

I do remember my parents talking about Senator THURMOND's astonishing accomplishment right across the river in South Carolina, having been elected to the Senate on a write-in ballot.

As I grew older and began to pay attention to Government and politics in America, I began to realize STROM THURMOND was something quite special. When I came to the Senate in 1984, 40 years after my parents telling me about Senator THURMOND winning on a write-in, I knew instantly I was in the presence of a legend, as we all have been who have had the privilege of being a Member of this body at the same time as the senior Senator from South Carolina.

There will literally never be another American like Senator THURMOND. We all know he was too old for World War II, he did not have to go, but at age 42, as Senator ALLEN just made reference to, Senator THURMOND was there on D-day. In fact, he was in one of those gliders the night of D-day. Last year, we had an opportunity to see "Band of Brothers" on HBO about the 101st and its experience from D-day through the end of war. I watched every segment of that. In addition to what I was viewing on the television screen, I thought mostly about our colleague and his harrowing experience of going in the night of D-day on a glider. He did crack up, and as we all know, he was able to walk away and survive the crackup and survive the war and become an American hero.

Not many of us are ever going to be legends, and almost none of us are going to be legends in our own time. The Senator from South Carolina has lived long enough to observe his own legendary status, which is a truly remarkable thing. We will never, ever, see another STROM THURMOND. He is unique in the annals of American history.

I want to say to you, Senator THURMOND, as a son of the South myself, somebody who was born in Alabama and then migrated north to Kentucky—most people think of Kentucky as south, but for us it was north—and having lived in Georgia when you were first elected on a write-in, I want to say to you that you have been an inspiration to me and an inspiration to many of us in the deep South who have been so proud of you and your enormous accomplishments over the years.

I extend my congratulations to Senator THURMOND on his pending birthday, reaching 100 years of age. In fact, I had the Today show on this morning and Willard mentioned you, Senator THURMOND. He is working up to celebrating your 100th birthday in December and, of course, finishing up your term. You have had a truly remarkable career that will never be equaled in this body. My congratulations to you and our best wishes for the future.

So, Senator, today I raise my voice—joining the chorus of so many other voices—to pay my fondest farewell to your tireless and timeless dedication to

serving the families of the great Palmetto State.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I apologize. I was not able to be here this morning when the Senators expressed their words and thoughts about our wonderful colleague, STROM THURMOND, who is retiring from the Senate this year. I wanted to join in the particular tribute in saying to him and the people of South Carolina and the rest of our colleagues something we all feel, regardless of the disagreements we may have had on substantive policy matters, STROM THURMOND is truly an American institution in many ways.

I cannot even begin to imagine the U.S. Senate without this remarkable individual in our presence. For nearly 50 years—almost a quarter of the life of this country—through 10 Presidential administrations, STROM THURMOND has been an institution in the Chamber of the Senate. Eight Senators serving today were not yet born when STROM THURMOND was first elected to the Senate in 1954.

It is not the fact that Senator THURMOND has served the Senate longer than any other Senator in our Nation's history that makes him unique. It has been, in my view, STROM THURMOND's fascinating journey through life that makes him unique. His story is truly a unique American story.

In the course of his nearly 100 years, STROM THURMOND has been a teacher, judge, combat hero, Governor, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and, of course, a Senator. In more than 20 years of our serving together, I have not always agreed with Senator THURMOND, as I know many of my colleagues have not over the years, but he has always been a true embodiment of the "way of the Senate,"—always thoughtful, always respectful, and always deliberative. In short, he has been a great Senate colleague.

My father, Senator Thomas Dodd, served with Senator THURMOND for 12 years. I have served with him for 20. That is 32 of his almost 50 years. They, too, had their differences, but they had tremendous respect for one another and were very good friends. My family will always think of STROM THURMOND not simply as a friend but as a loyal friend to the Dodd family.

I believe that no matter what your ideology or political persuasion, one cannot look upon the life of STROM THURMOND without concluding that it is in so many ways so remarkable.

What else can you say about a man who, at the age of 42, took a leave of absence as a Circuit Judge in South Carolina to volunteer to parachute behind enemy lines with the 82nd Airborne Division during the Normandy D-Day invasion, for which he was awarded 5 Battle Stars for Bravery in Combat?

What else can you say about a man who has dedicated his entire life to public service, to the service of his country?

While never neglecting to be a stalwart in support of the state and people of his beloved South Carolina, there are literally dozens upon dozens of schools, buildings, parks, and streets in South Carolina named after their senior Senator. Senator STROM THURMOND has never failed to put America first.

He has always treated public service to America as a sacred responsibility. In this respect, STROM THURMOND is a very, very rare breed.

Senator THURMOND was born at the dawn of the 20th century, born to a very different time; to a very different America.

Over the past century, America has grown as a Nation. Over the past century, America has become a more free, a more fair, and a more compassionate nation.

And, over the past century, Senator THURMOND has also grown.

Senator THURMOND once said, "People evolve. They reach a higher truth in life."

STROM THURMOND lived through the entire 20th century, a century which began with two world wars and ended with a triumph of democracy.

It was a century of enormous political and social upheaval, but it was also a century of enormous progress and enlightenment.

STROM THURMOND was not just witness to the entire 20th century, he was a full participant.

His journey mirrored America's journey.

And now, at the dawn of a new century, STROM THURMOND is still a participant in America's journey.

In closing I would just like to tell STROM THURMOND that his lifetime of service to his country, and his nearly 50 years in the United States Senate, is greatly appreciated, and will be sorely missed.

STROM, it is an honor and a privilege working with you, and I will miss you very, very much.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, several of our colleagues made some remarks concerning our esteemed friend and colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND. I wish to join them in that effort.

STROM THURMOND, by the end of this year, will complete 48 years in the Senate—eight terms in the Senate. I will be completing four terms, and it is mind-boggling to think someone would complete eight, 48 years in the Senate. He was elected to the Senate in 1954 and has served this body with great distinction and honor during that time.

Prior to that time, he was also Governor of South Carolina. Even before that, he was one of the heroes, in my opinion, who actually helped liberate Europe going into Normandy. He actually parachuted into Normandy behind enemy lines. He earned 18 decorations for his service, including the Purple Heart.

He is an outstanding hero, American, Governor, Senator, serving 48 years in the Senate. He has had a wealth of experience.

I remember my first contact with Senator THURMOND is when he called me to congratulate me upon my election in 1980 and urged me to serve on the Judiciary Committee, which I respectfully declined, but I found it was hard to turn down STROM THURMOND. He has been a very close confidante and friend.

My daughter had the privilege of working for him for a short period of time, and she considers that a highlight in her career as well.

He served both as chairman of the Armed Services Committee and also the Judiciary Committee. He served with distinction and honor. He has brought great pride to the Senate. He is the Senator's Senator, and I join my colleagues in saying that we have the greatest esteem and respect for Senator STROM THURMOND.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Senator STROM THURMOND achieved more before middle age than many of us achieve in a lifetime. Born in 1902, Senator THURMOND in 1933 was already a State senator in South Carolina. In 1938, he was a State court judge. From 1942 to 1946, he served in World War II, landing on the beach in Normandy on D-day with the 82nd Airborne Division and earning numerous decorations, medals and awards. In 1947, the year he turned 45, he was the Governor of South Carolina. In 1954, when he was elected to the Senate, he already had a full history of serving the public, especially the people of his beloved home State of South Carolina. In the Senate, Senator THURMOND has demonstrated a keen political instinct and achieved a legendary reputation for constituent service. The people of South Carolina know Senator THURMOND will treat them royally—a standard I try to emulate for my own constituents. Senator THURMOND's imprint on the Senate is with this institution forever.

