

I express my sympathy to Nancy and his staff. Speaking for the entire minority, we will miss a great legislator.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4461, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELLE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, when my constituents ask me, what is the nicest thing about being a Senator, what do you enjoy the most, I have a ready answer: It is the people, the people we get to meet, the opportunities we have to interact with some of the most extraordinary individuals throughout the world.

When I say that, my constituents immediately think of the great names: Presidents of the United States, Presidents of other countries, famous Prime Ministers. Schoolchildren look at me and say: Have you ever met President Clinton? They are always a little in awe when I say yes. Then others, when I tell them of having met President Gorbachev, President Mubarak, or Chairman Arafat or some of the other names they read about all the time, say: Well, we can understand why you think that the people you get to meet is the fun part of the job and the most extraordinary benefit that comes from being a Senator. And that is true—meeting these famous people is something of a trip and a great opportunity.

I always explain to them that the great privilege is not only meeting the famous names. It is meeting my fellow Senators. This is an extraordinary body, filled with extraordinary individuals, many of whose names never get into the headlines beyond their own

States or outside of the circle of the beltway, but who bring to this body an incredible background of wisdom, experience, humor, perspective, balance, and understanding that makes it a great privilege and blessing for the rest of us to be with them.

PAUL COVERDELLE and I came in the same class. We were sworn in on the same day. We went through the experience of being freshman Senators who didn't quite know our way around.

We would get together on a weekly basis, those in that class, and swap stories about how we had foolishly gone to the wrong room, or lost our way in a corridor, or found ourselves buried in the unexpected tide of work, mail, phone calls, and requests. We went through all that together as friends. We decided, in taking advantage of our situation as freshmen and serving in the minority, we would use the time that comes with that condition—time which more senior and majority Senators don't have—to educate ourselves and prepare ourselves for the service on which we were embarking.

PAUL arranged a trip to Kennebunkport to see his good friends, George and Barbara. The rest of us didn't call them George and Barbara. It was Mr. President and Mrs. Bush. PAUL knew them well enough, went back long enough with them, that he arranged for the freshmen class of Republicans to go up to Maine and spend a day with the Bushes. It was about 3 or 4 months after President Bush had lost the election. He was full of stories, reflections, and philosophic observations. It was a wonderful time. We also went together, under the sponsorship of Senator Dole, to New Jersey to have a similar day with President Nixon. PAUL was one of those who would use that, and any other occasion, to learn as much as he could soak up, to prepare himself as much as he could for whatever might come. That was one of the delightful things about it. He was enormously curious, always searching, and always anxious to find out how he could be of greater help.

We finally stopped meeting every week as we got busier ourselves and as we got a little more experienced in the way the Senate works, so that we didn't need to commiserate quite so much about our earlier blunders. But our class remained close. We gathered together when KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON was under fire in Texas and gave a little party for her before she left for her trial. We told her we would keep things straight until she could come back fully exonerated, which, of course, she has done. PAUL was a moving force in putting together that bit of solidarity among the members of our class.

PAUL is the one who moved on to a leadership position in our class. We were all proud of him, all happy to support him. It goes without saying that we will miss him terribly. But it is my conviction, Mr. President, that as we mourn, we do not mourn for PAUL. I don't know the details of what goes on,

but I think it is not out of the question to think that John Chafee may be showing PAUL the ropes now, suggesting to him that "it will work a little better if you go this way," or, "Yes, I tried that when I first got here. PAUL, let me show you the ropes." That may not be happening, but I don't think it is beyond the realm of possibility.

We do not mourn for PAUL; we mourn for ourselves, for the loss we have sustained, not for the problems he faces. The problems he faced are behind him now, as far as this life is concerned. And, knowing PAUL, he will be learning, inquiring, asking questions, trying to find out and progressing still further, as he always did as a Member of the Senate. It is our loss that moves us to tears—the fact that we will no longer have his companionship and his wisdom and his friendship. But just as I suggest John Chafee may be greeting PAUL, we can be confident that whenever the time might be for the rest of us, PAUL will be there to greet us, and that helps lift some of the gloom and sorrow we feel on this occasion.

I extend to Nancy and other members of PAUL's family my deepest sympathy and condolences at this time. And I express gratitude, once again, for the experiences I have had as a Senator of knowing great people, meeting extraordinary individuals, and partaking of their wisdom and guidance. I count PAUL COVERDELLE in the first ranks of that group.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, except for those who knew PAUL COVERDELLE and his constituents in Georgia, I suspect it is very hard for others who may be watching here today or who hear other tributes to PAUL COVERDELLE to appreciate the depth of sadness that all of us in this Senate family feel by the loss of Senator PAUL COVERDELLE.

PAUL COVERDELLE was a special man. He was so active in nearly everything going on in the Senate that it is impossible to believe he is gone. The images of PAUL smiling, gesturing, counseling, are still so fresh. If there was an indispensable Senator, PAUL COVERDELLE was it.

PAUL was a doer, as we all know. He was successful not because of his energy alone—though that was considerable—but because he was trusted by all and he sought no recognition for himself. His judgment was sound, his intelligence keen. He was always kind and cheerful, never critical. The word "helpful" does not even begin to describe the aid and assistance he was always so ready to provide.

I have lost a real friend and a confidant. Georgia and America have lost a great leader. PAUL's family's loss is incalculable, especially for Nancy and his mother. Our sense of grief is tempered only by the faith that the Lord has His own purposes. We take comfort in the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln who said:

Surely God would not have created such a being as man, with an ability to grasp the infinite, to exist only for a day. No, no, man was made for immortality.

Godspeed, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as the American Revolution drew to a close in 1782, a Philadelphian turned to his friend, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and remarked, "It looks as if the battle for independence has been won."

Dr. Rush replied, "Sir, you are mistaken. The Revolutionary War may be over, but the battle of independence has just begun."

On the day before he died, as I had the opportunity to spend time with PAUL COVERDELL and his family, I thought about these words, and they have stayed in my mind over the last 48 hours because that idea—that only constant vigilance can keep the flame of freedom from being extinguished—is one that perhaps no one believed in more, at least since I have been in the Senate, or acted upon more decisively than PAUL COVERDELL. With his passing, America has lost one of its most principled leaders and freedom, one of its staunchest friends.

There will be a number of comments made today by people who have known Paul well, who have observed his commitment, his discipline, and his willingness to do jobs that most people leave to others, jobs he did in a way that was humble, gentle, and gave others the credit. We will hear again and again today because they were the hallmark of PAUL COVERDELL's work in this wonderful institution called the Senate.

As a Senator from the neighboring State of Tennessee, I had the opportunity to work side by side with PAUL COVERDELL as we addressed issues important to both our States. But if there is one idea, one word, that best summarizes PAUL COVERDELL, his commitment to public service, to family and community, the word is "freedom." PAUL COVERDELL was a relentless, tireless champion of freedom.

I first met PAUL 6 years ago when I was still BILL FRIST, the physician who wanted to be a United States Senator. PAUL sat down, and talked to me about freedom. He came to help me with a campaign event in Chattanooga, TN, and his whole talk—while saying, "Yes, people, come out and support this new guy on the block, BILL FRIST"—was about freedom.

And since I have been in the Senate, he continually fought for freedom. He fought for the rights of individuals to raise, educate and provide for their families free of government intervention and excessive taxation. He fought to protect the privacy of individual tax returns. He fought to free local education from too much federal control. Believing freedom to be under genuine attack from the corrupting influence of drugs, he fought to increase funding for

law enforcement, especially along our borders, and created a program to coordinate resistance to drugs among parents, teachers and communities that became a model for the nation. Understanding, as Jefferson did, that a well-educated citizenry is the surest foundation for freedom and happiness, PAUL COVERDELL fought to ensure that all children, regardless of income, receive the very best education from kindergarten to college.

Perhaps it was his service with the U.S. Army in Okinawa that fanned the flames of freedom that never seemed to diminish in his heart. Perhaps it was his parents' ability—and I got to know his mom over the last 48 hours—to turn a small family business into a successful nationwide enterprise that strengthened his belief in the power of the individual to achieve the American Dream. Perhaps it was his experience with emerging democracies as President Bush's Director of the Peace Corp that deepened his resolve to ensure that freedom, once planted, has everything it needs to survive. President Bush and I spoke about that shortly after PAUL was admitted to the hospital. Or perhaps it was his beloved wife, Nancy, who is going through such a difficult time right now, who helped him realize that love and freedom are the great gifts God has planted in the human heart, and so we must do all we can to preserve them.

Whatever the reasons, PAUL COVERDELL believed in freedom, and he believed in America—the greatest expression of freedom next to man himself. He fought for both America and freedom because he understood, as Justice Brandeis once wrote, that "liberty is the secret of happiness, and courage, the secret of liberty."

Over the past few years, I had the honor and the privilege of seeing PAUL COVERDELL's courage up close—in the Senate Republican Working Group on Medicare, where his commitment to our seniors was very apparent; in the Foreign Relations Committee, where he specialized in areas of the world not addressed by others; a commitment that obviously grew out of his work with the Peace Corps; in Republican strategy sessions, where his expert guidance helped us ensure that the American people, as well as our colleagues, understood the importance of the issues before us. It was a quiet courage, characterized not by bluster, but by humility and respect for others.

PAUL COVERDELL knew what was right, and every day on this floor and in strategy sessions behind the scenes, he worked for what was right with all his might. Through men like him, the American Revolution is constantly reborn, the reservoir of freedom continually replenished, and all that is best America preserved for those who will follow.

He was a wonderful husband, a great citizen of Georgia and the United States, an outstanding Senator—as reflected by his position of leadership—

and a great patriot. He will be sorely missed by all Members of this body.

May the Lord God who loves us all, shine His perpetual light upon our colleague, and comfort Nancy, his mother, and Nancy's parents in the days ahead.

Mr. President, I thank the chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to say a few words regarding the death of Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

Winding its way to the sea, the Savannah River forms a natural boundary between South Carolina and the State of Georgia. Yet the river is not a barrier dividing these two states. Rather, its lakes, tributaries, and bridges bring the people of these two states together as neighbors and friends. As neighbors, we share many fine attributes of southern living and culture, agriculture, and the values that Americans hold dear. As friends, we work and play together, raising our families and supporting our communities.

Today, I rise to pay tribute and respect to my neighbor and friend from Georgia, Senator PAUL COVERDELL. Senator COVERDELL was my neighbor. He was more than just a colleague from a neighboring state. For the past eight years we have walked together and worked in the same corridor of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Senator COVERDELL was also my friend. Everyday, each of us looked forward to his warm smile, kind words, and expressions of care and concern. As I worked with him on regional issues, in the Senate Republican Leadership circle, where he served as Republican Conference Secretary, or in more general circumstances, Senator COVERDELL always was thoughtful and considerate of others.

Senator COVERDELL leaves a great legacy. His life was dedicated to serving others and his Nation. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to Georgia and built the family business into a successful nationwide company. Elected to the Georgia State Senate, he was chosen by his peers to serve as Senate Minority Leader, a post he held for 15 years. In 1989, President Bush named him as Director of the United States Peace Corps, where he redefined the agency's mission to serve the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

Since his election in 1992, Senator COVERDELL has worked hard in the Senate as a defender of freedom. He led the fight against international narcotics and terrorism. Understanding that freedom is nurtured by a well-educated citizenry, he introduced education reforms, and served as Chairman of the Senate Republican Task Force on Education. Senator COVERDELL fought to protect the individual economic and political liberty of individuals and families.

We mourn the loss of PAUL COVERDELL. We shall miss his companionship,

but we will not forget the bond we had with him. Though his voice is silenced, we shall not forget the encouraging words he had for others. Though he now rests in peace, the impact of his good deeds will be felt for years to come.

Shortly before his death, our former colleague Senator Everett Dirksen, responded to the question which each person faces. It is found in the Bible, in the book of Job: "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14.) I quote Senator Dirksen's words published in U.S. News & World Report, November 8, 1965, p. 124:

What mortal being, standing on the threshold of infinity, has not pondered what lies beyond the veil which separates the seen from the unseen? What mortal being, responding to that mystical instinct that earthly dissolution is at hand, has not contemplated what lies beyond the grave? What mortal being, upon whom has descended that strange and serene resignation that life's journey is about at an end, has not thought about that eternal destination and what might be there?

If there be a design in this universe and in this world in which we live, there must be a Designer. Who can behold the inexplicable mysteries of the universe without believing that there is a design for all mankind and also a Designer? . . . "If a man die, shall he live again?" Surely he shall, as surely as day follows night, as surely as the stars follow their courses, as surely as the crest of every wave brings its trough.

William Wordsworth, the revered poet, captured in verse a glimpse of this glorious plan and entitled his classic "Ode to Immortality":

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home:
Heaven lies about us in our infancy!

PAUL COVERDELL was a bright star in this world. Though it is now out of view, it is not dimmed. We take comfort that he has returned home, to his eternal destination. This day, my thoughts and prayers are with his wife Nancy, his family, his staff, and his constituents. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. KOHL. Last night, as we began consideration of the Agricultural appropriations bill, we were informed of the death of Senator COVERDELL. The bill officially is still on the floor this morning for Senators who wish to speak on the bill but more appropriately for Senators who wish to speak about Senator COVERDELL, who we all remember as an outstanding Senator, a good, a kind, and a decent man, a great patriot, and a great American.

We will be officially in session on the bill but more appropriately here to listen to remarks by fellow Senators in his behalf.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it has been my honor, and a privilege, to know our distinguished friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL, for a long time. I have had, overnight, the opportunity to think about his life and about his death.

When a man dies, especially a friend, we are inevitably struck by the frailty of life, the speed of death, and the very painful void that is left behind. With the passing of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL, we are also struck by the promise of a truly brilliant future left unfulfilled.

Alphonse de Lamartine once said:

Sometimes, when one person is absent, the whole world seems less.

Today, that is exactly how I feel. The world seems less today.

PAUL and I worked together for many years. We were sworn into the Georgia State Senate on the same day, in January of 1971. In Georgia, we sit not as partisans, across the aisle, but we sit by numbers of our State senate districts. Fate had it that Senator PAUL COVERDELL sat right in front of me. So even though he was of one party and I another, we shared space on the floor of the State senate. We worked together in harmony for 4 years. It was a joyous time. It was a marvelous time to get to know this young talent.

