

Connie soon gained a reputation as someone to go to when you needed something done. She is a problem-solver who doesn't know the word no. From the beginning, her ability to find solutions, showcase her region, and quickly develop professional contacts made her a well-respected member of the community. For more than 20 years, she has been a dedicated volunteer and officer of local and statewide political groups, including the Capital City Republican Women, district cochair, and the Republican State Central Committee. She has been active in Beta Sigma Phi and a variety of community service projects.

Connie's local involvement eventually opened doors for a new career, one in public service. In 2001, Connie began working for the Alaska Congressional Delegation. She first started working for Congressman YOUNG, now the Dean of the House. She was a natural fit and soon was running a joint office for the entire congressional delegation. It was my good fortune to join the U.S. Senate with a seasoned staff member like Connie. Her regional knowledge and work experience have, no doubt, helped me represent the unique needs of Alaskans, particularly those in southeast.

After serving in this role for many years, Connie left the office in 2013 to work for the State administration under then-Governor Sean Parnell, but she just couldn't stay away, nor could we last too long without her. Thankfully, in 2015, she came back to us and has served our Juneau office in service to Senator SULLIVAN and me. She has been a dedicated public servant, and I know I speak on behalf of so many Alaskans when I say we will be sad to see her go.

Congressman YOUNG said of Connie that she "is one of the rare gems that comes along rarely in a Congressional career. From the moment I hired her she has been the embodiment of a perfect staff. She is the person who the people of Southeast Alaska have come to rely upon for sound policy advice, every kind of constituent service and has gone above the call of duty to serve as a counselor for the mentally ill and homeless population. She faced any challenge with a positive demeanor, rock solid ethics and made it all look easy. Her guidance to me has been a godsend and a large part of my own success in not only Southeast Alaska but statewide. Whether employed directly by me, the Congressional delegation or any other entity, Connie has always been a stalwart supporter, volunteer and overall great person. Connie, we will sorely miss you!" I couldn't agree more with DON's words.

Connie has done a great job representing the Alaska Congressional Delegation. She brings new meaning to the term professional. Regardless of what side of the political spectrum you are on, you know you will get a straight and fair answer from Connie. Constituents appreciate her work, other elected officials are comfortable

working with her, and the office staff is always asking for and depending on her expertise. In my office, she is our informal office trainer. If you want to know how to do something, Connie is the one to ask. She has provided hundreds of Alaskans with casework assistance on nearly the same amount of issues, from taxes to immigration to forest management, you name it. Connie has handled it.

People that work with Connie will always find a brilliant, caring person that demonstrates a good sense of comradery and teamwork. This is what her colleagues and friends say about her, and I couldn't say it better myself.

Connie's departure will certainly create a loss for me and my team, but I know Connie won't be at a loss for things to do. She is an avid outdoors woman, enjoying skiing, hiking, and biking with her husband Mitch and dog Brodie whenever possible. No hill is too steep, no trail is too long, she tackles each adventure with enthusiasm and a deep love for the outdoors.

Often when I would travel to her region, Connie somehow found time in my otherwise packed schedule to fit constituent meetings into a hike through the Tongass or some other outdoor adventure, giving us a chance to fill our lungs with fresh air while we worked. I will miss those hikes together, but now, I will just have to schedule them with her rather than the other way around.

Connie may be retiring from her career of public service, but I have no doubt she will continue to remain engaged in her community. It is in her blood. Connie leaves behind a legacy of hard work, humor, and commitment to Alaska that will forever be remembered. I wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life. Connie; I'll see you on the trails.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, over the past 12 years, I have had the privilege to serve the citizens of Tennessee and our country with the finest group of people that I have ever been around. I truly love them.

Today, in my final statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I want to recognize the people who have become like family, past and present—178 hard-working, tenacious, conscientious public servants—and thank them for all they have done to make a difference in the lives of countless Tennesseans and to make our world a better place:

Jared Adams, Mike Ahern, Ann Marie Anderson, Jessica Bader, Bridget Baird, David Baird, Michael Bassett, Ryan Berger, Hunter Bethea, Casey Black, Bertie Bowman, Courtney Bradway, Michael Bright, Clay Brockman, Paul Burdette, Tom Callahan, Conor Carney, Mark Cochran, Kim Cordell, Jamie Corley.