Senator THURMOND is responsible for one of the highlights of my Senate service. In 1980, soon after I was first elected to the Senate, Senator THURMOND was becoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He asked me to join the committee. I explained I wasn't a lawyer, but he explained I didn't need to be. Senator THURMOND promised to get me good staff to help me with the technical points of Judiciary Committee work. He delivered on that promise, and I thoroughly enjoy serving on the Judiciary Committee. I hope to continue serving on that committee as long as I'm a member of the Senate, although of course I won't serve as long as Senator THURMOND. I appreciate Senator THURMOND's support of me as a freshman Senator, and an unknown quantity, by giving me the opportunity to join his committee. I hope I haven't disappointed him.

As a farm State Senator, I seek like-minded Senators to support the sur-

vival of family farmers. Senator THURMOND has always supported any efforts to advance this cause. He comes from a largely agricultural State, and he understands how family farmers not only feed the world, but also make up part of the fabric of American life. I'm grateful to have served with Senator THURMOND over the years, and to continue serving with him.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak in honor of my good friend—and legend—the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

From the moment STROM THURMOND set foot in this Chamber in 1954, he has been setting records. He was the only person ever elected to the Senate on a write-in-vote. He set the record for the longest speech on the Senate floor, clocked at an astounding 24 hours and 18 minutes. He is the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. As he approaches his 100th birthday, he is also the oldest serving Senator. Many of my colleagues will recall the momentous occasion in September of 1998 when he cast his 15,000th vote in the Senate. With these and so many other accomplishments over the years, he has appropriately been referred to as "an institution within an institution."

In 1902, the year STROM THURMOND was born, life expectancy was 51 years—and today it is 77 years. STROM continues to prove that, by any measure, he is anything but average.

He has seen so much in his life. To provide some context, let me point out that, since his birth, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii gained statehood, and 11 amendments were added to the Constitution. The technological advancements he has witnessed, from the automobile to the airplane to the Internet, literally span a century of progress. Conveniences we have come to take for granted today were not always part of STROM THURMOND's world. Perhaps this explains why, during Judiciary Committee hearings, he has been heard asking witnesses who were too far away from the microphone to "please speak into the machine."

The story of his remarkable political career truly could fill several volumes. It began with a win in 1928 for the Edgefield County Superintendent of Schools. Eighteen years later, he was Governor of South Carolina. STROM was even a Presidential candidate in 1948, running on the "Dixiecrat" ticket against Democrat Harry Truman.

I must admit, Mr. President, that he has come a long way in his political career, given that he originally came to the Senate as a Democrat. I am happy to say that wisdom came within a few short years when STROM saw the light and joined the Republican Party.

When I first arrived in the Senate in January of 1977, he was my mentor. As my senior on the Judiciary Committee, it was STROM THURMOND who helped me find my way and learn how the committee functioned. He has not only

been a respected colleague, but a personal friend, ever since.

During his tenure as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, STROM THURMOND left an indelible mark on the committee and the laws that came through it. He became known and respected for many fine qualities and positions—his devotion to the Constitution, his toughness on crime, his sense of fairness.

He is also famous for his incredible grip. Many of us in this Chamber have experienced STROM THURMOND holding our arm tightly as he explains a viewpoint and asks for our support. I might add that this can be a very effective approach.

STROM is also known to have a kind word or greeting for everyone who comes his way, and for being extremely good to his staff. Despite his power and influence, he has never forgotten the importance of small acts of kindness. For example, whenever he eats in the Senate Dining Room, he grabs two fistfuls of candy. When he returns to the floor of the Senate, he hands the candy out to the Senate Pages. Unfortunately, it is usually melted into a kaleidoscope of sugar by then! I have a feeling that the Pages prefer it when STROM takes them out for ice cream.

STROM THURMOND is truly a legend—someone to whom the people of South Carolina owe an enormous debt of gratitude for all his years of service. Clearly, the people of South Carolina recognize the sacrifices he has made and are grateful for all he has done for them. In fact, you cannot mention the name STROM THURMOND in South Carolina without the audience bursting into spontaneous applause. He truly is an American political icon.

Abraham Lincoln once said that "The better part of one's life consists of friendships." With a friend like STROM THURMOND, this sentiment couldn't be more true. I am a great admirer of STROM THURMOND, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. President, one final note about STROM THURMOND: He is a great patriot. I am grateful for his work with me over the years in support of a constitutional flag amendment. A decorated veteran of World War II who fought at Normandy on D-day, STROM THURMOND loves this country. Let me close by saying that this country loves him, too.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and colleague Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina for his 48 years of service to this country.

Senator THURMOND was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954, as the first person in U.S. history to be elected to a major office by a write-in ballot. As the longest serving Senator in the Senate, STROM has been a part of a lot of firsts in our Nation's history and he has contributed to every major policy issue facing this country for the last half century. He is a true legend.

STROM has been a respected authority on military issues. He served in

World War II, fighting in 5 battles, including the Normandy Invasion, and received 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Legion of Merit With Oak Leaf cluster. In 1959, STROM attained the rank of major general. He has been a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959. His expertise in military issues has been a great benefit to our men and women in uniform.

His love for the state of South Carolina has been a guiding force in his life. He has been a coach, an educator, an attorney, a State senator, a judge, a Governor, and, most importantly, an impeccable leader for the people of South Carolina.

STROM has not only been a remarkable Senator, but an even better American. I know I speak for all my colleagues here in the Senate when I say that he will be missed.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great pride and honor that I rise today amongst my fellow colleagues to honor one of America's finest citizens, Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

When I look at STROM's career and all that he has accomplished throughout his life, I often find myself wondering how one man could possibly do so much in just one lifetime. STROM THURMOND truly deserves the title of Renaissance man. He has been a farmer, a teacher, a lawyer, a judge, an author, a Governor, a war veteran, a major general in the U.S. Army Reserves, a State senator, a U.S. Senator, a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, a Republican, a husband and a father.

Since 1954, when he ran and won a seat in the Senate as a write-in candidate, STROM THURMOND has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the people of South Carolina and the citizens of this great Nation, casting more than 15,000 votes in his time in the Senate.

I now ask that my fellow members of the Senate join me in thanking and honoring our good friend and colleague for all that he has done throughout his life and throughout his tenure in the Senate. His brilliance, leadership and unmatched wit will be sorely missed by this legislative body and by the entire Nation. But we will always hold on to the many memories and stories he left behind.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. Strom Thurmond. Not only is Senator THURMOND the oldest Member ever to serve in the Senate, and the longest serving member, his entire life has been dedicated to service to his country. At the age of 21, in 1924, Senator THURMOND was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. At the age of 26, he was serving as the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield County, SC. From there he went on to serve as a State Senator, and then as Circuit Judge of South Carolina, a position he left to serve his country dur-

ing World War II. For his military service, he earned a total of 18 different medals, decorations, and awards. He served as the Governor of South Carolina, and while serving, he ran for President as the head of the third party States Rights Democrats. He received 39 electoral votes, the third largest ever for an independent party candidate. Then in 1954, he was elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate, the first person ever to be elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate.

Senator THURMOND's career as a member of the Senate has been not only long but distinguished. He served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 12 years and he served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for 6 years. In fact, he has served on the Armed Services Committee for the last 43 years, where he has been a leader in promoting a strong national defense.