When I came to the U.S. Senate, PAUL had preceded me. PAUL stood on the floor of the Senate here with my parents watching from the balcony as I was sworn in. After that day, he helped me, he guided me, tutored me in the same way we had worked together so beautifully in the early 1970s in the Georgia senate. From time to time in this body, on different sides of the aisle, we were on different sides of the issues. But he helped me learn. He helped me because he was a good man and a great friend, because he knew it was good for Georgia and for the country.

I watched him work, incredulous—putting in 12- and 14- and 16-hour days. In Georgia, we have a saying: You are either a workhorse or a show horse. He was certainly a work horse. He fought hard for our State, for our farmers and businesses and the average taxpaying citizen. He used his deep breadth of knowledge in international affairs, which he had gained as Director of the Peace Corps, to fight what he called the most serious threat to America's freedom today—the war on drugs.

Our colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, yesterday called PAUL COVERDELL a man of peace. I will reiterate that observation. From his time in the Georgia senate to his post as head of the Peace Corps under President Bush, to his quiet and wonderful leadership in the Senate, PAUL had a peaceful and

resolute efficiency about his work that I think we could all try to emulate. He worked hard. He achieved results. And he didn't care who got the credit. To lose a leader of this quality in this body in this day of "gotcha" politics, and one-upmanship, is a loss for this body and for our country and for Georgia.

PAUL was a leader. He led in his own quiet, positive way. I never heard him speak an ill thought or an ill phrase or a mean-tempered comment about anyone. He was a great legislator and a dear personal friend.

I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Nancy, whom I have known for almost 30 years. I knew them when they first got married.

Proverbs tell us:

Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names.

I think we can all take great comfort in that. Nothing will lessen the impact that PAUL COVERDELL and his legacy have had on the State of Georgia and on this country. It is not the time for political thoughts or words but only words to remember one of the best U.S. Senators this body has ever known. PAUL COVERDELL, United States Senator from Georgia, a peach of a guy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, cheerful, fun, accessible, down to earth, loyal, friend—those are the words you think of immediately when describing PAUL COVERDELL. I am not going to make a long statement today because I know there will be a time set aside for our memorials to PAUL COVERDELL. I have seen some of our friends today—PAUL'S friends, my friends—and many of them do not feel capable of talking about him right now. It is not that he wasn't one of our greatest friends. They are not here because they can't talk about him yet.

This is a man who served our country in so many ways, all the things a good citizen should do: He served in the Army; he was the head of the Peace Corps; he was a wonderful Senator, one of our leaders in the majority—the fourth highest ranking among us.

I do want to say more about him later, but for now I think our majority leader said it very well last night. All of our hearts are broken for the loss of this wonderful man who will have every tribute that we can give him in the future weeks.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this is a sad day for all of us. It is a sad time in

the Senate. PAUL COVERDELL was, first of all, our friend. He was someone who, if we took a secret poll in this Senate, I think many Members would say, was their best friend. That tells us something about this man.

He was a kind, he was a gentle, he was a sweet man. This Senate will not be the same without PAUL. It will not be the same because of that kindness, because of that spirit, because of that unbelievable energy he brought to any task he took on, and did he take on the task. Whatever it was, PAUL would do it and do it effectively. He was one of the key people in making this Senate run. Candidly, he was that person not because of his leadership position, which was significant, but the leadership position he obtained was a result of the fact that he was one of the key players in the Senate and he got things done.

That effectiveness came because of his energy, because of his drive, because of his determination, but it also came because he could get along with people on both sides of the aisle. He knew people, he understood them, he liked people and people liked him back, and that made him effective.

He was effective because he did not have a big ego. We all have big egos in the Senate, but PAUL did not seem to have one. He did not seem to care if he got credit; another rarity, I suppose, among politicians. He just got the job done. He was always seeking some way to get it done. He did not seek the limelight. He did not worry about who got the credit.

Each one of us brings different stories or remembers different things about PAUL COVERDELL. I worked with him on Central American issues, Caribbean issues, and Latin American issues. PAUL COVERDELL is from Georgia. It was not necessarily logical that he had to concentrate on this hemisphere or worry about this hemisphere, but he did. He did because he understood it affected the people of Georgia and it affected the people of this country. He brought his passion to deal with the drug problem to that concentration and work on this hemisphere.

I worked with PAUL when we worked on the Caribbean initiative, when we worked on the initial drug bill we passed several years ago on drug interdiction in this hemisphere, and I worked with him when we were able to pass the Colombia aid bill.

I remember on both bills going to PAUL at different times and saying: PAUL, this is not going very well. What do we do?

Not only did the leadership responsibility go to PAUL COVERDELL to get things done, but people who are not in leadership went to PAUL to get things done. I remember PAUL would look at you, as only PAUL could, and say: Well, let's do this. And he would tick off three or four things. Basically then I had the plan. We got it done. That is what we are going to miss in this Senate.

The last time I talked with PAUL was as we were leaving for the weekend. I said: I am worried about what is going on in Colombia. Why don't you and I go down there.

He said: Let's do it. So we were talking about a trip sometime in the next few months to Colombia to look firsthand at the problem.

I know all of us at a later date will have more formal comments to make, but I wanted to pause here for a moment with my colleagues to say thank you for the life of PAUL COVERDELL. He is someone who made a difference every single day he was in the Senate. We will miss him very deeply.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to speak about my colleague, Senator COVERDELL. I know other Senators have. I absolutely have nothing rehearsed. There are many Senators who will speak about Senator COVERDELL probably in a more profound and moving way than I can.

There is one moment I want to remember about Senator COVERDELL because this small story tells a large story. We had had a major debate about the Colombia aid package. Senator COVERDELL and I were in a debate. We did not agree. It was a pretty good debate back and forth. I know from time to time during the debate I would reach over and touch his hand and say something to the effect: I just cannot believe you said this; this is wrong—something like that.

At the end of the debate, I said, because I believed it and believe it: Senator COVERDELL is a really good Senator.

He smiled and touched my hand and said: Senator WELLSTONE is a really good Senator.

I do not know if the latter part is true, but the point is that is the way he was. That is the kind of Senator he was. We talk about civility. He was just a beautiful person. I really enjoyed him. We need a lot of Senators like Senator COVERDELL: PAUL, you are wrong on the issues but you are a really good person.

The Senate has lost a wonderful person and a wonderful Senator, and the United States of America has lost a wonderful person and a wonderful Senator.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I send my love to PAUL's family.

I will not forget PAUL COVERDELL.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are all stunned and saddened by the sudden

death of our friend and colleague. Our hearts and prayers are with Senator COVERDELL's wife Nancy, with his parents, with his family members, his many friends, and, I may say, particularly our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have lost not only a close friend but a gifted leader.

The great English poet Alfred Tennyson wrote of a dear friend who died suddenly: "God's finger touched him, and he slept."

Yesterday, God's hand touched our friend. Now he sleeps. And now we mourn.

PAUL COVERDELL's life was too short in years, but it was long in accomplishment: A husband, a son, a friend, a loyal ally, an honorable opponent, an Army veteran, a business owner, a State senator, a Peace Corps director, and a U.S. Senator.

In his 61 years, PAUL COVERDELL filled all of those roles—and more—with dignity.

He spent half his life, and nearly all his adult life, in public service. He and I didn't see eye to eye on a lot of matters. To be honest, I can't think of too many times we found ourselves on the same side of the debate. But I can't think of a single time that he was not fair, that he was not decent, and that he was not honest.

PAUL COVERDELL, above and beyond anything else, was a gentleman. He was a reminder to us that we can all disagree without being disagreeable. He is also a reminder, sadly, that none of us knows how long we will be here; how many more opportunities we will have in this life to right a wrong or to advance a peace or to make a difference.

Last night, I was reading an interview Senator COVERDELL gave a year or so ago. He was asked why he worked so hard on so many tasks, usually with very little public recognition. He replied, characteristically: "If you have been given a moment here, you shouldn't let the dust grow under you."

PAUL COVERDELL felt that in the marrow of his bones. He worked hard every day—to advance the causes he believed in and to serve the Nation he loved—until God's finger touched him.

Now he sleeps the sleep of the just. We have lost a good and honorable friend. I will miss him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, at this time of shock and loss we tend to focus on PAUL's death, but it seems to me that it is really a time that we should focus on his life. As we weigh how our lives and the life of our Nation has been diminished by the loss of PAUL COVERDELL, I think it is important that we also reflect on how our lives have been enriched.

I first—I first met PAUL COVERDELL when I went to Georgia. He was campaigning for the Senate. And he was doing an event in this dingy old steel mill about industrial renewal. I had

talked to him on the phone, I was—I was chairman of the Senatorial Committee, but I had not seen him in action. So I got up and spoke, and then PAUL got up and spoke in that squeaky voice, and he sort of had a way of jumping up and down when he was speaking and waving his hands, so I tried to delicately whisper to him, quit jumping up and down, be still, but little did I know at that moment that with all of his outward appearance and the squeaky voice, that this man had the heart of a lion.

He went on and won in that campaign. As chairman of the Senatorial Committee I was involved in 67 Senate campaigns. And he won the toughest race, defeated an incumbent, was in a runoff after the general election when everybody else would have sat down, given up, gotten tired.

PAUL COVERDELL did not sit down and give up or get tired. He came to the Senate and we were immediately involved in the Clinton health care debate, and he and JOHN MCCAIN and I traveled all over America. We did 147 events in this crusade to defeat the Clinton health care bill. And in all those events and all that travel—you all know PAUL COVERDELL—he never got tired or never let on he was tired or got irritable.

In the Senate where we all want glory, we all want to be out front, we all want to see our picture in the paper, PAUL was one of those remarkable people who simply wanted to get things done. There was no job too small for PAUL COVERDELL. And there is no job too big for PAUL COVERDELL. PAUL COVERDELL managed in eight short years to become absolutely indispensable to the United States Senate.

And I am very happy today about one thing—not much I am happy about today, but I am happy about one thing. We often feel something about people—we often love people, but, but we don't often tell them that. It's especially hard for men to tell other men that they love them. But what I am happy about—I can't quite get to it—is the following point. I realized over a year ago that PAUL COVERDELL had become an indispensable member of the Senate, that he was the greatest Senator from Georgia since Richard Russell. And so I always went to great lengths to say it. Here, in Georgia, and everywhere I got the opportunity to say it.

This is a hard time for the Senate, and I just would like to conclude on the two points I tried to open up with but didn't quite get said. In these terrible moments when we are shocked and hurt we tend to think about how someone died. But at these moments it is critical that we focus on how they lived. We tend to look at how our lives and the life of our nation have been diminished, but it is important that we focus on how our lives were enriched by PAUL COVERDELL. My grandmother used to say that as long as anyone remembers you, that you're not dead. As long as I live, PAUL COVERDELL will be remembered.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The distinguished Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, yesterday this body lost one of its finest Members. I greet this day with a very heavy heart.

PAUL COVERDELL was not only a good Senator, he was a good and decent man. I found him to be a very nice man. I worked with him closely as an original cosponsor of his Education Savings and School Excellence Act. I found him very dedicated and very easy to work with. I found him to be above political correctness; he strived to do what he believed would work and would help people.

We shared a common interest. We worked together on many antinarcotics efforts. We debated together on certification. I was his Democratic cosponsor of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. We talked together about what was happening. We tried to plan together. I found him to have a deep and abiding knowledge about Mexico, Central America, and Latin America.

He had a kind of energy, enthusiasm, and dedication well known on both sides of the aisle here in the Senate. He was never one to seek the spotlight, but all of us here know how hard he worked. He wasn't the proverbial "show horse"—he was a workhorse.

He was a man who served the people of Georgia and this Nation with great distinction. He worked all of his adult life in public service. Simply put, PAUL COVERDELL made this body a better place and a more collegial place. All one really had to do was spend time alone with him in an office and listen to him and his thoughts as he sought to frame and advance an issue.

Senator HARKIN was in the elevator as I came up this morning. He said: "It's so hard because on Friday he was alive and well in the Senate and today he simply is not here."

There is a passage from the Book of Ecclesiastes—Chapter 5, verse 12—I will leave with the Senate: "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet."

PAUL COVERDELL, you have labored hard. Your sleep will be sweet.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, it is with profound sadness and the heaviest of hearts that I come to the floor today to pay tribute to the memory of a friend, a colleague, and a man who brought honor upon the State of Georgia, our country, and the institution of the Senate—PAUL COVERDELL. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Nancy,

PAUL's family, friends and his staff at this most difficult of times.

It is tragedies like this that remind us that, beyond the policy and the politics and the tremendous gravity of the issues we deliberate—beyond the grandeur of this Chamber and the history we write on a daily basis—we are at heart an institution of individuals—of people. And when one of our own is lost to us forever, all of us are diminished by that loss.

I first met PAUL when I was a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and he came before us as President Bush's Director of the Peace Corps. I recall being struck not only by his obvious qualifications for the job, but by his warmth and his obvious esteem for the mission he was chosen to fulfill. To help foster the ideals of freedom and democracy for people throughout the world was for PAUL a high and noble calling. And it was one he answered with typical energy and enthusiasm, optimism and hope.

Indeed, when I think about all that PAUL was—all that he symbolized, all that he meant to those who cared about him and the people he served—the single word that comes to my mind is, "decency". PAUL COVERDELL was many things: a devoted husband, a talented legislator, a strong and principled leader—but above all else, PAUL was simply one of the most decent human beings one could ever hope to know. And any of us should be so fortunate to be remembered as that.

I well remember when I first came to the Senate from the House in 1995, PAUL had of course been here for 2 years, and he knew how difficult it was to get started, to get your feet firmly planted on the ground in these foreign surroundings.

And so he helped us freshmen—and woman—to find our way around, to set up offices, to figure out the basics of how things work around here. While it is perhaps true that none of us have ever really figured out that secret, PAUL and his staff certainly did their best to give advice and lend a helping hand. But then, knowing PAUL as I do now, that really comes as no big surprise.

PAUL was always helping people, always contributing to the world around him. From his service in the U.S. Army to the state legislature to Director of the Peace Corps to United States Senator, PAUL believed that to serve others was a privilege, not a burden. He truly believed that he could make a difference in people's lives. And he was right.

