

Dr. Rice is a woman of remarkable accomplishments. Throughout her life, she has applied her razor sharp mind and steely determination to reach the highest peaks of achievement.

Dr. Rice was born in 1954 in Birmingham, AL. By the age of 3 she was already a piano prodigy playing hymnals for her family. By age 5, she was playing beside her mother on the church organ bench.

At 19, Condoleezza earned her bachelors degree in political science cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Denver and a year later, her Master's from Notre Dame. And at the young age of 26, having earned her Ph.D., Dr. Rice became an assistant professor at Stanford University.

A decade later, Dr. Rice was elevated to the post of Provost, essentially the chief operating officer of the University.

From 1989 to 1991, Dr. Rice served the first Bush administration as Director, and then senior Director, of Soviet and East European Affairs at the National Security Council.

During this time, Dr. Rice brought her considerable expertise in Eastern European affairs to the administration's handling of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Germany's reunification, and the transition of the Soviet Union to the Russian Federation. This, combined with her years of foreign policy experience, particularly in the post 9/11 context, make her distinctly qualified to lead the Department of State.

As the President said in his announcement, we are a Nation at war. As Secretary of State, Dr. Rice will have the responsibility of advancing democracy and freedom across the globe, not only to protect us from attack, but to fulfill America's unique moral purpose.

Outlaw regimes must be confronted. Dangerous weapons proliferation must be stopped. Terrorist organizations must be destroyed. Dr. Rice has both the ability and experience, from fighting the Cold War to the War on Terror, to meet these daunting challenges.

Dr. Rice possesses a rare combination of management and administrative experience, public policy expertise, high academic scholarship, and not least importantly, a graciousness that will serve America's interests well. In these difficult and challenging times, America needs a leader of her caliber.

Dr. Rice has said that growing up, her father John, and her mother, Angelena, taught her that in a country where racial segregation and Jim Crow were an ugly fact of life, she had to be twice as good to get ahead. I think it is fair to say that she has surpassed this high charge.

Dr. Rice is an author, classically trained pianist, ice skater, and tennis player. She speaks Russian fluently and is an avid fan of football. We are grateful that she has set aside, at least for the moment, her ambition to become Commissioner of the National Football League.

A woman of deep faith in God, liberty, and freedom, Condoleezza Rice will protect and serve our national interests. I should also note that Dr. Rice would be the first African American woman to serve as Secretary of State.

I urge the Senate to give Dr. Rice their strong support. I hope and expect to see her confirmed swiftly so she can begin addressing the urgent threats and challenges that face our great Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH BOLING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ralph Boling, a fine Kentuckian who passed away at the age of 76 on September 27, 2004.

Mr. Boling, a native of Hancock County, KY, dedicated his life to serving others. His service began with a stint in the U.S. Army. After protecting his country, he returned to his beloved Hancock County and served as an auctioneer, an oil-well driller, the Hancock County road foreman, and the superintendent of the Hawesville Water Works.

In 1970, Mr. Boling was elected sheriff of Hancock County. He served until 1973, was reelected to a second term in 1978, and served until 1981. By taking this post, Mr. Boling was continuing a family tradition: Both his father, Claude, and his mother, Leva, had previously served as Hancock County sheriff. President Ronald Reagan then appointed Mr. Boling to serve as the United States Marshal for the western Kentucky district, a post he held for 12 years.

Mr. Boling resigned as a U.S. Marshal to run for judge-executive of Hancock County. On November 2, 1993, he defeated the two-term incumbent with over 58 percent of the vote; he carried each of the county's eight precincts as well as absentee ballots. During his 5-year tenure, Mr. Boling worked tirelessly with people across party lines to put the community first. He successfully closed the county's landfill and pushed for the creation of the county's career center. Thanks to Mr. Boling, the Hancock County Career Center is a resource for job opportunities, worker training and continuing education today.

Mr. Boling's proud family tradition of public service continues with his granddaughter, LeAnn Crosby, who works as a field representative in my Bowling Green, KY, office.

His dedication to the Hancock County community went beyond a career choice. He was a member of Hancock Lodge No. 115 and served various positions in the organization. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and was active within the Blackford Baptist Church. And one of his greatest passions was rooting for my alma mater, the University of Louisville basketball team.

Today I ask my colleagues to joining me in paying tribute to the life of Mr.

Ralph Boling. He will be missed by his family, his friends and constituents in Hancock County, and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO TONY CRUISE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tony Cruise, the morning voice of WHAS radio in my hometown of Louisville, KY. His love of Louisville and his perseverance and dedication to WHAS is something to be commended. Tony and his family moved to Louisville in 1969. As a child, he fell in love with the city and the voices he heard on the local radio. While most members of the media community long for the "big time" of New York or Los Angeles, Tony's dream, since he was a young man, was to be the morning anchor for WHAS, home of such Kentucky radio giants as Van Vance and Wayne Perkey.

Tony received his first radio job at WWKY in Winchester as the Saturday afternoon disc jockey in 1980. His career almost ended after his first show. Fortunately for future WHAS listeners, Tony was a quick learner. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in mass communications in 1982.

In 1992, there was a position available at WHAS. Tony wanted this position so badly that he waited outside the station for station manager Skip Essick to head home, so he could lobby for the position. His persistence paid off, when that October, Tony was hired. He hosted "Sports Talk," a call-in show that mainly focused on the interstate feud of athletic prowess between my alma mater, the University of Louisville, and the University of Kentucky.

In May of this year, Tony realized his lifelong dream, when he was named the newest morning show host at WHAS. Unlike many radio personalities these days who love to offend, Tony is a decent, honest man who opens his heart to his listeners every morning. No wonder he is welcome in so many Kentucky homes, including mine.

Tony is a friend of mine and I have been privileged to be a guest on his show. It is a terrific program. The Louisville community agrees, as some 120,000 people tune in to "The Cruise-man" as he is known, every week. I enjoy and commend him for his excellent work.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Tony Cruise for his outstanding contributions to the Louisville community.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES PATTERSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an upstanding and generous member of the Louisville, KY, community, Mr. James Patterson.

Born and raised in Louisville, Jim, as his friends call him, has always loved two things: his hometown, and baseball. He attended the University of