So while we do well to recognize his extraordinary years of service to the Senate, it is worth remembering that Senator THURMOND is the perfect example of a true statesman a man who has dedicated his life to serving his country in any way possible, in all branches of government, in times of war and in times of peace. Senator THURMOND has set an example not only as a great Senator, but as a great citizen of this country, and it is for that reason that we are here to pay tribute, to demonstrate our respect, and to offer our thanks.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

On December 5, 2002, Senator THURMOND will turn 100 years old, another amazing milestone for an indefatigable public servant. Throughout his historic years of service in the Senate, he has distinguished himself through his energy, his spirited patriotism, and his dedication to excellence. Every Member of this body counts him as a friend and as an inspiration.

Beginning his public service career in 1923 as a teacher and athletic coach, he became the superintendent of education in Edgefield County, SC. He was elected to the State senate at the young age of 31 and later served as a Circuit Judge of South Carolina.

He left the judicial bench in 1942 to fight in World War II where he parachuted into Normandy on D-day with the 82nd Airborne Division. He served in the Civil Affairs section of the First Army headquarters where he was awarded five Battle Stars, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. Upon his return to South Carolina, he served as Governor before he was elected to the Senate in 1954.

STROM THURMOND's career as a Senator has been distinguished by love of

his country and all the possibilities he has envisioned for it. His longevity and strength are a result of his determination to further his ideals, his commitment to personal fitness, and his devotion to serve the people of South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND's influence has been felt throughout the Senate, but it has been particularly noteworthy in his leadership on the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. In recent years, as President Pro Tempore, he set an example for us all with his thoughtful wit, his constancy, and his obvious love for the Senate and its institutions.

Senator THURMOND is a statesman whose retirement from this Chamber will leave the Senate a diminished place. I am pleased to join with my Senate colleagues in acclaiming his lifetime of service to America.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating the senior Senator from South Carolina, our esteemed colleague and a legendary public servant, as we honor his service to America and his beloved constituents in South Carolina.

When the 107th Congress adjourns sine die later this year, it will end another chapter in the life and legendary public service of Senator THURMOND. For almost 48 years, STROM THURMOND has been an important person in the life of the Senate. Indeed, December 24, 2002, will mark the 48th anniversary of Senator THURMOND arrival in the Senate after his election as a write-in candidate, a feat that itself is historic and unprecedented. December 5, 2002, also marks another marvelous milestone, Senator THURMOND's 100th birthday. In considering these truly remarkable events, it is humbling to recall that Senator THURMOND's service in the Senate is longer than the period of time that Hawaii has been a State.

It is even more remarkable to consider Senator THURMOND's accomplishments outside of the Senate: attorney, state legislator, judge, decorated World War II hero and participant in the D-day landing, Governor of South Carolina, husband, and father.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator THURMOND during the 12 years I have been in the Senate, the last quarter of his remarkable tenure, and we serve together on the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees. As Chairman Emeritus of both Committees, Senator THURMOND has earned a well-deserved reputation as a determined and powerful advocate for our Nation's men and women in uniform and our veterans. His commitment to improve services, benefits, and quality of life for servicemembers and veterans, and their families, is unwavering.

On a personal note, our former colleague, Senator Bob Dole, Majority Leader DASCHLE, and others have spoken about emulating Senator THURMOND's diet and exercise regimen as a way of enjoying similar longevity. I

would like to share with my colleagues one of Senator THURMOND's dietary secrets: he has a fondness for Hawaiian macadamia nuts. I can think of no better testimonial for the health benefits of macadamia nuts than the gentleman from South Carolina!

I thank our leaders for scheduling this time for the Senate to honor the remarkable life and times of a great American patriot and a gentleman of the Senate, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague from South Carolina and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

For the better part of the 20th century, STROM THURMOND devoted his life to public service service to the people of South Carolina, service to his country in World War II, and service in the Senate.

He began his career as a teacher and coach. He became superintendent of education in Edgefield County. He landed at Normandy on D-day with the 82nd Airborne Division, and returned home to become Governor of South Carolina.

In 1954, STROM THURMOND became the first Member of the Senate to win election as a write-in candidate. He has spent most of his life giving back to the people and the places that have given him so much in life.

As a U.S. Senator, no one has had a more distinguished career than STROM THURMOND. For more than 48 years, he has been a champion for our veterans. Time and time again, he has fought to strengthen their education and rehabilitation benefits, and to provide them with the best health care and housing.

In the last year, he continued to do more for our military. He filed legislation to ensure that disabled veterans have access to service dogs so that they can lead a more independent life. He has reached across the aisle to end the limit on Junior ROTC programs with our colleague Senator GRAHAM from Florida.

He secured education benefits for our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. Each effort has brought more honor and dignity to the courageous men and women who give so much of themselves so that we can live in freedom.

Just as he began his career as a teacher in 1923, I know that he was so very proud to support last year's "No Child Left Behind Act." He understands that the best place to open a child's mind and heart to the opportunities that surround him or her is through education.

I want to take this moment to thank Senator THURMOND for supporting New York during this difficult year. In the wake of massive terrorist attacks, Senator THURMOND stood by the people of New York and the people of New York are grateful for his assistance as the city rebuilds.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to honor STROM THURMOND and to express

my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that he has done to improve the lives of the people he represents in South Carolina and every American.

We are honored for his years of service and wish him a very happy birthday.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in this tribute to Senator THURMOND and his extraordinary record of service to the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

As the longest serving member of the United States Senate in history, the Senator from South Carolina cast his first vote in January 1955—when seven of his current colleagues were not even born. His election in 1954 was an American first. Senator THURMOND was the first person ever elected to a major office as a write-in candidate.

Senator THURMOND came to this body half a century ago as a man of humble origins with a teacher's background and a legal education given to him by his father, and he has never stopped teaching and learning.

In the years since he first came to the Senate, he has cast over 15,000 votes, and he has always stood up for his beliefs with a passionate conviction. Over the years, many of us have often disagreed with him on specific issues, but we have always had great respect for his ability and dedication.

Senator THURMOND has served our country with great dedication in the armed forces as well, from his early days as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1924 to his outstanding service in the 82nd Airborne during World War II. He volunteered for service immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and piloted a glider onto the beaches at Normandy in 1944, earning five battle stars and numerous over medals for his courage in combat.

I have had the honor to serve for many years with Senator THURMOND on both the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and we often worked together to meet the important challenges facing our Nation.

Two decades ago, as members of the Judiciary Committee, we worked together for a period of several years to reform and improve the federal sentencing system. Our proposal was eventually enacted as the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

Prior to the 1984 Act, federal sentencing was famously characterized by Judge Marvin Frankel as a system of "law without order." Judges had unreviewable discretion to sentence defendants to lengthy periods of incarceration—or no incarceration at all. Gross disparities in sentencing were common, even within the same federal courthouse. Too often, those disparities were related to the race or the economic resources of the defendant.

Some thought the answer to that problem was mandatory sentencing

laws. But Senator THURMOND and I developed the fairer and more effective approach of sentencing guidelines that is used today.

Senator THURMOND and I came to the issue from different perspectives, but we agreed on the goal of fair sentencing laws. It took several years of debates, but Senator THURMOND and I stood together. Our ideas prevailed, and I am proud to have worked with him on this important reform of the Nation's criminal justice system.

We have worked together on the Armed Services Committee as well. Senator THURMOND has never forgotten the responsibility of the 82nd Airborne to be America's Guard, and to go "All the Way" in protecting the rights of our men and women in uniform and our Nation's veterans.