What a a lesson his life can teach an often cynical world. We ask ourselves, what can one person do? What kind of a positive impact can government truly have on the lives of others? What happened to the idea of public service as a noble calling?

To those questions there is one simple answer—people like PAUL COVERDELL exist in the world: Good, honorable, trustworthy people who call us to

our better nature, who exemplify what the framers of this Nation had in mind when they created what they hoped would one day be the greatest deliberative body on earth.

He personified another virtue that often seems in short supply in a world where the volume of one's indignation is all too frequently the sole measure of one's passion—and that virtue is civility. PAUL let the weight of his arguments speak for themselves, and where there were disagreements he respected those who disagreed with him. Perhaps that is why he engendered such deep respect in return.

It is little wonder, then, that PAUL rose so rapidly through the ranks of leadership. He had a keen grasp of policy and detail, and nobody worked harder on behalf of his constituents and his party.

He was truly a "legislator's legislator"—not only creative in developing solutions, but always focused on moving the ball forward, on producing results for the people of Georgia and America whether in the areas of education, keeping drugs out of the hands of our children, or allowing hard-working Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

In fact, I remember at one point my staff commented to me that it seemed like everything we were considering in the Senate seemed to have PAUL's stamp on it. But that was typical of PAUL. He never stood still—and he never forgot the sacred trust that must exist between elected officials and those they are obliged to serve.

Just as important, PAUL was a man for whom his pledge was his bond—and that only counts for everything in this institution. His words had credibility, his ideas merit, and his actions sincerity. He made me proud to be a member of the United States Senate. He made us all proud.

Once again, my heart goes out to PAUL's wife Nancy, his family, friends and all of his staff—whom I know are heartbroken as we all are—and to the people of the State of Georgia, who have lost a great leader and true friend. He will surely be missed by all of us who were fortunate to have known him, but his legacy will just as surely live on in all those whose lives he has touched.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, after watching my colleagues and the depth of concern and personal passion they have at the loss of PAUL COVERDELL, I want to tell them of an experience I had last night. Something came to me when I was at a dinner and we had just heard the news. It was the seventh Beatitude:

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the sons of God.

It occurred to me that this was really PAUL COVERDELL; he was the ultimate peacemaker. It was impossible for PAUL to walk into a roomful of people, whether Democrats, Republicans, lib-

erals, conservatives—hostility, anxiety, it all subsided when PAUL came in.

I remember when I was first elected from the House into the Senate in 1994. PAUL had just arrived here. He didn't give the first impression as being a dynamic person, even an articulate person. You had to know him and know him well. But after you did, he was unlike anyone else we have been exposed to here in this body.

I thought last night about all the things we deal with here in the Senate. It was articulated in Matthew 9, starting with verse 35. It says:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

This is kind of the way we are. We are dealing with the problems of poverty, the problems of crime—a multitude of problems. So somebody has to be the one to take on those responsibilities.

I read the following verse:

Then he [Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out laborers into his harvest field."

When I, last night, thought of that verse, I thought, really, PAUL COVERDELL is the laborer who was sent, was raised up to deal with these problems, and all the problems we deal with on a daily basis, in his own unique way. So I would just say our prayer for PAUL COVERDELL right now is the last verse of the 23d Psalm:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the rest of my days; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to express my sadness at the passing of a very kind colleague. I want to say to his family and to his close friends, in Georgia and here in the Senate, who really loved him and who worked with him every day, I send you my strength and my prayers.

PAUL COVERDELL was never afraid to disagree because he came here with beliefs. But he never, ever was disagreeable. I went back through the RECORD this morning because I remember actually several occasions where he and I were on different sides on issues, tough issues. Gun control, for example, was one of them, where we disagreed on a particular piece of legislation; Education, where we disagreed on a particular piece of legislation. We were yielding time back and forth, and every single time it was "my friend from Georgia," "my friend from California." The disagreement was deep on the issue, but it was always collegial; it was a model for what should happen here in the Senate where we definitely have deep, heartfelt disagreements but we can disagree in a way that shows re-

spect for one another and caring for one another. And he did that.

I wanted to come to the floor to say that because it is perhaps a quality we do not see enough of, and all of us ought to think about that.

I do not want to repeat what has been said about his contributions to this country. The record shows they were powerful and strong—from the Peace Corps, to serving in the Senate, to helping his party, to helping Governor Bush. He was his key person, as I understand it, in the Senate. People trusted him with these responsibilities.

I wanted to say as a Member from the other side of the aisle that I am stunned and saddened, and I see my colleagues are very impacted by this. I feel for everyone who feels this loss in a very personal way. I feel it in a way of someone on the other side of the aisle who really did respect this man and enjoyed the colloquies and debates we had because it never was with animus. It was always done with great respect. He will be missed. Again, I send my sympathy to his family and his friends. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, there is a heavy cloud hanging over the Senate Chamber today. A bouquet of flowers with a black tapestry is on the desk of our departed colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL, whose presence will be greatly missed.

There is a saying that in Washington, in Congress, in the Government, a great deal could be accomplished if there was less concern—perhaps no concern—for who gets the credit. PAUL COVERDELL epitomized that concept.

He was always in the thick of the action. He was always prepared to help. He did it with conciliation, with good will and accommodation, and in the spirit of compromise; self-effacing and never interested in the credit, not interested in the news reports or the television acclaim or any of what is customarily associated with the politics, the public relations of the Congress in Washington, DC. That kind of effective, quiet Senator behind the scenes is a relative rarity here.

He had a very distinguished career in the Georgia Legislature, in the Georgia State Senate, going back to 1970. He was the Republican leader. Just this morning I talked with people who knew him in Georgia. It was the same PAUL COVERDELL 30 years ago whom we saw in Washington heading up the Peace Corps, a nonglamorous but a very important undertaking to project America around the world with young people, and then in his election to the Senate in 1992 and the immediate recognition of his colleagues who knew him well, even though he was not so well known with the television cameras but very well known by his colleagues, and elected to a leadership position, No. 4, in the Republican caucus.

He was the point man for the Republican caucus on education. He brought

to that very important subject, a subject of priority second to none in America today and in the world today, again his quiet effectiveness.

I had the opportunity to work with him on the appropriations bills on the subcommittee which I chair which covers, among other Departments, the Department of Education. For the last 2 years, we had a list of a couple hundred amendments, and in the flurry of floor action, PAUL COVERDELL was enormously effective in talking to Senators about their amendments, saying which ones could be accepted, which ones could be accommodated without coming to the floor even for a voice vote, and then narrowing the frame of reference as to which ones had to be debated with time agreements and which ones had to be voted upon.

The management of a Senate appropriations bill is a complicated matter, especially when you have a \$100 billion-plus budget and you have to worry about Head Start, drug-free schools, the National Institutes of Health, worker safety, and the myriad problems. PAUL COVERDELL was an effective man to get that job done.

Senator BILL FRIST—Dr. BILL FRIST—gave us all a report on the medical aspects of what happened to Senator COVERDELL: that it was not painful, an extraordinary medical incident with problems which simply could not be contained or controlled.

I know every Senator sends sympathies to the Coverdell family, to his wife Nancy. He will be sorely missed for the great contribution which he has made.

There are tough days in the Senate. Last year, in October, we had the passing of our dear friend, John Chafee, and now the passing of PAUL COVERDELL. While we intend to focus on matters of Government and high finance, international affairs and war and peace, nothing is more sobering than to see what is really important with the loss of a very special friend and a really great Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we celebrate today the life of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL. On behalf of my wife Elaine, who succeeded Paul in the job as director of the Peace Corps, and myself, I extend to Nancy and all of PAUL's friends our sincerest condolences.

I first met PAUL in 1988. I was traveling around the South during the Republican Presidential primaries. I was a supporter of then-Vice-President George Bush. I happened to find myself in Georgia, and ran into a State senator in Georgia named PAUL COVERDELL, who was also active in that campaign. PAUL, as he often did, made an immediate good impression. I recall the people in the Georgia meeting were all quite deferential to him. It was clear he had achieved a level of respect at that point in his career. Having served in the State senate in Georgia

for 18 years, having been the leader of a rather small group of Republicans in that body, he had nevertheless achieved a level of respect at that point.

As we all know, Vice President Bush became President Bush, and the next time I met PAUL COVERDELL, he had been nominated to be director of the Peace Corps. As many Senators have said, he did an extraordinary job running that well-known agency.

Sometime in 1991, PAUL came into my office and said: I am thinking of running for the Senate. I am going to be running against an incumbent Democrat in the South. I know that is rather difficult to do.

We talked about the experience I had running against an incumbent Democrat in the South. We struck up the beginnings of a real friendship during which we talked off and on during his extraordinary quest for the Senate.

It was indeed an extraordinary quest. Because of the peculiarities of Georgia law, PAUL COVERDELL is surely in the Guinness Book of Records because he won four elections in 1 year. I am not certain what the law of Georgia is today. I think it is still the same with regard to primaries. In order to be the nominee of a party in Georgia, you have to get 50.1 percent of the vote. PAUL had a very contested primary for the nomination. He did not get 50.1 percent of the votes, so he was in a runoff in order to achieve the nomination. So it took our good friend two elections to get the nomination.

Then Georgia had—I believe they have since changed this law—a requirement that in the general election, in order to become a U.S. Senator, you had to get 50.1 percent of the vote.

Election day came and went, and neither PAUL nor his opponent, the incumbent, had achieved 50.1 percent of the vote. So there was a runoff for the general election—a hotly contested, spirited contest—in which PAUL came out on top, I believe, in early December of 1992.

So he had won four elections in 1 year in order to find his way to this body. PAUL was indeed tested right from the beginning in his quest to become a Senator.

I remember in the early stages of that campaign, people did not take PAUL very seriously. As I watched his growth and development, almost from the beginning it seemed he was consistently underestimated. But in his extraordinarily effective and friendly manner, he managed to make himself a force in the Senate very quickly, to the point, as many have said already, that he was elected as one of our leaders in his first term.

One of his staffers lives in my neighborhood. I noticed on the back of the car the Coverdell bumper sticker, which says: "Coverdell Works." There may have been another bumper sticker somewhere in America that said: "Someone Works," but I can't think of a bumper sticker or, for that matter, a

better way to sum up our friend and colleague PAUL COVERDELL than "Coverdell Works."

He was ubiquitous. He was everywhere. As all of us who work in the Senate know, in order to make anything happen, you have to develop little groups to work in an area to try to advance the ball in the middle of these 100 substantial egos, each of which has its own goals and aspirations. PAUL was literally ubiquitous, all over the place, in a group here, in a group there, always advancing the cause. He did it in a friendly, effective, and intelligent manner.

No one is irreplaceable. The Senate continues to function. We are functioning today, although probably not very effectively. But if I have ever met somebody about whom I could say he was almost irreplaceable in the Senate, it was PAUL COVERDELL.

So it is with extraordinary sadness, not only personally but in terms of the loss in this institution, that we say goodbye to our good friend, PAUL COVERDELL.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of PAUL COVERDELL, as many of my colleagues have today, a beautiful, warm-hearted, deep-souled man who was constantly encouraging and engaging people. I know he is hearing these comments. I wish I would have said them to him physically as well, but we know he is here, as we celebrate a life well lived.

It is a very sad day for us in the Senate. I caught the comments of Senator GRAMM earlier wherein he said that instead of staring at the death, we should stare at the life; instead of staring at our loss, we should stare at our gain from having known PAUL COVERDELL. That is a very appropriate way for us to look at and think about it.

PAUL touched so many of us in the Senate in many wonderful ways. One of the things he did for my family that I most remember was sending us a book by a Georgian author. The title of the book was "Lights Along the Way." It was a collection of vignettes of people of faith, acts they had performed—many of them very obscure, some of them well known—to help people along the way. For example, one person had adopted 10 children, and the light this person had been along the way; some of the things Abraham Lincoln had done, a clear light along the way. My daughter and I would frequently read one, maybe two of these stories at night before going to bed. They were uplifting,

happy, light, joyous stories of lives well lived, of somebody being a light along the way.

That is exactly what PAUL COVERDELL was, a light along the way. If you saw him during the day, it was never a confrontational meeting. It was always a happy meeting. Even though you may disagree about something, he was always trying to be helpful. He was a peacemaker. As you would pass through your day, he was one of those lights along the way. That is why our grief is so great. When you lose part of that light, it makes it very difficult. He clearly was that. He was one of those people who talked about the scripture of God working through an individual and that it was God working in him to be that light along the way.

I think PAUL was truly that, a beautiful, deeply-caring man. He cared for his country, cared for his friends. He cared for people who were not his friends. I never saw him give a harsh or a cross word to anybody. I never saw him hardly give a frown to anybody, let alone a harsh word. It is those sorts of vignettes of PAUL's life that I remember, that stick out in my mind, his being such a light along the way.

I hope he is a light we don't forget. I hope he is a light we learn from. Light cleanses. Light shows us the way. Light points to where we ought to be and where we ought to go. Many times, it is a point of light in the distance that we seek, towards which we aim, whether it is a lighthouse or a distant shining light.

That is what PAUL is to us now, one of those lights we seek and aim towards, hoping that in some way, at some time in our life, we will be able to draw closer, move towards it, be purer, be a greater light; that when we enter a room, people will react as they did when PAUL entered a room. You can enter a room and there are shadows that come out, frowns, or you can enter a room and people start to smile and be happy, even though they are not exactly sure why you are there. PAUL was one of those where the room started to light up rather than get darker when he entered.

I hope his is a light we will always remember. As we mourn today, we celebrate that light among us, a light for us to aim towards. He was a great man.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes today to join in paying tribute to our former colleague, PAUL COVERDELL. Memories of PAUL consistently paint a picture of a hard-working, even-tempered consensus-builder. He sought results, not

headlines. He was not one who basked in a national spotlight, but his quiet influence within this body has made a profound impact on public policy affecting all Americans.

My last opportunity to work with PAUL was during consideration of the Educational Opportunities Act this spring. It is fitting that our final work together addressed the subject of education, as this is an area where we had many dealings over the years. We did not always agree on the specifics, but the one thing about which we wholeheartedly agreed is the importance of education.

