nation exactly why I am in opposition to this bill. You can call what I am doing today whatever you want. You can call it a filibuster. You can call it a very long speech. I am not here to set any great records or to make a spectacle; I am simply here today to take as long as I can to explain to the American people the fact that we have to do a lot better than this agreement provides.

Let me enumerate some of the reasons I am opposed to this agreement.

First, as everybody knows, this Nation has a recordbreaking \$13.8 trillion national debt at the same time as the middle class is collapsing and poverty is increasing. And I think it is important to say a word—because I am not