From the STROM THURMOND Institute at his alma mater, Clemson University to STROM THURMOND High School to Interstate Highway 20, also known as STROM THURMOND Highway, the Senator from South Carolina has been honored by communities in his state and by the American people as well. I know that all of us in the Senate commend him, as he retires this year, for his long and distinguished service to the Senate and the Nation.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has been heartwarming to hear the eloquent remarks about the accomplishments and career of our distinguished colleague from South Carolina.

He has been my friend and colleague in the Senate for twenty-four years. It has been a high privilege and honor to work with him and to learn from his example of dedicated service to the citizens of his state.

As this session of the Senate nears an end, it is hard to imagine that it will be Senator THURMOND's last term as a United States Senator.

Since 1964, he has worked hard to strengthen and protect our country and defend the principles on which it was founded. He can be assured that his has been a successful and remarkable career.

I'm proud to join others today in thanking and commending him for his truly outstanding record of public service.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, born nearly a century ago, when Mark Twain was alive and Teddy Roosevelt was still President, STROM THURMOND has led a life of public service unmatched in the modern history of America. He has been a friend to all of the more than 400 Senators with whom he has served. And he will forever be a symbol of what one person can accomplish when they live life to the fullest.

STROM THURMOND has served in the Senate for all but four of my 50 years of age. Though that is a remarkable accomplishment itself, we should not forget what STROM accomplished before coming to the Senate.

He was a teacher, an athletic coach, and a Superintendent of Education. He studied law under his father, Judge J.

William Thurmond and became a City Attorney, County Attorney, State Senator, and, eventually, a Circuit Court Judge.

Though exempt from serving in the military, STROM, who had already been an army reservist and a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant by the age of 21, volunteered for active duty on the day we entered WWII. As a member of the 82nd Airborne, he parachuted behind enemy lines on D-Day and helped secure the foothold for the Allies to liberate the European continent.

For his distinguished service, STROM was awarded five Battle Stars and 18 other decorations, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Cross of War.

After the war, STROM returned home to South Carolina. He was elected Governor in 1946 and then ran for President of the United States as the States Rights Democratic candidate. Although Harry Truman prevailed, STROM won four states and 39 electoral votes. That tally still stands as the third largest independent electoral vote in U.S. history.

Despite not winning the presidency, STROM was determined to serve in Washington. He ran for the Senate in 1954 and became the only candidate elected to Congress by a write-in vote in American history. STROM has been re-elected eight times since. Clearly the people of South Carolina value principle, character and courage in their leaders.

Though it has been more difficult in recent years for STROM to make it home to South Carolina, that has not stopped South Carolina from coming to him. And it shouldn't. For decades STROM attended every county fair, handled every constituent request, and sent a congratulatory note to every high school graduate, many of whom came to intern in his office.

It has been said that almost 70 percent of South Carolinians have met STROM THURMOND face-to-face.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career, STROM THURMOND has been a witness to history. As a young man, he knew people who had seen Andrew Jackson, and he campaigned for the votes of men who fought in the Civil War. He and Herbert Hoover won their first elective office in the same year, 1928.

But STROM has more than seen history; he has written it. Not only is he the oldest and long-serving Senator, he has served with about one-fifth of the nearly 2,000 people who have been members of the Senate since 1789. And he is nearly one half the age of the United States Constitution itself.

Like the great experiment that is American democracy, STROM THURMOND has certainly faced his trials, both politically and personally. Yet, through it all, he has always held tight to his principles, always upheld his beliefs, and always defended American values at home and abroad.

Today we say thanks to this giant of a man not only for the history he has witnessed and written, but for the service his life will inspire for generations to come. God bless our friend, our colleague, and the Senate's Icon of Time, the senior Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am proud to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to our friend from South Carolina, Senator STROM THURMOND, who through his 48 years of distinguished service in this body has given special meaning to the term Senior Senator and left an indelible mark on the history of this great Nation.

Well before Senator STROM THURMOND celebrated his 100th birthday this year, he had become an institution within this institution. To many American, that is primarily because of his much-celebrated durability. But to those of us who have the privilege to work with him here in the Capitol, it is as much a measure of his inexhaustible amiability, the graciousness and decency that have come to define STROM's way, and his extraordinary dedication to the people and the country he serves.

Senator THURMOND has been such a fixture here in the Senate, it is easy to forget that he led a remarkable public life long before he came to Washington. He began his career as a farmer, teacher, and athletic coach. He was superintendent of education in his home county. He was town and county attorney. He was State senator in his great State of South Carolina. He was a judge. He served in the Second World War, and was part of the Normandy invasion with the 82nd Airborne. He was Governor of South Carolina. And from that position of leadership he went on to run for President in 1948, before getting elected to the Senate for the first time in 1954.

Since then, Senator THURMOND has had the unique distinction of having been a delegate to six national Democratic Conventions and six national Republican Conventions. And he has found the time to be reelected to the Senate an astounding eight times, serving as an esteemed member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959, and as President pro tempore of the Senate from 1981–86 and 1995–2001.

I have had the honor of serving with Senator THURMOND on the Armed Services Committee for more than a dozen of those years, and it is readily apparent why the people of South Carolina—not to mention his colleagues on both sides of the aisle—hold him in such high regard. Quite simply, every day he is happy to be helping and protecting the security of our country. Here in Washington, he has been a fierce protector of his State interests. And at home he has been a gentle and caring friend to his constituents, always ready to listen and willing to act on their behalf. It is a testament to that friendship and admiration that at least 20 buildings, centers, rooms, and stat-

ues in South Carolina have been named after him. And that's not counting all the streets and roads that carry the Thurmond name.

The long list of these accomplishments would take most Americans 300 hundred years to accumulate. Senator THURMOND has gotten them all under his belt in a mere 100. And through it all, Senator THURMOND has grown not only as a public servant and leader, but as a human being. After running for President as a State's rights candidate, he later supported the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on behalf of his State. And today, in recognition of all his hard work for all the people of South Carolina, he is beloved throughout his State by constituents of all colors. That transformation sends a powerful message that all of us could become better Americans and better individuals—and that the United States of America, for all its blessings, can always become a better nation.

For all this, we honor Senator THURMOND as a man of iron with a heart of gold, who has lived a love for his country and all that makes it exceptional, and given not just the best of years of life but just about every year of life to make his community and his country a better place. The Senate will just not be the same without him. But today we can and should celebrate the tremendous difference he has made. So we thank him for all your service and sacrifice, and wish you a long and healthy retirement. God knows you have earned it.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to address homeland security.

No Member of this body can deny that homeland security is of the utmost importance at this time. We all agree that protecting Americans from further deadly terrorist attacks is, without question, our most urgent national priority. President Bush and the American people have called on us to act on his priority.

Americans cannot ignore continuing widespread threats made by terrorist groups throughout the world. Even in Idaho, a State that is more than 2,000 miles from any of the sites of the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, people are mindful of these new dangers that exist. There is a general feeling across the country that no one can consider themselves isolated or immune.

In securing our Nation and protecting the American people, we need an approach that is coordinated, comprehensive, and collaborative; a system that acts at Federal, State, and community levels. We are capable of creating a Department of Homeland Security that protects the United States from terrorist threats while preserving American civil liberties on which our country was founded. It is incumbent upon us to create a dynamic, synchronized, and flexible entity, so that we can, indeed, facilitate the need for homeland security on a national level,

while at the same time meeting the challenges posed by ever-changing threats made from many different fronts. We do not know where our next threat will materialize and we should not withhold from the President the ability to analyze and respond aggressively and dynamically as the situation commands.