During the S. 2 debate, PAUL made a compelling case for the need to assure a good education for all of our citizens. He said:

From our very founding, we have understood that a core component of maintaining a free society is that the population is educated. To the extent that any among us who are citizens do not have the fundamental skills, the basic education, they are truly not free. They cannot enjoy the full benefits of American citizenship because they are denied the ability to think for themselves, for their families, for their communities, for the Nation.

In all my work with PAUL, I found him to be fair and accommodating. He was always one to search for the areas of consensus, and he was enormously successful in finding ways to reach accommodation to move things forward. His persistence and his commitment to making things happen—no matter how many obstacles were placed in the path—earned him the respect of all who had the privilege to work with him.

I join in extending my deepest sympathy to his wife Nancy. I also offer my condolences to members of his staff, who have lost not just an employer but an inspiring example of the work and rewards of a life devoted to public service.

We will miss PAUL, but his inspiration to me and to all the others of this body will continue until we are gone from here also. I join all my colleagues in the deep sympathy that we feel at this moment.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to PAUL COVERDELL's wife Nancy and all the members of his family.

I think that anybody who has watched the expressions and condolences that have already been offered would recognize immediately the extent to which Senator COVERDELL touched all of us in the Senate and the extent to which he was a beloved colleague and friend.

PAUL's life achievement, in so many different ways, obviously deserves the tributes we are paying today. I wish to comment on some of those achievements. First, PAUL COVERDELL was one of the really remarkable leaders of our time. He began his political career in the Georgia Legislature and rose up to the leadership position in the Republican Party in the Georgia State Senate. He then came to Washington and made his mark as the Director of the Peace Corps. He was very instrumental in expanding and successfully helping the Peace Corps to transition into a new era.

PAUL was a leader in his party. He served as chairman of the Georgia Republican Party at a time when there weren't a lot of Republicans in Georgia. But thanks to him, the party grew in strength. That is when I actually first became acquainted with him, because I chaired the Republican Party in Michigan at that time and we met in the context of national party meetings. Then, of course, PAUL was elected to this body in 1992. I think everybody here is aware of how effective and how competent and able he was. He moved into the leadership of this Chamber fairly quickly—in, I think, his first term in the Senate. That doesn't happen too often in a place where seniority counts so much. But his observable abilities, talents, and incredible work ethic brought him to the attention of all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. On our side of the aisle, it resulted in him being put in a leadership role early in his career.

More than being an effective leader, PAUL was a tremendous colleague when it came time to needing some assistance on a project. I can't think of one important piece of legislation that I have worked on in the time I have been in the Senate when PAUL COVERDELL wasn't helping me in some fashion to get it through. I remember coming here in my very first couple of legislative efforts, on amendments and bills, as a freshman Member who did not know how this place worked and looking to him, who was a slightly more senior Member, for guidance and help; he was always there. He has been there for all of us. That is why I think today is such a tough day. It would not really matter what the issue was, he was somebody who would try to help you. His staff was built by him to be of similar assistance.

Of course, for all of us, probably the principal thing we would acknowledge in terms of PAUL's attributes was the tremendous friendship he offered to all of us who were his friends. I had a unique relationship with him in the sense that he served as a mentor and friend to me in my first couple of years. When he sought a leadership position, I was proud of the fact that he asked me to place his name in nomination for that. I did so on the second occasion he sought to be in the leadership of our party. When you are asked to nominate somebody for one of these

jobs, it obviously means a lot to you and tells you that you are well regarded by that person. I have to say it means an unbelievable amount to me to think that Senator PAUL COVERDELL thought of me as someone who he would want to play that role in his political career.

As I said earlier, the reaction of his colleagues today demonstrates that others share my high opinion of PAUL. So many have given statements already, and I know more will follow that will move us all. We have seen people express themselves in ways we never thought we would see. People who are known to come to the Senate floor and wage verbal debates back and forth on serious topics have already come here today and demonstrated, in the most human way, that they were so close to and touched by PAUL COVERDELL, and that all of the partisanship and the political debate is really second to them in importance to describing the friendship he provided all of us.

So as I close we pray for the best for PAUL's wife and family. We give thanks for having been able to share his friendship. On a personal level, I say: Goodbye, PAUL, we will never forget you. You were a key part of all we have done here, and you will continue to play a role as our memories of you continue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, many years ago William Wordsworth wrote a wonderful poem entitled "Ode On Intimations of Immortality," in which he said:

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting;
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar;
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home. . . .

I feel particularly bereft today because of the loss of PAUL COVERDELL.

I have served here for 24 years and I have seen great people come and go. There are people in this body who are just as great as the Founding Fathers were. There may not be many, but there are people here who by any measure qualify as great leaders.

These great people, who are able to cross party lines and bring people together, make this body the greatest legislative body in the world. PAUL was one of those people.

He was kind, he was considerate, a good listener; he was wise and he was a person with whom you would want to counsel if you had any concerns.

But PAUL was more than that. He was politically astute. He knew when to get tough about matters and stand up for what he believed. But there was also a kindness, a softness, a decency about him that is going to live long after today.

I know that "our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting," and that we came "from God, who is our home."

I know that PAUL was one of God's chosen people. He was given the privilege of coming here to be with us in the Senate. We had the privilege of knowing him.

William Cullen Bryant once said:

So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like a quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

PAUL was like that. We are all going to miss him. The fact that he died such a quick and unfathomable death has made a mournful impression on all of us.

PAUL was one of those people who could move mountains because of his personality, because of his intelligence, because of his background, because of his experience, because of his kindness, because of his love, because of his fairness, and because of his leadership.

I could go through all of his leadership qualities, all of the things he was working on and the accomplishments he made. Right now, I am thinking more of the mourning and the sense of loss we feel in losing PAUL COVERDELL.

Tennyson wrote this wonderful poem called "Crossing the Bar."

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark,

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place

The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

I have no doubt that PAUL is going to see his pilot face to face. I have no doubt that he doesn't want any moaning of the bar as he put out to sea. I know he doesn't want any sadness or farewell now that he has embarked on this next phase of eternity.

Let us today concentrate on all the good that PAUL stood for on all his amazing accomplishments, not only as a Senator, but also as a man.

We all know about PAUL's love for education—he led our caucus on that issue—and all the work he did as chairman of the Senate Republican Task Force on Education to encourage learning opportunities for America's schoolchildren.

PAUL worked hard to make sure that every parent, every child, and every teacher could devote enough time throughout each year to educational matters. He made encouraging a love of

reading his special priority for students, pupils, and teachers alike. He was a leader in formulating "A+" tax free accounts for education. His landmark Safe and Affordable Schools Act has been widely regarded as a model program to improve our country's education policies. PAUL authored bills to make sure we appreciate the hard work of our Nation's teachers, something we tend to forget so easily when formulating education policy.

PAUL must also be memorialized for his steadfast work to lower taxes and make our tax policies more fair. Many times PAUL reminded us of his belief that the freedom and means to raise, educate and care for our families are threatened by a government that takes more than 50 percent of an average family's income in taxes and cost of government. PAUL was very proud of his work on tax issues and in particular, of the law he authored to stop unscrupulous IRS workers from rummaging through the tax files of private citizens. It is many ways so ironic that the last vote he cast was on repealing the death tax, an important policy change he had worked so hard to advocate.

I worked closely with PAUL on his antidrug efforts, on his work to stop narcotics trafficking, and on his efforts to make the workplace drug free. All of these things PAUL did, and he did them well.

PAUL never forgot the needs of his home state, whether it were through his work as chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection and Product Promotion, or through his work as a member of the Finance Committee and the Small Business Committee. His record is replete with accomplishments that benefited his constituents back home.

Of course, there were so many other legislative things I would like to mention, but let me leave it at that.

Another side of PAUL was his love for baseball. He was as excited as anybody I have ever seen when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's Major League home run record as a beloved Atlanta Brave.

I am deeply saddened by his passing. I am going to miss him very much.

One of my favorite poets is a poet named Sara Teasdale who wrote an interesting poem. Although this was surely a love poem, I think it applies to our memories of PAUL as this poem is called "The Beloved."

It is enough of honor for one lifetime
To have known you better than the rest have known,

The shadows and the colors of your voice,
Your will, immutable and still as stone.

The shy heart,

Which PAUL had—

so lonely and so gay,
The sad laughter and the pride of pride,
The tenderness, the depth of tenderness
Rich as the earth, and wide as heaven is wide.

I like that. Even though it was meant for someone else, I think it applies to a large degree to PAUL COVERDELL.

PAUL was a good man. He did the right things. He set a good example. He was a good colleague here. He was one of the most respected Senators in this body for all of these qualities, qualities that very few people can come close to matching.

I wish PAUL the best in his afterlife.

My sympathy and heartfelt feelings to Nancy, his wife, and to the rest of his family who are mourning him.

I thank God for the privilege of knowing PAUL, working with PAUL, accomplishing things with PAUL, laughing with PAUL.

I am grateful for our colleagues in this body on both sides of the floor. We do learn that these people are here for a very important reason. They have been selected by their respective constituents to do good things. I can say as one who has been here long enough to know that PAUL COVERDELL did good things while he was here and that his legacy will be that all of us need to do better in the things we have been and are doing. All of us need to follow and emulate his example so that we can hopefully be as good as he was.

My sympathy and my best to Nancy and other members of his family, and to my fellow colleagues who are mourning PAUL COVERDELL this day.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I join with all of my fellow Senators today to express our feeling and mourn the death of our colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

I always find these kinds of circumstances difficult to speak to, to find the appropriate words to reflect my emotions or to in some way express my love for a man such as PAUL COVERDELL and the way he worked for all of us and for his country.

I grew up in a ranching environment in the State of Idaho. Oftentimes I think back to those experiences when I am caught in emotion or when I cause myself to sit down and contemplate how to deal with an issue or a situation. My experience with PAUL was largely a part of our time in the Senate, a leadership time.

I was one of four Senators elected by the Republican majority to lead them in the 106th Congress; PAUL COVERDELL was a part of that leadership team. He was secretary of what we call our Republican conference, or all Members on the Republican side. It was through that relationship that I grew to know PAUL and to appreciate the tremendous talents that he had. We all know he was an activist on the floor on many occasions, in pursuit of what the leadership team and ultimately the Republican conference decided was a direction we ought to head in or an issue we ought to debate. He did it with phenomenal energy and talent.

When I think of that relationship, I can only come to this analysis; I think it so well fits PAUL: A team approach,

as in a western ranching environment. We all remember the great cattle drives that used to come out of the Southwest into the plains of the West to graze, thousands of head of renegade cattle moving all in one direction. The reason they were moving in one direction was because there was a trail boss who headed up this drive. There were a group of wranglers on horseback who were out there working day to day to keep that drive shaped and headed in the direction in which the trail boss wanted them to head.

There is no question that in the Senate TRENT LOTT is our trail boss. He decides the direction with the consent of the herd, if you will, and head Members. There is a group who are the wranglers, who work with that herd, to help shape it and keep it moving. PAUL COVERDELL was one of those wranglers and probably the best among us. He was constantly out there from daylight until dark and, if it were on the range, we would say in all kinds of weather because he was doing what he was asked to do but more importantly because he believed in what he was doing and he was very passionate about it.

All of us are here for a reason; some of us for larger reasons than others. Clearly, to be here with the kind of passion and energy that PAUL COVERDELL from the State of Georgia came here with is unique. As a result, he was selected to be one of those wranglers, to follow the leadership, to follow the directions of the trail boss, to make sure that we all stayed headed in the right direction.

I will miss him. I will miss his talents as a wrangler. He was a great American and history will record that. He has made his mark. But never once in the business of making that mark, or leading, shaping the herd, or wrangling the herd, did he ever do it for PAUL. He did it for his country and for what he believed was the right cause and the right belief.

PAUL, I think God has called you to a different trail herd. He obviously needed a hell of a good wrangler, and He's got one. We will miss you. We love you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in rising to offer my sympathies and condolences to Nancy and the Coverdell family.

Today, we all grieve PAUL's passing, but we also celebrate his life. What a life it was; a life of achievement, a life of incredible service and accomplishment.

I did not know PAUL COVERDELL until I came to the Senate in 1996. I followed his career, as many Americans did. I followed with interest and admiration his campaign for the Senate and his election to the Senate from Georgia. It was only when I arrived at this institution that I got to know PAUL COVERDELL, the man.

Much has already been said this morning and yesterday and has been

said well. He was ubiquitous. It seemed PAUL was everywhere. The breadth and number of issues he was involved in takes your breath away. It was amazing how much he knew and how much he was willing to invest his time and energy. He was incredibly hard working and willing to do what others didn't want to do, didn't have time to do. He made time and he was willing to take on the nonglamorous jobs. He didn't seek glory and he didn't seek adulation. He gave credit away freely because he didn't seek it for himself. He was a consensus builder; he was a doer. If you wanted it accomplished, you gave the task to PAUL COVERDELL.

One quality which I as a junior Member of the Senate especially appreciated and admired was his deep respect for his fellow man and his deep respect for his colleagues, regardless of their rank or status. I served on the education task force with PAUL. We had a lot of strategy meetings. We had meetings in Senator LOTT's office in which we would talk over the education issue and discuss not only how we would communicate our message but how we would pass legislation. There were a lot of senior Members on the task force. They were always quick and bold to speak out and give their opinion. What I noticed about PAUL COVERDELL was that he was always observing who had spoken and who hadn't, who had expressed their opinion and who hadn't. At every meeting he said: TIM, you haven't said anything yet. What are your thoughts? Do you have an opinion?

Or he would see SUSAN COLLINS and say: SUSAN, how do you feel about this issue?

He always included junior Members. He included everyone because he respected not only their opinion, but he respected them as human beings.

He epitomized what service is all about. I think that PAUL COVERDELL provides the lasting role model of what a U.S. Senator should be, what a public servant should be.

Many of my colleagues have struggled to find words and to find scripture and verses to express what they felt about PAUL COVERDELL. I have found a verse that I think applies most appropriately to PAUL. It is Mark 10:31. Jesus said:

But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

PAUL was a leader. But he was a leader among us because he was servant of all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and legacy of a man I considered a friend first, a Senator second, and a great American above all.