Kelly Cotton, Leslie Crisp, Charlie Crenshaw Cruse, Joe Curtsinger, Joe Dagher, Kat Dahl, Anna Catherine Davenport, Ashton Davis Davies, Reese Davis, Garnett Decosimo, Armand DeKeyser, Chris Devaney, Caroline

Diaz-Barriga, Bradley Dickerson, Tara DiJulio, Sarah Downs, David Dudik, John Dutton, Alex Eblen, Holt Edwards, Tracey Edwards.

Brooke Eisele, Callie Estes, Heather Scarborough Ewalt, Josh Falzone, Jason Farris, Paul Fassbender, Aaron Fitzgerald, Chris Ford, Katie Davis Freeman, Michael Gallagher, Lee Gatts, Courtney Geduldig, Santo Giordano, Whitney Calhoun Goetz, John Goetz, Paul Goode, Tori Gorman, Jill Grayson, Joey Greer, John Haley.

Stephanie Parsons Hamby, Sam Hamilton, Jenny Hamrick, Chuck Harper, Sarah Mikels Harrington, Joy Hawkins Harris, Jeni Healy, Alex Heaton, Alicia Hennie, Laura Lefler Herzog, Trey Hicks, Caroline Hodge, Farrah Hodge, Chris Howell, Clay Huddleston, Jamil Jaffer, Julia Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Micah Johnson, Jane Jolley, Logan Jolley.

Elizabeth Kelly, David Kinzler, Nick Kistenmacher, Anna Knight, Carrie Lane, Audri Larsen, Molly Lazio, David Leaverton, Carolyn Leddy, Rachel Lee, Ramona Lessen, Sarah Leversee, John Lipsey, Todd Love, Patrick Lynch, Kirsten Madison, Dana Magneson, Emily Manning, Caleb McCarry, Connor McCarthy.

Jonathan McKernan, Claire McVay, Bess McWherter, Abby Meadors, Owen Mercer, Katy Miller, Michael Miller, Christen Mogavero, Becky Moon, Grant Mullins, Lester Munson, Meg Murphy, Angie Nelson, Stacie Oliver, Bentley Olson, Andy Olson, Sarah Osborn, Anne Oswald, Arne Owens, Connor Pagnani.

Paul Palagyi, Ashley Palmer, Jonathan Parker, Shelby Payne, Michael Phelan, Frank Polley, Shirley Pond, Kelly Puckett, Ben Purser, John Rader, Betsy Ranalli, Tori Read, Rebecca Rial, Scott Richardson, Cate Catani Robertson, Kristin Rosa, Darlene Rosenkoetter, Jill Salyers, Brandeanna Sanders, Marty Schuh.

Patricia Schultz, Hayly Humphreys Schmidt, Les Sealy, Douglas Sellers, Erica Frye Sharber, Evan Sharber, Lowell Sherman, Lexi Simpson, Matthew Smith, Rhonda Smithson, Justin Spickard, Megan Spooone, Dan Springer, Zach Stone, Sarah Ramig Stone, Rob Strayer, James Tatgenhorst, Beth Tipps, Eric Trager.

Chris Tuttle, Daniel Vajdich, Caroline Vik, Morgan Vina, Jennifer Weems, Micki Werner, Jeri Wheeler, Mark White, Brent Wiles, Hallie Williams, Laurie Williams, Staci Willoughby, Bridget Winstead, Todd Womack, Canon Woodward, Alicyn York, John Zadrozny.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY LINCOLN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Mary Lincoln of Liberty County for her 100 years of determination, joy, and service for others.

At 107, Mary Lincoln has lived through 19 Presidents, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and was born before women could vote. Ms. Lincoln was born in 1911, just north of Rudyard, MT, in a small homestead shack. As an infant, she was placed in a cardboard box with blankets and laid atop of the home's oven to keep warm. From then on, Mary Lincoln has embodied the true spirit of Montana, keeping a light heart and always staying busy.

Mary Lincoln graduated from Havre High School at 16, where she then went