To be successful in our endeavor for national safety, the interests of the American people must supercede party differences; we must be united as we were last September if we wish to protect the people of the United States. I applaud Senator GRAMM and Senator MILLER for their tireless efforts working toward a bipartisan substitute that truly provides the tools and capabilities needed by those entrusted with defending the people. It is high time that the Senate move forward on this legislation, following the lead of the other body, and respond to the call of the American people.

Mr. President, I hope the Senate will support President Bush, allowing him the same flexibility given other presidents in times of war. Our quick and aggressive action regarding Homeland Security is imperative; we must grant the President the power, flexibility, and necessary resources to guide us through this continuing conflict. For as long as terrorism continues to be a worldwide scourge, threats to our national security should be met with the fullest and most aggressive response. I stand with the President in his concerted effort to root out this evil and to bring security to our Nation.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Lieberman amendment establishing a commission to examine and report upon the facts and circumstances relating to the most catastrophic terrorist attack in the history of the United States: the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. I was a cosponsor of the legislation upon which this amendment is based and am eager for the work of the commission to get underway.

The senseless attacks of September 11, 2001, made it clear to all Americans that the United States was inadequately prepared for the threats posed in a post-cold-war world. Now that the Soviet Union has dissolved and American relations with Russia and China have improved markedly, disparate religiously motivated non-state actors have distinguished themselves as a clear and present danger to international stability and the security of the American homeland. The commission that would be created by this amendment would go a long way in helping the United States identify the causes of the September 11 disaster and inform the U.S. Congress as it embarks upon the difficult process of reorganizing our government to respond to newly recognized threats.

For many families that I have spoken with, the inability of the government to provide a full accounting of the

events surrounding the death of their loved ones in the September 11 attacks has added to their grief. They have requested that the government provide them with a thorough explanation of the various factors that led to the untimely deaths of their dear relatives. If the public report released by this commission provides some small measure of comfort to these families, then in my view, it is worthwhile.

But this commission is important for pragmatic as well as emotional reasons. Few people doubt that the terrorist attacks unmasked unfortunate weaknesses in the United States homeland security posture. In the weeks and months following the attacks, the Congress moved swiftly to address some of the most obvious weaknesses. Consequently, there have already been substantial changes in a variety of areas, ranging from the formation of the Transportation Security Administration to necessary adjustments in the way that the Department of Justice responds to new threats. But our work is far from complete.

It would be an unfortunate mistake to believe that the U.S. Congress has already uncovered all of the missteps that allowed the horrific tragedy of September 11, 2001 to take place. A commission, composed of outside experts and government officials, will provide a nuanced analysis of the myriad events related to the most catastrophic attack on the United States in history.

The work of the Intelligence Committee has been entirely professional and profoundly important, but it is insufficient by design. The mistakes and miscuss relating to the September 11 attacks are not limited to intelligence failures alone, but run the gamut from foreign policy decisions regarding the use of American forces and aid after the fall of the Soviet Union to shortcomings in American law enforcement and immigration practices. Ultimately, an effective investigation must not restrict itself simply to the operations of our intelligence-gathering agencies. In fact, an effective analysis should not limit itself to the Federal Government, but must take an incisive look at both the public and private sector and at the State and national level, to generate recommendations that will truly address the specific and often esoteric factors that led to the September 11 attacks.

No committee or commission to date has been given the jurisdiction to take the long view and provide a holistic evaluation of the factors relating to and the issues surrounding the most devastating attack in American history. The commission that would be created by this amendment would provide a level of scrutiny and self-reflection that is urgently needed after an event of the magnitude and the scope of the September 11 disaster.

Just 11 days after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, the U.S. Congress passed legislation creating the Roberts

Commission, a commission to determine, in the words of historian Gordon Prange, "whether 'derelictions of duty' or 'errors of judgment' had influenced the Japanese at Pearl Harbor and, if so, who was responsible." The commission then made a series of recommendations designed to improve American security.

The September 11 disaster is no less significant and has no fewer ramifications than the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The President has correctly characterized the international fight against terrorism as a war. As we embarked on World War II, we established a commission to analyze the Pearl Harbor attack. Similarly, as we embark on the war on terrorism, we must establish a commission to analyze the September 11 attacks.

It is essential that Congress know what went wrong so the United States can plan for the future. Weaknesses must be shored up, gaps must be filled, and oversights must be rectified.

Above all, this amendment would represent an important step in realizing the ultimate goal of all Americans, both Democrat and Republican alike: to ensure that an event like September 11 never happens again.

I urge my colleagues to support Senator LIEBERMAN's amendment.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, at the close of the 107th Congress, the Senate will lose a legend, a colleague who has served more than 40 years in the U.S. Senate, cast more than 15,000 votes and achieved the record as the longest-serving Member in this body.

Perhaps most notably, our colleague, on his retirement, will have completed the lengthiest record of public service on behalf of our country. Senator THURMOND has served his community as an educator; the State as State senator, judge, and Governor; and our Nation in World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters, an Army Reservist for 36 years, as a candidate for President and as U.S. Senator. This record of service spans a period of more than 80 years.

Remarks by Senator THURMOND at the time of his swearing-in ceremony for his seventh term in 1997 express succinctly his views and commitment to public service. At the time he said, "there is no more rewarding endeavor than public service, and without question, the more than 40 years I have spent in the U.S. Senate have been among the happiest of my life."

As I review Senator THURMOND's record of service, and reflect on his service in the Senate and to our country, few Americans have had the opportunity to witness and shape history as he has. Senator THURMOND's achievements in the military and on defense matters serve to underscore this point.

Senator THURMOND is a veteran who served in World War II during some of the most difficult combat of the war. He parachuted into Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division, earning 5 battle stars and 18 decorations including the Purple Heart, the

Legion of Merit, Belgian Order of the Crown and French Croix de Guerre during his service. Following WW II, Senator THURMOND continued his military career by serving in the Army Reserves for many years. During this period, he attained the rank of major general.

Knowing the face of battle, THURMOND never forgot the importance maintaining a strong defense and especially of taking care of our military personnel. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959, and chairman of the committee for a number of years during the 1990s, Senator THURMOND made certain that the needs of our military were met. He had a special concern for junior enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers along with the welfare of their families.

This concern was clearly demonstrated by his efforts during Senate consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 1999. In this Act, a number of provisions were incorporated that significantly improve benefits for military personnel. Were it not for Senator THURMOND's leadership on military personnel issues, our Armed Forces would unquestionably not be receiving the benefits that they should and are entitled to receive. I am pleased that the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 bears his name. It is a fitting tribute to an individual who cared so much for our military personnel.

There is so much that can be said about Senator THURMOND and his many contributions to our country. He was an 82nd Airborne paratrooper with a remarkable service record in World War II, a disabled veteran, an educator, and a distinguished public servant at all levels of government. Unquestionably, Senator THURMOND deserves our respect. It is my hope that younger Americans will have opportunities to learn about Senator THURMOND's career and accomplishments. I have been privileged to serve with Senator THURMOND and thank him for his service.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to honor South Carolina's senior Senator STROM THURMOND. Senator THURMOND will turn 100 on December 5. Only 126 years before Senator THURMOND's birth, the United States of America gained its independence; 37 years before Senator THURMOND was born, the Civil War ended; and when he was a year old, Wright brothers engineered the first flight from Kitty Hawk. Senator THURMOND made a commitment at an early age to serve the interests and needs of our Nation. His life is full of our country's history, and he has made our country his life.

