

procedure. When he first raised that here in this body, people were offended that he would talk about such things. But as the years went by, the vote grew and people began to realize just how right he was, and just how horrible that procedure was. We had, virtually—we had a substantial majority vote the last time we voted on it, not quite making it law, but we had a big step in that direction. That was a courageous thing. Even the AMA has come around to agreement with Senator SMITH, the American Medical Association.

So it is a pleasure for me to be here today to share a few words about a man with whom I have worked closely, who I have admired, who has the courage to stand for his convictions—always in the way of a gentleman, always not acting in a way that would offend, but standing for what he believes in and for America. Senator SMITH, we appreciate your service, and God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SENATE TRADITION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this is the final day of the 107th Congress. As Senate tradition has it, it is the day that is normally reserved for passage of resolutions that express genuine sentiment and reflect what we hope will be a comity that can be part of the environment as we begin the new session of the 108th Congress. So I will propound a series of unanimous consent requests to address these resolutions, beginning with S. Res. 361.

TENDERING THE THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 361 submitted earlier today by the majority leader and the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 361) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without any intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 361) was agreed to.

The resolution reads as follows:

S. RES. 361

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in

which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

TENDERING THE THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 362, submitted earlier today by the majority and Republican leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 362) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 362) was agreed to.

The resolution reads as follows:

S. RES. 362

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will have more to say about this later on. But I think it is important to note we had two President pro tempores of the Senate in the 107th Congress—Senator STROM THURMOND, who will be retiring, and Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, who will certainly not be retiring.

I want to acknowledge the deep affection this body holds for both men. Last night, Senator THURMOND made his final comments on the floor, and, spontaneously, Senators broke out in applause.

This morning as I read the New York Times, on the front page was a colored picture of the current President pro tempore and a very laudatory article about his contributions to the debate on homeland defense.

In their own way, both Senators have left indelible marks on this body. Their leadership, their stature, and their extraordinary contributions are not only appreciated, but I would say revered.

I personally want to express my heartfelt thanks to both leaders for all they have done and for all they have meant to the Members of this body, especially during the 107th Congress.

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 363 submitted earlier today by the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 363) to commend the exemplary leadership of the Republican Leader.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 363) was agreed to.

The resolution reads as follows:

S. RES. 363

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Republican Leader, the Senator from Mississippi, the Honorable Trent Lott, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 107th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 364 submitted earlier today by the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 364) to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority Leader.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 364) was agreed to.

The resolution reads as follows:

S. RES. 364

Resolved, that the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Majority Leader, the Senator from South Dakota, the Honorable Thomas A. Daschle, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 107th Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could inquire of the majority leader, would it be appropriate at this point for me to perhaps respond to some of the resolutions and have a few remarks before I yield the floor back to him to do whatever he would like to do in terms of concluding his remarks today?