

pharmaceutical companies charge other countries for their products. Because of his leadership, the Medicaid program instituted a prescription drug rebate program so that drugs could be purchased at a more favorable rate. I was also pleased to be an original co-sponsor of Senator PRYOR's Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. This was landmark legislation to remind the Internal Revenue Service to treat taxpayers' with dignity and respect.

The hallmark of Senator PRYOR's tenure here in the Senate is leadership. Leadership in legislation, a leader among his fellow Senators and leadership for his beloved State of Arkansas. The people of Arkansas have always been his priority and he has served them well.

Farewell my friend. Pat and I wish you the very best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words regarding the retirement of the senior Senator from Illinois, PAUL SIMON.

PAUL SIMON was first elected to the Senate in 1984 and I have been honored to serve with him for the past 12 years. Before entering the Senate, PAUL SIMON represented his constituents as a Member of the House of Representatives for 10 years. He will truly be missed by the people of Illinois and his colleagues in the Senate.

Over the years I have worked with Senator SIMON on the Budget Committee. Despite his reputation as a compassionate liberal who believes the Federal Government has an important role to play in the lives of Americans, Senator SIMON has not shied away from following his personal convictions, even if it meant going against the majority of his party.

Senator SIMON has been a leading proponent of a constitutional amendment to require the Federal Government to balance the budget each year. He has been guided by his common sense, midwestern views on living within your means. I, too, have been a longtime proponent of a balanced budget constitutional amendment. Senator SIMON's ability to work with Members on both sides of the aisle is unfortunately a diminishing quality among Members of this body.

PAUL SIMON has been a strong supporter of free speech as a Senator. He is an author and began his career as a newspaper editor and publisher. Despite his background, Senator SIMON has also been willing to criticize the television broadcasters over the excessive amount of violent programming.

PAUL SIMON has a special connection to my State of Nebraska. He was a student at Dana College in Blair, NE. I know that Dana College appreciates his continued interest in the students and the college over the years.

I commend Senator PAUL SIMON for his many years of dedicated service to

the people of Illinois. Pat and I wish him the very best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise to salute the service of Senator HOWELL HEFLIN and give the Senator and his family best wishes.

Senator HEFLIN and I came to the U.S. Senate together and we will be leaving this grand institution together. Over the years I have not only developed a tremendous working relationship with the senior Senator from Alabama but also a deep and lasting friendship. Mike and HOWELL HEFLIN have been among the closest friends and associates of the EXONS.

Over the years, I think that there are few Senators with whom I vote with more frequently than with Senator HOWELL HEFLIN. I value his opinion and respect his views. He is not only a mainstream Democrat, he is a mainstream American.

Few Members realize that HOWELL HEFLIN is a bona fide war hero. If I may Mr. President, I would like to share a little story about the Senator from Alabama. A few years ago I had an opportunity to lead a delegation to the Pacific rim. HOWELL HEFLIN was a member of our group. We had scheduled a stop in Guam for refueling en route to Manila. When we arrived, I was informed that there would be a brief unscheduled ceremony for HOWELL HEFLIN.

It was anything but a brief ceremony. It was obviously one of the most important ceremonies that the Island of Guam has had, I suppose, since the American forces drove out the Japanese from that island during the war in the Pacific. There was a large entourage of cars. I could not imagine what was going on. Finally, I began to get the feel of things. They wanted to take us out to the beach where the American Marines landed when the United States of America started taking back that very important and strategic island.

We went out to the beach, and we saw where they landed. This beautiful beach was once a bloody battlefield. During the war the Marines had great difficulty in landing. The coral reefs reeked havoc on the landing crafts and on the men.

Our delegation went to the museum out on the beach. We were greeted by the mayor, the Governor and there was a small Navy band playing. In addition, there was a small tent with a number of people from the Island of Guam who were there when the Americans landed.

This celebration was not in honor of the Senate delegation but in honor of one of our Members, Senator HEFLIN. It was a moving sight. There was a big sign out there that I shall never forget. It said, "Welcome Back Our Liberating Hero, Lt. HOWELL HEFLIN."

Because of all his other accomplishments, I suspect few of my colleagues

in the Senate even know about Senator HEFLIN's heroism. He was one of those marines who liberated Guam. Lt. HOWELL HEFLIN was part of the assault force of the Americans landing to take Guam from the Japanese. He was wounded in the initial assault and kept on fighting. He pointed out the hill to me where he took his second hit.

He was evacuated to the United States where he spent considerable time in the hospital.

This story illustrates that Senator HEFLIN's love of country has been a constant throughout his life. As marine, judge, and as Senator, duty, honor, and valor are all words associated with HOWELL HEFLIN.

This is a side of the proud HOWELL HEFLIN that I know. That is a side that I want his colleagues and history to know. He is one of those who serves his country in time of need, and we must never forget that.

As I bring my Senate career to a close, I point to serving and knowing people like HOWELL HEFLIN as one of the most wonderful benefits of being involved in politics.

Having known HOWELL and Mike Heflin and knowing of their stature, and character, having had them as friends, means a great deal to me as I look back on my life in public service and see what really has been important.

I simply say that one of the great treasures of my life has been knowing the Heflins. May God bless and keep HOWELL and Mike Heflin forever in his grace.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, when the Senate concludes its business this year and adjourns the 104th Congress, we will be bidding farewell to one of the most respected and accomplished Senators this institution has known. Senator CLAIBORNE PELL's decision to retire following the completion of his sixth term has brought to a close a legislative career that is noteworthy for not only its longevity but also its accomplishments. Whether in the area of student educational loans, arms control or foreign affairs, Senator PELL has distinguished himself as an effective force in not simply representing the interests of Rhode Island residents but in authoring a national agenda designed to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Senator PELL's colleagues know him as a quiet, thoughtful man of strong intellect and compassion. In his words and by his actions, CLAIBORNE PELL has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to serving the public good for the past 36 years. This remarkable devotion to serving the common good will long be remembered by those of us who worked with CLAIBORNE PELL and lament his departure from the Senate. After devoting so much of himself to improving the welfare of this Nation,