Since his days as a school teacher and athletic coach in the early 1920's Senator THURMOND has continued to be a leader and serve the interests of our country well above his own. Senator THURMOND served on active duty with the U.S. Army in World War II. He was a judge at that time, so he was exempt from military service. But Senator

THURMOND volunteered, and as a 41-year-old Lt. Colonel, dropped behind enemy lines on D-Day in Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division. During his 36 years of distinguished military service in the Active and Reserve Army, he was awarded five Battle Stars and 15 decorations, medals and other awards.

Senator THURMOND carried his military experience to the Senate and quickly became a respected leader advocating a strong national defense for America. As a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve and a WWII combat vet, his contributions to the Armed Service Committee since 1959 have provided a strong voice on the needs of our service men and women and a firsthand perspective on the realities of war. Senator THURMOND has also used his experience in law and in the military through his long-standing leadership on the Veterans Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Senator THURMOND will be missed in the Senate as a friend, a leader, a colleague and for his tremendous contributions to our Nation. He is history in motion. Senator THURMOND was born during the Presidency of another fearless leader, Theodore Roosevelt. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "We have got but one life here. It pays, no matter what comes after it, to try and do things, to accomplish things in this life and not merely to have a soft and pleasant time." Senator THURMOND's life is an accomplishment of great leadership and selflessness. We are all grateful for his service to our country and I am proud to have served with him.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator STROM THURMOND and honoring him for his unparalleled record of public service to this Nation.

No Senator serving today can appreciate what this body will be like when STROM THURMOND leaves at the end of this year because Senator THURMOND has served longer in this body than any other Senator in history. His 48 years in the United States Senate have spanned the terms of 10 Presidents of the United States, and he keeps pictures of all 10 of those Presidents on the wall in his office.

Senator THURMOND's extraordinary private and public lives span the twentieth century. He began his political career in 1929 as the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield, SC. In 1933, he became a State Senator. In 1946, he was elected Governor of South Carolina. In 1948, while he was still Governor, he ran for President as a State's Right Democrat and received 39 electoral votes, the third best showing by an independent candidate in U.S. history.

Senator THURMOND was elected to the Senate in 1954 as a write-in candidate, the first person ever elected to major office by this method. But true to a campaign pledge he made, he resigned in 1956 to eschew the advantages of incumbency before running successfully

for re-election. In 1964, he left the Democratic Party and became a Goldwater Republican, presaging, or perhaps, ushering in, GOP gains in the South. He has served as a delegate to 6 Democratic and nine Republican National Conventions, a distinction I doubt anyone else shares.

When I joined the Army Services Committee in 1979, Senator THURMOND had already served on the Committee for 20 years. His love for and dedication to the United States military goes back even further, though, to his commission as an Army Reserve second lieutenant of infantry in 1924 at the age of 21. He served with distinction in both the European and Pacific Theaters in the Second World War, receiving numerous decorations that include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star medal with "V" device, the Army Commendation Medal, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. He landed in a glider on Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day, and went on to win 5 battle stars. In 1959, the year that he joined the Senate Armed Service Committee, Senator THURMOND was promoted to major general in the United States Army Reserve.

During Senator THURMOND's tenure on the Armed Services Committee, our Armed Forces have faced challenge after challenge in Western Europe, Vietnam, the Middle East, the Caribbean basin, the Persian Gulf, the Balkans, and Afghanistan. Through it all, Senator THURMOND has persevered in his unwavering support for our men and women in uniform. He steadfast commitment to our national defense has been a rock upon which we could all rely and has helped ensure that our military has always been ready to answer the call whenever and wherever needed.

Senator THURMOND served as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the 104th and 105th Congresses. I had the honor and pleasure to serve as his Ranking Member in 1997 and 1998. I know from personal experience how seriously Senator THURMOND treated his duties as Chairman and how hard he worked to be fair and evenhanded with every Member of the Committee. I am sure that I speak for all of our colleagues in saying just how much we appreciate not only the commitment that Senator THURMOND brought to his duties as Chairman, but also his lifelong dedication to the defense of our Nation and to the welfare of the men and women in uniform.

As the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee in 1997 and 1998, it was a great personal pleasure for me to work with Senator THURMOND in producing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 and the STROM THURMOND National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. When Senator THURMOND leaves our Committee and the Senate at the end of this Congress, we will miss his warmth, his sense of humor, and his

tremendous dedication to our national security.

In my 24 years of service with STROM THURMOND, I have never known him to be anything other than unfailingly optimistic, always courteous, and ever-thoughtful of his Senate colleagues and their families. It is a pleasure to join all of my colleagues today in honoring and thanking this remarkable man, my friend, for his lifetime of service to his country.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to join my esteemed colleagues in honoring Senator STROM THURMOND and his lifetime of service to South Carolina and our Nation.

A career like that of the senior Senator from South Carolina will almost certainly never be duplicated. Although I am the "senior Senator" from Maryland, my colleague Senator THURMOND was a practicing attorney in Edgefield, SC when I was born in 1933. And by that time, Senator THURMOND already had begun his distinctive career in the public interest.

Born in 1902, Senator THURMOND received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University in 1923 and was a teacher and athletic coach for 6 years while serving in the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1929, he became the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield County, SC and soon thereafter was admitted to the State Bar, studying law under his father, Judge J. William Thurmond. While practicing law, STROM began his political career as a South Carolina State Senator and Circuit Judge. Senator THURMOND took a four-year leave of absence from his judicial duties from 1942 to 1946 in order to serve with the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II. During the War, Senator THURMOND served in the American, European and Pacific Theaters; landed in Normandy on D-Day; and earned eighteen decorations, medals and awards including, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart, Belgian Order of the Crown, and French Croix de Guerre, during his military service.

If STROM's service to our Nation ended in 1946 with his military career, it would have been a remarkable record of achievement. But his contributions to education, the legal profession, and the military make up just the beginning of Senator THURMOND's legacy. From 1947 to 1951, STROM was known as Governor THURMOND, as he led his beloved State of South Carolina. After his 1948 bid for the presidency, STROM returned to the practice of law and, in 1954, launched a successful write-in candidacy for election to the U.S. Senate. Pursuant to a promise made during his write-in campaign, STROM resigned from the Senate in April 1956 to run in the Democratic primary election. STROM was reelected to the Senate in November 1956 and resumed his duties and has been elected to the Senate seven more times by the people of South Carolina.

Reaching the age of 100, as Senator THURMOND will do this December 5, is,

alone, a remarkable achievement. The 2000 Census counted just 50,500 Americans 100 or older. And STROM is a clear example for those older Americans, and citizens of all ages, of the remarkable impact one person can have on our Nation. For most of the past 48 years, Senator THURMOND has been a fixture and a legend in the United States Senate. He has held positions of power, including President Pro Tempore, and Committee chairmanships. In the Senate, he has worked with ten Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. He is the longest serving Member of the Senate, and cast his 15,000th vote in September 1998.