Senator COVERDELL was everything that those of us who were blessed to serve with him strive to be:

effective, committed, compassionate, and tenacious when it meant doing right by the

people of Georgia and the American taxpayer he revered.

PAUL was a voice for families, for children, for the nation's workers, and every individual seeking to build a better life for themselves, their family, and generations to come.

Of all my colleagues, I think I spent more of my working hours with PAUL COVERDELL, in meetings, strategy sessions, and casual conversations.

I considered him to be the "sparkplug of the Senate" because of the life and energy he brought to this body.

As others have said, very little went on here that PAUL wasn't somehow involved in, and he was the man I went to when I needed a friendly ear. I didn't always hear what I wanted to hear, or get the sympathy I thought I needed, of course, but I always received the counsel of a man who spoke from the heart.

He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service, and not just here in the Senate. Other colleagues have spoken of his leadership of the Peace Corps, his 16 years in the Georgia State Senate, his military service, his real-world experience in business.

In this Chamber, he will be especially remembered for his unyielding dedication to working Americans, whether through his work on education, and in particular his education savings accounts, leading the fight against illegal drugs, promoting volunteerism, and lifting up America's farmers.

I think, though, that PAUL will be remembered foremost as an ardent defender of freedom.

The highest tribute one can pay to a colleague is to say that, day in and day out, they got the job done. Senator PAUL COVERDELL got the job done, with humility, with enthusiasm, and always with good humor.

With PAUL's passing, the State of Georgia has lost a leader, the Senate has lost its sparkplug, many of us have lost our best friend, and the Coverdell family has lost a truly exceptional man. My prayers, and the prayers of our colleagues and our staffs, are with Nancy and her entire family during this difficult, difficult time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I join my many colleagues here in the Senate today expressing my sympathies to the Coverdell family and telling them our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. A poet once said:

There is no joy life gives like that it takes away.

I expect the Coverdell family and all who loved PAUL and understand the

hurt and anguish at his passing, today know well what that verse means.

This is an unusual place, this Senate. There are 100 of us, men and women from all parts of the country. We have days where we have pretty aggressive debates and fights about public policy. PAUL COVERDELL was in the middle of many of those. I never heard PAUL COVERDELL say a mean word to anyone in the Senate. I told him one day at the end of a rather lengthy debate in which I was on the other side and the vote was called and we were standing in the well:

You and I don't agree on this issue, but you are a very good Senator.

We served in different political parties. We, in many cases, believed differently about issues. But PAUL COVERDELL was a very good Senator and served this country well.

The important part about PAUL was, though he felt great passion about public policy and the issues he brought to the floor of the Senate, again, he never uttered a mean word about anyone in debate. You can always disagree in this country without being disagreeable. PAUL COVERDELL demonstrated that every day in his pursuit of the public policy he believed was important for this country.

We are so busy and our schedules have us on our way here and there and everywhere all week, and then often to our respective homes in the 50 States on weekends, so it is hard to get to know each other very well. But each day, as we move around in this Capitol, all of us in the Senate exchange greetings and words, occasionally a story or two. Last week, I was in the elevator with Senator COVERDELL. We laughed a bit about his being compared, from time to time, in his presentation, to George Bush. I always used to kid him about that, that sometimes he had a cadence that reminded me of the ex-President.

He sort of kidded me and said someone told him he was doing Dana Carvey who was doing George Bush, so he was two steps away from the impression. We laughed about that.

Last Friday, as we were having a long series of votes, towards the end of the votes I visited with Senator COVERDELL because Georgia has been a State hardest hit by drought. I told him we had been hit so severely with respect to floods. On behalf of our farmers, I was trying to see if we could put together a piece of legislation that would deal with crops that had been flooded out, destroyed by flood, and crops in Georgia and elsewhere that were being destroyed by drought. On Friday morning, PAUL indicated he wanted to join me in an amendment to this bill, the Agriculture appropriations bill that is being considered in the Senate, to provide some assistance for family farmers who were victims of the drought that was occurring in his State and throughout the South.

He was always available to talk about public policy and what was hap-

pening; always especially available and concerned to talk about the people of his State of Georgia. I wanted to come today to say the Senate will miss PAUL COVERDELL. He was not only a good Senator, but he served this country very well. He was a friend to all of us. My thoughts and prayers go to his wife and his family. We say thank you to his memory.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in the 211-year history of the Senate, the State of Georgia has one of the richest and most storied legacies. Since the formation of the Senate, and that was in 1789, Georgia has sent to the Senate 62 individuals as Senators. I have had the distinct privilege of serving with 6 of them, including our beloved PAUL COVERDELL. When the people of Georgia elected PAUL COVERDELL to represent them here in the Senate 8 years ago, they sent to Washington a unique, especially talented, and gracious gentleman; a gentleman of the South, I say to those of us who are privileged to come from that region.

PAUL began his service to the Nation nearly 30 years ago when he served his Nation in the U.S. Army, stationed in Okinawa, Taiwan, and Korea, and he never stopped in his quest to serve the people. He was truly a public servant.

He gave almost half his life to serving the Nation and the State of Georgia. It is no overstatement to say that his presence in public life has made this Nation more prosperous and more secure. He was a leader in the fight against drugs and the fight for better education and the struggle to keep this Nation strong, both economically and militarily.

We have a saying around the Senate: There are show horses and workhorses. We know for sure PAUL was no show horse; He was a workhorse. He worked hard and often he worked behind the scenes. He did not seek the headlines. PAUL COVERDELL did not seek the headlines. He would seek results—he wanted to get the job done, let others take the credit—and always results that were in the best interests of our Nation. That was his guide; that was his compass.

All of us here, before we cast the first vote, before we discharge the first responsibility, take the oath of office. We solemnly commit "to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies." We commit "to bear true faith and allegiance." We undertake "to faithfully discharge" our duties.

PAUL COVERDELL fulfilled each of those constitutional obligations under the oath of office. He was a man of his word and he has lived his life in the Senate true to his principles and true to that oath.

He was a quiet man. His office was right across the hall from mine in the old Russell Building. How often we would meet walking to and from the votes. Those are the moments when

Senators do not have staffs around them, constituents are waiting somewhere, and you share those private thoughts, comments, and ideas. How often I shared them with this giant of a Senator.

The Nation lost a true patriot, a true gentleman, a true statesman. But his memory and his legacy will remain with us forever.

May God bless his family. God blessed America with this man's service.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have come today to express sorrow and deep regret over the loss of a treasured friend and colleague. I have watched many of the tributes that have been made to PAUL COVERDELL this morning. There is very little I can say to add to some of the wonderful comments that have been made about this truly remarkable American.

I want to talk for a minute about my personal relationship with PAUL COVERDELL.

When he was running for the Senate for the first time, he was running against an incumbent Senator who was popular in his State. I came to the State of Georgia and campaigned for him. Before I arrived, I thought I was doing what a lot of us in politics do, and that is doing what is necessary for a losing cause. But after spending a few days with PAUL COVERDELL, I could see this man was going to win his election because he was a man of integrity; he was a man who knew the issues, a man who was dedicated to the concept and belief of public service, a man who had served his country in other capacities and had prepared himself over many years of public life to serve the Nation as a Senator from the State of Georgia.

As we all know, he won a very close race, perhaps one of the closest races in the history of certainly the State of Georgia, if not the entire Senate, which required a runoff election. Then he was reelected rather handily.

Again I went down to Georgia to help him in his reelection, and I saw that during his first term, PAUL COVERDELL had established a unique relationship with his constituents. Everyplace I went with him, they recognized him, they showed their appreciation for him, and whether they were Republican or Democrat, they respected him for his strongly held values and views.

As I talked to his citizenry around the State of Georgia, it was clear, whether they were going to support his candidacy for reelection or not, they held him in the highest regard because

they knew, as we who have had the privilege and honor of working with him and serving with him in the Senate know, that he was a man who worked incredibly hard, a man of firmly established values and ideals, and one who believed and acted in the public interest.

As all of us experience deep emotion and sorrow over the loss of a dear friend, I am sometimes reminded that we should also celebrate the fact that we were blessed to have the opportunity to know and appreciate a man of such enormous and wonderful qualities, and the people of his State and the people of this Nation, including my own State of Arizona, were honored to be in the presence of and have the service of this dedicated, wonderful American.

As our best wishes and condolences go out to the Coverdell family and friends, we also offer our hardest celebration for a life well lived and one which is written in the pages of America's history, in the history of the Senate, bright pages filled with the Coverdell name in the State of Georgia with glory.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as I enter the Chamber and look to the rear to the seat occupied by our dear friend, the late Senator PAUL COVERDELL, it reminds me of the reality of the fragility of the lives we lead. The message is one of taking stock of what our real priorities are. Life is so short, so fragile, and our period on Earth is so temporary.

At this time we join together in grieving with the family of our beloved colleague who passed away Tuesday evening. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with his wife Nancy and the family during their time of extraordinary grief.

We all share in the reality that this was a tragic and unexpected loss. We all feel it in this Chamber, in the halls of the Senate office buildings and, of course, in PAUL's beloved State of Georgia. But we cannot be blinded by grief to the point that we fail to recognize and celebrate the life of this outstanding public servant.

He was an extraordinary public servant. I listened to some of the comments made last night after we learned of his passing. The Senator from New York said he was a man of peace. Reflecting on PAUL's public service, he served his country in the Army, with deployments in Okinawa, Korea, and the Republic of China, came home to Georgia, joined the family business,

helped it thrive and grow and then, beginning in 1970, served his State in the legislature, serving as minority leader for a period of 15 years. In 1989, he continued his commitment to peace as Director of the Peace Corps. In this capacity, PAUL saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War. He seized the opportunity to place Peace Corps volunteers in former Eastern Bloc nations in an effort to speed their transition to democracy and peace.

The wise people of Georgia, in 1992, elected PAUL to the U.S. Senate. I vividly recall that this genuine, quiet man made an immediate impression upon all of us. As we got to know PAUL, we found him to be deeply thoughtful, hard-working, and utterly unconcerned about the limelight. His Republican colleagues recognized his efforts and selected him to the leadership post of Republican Conference Secretary.

As a U.S. Senator, PAUL did superb work in the issues of education, food safety, protecting our children from drugs, promoting volunteerism, lowering the tax burden on working families and small business, and protecting the rights of citizens in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service.

We were all privileged to know PAUL. He enriched our lives. My prayers and thoughts are with PAUL's family, especially his wife Nancy. The Senate will miss his work ethic and thoughtfulness. The Nation will miss his ideas and his example.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise, as have some of our colleagues today, to express my deepest sympathy to Senator PAUL COVERDELL's friends, family, and to his wife Nancy, as others throughout the State of Georgia as well as throughout this country mourn the passing of one of our colleagues who, indeed, was a very special person.

I think when we reflect on the times we had and the opportunity we had to spend with PAUL COVERDELL, we will certainly remember him as a Senator's Senator; by that I mean a person who was really interested not so much in the message of the day but, rather, in actually working together to bring to this floor and to the American people legislative products that were appropriate to get the job done.

I think all of us, when we see our legislative branches becoming more and more partisan and more and more separated by imaginary aisles that separate us, can think back and remember PAUL COVERDELL as a person who was willing to work with anyone who was willing to work with him in order to accomplish legislation that was in the interest of this whole country.

I had the opportunity, as so many of our colleagues did, to work with him on education. I think his approach to that major legislative effort was one from which we can all learn a great deal—how he handled the product he was trying to get passed into law.

What I mean by that was he was willing to sit and talk with Democrats as well as his Republican colleagues to try to fashion a compromise that could accomplish the reform of our legislative system. Far too often, that is sort of unique and different in the way things are done—both in this body and in the other body across the Capitol.

I think as we remember the experiences and good times we had with him, we can take with us the admiration and respect all of us have expressed of him, but also, at the same time, the lesson he taught us by his actions. That lesson, in my mind, was how we work together to accomplish good things for the American people. He did that. We can remember and we can learn from his actions. That is how I want to remember the good times I had and the privilege of experiencing it with him during the legislative process.

He will be missed, of course, by his family and close friends back home. He will be missed by the people of Georgia. He will, indeed, be missed by the people of America—those Americans who think that the function of this body and our Congress in general is to do whatever we can, working together, to make lives better for all American citizens. That is what PAUL COVERDELL attempted to do as he was able to accomplish so many things in that fashion.

He will be particularly missed by this institution and by everyone who wants to make government work better for the American people. PAUL COVERDELL represented that type of Senator. He, indeed, was a Senator's Senator. He will be sorely missed but very fondly remembered.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, as have so many of my colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, PAUL COVERDELL.

It is very difficult to look at those flowers, which are silent. As my colleagues do, I find it difficult to deal with. It is something that is very hard for all of us to understand.

We are here to pay tribute to PAUL COVERDELL and to express our sincerest condolences to Nancy and his entire family.

They say true friends are there when you need them most. We know PAUL COVERDELL was there when we needed

counsel. I remember about a year ago I went through some rather difficult times on the floor of the Senate. PAUL was there to counsel me and to give me a lot of advice through all that—for which I will always be grateful—in a political world often poisoned by partisanship. PAUL was always there for counsel and friendship. He was there for all. He was not a partisan person. He could be partisan when he had to be. There is a difference between being partisan and being mean.

The Atlanta Journal Constitution said it best when they said: There is a lot of meanness in politics. But he wasn't one of the mean people. I don't think it can be said much better than that. He was a fierce partisan on the battlefield of ideas but not among friends. We are 100 people here who are friends. Even though we have our partisan differences from time to time, we don't take it off the floor. PAUL was certainly a stalwart in leading the way in that. He knew what friendship was and what it meant. Friendship to PAUL couldn't be obscured by any party label or disagreement or an argument.

That is why so many of our colleagues have been here today to make tributes. It is also one of the reasons why history will record PAUL COVERDELL as a great Senator. I remember vividly the first time I came to the well and signed the book, being joined with a very distinguished few individuals, a little over 2,000 people throughout the course of our country who have become U.S. Senators. Senator ROBERT BYRD came over to me and said: Don't ever forget that. That is something that they can never take away from you.

When you think through the years of all those people, PAUL will be remembered in that way as one of the best in terms of friendship, in terms of his own issues he felt so passionately about—drugs, what drugs were doing to our society, especially to our young people, and education for which he fought so hard.

