

state senator and governor before being elected to the United States Senate in 1974.

Each of us understands that our primary job as Senators is to make the law, but many of us also believe that we should use our offices to help the people of our states. This is a sentiment that Senator FORD and I share, and over the years, my friend from Kentucky has worked tirelessly to help his state develop and prosper. While Kentucky, like South Carolina, is still a largely rural state, thanks in no small part to the efforts of WENDELL FORD, the people of Kentucky are enjoying opportunities and economic growth that has been substantial.

During his time in Washington, Senator FORD has held a number of key positions, both in the Senate and in political organizations. His leadership roles as an Assistant Leader and a former Committee Chairman stand as testament to both his abilities and the regard in which he is held by his peers.

I am certain that Senator FORD did not easily come to the decision to retire, but I am certain that he and his lovely wife Jean are looking forward to their new life. I wish both of them health, happiness and success in whatever endeavor they undertake.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DALE BUMPERS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, one of the things that makes the Senate such a unique and enjoyable place to work is the fact that there are 100 unique personalities that make up this institution. While each member takes his or her duties seriously, I hope that I do not offend anyone when I say that not all are gifted orators. One person who definitely can engage in articulate and compelling debate, and is also able to bring a little levity to our proceedings through his wit and ability to tell a story is the Senator from Arkansas, DALE BUMPERS.

First elected to the Senate in 1974, Senator BUMPERS arrived with an already well established and well deserved reputation for having a commitment to serving his constituents and our Nation. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, as well as the Governor of Arkansas, having been elected to that post in 1970. Clearly, his training as the chief executive of his home State, along with experiences as a trial lawyer, gave him the skills that would make him an effective and respected Senator.

For the past more than 20-years, Senator BUMPERS has worked hard to represent his State, and in doing so, has made many valuable contributions to the U.S. Senate. I regret that we have not shared any committee assignments, but I have always respected and valued the opinions of the Senator from Arkansas. His exit from the Senate leaves this institution without one of its most impressive and effective advocates.

I am certain that DALE and his lovely wife Betty will enjoy the more deliberate lifestyle and pace that bring out of politics will afford them and I wish the both of them health, happiness and success in the years ahead.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN H. DALTON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, as the framers of the Constitution worked to lay out the foundation of the United States, they very wisely decided that the military forces of this nation should be subservient to civilian leadership. For the past 224 years, this arrangement has worked well proving the wisdom of the men who drafted the document that serves as the cornerstone of our democracy and government.

One of the reasons that civilian leadership of the military has worked so well is because Presidents search tirelessly to find qualified individuals to fill the critical positions of the service secretaries. If we were to look across the Potomac and into the "E" ring of the Pentagon, we would find a group of selfless men and women serving as the civilian leadership of America's armed forces. One of those individuals is Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, who will be stepping down from his position at the end of this year.

When John Dalton raised his right hand on July 22, 1993, swore his oath and became the 70th Secretary of the Navy, he came to the office well trained to discharge the duties of his new office. Not only was he a successful corporate executive with invaluable experience in managing a large organization, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and served as an officer aboard the submarines USS Blueback and USS John C. Calhoun. Additionally, he served in the Carter Administration as a member and chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

The challenges of essentially being the first post-Cold War Secretary of the Navy were significant. Secretary Dalton had the unenviable task of being responsible for the reshaping of the Navy and the Marine Corps to meet the security needs of the United States in a world that is no longer bi-polar. Under his direction, the Navy and the Marine Corps implemented the new doctrines of "Forward, From the Sea: Anytime, Anywhere", and "Operational Maneuver from the Sea", both which will help America meet its short and long-term tactical and strategic needs. Furthermore, Secretary Dalton worked to achieve acquisition initiatives seeking to establish practices resulting in the procurement of the best equipment for our sailors and marines, at the fairest cost to the taxpayer. The new attack submarine teaming arrangement, the DDG-51 multi-year procurement, and the testing and evaluation of the F/A-18 E/F are all examples of such successful endeavors.

Unquestionably, the Navy and Marine Corps that Secretary Dalton will turn over to his successor are institutions that have benefitted from the leadership of this charismatic and kind Texan. His efforts have earned him the respect and accolades of people in the Congress, in the Executive Branch, in industry, in academia, and around the world, and even resulted in his being awarded with the National Security Caucus' prestigious International Leadership Award in 1997. He is the first service secretary to be recognized in this manner and his winning this award is a testament to the regard in which he is held.

Mr. President, I have worked with a lot of service secretaries in my almost 45 years in this body and I say without reservation that John Dalton is one of the finest individuals to have ever served in that capacity. He is a man of honor, ability, and dedication and he will certainly be missed. I know that everyone in this chamber joins me in wishing him "fair winds and following seas" as he completes his public service to the Department of the Navy and the United States of America.

PASSAGE OF THE YEAR 2000 INFORMATION AND READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT, S. 2392

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Y2K bill demonstrates successful bipartisanship and cooperation, and how well Congress can work together when it wants to. Under the leadership of Vice President GORE, Senators HATCH, BENNETT, DODD, THOMPSON, KYL and I, along with others, have worked with the Administration and the House of Representatives to create and pass this legislation. I thank them for their hard work and dedication to this issue.

Four-hundred and forty-nine days from now, millions of computers controlling our air traffic, recording stock and credit card transactions, running electric and telephone systems, tracking bank deposits and monitoring hospital patients may crash in befuddlement. All of this is due to the short-sighted omission of a couple of digits, a one and a nine, from computer chips. Passage of this bill is a signal to the world that by acting now, we can work together to avoid these problems.

The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act will not eliminate the millennium bug—regrettably, no legislation could do that. However, it will greatly increase the chances that industry, university and government experts will work cooperatively to come up with the solutions.

One of the scariest aspects of the Y2K bug has been the silence of businesses and industries in the face of this common enemy. Liability concerns have muted industry experts, dashing the best hopes for developing fixes for this problem. The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act was designed to overcome this isolation and create a free flow of constructive information.