It goes without saying that throughout his time in this distinguished body, and over the course of his lifetime, STROM has seen our Nation change in remarkable ways. His service in this great deliberative body has given the Senate a perspective and continuity unparalleled in our history. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve with him over these many years, and to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to a true public servant, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, our colleague STROM THURMOND is retiring soon, and I just wanted to say a few words, on this special day of appreciation, about the gentleman from South Carolina. For that is what he is: the consummate gentleman. There is the public STROM that everyone knows—the legend—then there is the private STROM, a colleague and collaborator I have always found to be eager to help a fellow Senator and accommodate his concerns. I have felt honored to work with him on issues of national defense, foreign policy, and many other matters important to the people of the United States. The people of South Carolina, in particular, can be very proud of this war hero, who landed in Normandy as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in 1942, who was Governor of South Carolina, and who, in the Senate, distinguished himself as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

There are great STROM THURMOND stories—many told by STROM himself, of course. For my part, I like to tell the one about his 90th birthday celebration, held here in Washington. One reporter asked if he could expect to see STROM on his 100th birthday. And Senator THURMOND looked him up and down and said: "Well, you look fit enough to me. If you eat right and drink right, you ought to be around to see me then."

He is an inspiration. As everyone knows, he represents continuity in the United States Senate, being, since 1996, its oldest serving member, and, since 1997, its longest serving member. Those are for the record books. But on a personal level, I can say that the Senate will not be the same without his buoyant spirit. I thank him for helping me

in so many ways, and for his invaluable service to our country.

Ms. SNOWE. I rise to join with my colleagues today in honoring a man the "Almanac of American Politics" rightly calls "the most enduring figure in American politics today", the Senior Senator from South Carolina, the senior member of the Senate, and the longest serving senator in United States history, our colleague Senator STROM THURMOND.

I think that any of us who have had the honor of serving in this body have to be in awe of Senator THURMOND's remarkable 48-year tenure. The responsibilities of this job, the demands on one's time and energy, are incredible. That Senator THURMOND has continued to engender the trust, respect, and support of the people of South Carolina through nearly five decades in the Senate and nearly seventy years in elective office is a testament not only to his storied dedication to his constituents, but to his seemingly-inexhaustible passion for service.

Senator THURMOND is quite literally an institution within an institution. If this were baseball, he would be Babe Ruth larger than life, shattering records, and giving 100 percent effort at every at-bat.

Even today, I continue to marvel that I am serving along-side this legislative legend. This is a man who was on the floor of this chamber when I was seven years old, a man who was nominated for President when I was one year old, a man who was elected Governor of South Carolina before I was born. Alive even before the Wright Brothers took flight, he has seen first-hand the greatest single period of societal and technological change in the history of the world. He would have even been old enough at age 15 to read first-hand news accounts of the last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. Now that is truly amazing!

When you think about it, Senator STROM THURMOND's political life spanned the great majority of the 20th century, while he has witnessed—during his more than 36,400 days on earth—nearly half of the history of the United States. It is possible he received votes from Confederate war veterans in his bid for the South Carolina legislature in 1933. This is an extraordinary figure on the landscape of our land—a living history class and inseparable from any discussion or dissection of the United States Senate.

Indeed, Senator THURMOND's tenure has charted many changes in our country, the world, and American society. In an inspiration to all of us, Senator THURMOND has never stopped learning, never stopped drawing lessons from experience and from others. He bears the mark that defines great men and women—the integrity and honesty of an open mind.

And there should be no mistake—as if the time Senator THURMOND has devoted to public office is not enough for

several lifetimes, he has also served his country in the crucible of war, gaining an exemption from being "over age" so he could don a uniform and ultimately participate in the invasion at Normandy on D-day.

Fittingly, years later, Senator THURMOND would call upon his "trial by fire" experience as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee—and I was proud to call him "Chairman" for much of my time on the Committee. He has always been a champion not only of a strong national defense, but also for the men and women who provide that defense, and we owe him a debt of gratitude that simple words fail to repay.

In short, some people live long, but not fully. Senator THURMOND's life, however, is remarkable not only for its apparent disregard for such trivialities as "time", but also—and more importantly—for its richness.

The great American writer Henry David Thoreau aspired to, in his plain-spoken but powerful words, "live deep and suck all the marrow out of life . . ." Well, Senator STROM THURMOND personifies that dream—making Thoreau's declaration his personal credo, and leaving the rest of us to watch in admiration and wonder.

So today, as we celebrate Senator THURMOND's century of contributions, let us also celebrate the remarkable story of America's journey, for in many ways they are one-in-the-same. STROM, your colleagues wish you all the best—and we thank you for exemplifying what it means to serve in the greatest Democracy the world has ever known.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay respects to a man who has served his country for the past 78 years. In the year 1924, at the age of 21, STROM THURMOND was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. Twenty years later, STROM fought valiantly during World War II and amazingly, at the age of 43, he was part of the first wave of American soldiers who landed in Normandy during D-day, parachuting behind enemy lines with the 82nd Airborne Division.

For his bravery and outstanding service in combat, STROM THURMOND was awarded 18 service decorations, awards and medals. In addition to his Bronze Star for Valor, he received the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart. For his merit and heroism during the D-day invasion and subsequent freeing of Belgium and France, he was awarded both the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Croix de Guerre from the Belgian and French Governments, respectively.

After returning from the war, STROM THURMOND began an unprecedented career in the Senate which has been marked by a dedication to upholding the honor and dignity of the United States Military and America's heroic veterans helping to ensure that every veteran has a voice in the Halls of Con-

gress and the opportunity and protection commensurate with the dignity and honor with which they served.

In 1959, 36 years after he had been commissioned, STROM THURMOND retired from the United States Army Reserves, ending an amazing career that spanned two wars and countless acts of personal bravery and leadership. In the Senate he has brought his many years of experience to many debates and, for the last 30 years, to the Veterans Affairs Committee where his personal commitment to veterans issues has been heralded by all.

As a veteran, I have great respect for Senator THURMOND's active role on the Veterans Affairs Committee and his contributions to make certain in words and deeds that our veterans and their families receive the best possible care and that the U.S. Government honors the promise it makes to each soldier who wears the uniform of our country.

When STROM THURMOND retires after this year, the Senate will lose a man who has seen the arc of the 20th century with his very eyes. From fighting in some of the greatest battles in world history to bearing witness to the Great Depression and the Great Society, STROM THURMOND has seen decades pass in which America has fought in war and prospered in peace—decades in which America emerged from isolation to lead the world to greater freedom and liberty for all—decades in which America made certain the promises of our forebears and their quest for a more equal society.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, like all my colleagues, I rise today to honor the Senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, who is also America's Senior Senator.

Some of my earliest memories of working in the Senate with Senator THURMOND were our efforts on balancing the budget and on the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. He was the real father of this Amendment, dating back to his early years in the Senate. And he fought so hard on this issue because he cared so deeply about us leaving our children a legacy of opportunity and economic security.

Senator THURMOND told me he liked being around young people because they challenged him with new ideas and kept him young.

As the ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, every day I grow to appreciate a little more what Senator THURMOND has spent a lifetime teaching us: the importance of being young at heart.

That positive attitude was evident when, a few years ago, Senator THURMOND told Reuters he was ready to be a back-up space shuttle crew member for Senator John Glenn, saying: "I always believed that if NASA really wanted to study the effects of space travel on an older American, they should have called me."

Senator THURMOND has spent almost a century, not only as a witness to history, but as a shaper of history.

Today may be Strom Thurmond Day, but if the 20th century was the American Century, then it was also the Strom Thurmond Century.

Senator THURMOND was 41 years young, when he climbed into glider number 34 of the 82nd Airborne Division in June 1944 and took part in the Normandy invasion on D-day. Fifty years later, Senator THURMOND showed perspective, when he did not return to Normandy for 50th anniversary commemorations because it was more important to attend his son's graduation.