He was a passionate man, a caring man. I don't believe anyone who has ever served here who wasn't compassionate and didn't care could ever be considered an outstanding Senator. PAUL was the best when it came to that.

He had the disarming personality, the humor, the quick mind. He had rock solid philosophical groundings. These are traits that made for a great and potent legislator. Most importantly, if he gave you his word, that was it. You could trust his judgment. You could trust his instincts. Most of all, you could trust his motivations were right. They were heart felt; they were sincere; they were honorable. I think that is the most important.

There is a campaign slogan that Senator COVERDELL had: COVERDELL works. Those who worked with him every day knew he was tireless. He was working on the day that he was stricken. He was a hard worker. He worked hard for

his State and he worked hard for his country and the people in whom he believed.

In 1732, when the colonists came to PAUL's great State of Georgia, they came on shore, touched the shore, they kneeled down and said: Our end in leaving our native country is not to gain riches and honor but singly this—to live in the glory of God.

I think PAUL COVERDELL has lived up to that about as well as any human being could, certainly as well as any Georgian could. You can certainly be proud of this Georgian.

Abraham Lincoln, on the passing of Henry Clay, said about the ardent patriot and profound statesman: He had a quality possessed by few of the gifted on Earth. His eloquence has not been surpassed in the effective power to move the heart of man. PAUL COVERDELL was without an equal. I think I agree with Abraham Lincoln on that.

We all have vivid memories of the last time we spoke to PAUL COVERDELL. I remember on the Senate floor, with all the confusion of the votes on Friday, all the things going on, and although I can't recall a specific conversation, you can always remember PAUL engaging somebody in a conversation.

The worst part for me, when I reflect on a sudden death, is if I had the chance to say goodbye, what would I have said? I also find myself wishing I had known so I could take the time to say goodbye. I didn't get that opportunity to say goodbye to a friend that I loved and respected, but if I had the chance, I would have thanked him for his friendship because it means more than anything else here. I would have said: Thanks, PAUL, for being there for me.

In his letter to Mrs. Fairbanks, Mark Twain wrote about friendship:

... I remember you and recall you without effort, without exercise of will; that is, by natural impulse, undictated by a sense of duty or of obligation. And that, I take it, is the only sort of remembering worth having. When we think of friends, and call their faces out of the shadows, and their voices out of the echoes that faint along the corridors of memory, and do it without knowing why save that we love to do it, we can content ourselves that that friendship is a Reality, and not a Fancy, that it is built upon a rock and not upon the sands that dissolve away with the ebbing tides and carry their monuments with them.

That is how I feel about PAUL COVERDELL today.

The second thing I would have thanked PAUL for, if I had had the chance to say goodbye, was his sense of humor. He had a great sense of humor. Lord knows, one needs a sense of humor serving in this place. It gets intense from time to time. I remember two cases, one recent and one a long time ago, which I will recall. I will take the long time ago first.

Some of my colleagues will remember PAUL had a very interesting election. Georgia, at that time, had a law that candidates had to get 50 percent of

the vote to win. PAUL got a little less than that. His opponent got a little bit more than PAUL but less than 50 percent. So PAUL was here and he was talking to Members, saying: I want to join you guys, but I need a little help, a few contributions. We need to have another election and I have to face this guy again with the third guy out.

I said: I will help you, but I am not sure that law is right. Maybe the other guy should have won; he got more votes than you the first time.

PAUL said: Well, it is all right to change but not yet.

I remember that. PAUL said that in his gregarious way, not meaning anything malicious.

The second memory I have of his humor was more recent, about 2 or 3 weeks ago. PAUL, who is the conference secretary, came out with this little card. He held the card up proudly. He wanted people to have this for the Fourth of July recess. It proudly boasted "The Republican Priorities for the Surplus," and he went down through the list. We all looked at them and after he finished, Senator after Senator stood up and said: I don't know where you got that, that is not my priority. Who gave you this. And on and on and on for 10 minutes. PAUL took it well.

After it was over, I walked up to him and I said: Do you regret you printed the card?

He said: Were those guys drinking something; what was going on here?

It was a fond memory, but so typical. There was no animosity, no anger, just rolling with the punches.

He said: Next time, I will check with a few people before I print the card.

If I had the chance to say goodbye, I would have thanked PAUL for that.

Let me close by referring to comments that were made several years ago on this floor by our distinguished colleague, ROBERT BYRD, who was talking about the death of William Fulbright. He quoted Longfellow. In quoting Longfellow, Senator BYRD said:

There is no death! What seems so is transition;

The life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life Elysian,
Whose portal we call death.

Then he went on to say about William Fulbright the same thing I would say right now about PAUL COVERDELL:

Life is only a narrow isthmus between the boundless oceans of two eternities. All of us who travel that narrow isthmus today, must one day board our little frail barque and hoist its white sails for the journey on that vast unknown sea where we shall sail alone into the boundless ocean of eternity, there to meet our Creator face to face in a land where the rose never withers and the rainbow never fades. To that bourne, from which no traveler ever returns, [PAUL COVERDELL] has now gone to be reunited with others who once trod these marble halls, and whose voices once rang in this Chamber—voices in this earthly life that have now been stilled forever. Peace be to his ashes!

PAUL COVERDELL loved his God; he loved his country; he loved his native

Georgia; he loved Nancy and his family. He served them all, and he did it well. I am proud to be called a friend of Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, often the most difficult moments we have on this floor are not when we're trying to advocate a political philosophy, or debate a legislative initiative, but when we pause to remember friends and colleagues who have left us. Words, which come easily on most occasions, seem suddenly inadequate to express the feelings we have stirring in our hearts—the fond recollections, the abiding respect, and the sudden, overwhelming feelings of loss.

PAUL COVERDELL was a friend to each of us, a leader with a spirit that was as buoyant as it was inspiring. His vision and ability to get things done elevated him quickly into increasingly more important roles in this distinguished body. As a leader, he was unwavering in this dedication to freedom, his support for the bedrock of liberty—family, community, education, and personal responsibility.

I fondly remember the many occasions we worked together, the discussions we had, and the ever-increasing sentiment that in PAUL I had found something of a kindred political spirit. In fact, I was in Atlanta on Monday, at an event he sponsored on my behalf. As always, it was tremendously successful, indicative of how well PAUL is regarded by those he serves.

It is easy to understand why. From efforts to make education more affordable, to reforming the Internal Revenue Service, to working to roll back the tax burden, PAUL has been a leader, as articulate and convincing as he was constant and unwavering.

He intuitively understood the values that bless America. His background and upbringing groomed him to understand the importance of family, the concerns of small business owners, the value of learning, and the ability of government to promote an environment that supports these areas. Just as important, PAUL understood the necessity of service and the blessings that come through service.

Not only was he a distinguished soldier, but after the Army—as PAUL succeeded in business—he gave back through his service in the Georgia State Senate, where he served for many years as the minority leader. His service continued as he led the Peace Corps under President Bush and focused that important organization on building and sustaining the fundamentals of freedom in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

Because of his service, PAUL was well prepared when he came to the Senate in 1993. He knew what he would do here, and I can think of no one with whom I have served who accomplished more than he did in the time he spent among us. His work will remain his legacy. His memory will continue to

inspire. And the successes he achieved here will bless the lives and brighten the futures of families and children for years to come.

At this time I express my appreciation for PAUL and his leadership, and I want to express my condolences to Nancy and the family, along with my gratitude for their willingness to share a great man with all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our departed friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL.

The Senate today is a very sad place, it is a shaken place, because of the suddenness of PAUL's death. It is also a day on which I think we, by this tragic event, are reminded that underneath the headlines and the great debates and the partisan divides and all the rest of the sound and the fury, ultimately this institution, as so many others across America, is 100 people coming to work every day, trying to get a job done. It is the hundreds and hundreds of others who work with us here, our staffs and support personnel, who constitute what to me has always seemed to be a small town.

Today we are saddened and we are shaken by the loss of one of the prominent people in this small town of ours on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, United States of America, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

My wife said to me once: Remember that being a Senator is just your job; it's not you. It's a great job. It's an honor to hold it. It is an extraordinary opportunity. But ultimately there is a "you" there.

That personal side of all of us comes home today as we confront, and try to absorb and deal with, the death of our friend, our colleague, our coworker, PAUL COVERDELL.

It reminds us, of course, of the limits of human understanding and human capacities. As great as we are as a species, as high as we have gone, as exciting as the reaches of technology are today, ultimately we reach a point of human limitation. It is the point where we meet up with faith in God that, hopefully, transcends those limits, capacities, and doubts and moves us forward.

Thinking about PAUL COVERDELL's death and his life, there are two quite disparate thoughts that came to my mind—but both of them, I think, fit him. I remember when I first came to Washington—this is an old expression—somebody said to me: Remember that there is no limit to what you can accomplish in Washington if you are not looking for credit. In so many ways that have been testified to here on the Senate floor today, that wisdom fits the career of PAUL COVERDELL. He was a quiet and gentlemanly person, not looking for headlines but committed and anxious to be part of making this place work.

The second sentiment is something I heard from my own beloved mother, and I will bet everybody heard it from their mother, which is, when I was growing up, she always said to my sisters and me: You know, it never hurts to be kind to people. You gain nothing by being harsh.

That, too, is a very apt description of PAUL COVERDELL: a very fine human being, a very kind human being. In the normal interactions of this extraordinary place where we work together trying to get things done, PAUL always had a smile, always a kind word. Even in the partisan moments we all are involved in on the floor, they never seemed to become personal with him. That, in both senses, is the way it should be.

It is, of course, sad but always true: We tend to appreciate people more when they are gone and speak more openly of them when they are gone. I think that is the case of this quiet, strong, decent, productive man. I have a sense, in listening to the comments made, of the critical role he played in this Chamber within the Republican caucus, to transcend the divisions that exist in any group of people, particularly any group of political people, and the critical role he played helping the Senate majority leader in trying to keep the place moving and getting some things done.

I can testify, of course, to the fact that PAUL was clearly a proud Republican loyal to his party. He was not hesitant to reach across party lines to look for support for something in which he believed or to offer support to someone on our side of the aisle for something in which he believed and felt was right and necessary.

I had the greatest opportunity to work side by side with PAUL COVERDELL as a cosponsor of the pioneering, progressive, very important education savings account proposal he made which would have taken the basic idea of higher education savings accounts and expanded them to cover K-12 education to help parents support the improvement of their children's education. There is nothing we can do in this Chamber that is much more important than facilitating a better education for all of our children.

It was easy to work with PAUL. He was obviously very bright, he was understanding, and he was energetic and steadfast. It is an idea I hope those of us on both sides who support it will carry on because it is a good idea, but it is also a tribute to him.

I was thinking, earlier this year on a proposal that became associated with the Clinton administration; namely, the aid package to Colombia to deter and diminish the problem of drugs coming in from that country, PAUL stepped forward and gave sturdy, steadfast, effective support which ultimately resulted in its adoption with bipartisan backing of a problem that is obviously complex and indeed cannot but help us as we go forward.

We all think of Nancy today and PAUL's family. We extend to them our condolences, and we hope, of course, that they are strengthened and, in some measure, comforted at this difficult time by good personal memories of their time too short with PAUL, and I am sure they are strengthened and comforted by the pride they should feel and the extraordinary record of public service that was PAUL COVERDELL's life, and hopefully given ultimate strength by their faith in God. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Blessed be the name of the Lord. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the State of Georgia and the United States of America lost a great, decent leader yesterday. PAUL COVERDELL was one of the quiet heroes of this Senate Chamber. He was not showy; he was not proud; he was not here for the credit or the prestige or the power. He was a gentle man in every sense of the word and in every aspect of his being.

He was here because he loved his State and loved his Nation. He was here because he wanted to improve education. It was a profound concern of his. He was here because he wanted to end drug abuse and the scourge of drugs among young people. He was here because he wanted to protect our national security and secure our children's future and open America's promise to all of those he served. He fought for all these things with a humble dignity and a quiet passion that touched each one of us.

In a way, PAUL was the Senate peacemaker. We get a lot of contentious issues around here. We are all human beings. Tempers flare. Voices rise. It seems as if you are never going to get together with people again across the aisles. PAUL COVERDELL could step in and work his way back and forth and calm things down.

Recently, we had the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education bill up. I am the ranking member on that subcommittee. The chairman is Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania. It seems that every year when that bill comes up the debate gets hotter. The decibel level goes up a little bit. We seemed to be locked in a week-long struggle on that bill, and I had a chance, once again, to watch PAUL COVERDELL at work in soothing the tensions on both sides, of reaching across to Democrats and his own Republicans to find that common ground and just calm things down. He was really good at that. I watched him work. I said once to Senator SPECTER: I am sure glad we have PAUL COVERDELL around here because he was able to keep things calm.

He helped us reach the compromises, as we must do around here, and to find a common ground between people.

I also served with PAUL on the Agriculture Committee. We shared a common love of farmers and rural people. Again, in his own quiet way, I saw the

determination and the grit of PAUL COVERDELL in fighting for his farmers in Georgia during many deliberations on the Ag Committee and especially in the passage of the last farm bill.

A lot of people do not know this—but PAUL and I talked about it often—he was born in Des Moines, IA, not more than 10 miles from where I was born and raised.

It is an honor that I represent a State that produced someone as good and as decent as PAUL COVERDELL. He was one of the finest leaders this body has ever seen.

Standing here and looking over at his desk and looking at the black cloth and the flowers on the desk cannot help but remind each of us of the transitory nature of human life. Just last week—it seems like yesterday—I was on the floor talking with PAUL COVERDELL about an issue, asking for some help and seeing if he could work some things out. He was as alive and as vibrant and as engaged and committed to the smooth functioning of this institution as anyone else. Four days later, he passed on.

Looking at his desk, and thinking about seeing him just a few days ago, being alive and vibrant and full of health, and looking forward, not only makes us think about the transitory nature of human life but it also should serve to remind us we should make every day count—make every day count in emulating the kindness and the gentleness and the caring nature of a PAUL COVERDELL.

One of my political heroes, Hubert Humphrey, once said: "To be a leader means a willingness to risk—and a willingness to love. One must ask: Has the leader given you something from the heart?"

