

Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. MCCASKILL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is my understanding that the majority leader will be here momentarily, and therefore I suggest the absence of a quorum because he will be speaking first.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have publicly stated my feelings about TRENT LOTT on a number of occasions since he indicated he was going to retire by the end of this year. We had a lovely reception for him in the Mansfield Room. Other people have their own views as to the strengths of TRENT LOTT, but having worked with him here on the Senate floor for these many years, his greatest attribute can best be summarized by the statesman Edmund Burke:

All government . . . every virtue and every prudent act—is founded on compromise . . .

That is not negative. That is positive. Compromise is something we as legislators must do. Legislation is the art of compromise. That is what we have been taught, and that is the way it is. There is no better example of that than what we have before us now or should have in a short time from the House, the omnibus spending bill. That has been the epitome of compromise by legislators and by the White House as the executive. That is what TRENT LOTT did best, approaching a difficult issue, trying to figure a way out of it. No one who has ever legislated and gotten a bill passed with their name on it has had what they really started out to do. We all must compromise. That is a negative term in some people's mind, but it really isn't if you are a legislator.

The special skill TRENT LOTT has, the special kind of understanding and pursuit of the common good, requires us to find common ground. TRENT LOTT embodies that skill. He is a true legislator. In all my dealings with TRENT

LOTT, he is a gentleman. I have never, ever had Senator LOTT say something to me that he was not able to carry through on. His commitments are as good as gold.

We have had some jokes here about his dealings with John Breaux. They have a lot of qualities, but their qualities were the ability to make deals. When we needed something done during the Daschle years, the first person we went to was John Breaux. I am confident the first person he went to was TRENT LOTT. They have been close personal friends for all these years. As a result of their friendship, their trust of one another, it kind of spilled off on the rest of us, and we were able to get a lot of work done.

It goes without saying that we disagree on policy often, Senator LOTT and I, but with TRENT, these disagreements never seemed to be that important because he was always able to approach these challenges with a genuine desire to find a solution.

The history books will be written about this institution. I am confident they will be written about the State of Mississippi. There will be chapters that will have to be dedicated to TRENT LOTT because he has been part of the history of the State of Mississippi and of this institution and the House of Representatives. No one has ever, in the history of our country, some 230 years, served as the House whip and the Senate whip, but TRENT LOTT has. I believe he has made our country more secure in many ways. When we talk about security, it doesn't mean necessarily the military because our security depends on a lot more.

Senator LOTT, I wish you and your wonderful wife and your family the very best. I believe my dealings with you have made me a better person and a better Senator.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, after the news of TRENT's retirement had spread, a young farmer in Jackson had this to say about the man he had called "Senator" most of his life:

He's a good person to represent the State, caring for people like he does.

That farmer had it exactly right because whether TRENT was making sure an old man in Pascagoula got his Social Security check or ducking into a kitchen in Tunica to thank the cooks after a political event, no service was too small, no task too insignificant when it came to serving the people of Mississippi.

One time, when TRENT was a young Congressman, a constituent called his office to have his trash removed. When TRENT asked why he hadn't called the town supervisor first, the man replied that he didn't want to start that high.

Nobody ever saw TRENT LOTT as a Congressman or a Senator. To them, he

was just TRENT. As he vowed last month, that commitment to the people of Mississippi does not end here. "I will work hard for the State, the last day I am in the Senate," he said, "and I will work hard for this State until the last day I am alive."

In a plaque on his office wall, visitors will find TRENT's rules. The most important one he always said was this: You can never have a national view if you forget the view from Pascagoula.

He never forgot his roots. TRENT dined with Presidents, yet he still remembers facing the winters of his childhood without indoor heat. He also remembers his first hot shower. And he never forgot the source of that luxury. "It came from hard work," his mother said. He would spend a lifetime proving that he took her words to heart.

The love of politics came early, thanks in part to some lively debates with his folks around the dinner table. They always treated him with respect—"as an equal," he said—and they watched with pride as he threw himself into his studies and everything else that was available to a blue-collar kid growing up along the gulf coast in 1950s America.

TRENT was an early standout. His high school classmates voted him class president, most likely to succeed, most popular, a model of Christian conduct, most polite, and, of course, neatest. One friend recalls that TRENT was the only guy he ever knew who tidied up his bed before going to sleep at night.

Of course, TRENT's reputation for neatness outlasted high school. It has been the source of a lot of jokes over the years. But some of those jokes really are not fair. It is not true, for example, that TRENT arranges his sock drawer according to color every day. He is perfectly content to do it once a week—black on one side, blue on the other.

In college, the connection to Mississippi deepened. Surrounded by the white pillars and ancient oaks of Ole Miss, he formed lifelong friendships and grew in respect for the traditions of honor, integrity, duty, and service that had marked his beloved Sigma Nu from its beginnings.

There was always something to do, and TRENT did it all: frat parties, swaps, campus politics, singing, leading the cheers at the football games, and, occasionally, even studying. One of TRENT's college friends recalls that Mrs. Hutchinson's sophomore literature class was TRENT's Waterloo.

But after a less than impressive showing on her midterm exam, he refocused—and one of the things that came into view was a pretty young girl he had first met in high school band practice. One day TRENT told a fraternity brother he had met a girl he wanted to date. When he showed him Tricia's picture, the friend said: Yes, I think you should do that.

Then it was on to law school and marriage and private practice. Then, in the winter of 1968, a surprise phone call