A few years later he ran for President, against Harry Truman and Tom Dewey, as the nominee of the States' Rights Democratic Party, and won 39 electoral votes.

A few years after that, he became the only Senator in American history to be elected by a write-in vote, demonstrating the devotion of South Carolina voters to STROM THURMOND that has never wavered, as his dedication to them has never wavered.

Lyndon Johnson said the Senate has show horses and work horses. Senator THURMOND has always been a work horse.

The experts tell us that one of the keys to a long, healthy life is being adaptable and being able to renew oneself.

Over the years, Senator THURMOND also has displayed a firm foundation of principles, in his devotion to family, faith, and freedom.

Like all the great persons of history who have had staying power, Senator THURMOND has shown that great balance of having a firm moral foundation and being able to renew himself.

In fact, he is the only Member of this body to have served in the majority as a Democrat, in the minority as a Democrat, in the minority as a Republican, and in the majority as a Republican. That is adaptability.

I would also add, he has always shown unfailing graciousness to colleagues, to constituents, and to all the Senate staff.

I remember our former Senate Republican Leader, Bob Dole, being asked what his health care plan was. He replied: "I'm in favor of the Thurmond plan. I want to do what he does. I used to follow him around and if he ate a banana, I ate a banana."

All of us could not do much better than to follow the example of STROM THURMOND.

In Jack Bass and Marilyn Thompson's biography of Senator THURMOND, they quoted a woman who knew him since boyhood, who said: "He hasn't changed. Everything he's done has been done to the full. There's no halfway doings about STROM."

Today we honor our colleague, friend, and mentor, for a full career of accomplishment, for his full dedication to America and South Carolina, and for a full life, in every respect.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in recognizing the distinguished Senator from South Carolina and his years of service in the U.S. Senate.

STROM THURMOND has lived almost one century—his 100th birthday will be December 5th—and he has been a Senator for almost half of that time. He is now finishing his eighth full term, making him the longest serving Senator and the oldest Member of Congress. But Senator THURMOND is known—and will long be remembered—for much more than his longevity.

He has had a remarkable life and career of service to South Carolina and the United States, having served as a school superintendent, State Senator, judge, and as the Palmetto State's Governor.

He entered the Nation's military when he was 21 years old and almost 20 years later volunteered to serve in World War II. He was among the brave American troops who landed in Normandy on D-day with the 82nd Airborne Division, and he received numerous awards for his military service including the Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart.

Senator THURMOND has fought no less fiercely in the political arena. He has used his gifts, experience, the power and respect he has earned and knowledge of Senate rules and procedures to advocate on behalf of his causes.

Although he has switched political parties during his career, serving first as a Democrat, running for President as a "States Rights" third-party candidate in 1948, and becoming a Republican in 1964, he has consistently adhered to his political ideology.

I am glad that we have an opportunity to acknowledge his contributions and to reflect on the considerable impact he has had on this body, his party, and the Nation.

Senator THURMOND is a living monument but just to make sure his service is recognized, the people of South Carolina, whom he has represented for so long, have honored him by erecting a monument for him and naming dozens of facilities for him.

Senator THURMOND will certainly be missed around here. I bid him farewell and extend my best wishes to him and his family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived and passed, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2 p.m.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent morning business be extended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from South Carolina.

THANKING THE SENATE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am surely honored by the generous re-

marks of my colleagues, Senator DASCHLE, Senator LOTT, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator BYRD, Senator STEVENS, Senator HUTCHISON, Senator ALLARD, Senator SPECTER, Senator ALLEN, Senator MCCONNELL, and all others.

It is hard for me to believe that it was about 80 years ago that I began my professional career. Beginning as a school teacher and coach, I have enjoyed public service as a County Superintendent of Education, attorney, State Senator, State Circuit Judge, military officer, Governor, and Senator. While I have enjoyed each and every job I have held over the years, there is no job I have treasured more than serving as a U.S. Senator. I am proud to be a member of this remarkable legislative body and have been blessed to observe nearly a half-century of our Nation's history from within this chamber. I still recall the cold Christmas Eve, December 24, 1954, when I was sworn in by then Vice-President Richard Nixon, with my late wife, Jean, by my side.

I came to Washington with one priority—to serve this Nation and my fellow South Carolinians with integrity and to the best of my ability. As I now enter the final days of my Senate career, with nearly 48 years of Senate service, I trust I have accomplished that objective.

The U.S. Senate is a special institution in many respects. The six-year term assures that there is the stability within this chamber which allows the Senate to be a deliberative body. The great history of this body reflects the great issues of American History. Here we have debated fundamental questions regarding the status of our Union, national territorial expansion, matters of war and peace, social and economic policies affecting every individual, and many other important matters of national interest as well as local issues.

Given the esteemed stature of this legislative body, it was with no small amount of humility that I moved from South Carolina to Washington so many years ago. Like every other man and woman who serves in the Senate, regardless of party affiliation or ideology, I desired to perform my duties with honor, to the best of my ability, and with a goal of making a difference in the lives of my fellow citizens.

As Senators, we have many roles to perform in the discharge of our duties. There is no other job in the world that allows us to have a more direct impact on improving the lives of individuals and strengthening our Nation. Through legislation, oversight, and old-fashioned constituent service, each of us is able to help the citizens of our respective States, as well as build a Nation which is stronger and better for all who live here. The work we do here benefits millions of Americans. One cannot help but take great satisfaction and pride in such important service.

As legislators we are called upon to vote on matters of local concern and national interest. I have cast over

16,300 rollcall votes as a U.S. Senator. Each vote is cast considering the concerns of my constituents and what is right for our Nation. While I have missed a few votes, I am pleased that I have been present for over 95 percent of all rollcall votes called by the Senate during my time in office.

It is the floor debate and the rollcall votes that citizens most closely associate with the work of the U.S. Senate. When visitors come to the Capitol, the overwhelming majority of them visit the Senate and House Galleries to watch their Congress in action. I suspect that most Americans are less familiar with the Committee system, but as we all know, that is where a significant amount of the work of this institution is accomplished.

During my Senate career, I have been privileged to serve on a number of Committees in the U.S. Senate. As a member and Chairman of the Armed Services Committee I worked hard to help build the finest military force that history has seen. On the Judiciary Committee, which I also chaired, my priorities were to safeguard the Constitution, keep the judicial branch independent and staffed with well qualified men and women, and enact sound policies to help make our communities safe. As a founding member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee I have always fought to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Forces receive the health care and benefits they deserve. On each of the Committees I served, I associated with Senators who were expert in their areas of oversight, who took their duties as Committee Members seriously, and who were exceptional legislators.

One of the primary duties of a Senator is to represent and assist constituents. I consider constituent service to be the most significant aspect of my Senate career. I am pleased that my Senate office has helped hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians interact with a government bureaucracy that can sometimes be confusing, unyielding, and intimidating.

As the calendar draws closer to the day that I walk out of the door of Room 217 of the Russell Senate Office Building, I know that pundits and historians will examine my career and study my service and achievements. I pray that such an examination will determine that I was a man who rendered a worthy service to the Nation and to my State. I hope I am known, above all, as a man who tried to help others. I also acknowledge that whatever I have been able to achieve, through my years of Senate service, it was largely through working closely with my colleagues.

No single individual can accomplish what has to be done here without recognizing the contribution of those who served before we arrived. When I think of the South Carolinians who occupied this seat before me, I am humbled. To follow in the footsteps of such distinguished men as Pierce Butler, Charles