PAUL COVERDELL had the guts and the courage to take risks. He had a great will to love. And to that question by Hubert Humphrey, I can say yes about PAUL COVERDELL. He gave us all something from that wonderful heart of his.

So I join with my friends and colleagues in extending to Nancy and to his family our profound sorrow. We share your sorrow. But we hope you take comfort, as we do, in knowing that the kind and gentle and caring life of PAUL COVERDELL is now rewarded by the kind and gentle and caring hand of Almighty God.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I, like most of my colleagues today, have listened carefully to the remarks made about our colleague, PAUL COVERDELL. What it has been is a weaving together of a magnificent tapestry representing the life of a unique and complete human being—PAUL COVERDELL.

PAUL COVERDELL was a complete human being. We are all judged by many facets of our lives. In the end, what is really most important is: Did you leave the world better than you

found it? That question has been answered rather assuredly today in the case of our friend PAUL COVERDELL.

I found part of a speech that President Ronald Reagan gave. As a matter of fact, it was his last speech that he gave before the United Nations in September of 1988, before he left office. I think it captures, rather well, PAUL COVERDELL—a man who served his country in uniform, a man who served his country as head of the Peace Corps, who truly touched the world and made the world better, who served his country as a Senator, who helped all of us as a friend, and who was a faithful and wonderful and loving husband.

These words—that I would like to recite in closing my remarks about PAUL COVERDELL—truly capture the essence of this remarkable colleague and friend of ours. As President Reagan ended his speech to the United Nations on September 26, 1988, he said—and we hear the echo of PAUL COVERDELL in these words—

... when we grow weary of the world and its troubles, when our faith in humanity falters, it is then that we must seek comfort and refreshment of spirit, in a deeper source of wisdom, one greater than ourselves.

And so if future generations do say of us that, in our time, peace came closer, that we did bring about new seasons of truth and justice, it will be cause for great pride. But it shall be a cause of greater pride still, if it is also said that we were wise enough to know the deliberations of great leaders and great bodies are but overture; that the truly majestic music—the music of freedom, of justice, of peace—is the music made in forgetting self and seeking in silence the will of Him who made us.

Thank you for your hospitality over the years. I bid you now farewell. And God bless you.

We bid farewell to PAUL COVERDELL. And God bless PAUL COVERDELL.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to deliver my remarks seated.

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

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, none of us knows precisely when the hereafter begins, when the life of one of the Lord's servants ends. I myself have lost an unusually large number of good friends during the past few weeks. But I find it helpful to imagine that I can visualize each of them sitting on some sort of Cloud Nine up there, listening to those of us who are mourning the loss of good friends.

Yes, I do have a hunch that PAUL COVERDELL is up there, cheerfully and busily lending a hand to Saint Peter. For me, it serves the purpose of reassuring that PAUL is all right—in fact, better off than he has ever been before.

We all remember a hundred different personal vignettes at times like this. In PAUL's case, my first acquaintance with him was very early in the morning the day after he was first elected to the Senate in 1992.

I had gone quietly into the den of our Raleigh home and turned on the tele-

vision set—the volume very low, so as not to awaken Mrs. Helms. I wanted to catch up on the late returns from the election the day before.

I heard a voice; and I was intrigued and impressed by that voice. Then I looked carefully. I did not recognize the young man who was speaking. It was PAUL COVERDELL. I saw the picture of him that appeared on the screen. It was a live interview. PAUL had not yet gone to bed. He had been up for about 36 or 40 hours.

There he was fielding questions politely, intelligently, and with that inevitable smile on his face.

That was the moment my respect and admiration—and affection—for Senator COVERDELL began.

Now fast forward: Like most, if not all, other Senators, I realize today that I will forever have special memories of PAUL COVERDELL. He was a good man, an honorable man, a dedicated man with whom I shared a great affection for today's young people—the responsible ones, the ones who understand their good fortune of living in this country—those who, as PAUL COVERDELL once put it, understand that the strength and the goodness and the very future of America will shortly be in their hands.

I have sat and listened to other who have spoken so eloquently today of the Senator's rapid rise in the leadership of the Republican Party in the Senate. That happened because PAUL believed in the Senate. He believed in the meaning of the U.S. Senate, and he believed that we have a duty to endeavor to achieve a spirit of cooperation and understanding—including the realization that we have the duty to make the tripartite system work.

So, PAUL, if that's you whom I think I'm looking at on Cloud Nine, you know that we are missing you and that we are so dearly grateful for the years that we enjoyed working with you. I have a notion that the Lord will be blessing you for being His good and faithful servant while you were amongst us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I thank Senator HELMS. He asked if he could speak before me. I said, of course, and that permitted me to hear what he had to say. It was beautiful, and I was privileged to hear it.

Most of us are privileged to believe in a hereafter. Frankly, it is difficult for me to conceive of an adult human being with a mind and a heart, difficult for me to see how they do not all believe there is a hereafter. But there is no doubt in my mind that what I believe by faith is true, and there is no doubt in my mind that PAUL COVERDELL is in the hereafter.

I didn't come to the floor today to speak about matters of great depth or of religion or faith or hope. I came to talk about the PAUL COVERDELL I knew day by day.

Let me first say, it is very difficult to put the flowers and the cloth where

they actually belong, because PAUL COVERDELL is not known as much for being at that desk as he is being in this aisle and taking somebody's place in this chair. For most of his time in the Senate, he was either putting together a group of Senators to address an issue or he was trying to get the Senate's work done, because he was asked either by a chairman or by the leader to do it. The more difficult the task, the more it was given to him.

When you had an education bill with 200 amendments or a Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill with, at one point, 270 amendments, somebody quietly asked that one of our Senators help. It was almost always PAUL COVERDELL who was asked. He was so good at it and so friendly and could bring people together so well that the chairman willingly accepted his help. I can see the last time he pulled up his coat and was given, after he accepted the assignment, a list with hundreds of amendments on it. The task was: Narrow them down. By the end of the day, they were talking optimistically about finishing. And by the next day, PAUL COVERDELL, not at that desk but walking these aisles and sitting with Senators everywhere, was getting the work done, always being considerate, kind, and understanding.

Sometimes we herald Senators because they have been here a long time. I suggest that PAUL COVERDELL and his wife Nancy and those who knew him, those who elected him, and those who supported him must know by now that he was a wonderful Senator. That was not measured by his having four or five terms as Senator, as I have been lucky to do, or my friend, THAD COCHRAN, who sits here, from the State of Mississippi. But he, in a few years, captured all of our hearts and all of our hopes for success. We would transplant them over to him.

I came with no speech but with a letter. Two days, 3 days before he died, I arrived at my desk and found a letter. My staff had taken it out of the mail and put it on my desk. Frankly, I left it there not knowing he would die. I was going to read it in due course. Surely, the day that he died, I sat down at my desk and read his letter.

The letter is not profound. The letter is PAUL COVERDELL. It is the PAUL COVERDELL who is so considerate that after coming to my office and spending an hour and a half of his time with a staffer of his and two of mine, where he had asked me if I would be of help, he willingly said: I will come to your office. We talked with a couple of my staff who were assigned to him. He did a job for the Republicans in preparing something we needed, and then he wrote a letter on top of all that where he was doing the labor, the work. He wrote this letter:

DEAR PETE: Thanks again for meeting to discuss our recess communication efforts. As always, your insight has been quite helpful in determining how to craft a credible short term message on the surplus. Bill Hoagland

and Jim Capretta of your staff were of invaluable assistance to us as well. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. COVERDELL.

I submit there are not too many of us who would be so considerate that when we wrote a Senator to say it was good to be with you, would mention the staff people who really got the work done because they knew more about it than we did. But here is PAUL COVERDELL, the last sentence of his letter, thanking Bill Hoagland and Jim Capretta by name. He puts it in here. How many Senators are that considerate as to what the names of staffers are who they meet in another Senator's office? Some of us are not considerate enough to say: Would you please repeat your name because I would actually like to know your name.

I believe this is typical of PAUL COVERDELL. I surmise that for his whole life, certainly while he was in the Peace Corps, and the public service part of his life, he was always considerate.

Let me suggest that being considerate does not mean being weak. Being considerate does not mean you don't get something done. Being considerate does not mean you cave in. Being considerate is being like PAUL COVERDELL.

As I indicated, I will never remember him in that seat that we honor him by today because that is his assigned seat. I will remember him as more the epitome of a Senator who worked on the floor of the Senate. That is a very special kind of Senator. First of all, most of us don't know how to do it. Secondly, most of us are not asked to do it. He was asked. He knew how to do it in terms of helping people bring difficult matters to a head, to solutions, and helping his party with great insights on strategy.

Mr. President, I say to his wife Nancy and his beloved: We don't know how to explain this to any of you. We are incapable of doing that. But, clearly, if you don't know it now, in very short order you will understand that he lived a very great life as a Senator, and the respect and admiration that has been shown, and will be shown, is probably an indication that he was as close to all of us as any Senator around.

With that, I say good-bye, PAUL; God bless you and your family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, our colleagues have spoken so well about PAUL COVERDELL as a gentleman, as a person who was thoughtful and persuasive. As Senator DOMENICI said, he worked the aisles indefatigably with the ideals that he held.

First of all, it is fundamental that PAUL COVERDELL was elected to the Senate. It was a very difficult contest—one not decided on election day, the day of his first election. He was an extraordinarily experienced politician and statesman in the State of Georgia,

with remarkable legislative experience as a leader throughout much of his tenure. But those from our party in Georgia have a very difficult time with that, and that was the case for PAUL. It was a very close contest. He won graciously, came to the Senate, and had a difficult reelection contest for which he began to prepare early and in which he asked many of us to participate. But he did it all so gracefully, so thoughtfully, so constructively, that we rarely think of PAUL COVERDELL as a very tough political competitor and someone who was in a difficult arena. It took great courage to make those races to begin with and remarkable tenacity to follow through to success.

My own first impressions of PAUL COVERDELL came during the often commented period in which he served as head of the Peace Corps. PAUL COVERDELL was in Latin America and various other places where some of us tried to work for democracy in those days. They were remarkable days—the 1980s—in which all of the countries of our hemisphere finally landed on their feet with democratic institutions. That was true of countries in Asia and countries elsewhere around the world. PAUL COVERDELL's tenure in the Peace Corps is distinguished by the fact that the Peace Corps had matured, literally.

Many members of the Corps were now very mature individuals, not young persons out of college, or in some type of transition before they went into another professional career. As a matter of fact, under PAUL's tenure, the Peace Corps evolved into a group of teachers, environmentalists, and farm experts, in addition to, still, a very strong component of young idealistic people. It was this combination of people that gave sustenance to democracy, helped the economy, helped the pushing forward of intellectual pursuits, and likewise forged an increasing friendship and reverence for the United States and for our traditions.

Therefore, it was with great excitement that I welcomed PAUL COVERDELL to the Foreign Relations Committee. That is a committee on which he belonged. He made huge contributions on that committee. We focused frequently on Latin America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean—areas with which he was well acquainted from previous times when he had really been there in the beginning of the evolution of many democratic propositions. I sat next to him in the committee through the markups, through the hearings. He was always cheerful. He was always thoughtful in exchanging views in a very forthright way. I admired and I listened to PAUL. He made a very strong contribution day by day in the work of the committee.

But my close association with PAUL came in the Agriculture Committee. I will mention that PAUL was chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection, and Product Promotion. He did a

great job. We have just four subcommittees in the Agriculture Committee. These are committees that have opportunities to hold hearings independently, or to contribute to the body as a whole as they may wish. PAUL COVERDELL had a broad philosophical view of agriculture that included freedom—freedom for the farmers whom he represented to make decisions with regard to management of their land and their crops and their livestock, and the prospects for their communities. He championed that idea without apology. But he also was very much in tune with the very specific problems of Georgia farmers.

They included an interest in peanuts. PAUL and I had disagreements about the peanut program. In fact, it has either been my fate or privilege for many years to suggest reform. PAUL always feared that those reforms would come during his time, and he tried to dissuade me and, having failed in that respect, to at least bring me up to date on what the actual problems of peanut farmers were, how they could be helped, and how the legislation I was suggesting could be brought before the committee and modified, and ways to be helpful to the overall policy and to the constituents whom he saw very much in need of his support.

Mr. President, he prevailed in that area. We made reforms. But I think they were reforms that were very heavily influenced by the hand of PAUL COVERDELL. Due to the fact that he did his homework, he was persuasive, and he knew the farmers. He spoke for them.

In addition to the peanut situation, which was always with him, in recent years, severe drought—and this is one of those years in Georgia—occupied much of PAUL COVERDELL's time, working with specific landowners and communities, with much of his State in the throes of a very difficult predicament. As I looked at the weather map just last week, I saw how the drought problem has shifted just in a very few weeks in our country from patches that covered much of the area of the United States to very isolated situations. Unfortunately, Georgia is one of those situations. It is especially cruel because the rains have come to the Midwest and to many of the plains States with isolated problems still—in some parts of Nebraska, Iowa, and the Dakotas.

But PAUL, in his own way, always made certain we knew about Georgia and the very specific problems there. So when we had the large debates that we were privileged to have on the floor, dealing with risk management, dealing with payments to farmers to supplement their income in a very difficult year, and with specific emergencies, PAUL was very active in that debate. He was successful in that debate.

As Senator DOMENICI pointed out in his beautiful statement, PAUL COVERDELL was always one who thanked everybody involved and made certain

that they knew of his care and attention and appreciation. It was my privilege to receive one of those notes after the debate which we had here. It is very difficult to try to think about the representation of that State without thinking of PAUL COVERDELL. He was so good, so faithful and, really, so effective and articulate. He was such a good friend. We will miss him. Our thoughts are with him and with Nancy.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in expressing my sadness over the loss of a valued colleague. I think we have lost a great friend.

I was looking over some of the correspondence I had with Senator COVERDELL. He sent me some Vidalia onions and told me they had a punch. He had a way of writing that was very interesting, in fact.

I think Senator COVERDELL grew in stature every year he was here.

I remember so well when he came to us. We had known him as part of the Peace Corps group. I believe his wife was a Delta stewardess at the time. He came around to visit each one of us. He came around to visit me and told me a little bit about some of his background. I knew then that we had a person who was going to be outgoing because not many Senators do that. He took time to visit with each one of us as he came to the Senate.

I think the skills he developed as a mediator will be missed in this Senate. I remember some of the bills he worked on even just this year—the Health and Human Services bill, for instance—bills with so many amendments, and it took committed work on the floor of the Senate.

PAUL COVERDELL was a volunteer. He volunteered himself for the task; he worked with Senator REID from Nevada. I think he assisted members of our committee on an enormous number of disputes. Without his help and without his skills, I think we would still be involved in some of those bills.

He also came to us with some educational background from his life in Georgia. He brought us some educational concepts that are going to last, I hope, for years to come. His education savings account program, for instance, is one.

He also helped us in the field of general education because of his approach. He prodded us, I think Senator SPECTER would agree, to not only meet but to exceed the President's request this year on educational funding.

He was a very interesting and complex man. He was an advocate for keeping drugs out of the hands of children. He saw the appropriations process—as Senator COCHRAN and others who work with me on appropriations know—as a means to try to solve problems through the proper use of public funds.

As chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of our Appropriations Committee, I met with him often on problems of military families in his State.

I know of no person who was a more vigorous advocate for production from a State than PAUL COVERDELL. When it came to the C-130 aircraft, he was a workhorse and not a show horse. I don't remember seeing PAUL COVERDELL's name in the paper in terms of some who sought publicity, but I saw in him a great deal as a man who sought results.

I say to the Senate that we lost a great friend and a valued colleague. I join in expressing my sadness over his loss.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to join my colleagues in expressing my sadness and my condolences in behalf of the family of PAUL COVERDELL.

In the more than 3 years that I have had the privilege of serving in the Senate, he was someone who was respected for his work, for his effort, and for his sincere commitment to ensuring that all the viewpoints were heard, and that we moved forward and acted for the people of this country.

He was particularly protective, obviously, of his State of Georgia and his constituents because he felt deeply for their needs. He worked hard to achieve benefits for his constituents. He had talent, personality, and character. You could disagree with him, but he was not a disagreeable person. He was a consummate gentleman. He was polite. He was civil. He was approachable. He had those personal qualities that endeared him to all who serve in this body. He was someone respected by all of us. We all admired him.

Other colleagues have talked about his many efforts in educational policy, such as his efforts to ensure appropriate response for our military posture around the world.

I had the occasion just briefly in the last debate about Colombia to work with him and speak with him. He was committed to ensuring that our policy in that part of the world was not only consistent with our ideals as a democratic nation but also helped decisively stem the tide of drugs that has weakened this country. He did it in his typical fashion—quietly, diligently, without a lot of fanfare but with great success and great results.

We shall miss his temperament. We shall miss his commitment to this process. We shall miss his character and his contribution to the country.

To his family I offer my sincerest condolences.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues to express my deepest sympathy for Nancy and PAUL's family.

I had the great good fortune to come to the Senate with PAUL COVERDELL, as did the Senator from North Dakota, who I see sitting across the aisle.

PAUL was a special individual. He brought to this Senate an infectious

enthusiasm and gracious energy which dominated the institution and those of us who worked with him. He always had a smile. He always had an idea. He always had a purpose. The purpose was tied to making this country a better place to live—for all of us and for our children.

He used to wander around this institution with a styrofoam cup that had "Waffle House" on it. That was one of the great mysteries to me in this institution—how PAUL COVERDELL managed to get Waffle House coffee sent all the way from Georgia.

It was a great promoter of Georgia. He never missed an opportunity to promote Georgia. That was only one of the minor ways he did it.

He was a great friend, also. I had lots of discussions with him. We worked on lots of issues—our concerns about the original health care proposal put forward by this administration, to when we set up the first aggressive, active task force that I got involved in and that he was also involved in. Even at the time we were both new to this institution, he had an incredible amount of ideas and initiatives on ways to address the issues. He was always tactically two or three steps ahead of the rest of us. He understood the way the institution worked long before some of us—I put myself in that category—who didn't fully understand the institution. He had an intuitive sense about the Senate—a feel for it and a love of it. He knew how to work an issue, to address an issue in order to produce better policy and better government for our country. I worked with him on that.

It seemed almost all of the time we were working on an answer with PAUL COVERDELL because he was involved in about every issue that came through the institution that had significance. The last major issue I worked with him on, of course, was education. We had a task force on our side to put forward what I thought was an extremely positive educational agenda, much of which came from his thought processes, which I was proud to support.

We worked a lot, of course, on Governor Bush's campaign. I had a discussion last Friday with him about that. He was working hard on an issue having to do with that campaign, and we was very hopeful that Governor Bush would become the next President.

He also had, as I mentioned, a deep regard for this body.

I think one of the discussions I will remember fondly occurred last week when we were sitting in my office. Some of the offices in the Russell Building have unique marble fireplaces. Many offices have unique desks. He was very concerned that we didn't really have a historical database of where these desks came from, who had these desks, and we didn't have a historical database of where the marble, for example, of the fireplaces came from; We had not, as a Senate, done our job of maintaining our own traditions and our own history as well we

might. We got to talking about that and the history of the Senate. His love of the institution was exuberant.

What a huge impact he had in such a short time. We only came 8 years ago—the two of us. At that time, I think there were 11 after the class finally got settled in. He took a while to get here because he confronted a number of races, but with his perseverance he was totally committed and won them all. In that time, he left a huge mark.

One of the true strengths of our democracy is that it totally exceeds any individual. This institution includes Daniel Webster, Calhoun, Clay; people in our century who had a huge impact, including Taft, Bob Dole. When they leave, the institution goes on; it functions. It functions extraordinarily well for a democratic body—as well as a democratic body can function. It produces governance for our people which is fair and honest and committed to a better life.

Recognizing that the institution goes on, there are still people who leave a mark. There are still people whose memory will be there, and will be there for a considerable amount of time. PAUL certainly falls in that category. It will be hard for me to turn and look at that door and not see PAUL standing by it, working on some issue. That is where he usually worked from, the pillar back there, addressing some concern, planning some initiative, all of which was directed at one single purpose: Preserving and keeping our democracy.

We will miss him.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Senator PAUL COVERDELL. His passing has shocked and saddened us all. It has left a void in the Senate and in our nation.

For Senator COVERDELL, public service was his profession and his passion. After serving in the Army, he began his public life as a member of the Georgia State Senate where he served as Minority Leader. After working in the private sector, he was appointed Director of the Peace Corps. In this important position he worked to spread American values around the world. This experience helped him when he later served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he was a leader in our international effort to strengthen our anti-drug efforts.

In the Senate, Senator COVERDELL was known as a hard worker who often reached across the aisle to build coalitions. Senator COVERDELL fought hard for his principles. We didn't always agree on policy—but he always treated those on the other side with dignity and respect. He knew that despite our different views, we all shared a common goal. We all want to do what's best for our constituents and our nation. He understood that we can get more done with civility than with contention.

Senator COVERDELL will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to address the terrible loss the Senate suffered yesterday, when PAUL COVERDELL left this Earth. I was truly shocked by the news. Just last week, PAUL was on the floor of the Senate, working in his quiet and non-assuming way. Yesterday, I was writing him a get-well card. Today, he is gone.

PAUL was a dedicated public servant. He served the state of Georgia and this nation in the Army, the legislature, as a businessman, as the head of the Peace Corps and in the U.S. Senate. The respect he had earned from his colleagues here is evident in his appointment to numerous task forces and his election to a leadership position. His passing is a major loss to this body and this great country.

Since I am also from a state where agriculture is an important part of the economy, PAUL was a valuable ally in ensuring the family farms do not disappear. I also admired his work to keep our children safe from drugs and crime, a priority he and I shared. PAUL represented the best of America: a belief that people flourish when they have the freedom to work and make their own decisions.

PAUL will truly be missed. He stood out in the Senate for the simple reason that he never drew attention to himself. In a business where egos can run rampant, PAUL did not display one. He preferred to get things done.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy, and their family. They have some tough days ahead of them. I hope they can look back, as I do, at the impressive record of PAUL's work with a sense of pride. I am thankful for the chance to know such a man.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in mourning the sudden and untimely death of our colleague from Georgia, PAUL COVERDELL.

Senator COVERDELL had a long and distinguished career of public service, capped by his dedicated service in the United States Senate. Senator COVERDELL served his country in the United States Army in Japan, Taiwan and Korea. In 1970, he embarked on a career in politics in his native Georgia, serving as a state Senator and chairman of the state Republican party. In 1989 he was selected by President Bush to lead the Peace Corps.

We here in the Senate, though, knew PAUL COVERDELL as a friend and as a real gentleman. We did not always agree on the issues, but PAUL COVERDELL never took policy disagreements personally and never let them affect his relationships with other Senators. Senator COVERDELL was always very positive, very upbeat. On every issue, even when we disagreed, I found PAUL to be fair, decent, and, above all, honest.

In this body, some Senators are known as "work horses." Others are

known as "show horses." There is no question that PAUL COVERDELL was a work horse. He was not flashy. He did not seek the media spotlight. PAUL COVERDELL worked tirelessly with the leadership on his side of the aisle on some of the toughest issues facing the Senate. He was interested in getting results, not credit. His focus, his determination, and his willingness to bring other Senators together to get things done served the Senate well, served Georgia well, and served our country well. His spirit and energy will be sorely missed in this body.

Put simply, I liked and respected PAUL COVERDELL. We will miss him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Nancy, his family and friends, and his staff.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I join all of my colleagues, the staff of the Senate, the people of Georgia, citizens across America and around the world in mourning the death of PAUL COVERDELL.

A thoroughly decent human being, he worked long and hard for what he thought was right. His career reflected the combination of principle and effective leadership that were characteristic of the way he did business. In his quite way, he managed to navigate some very difficult waters, keeping his equanimity and dignity intact, while gaining not only his goal, but the respect of all who associated with him.

Many in the Senate can claim friendships with him that extend to several decades. I met him only after he was elected to the Senate in 1992, but from the first, I was impressed by the same things his friends loved and admired in him—his kindness, his sense of humor, and his work ethic. A skilled legislator, he was often asked by the leadership to help move matters along. He did this in concert with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, always managing to "disagree without being disagreeable." He was a public servant of the highest order.

His family, friends, staff, constituents, and colleagues certainly know what has been lost for we know what he was and what he did with his life. He will be missed in so many circles, but his influence and his good works will continue.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to join with my colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow at the loss of our friend and colleague, PAUL COVERDELL. During this difficult time, I want to extend my thoughts and prayers to Nancy and all of his family.

PAUL and I both came to Washington, D.C. in January of 1993. In the years that I've known PAUL, I've always been impressed by his thoughtfulness and his work ethic.

I always had the upmost respect for him because of his quiet demeanor. He did not seek headlines, and he did not seek credit. Whether it was fighting illegal drugs or working on education or tax policy, he simply did his work with a quiet determination, an open heart,

and a kind word for anyone who crossed his path.

My predecessor in the Senate, Warren Magnuson, had a phrase for someone like that—“a workhorse not a showhorse.”

PAUL COVERDELL was a workhorse in the finest sense.

PAUL earned the respect of everyone here because he treated everyone else with respect and dignity.

PAUL's work here in the United States Senate was really just an extension of a lifetime of service. Whether it was serving his country in the U.S. Army, serving the people of Georgia as a state senator, or helping people around the world through his work as director of the United States Peace Corps, PAUL brought his generous spirit and his determination to everything he undertook.

Mr. President, the people of Georgia are fortunate to have been served by a person of PAUL's character and skills.

Those of us who worked with him here in the U.S. Senate were fortunate to have him as a friend and colleague. His passing is a loss to our Senate, to Georgia and to the Nation. I will miss him as a friend and colleague.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring a distinguished public servant and a valued Member of the United States Senate, Senator PAUL COVERDELL, who died Tuesday evening at the Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

Senator COVERDELL was elected to the United States Senate in 1992 and served as the Republican Conference Secretary since December, 1996. He was a member of the Senate Finance, Foreign Relations, and Small Business Committees and chaired the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection and Product Promotion.

Before entering public life, Senator COVERDELL served in the U.S. Army in Okinawa, Taiwan and Korea. He earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri before returning to Georgia to work in his family's business.

PAUL COVERDELL's political career began in 1970 when he was elected to the Georgia State Senate serving as Minority Leader for 14 years. In 1989, he accepted President Bush's appointment as Director of the Peace Corps, where he refined the agency's mission to serve the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

While Senator COVERDELL and I rarely agreed on the many issues that came before the Senate for consideration, I greatly respected his hard work and his unfailing courtesy and civility. He was a modest man who valued results more than he valued headlines. Indeed, PAUL COVERDELL was well-respected by every member of this body, engendering the affection of all those with whom he served.

Senator COVERDELL served the citizens of Georgia and the Nation well and we are all deeply saddened by his

untimely death. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to him and to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to his family.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3925

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I thank Senators for their eloquent words about the passing of PAUL COVERDELL. I see no one else seeking recognition for that purpose, so at this time I move back to the bill. If there is anything PAUL COVERDELL disliked, it was quorum calls and delaying the process. We worked together on the education bill, and I know he was proud when it moved expeditiously and the debate was lively.

In that spirit, I think we must return to the business before the Senate.

Therefore, I call up amendment 3925.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. DORGAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BRYAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3925.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow importation of covered products)

At the end of title VII, add the following:
SEC. . AMENDMENT TO FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Medicine Equity and Drug Safety Act of 2000”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The cost of prescription drugs for Americans continues to rise at an alarming rate.

(2) Millions of Americans, including medicare beneficiaries on fixed incomes, face a daily choice between purchasing life-sustaining prescription drugs, or paying for other necessities, such as food and housing.

(3) Many life-saving prescription drugs are available in countries other than the United States at substantially lower prices, even though such drugs were developed and are approved for use by patients in the United States.

(4) Many Americans travel to other countries to purchase prescription drugs because the medicines that they need are unaffordable in the United States.

(5) Americans should be able to purchase medicines at prices that are comparable to prices for such medicines in other countries, but efforts to enable such purchases should not endanger the gold standard for safety and effectiveness that has been established and maintained in the United States.

(c) **AMENDMENT.**—Chapter VIII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 801(d)(1), by inserting “and section 804” after “paragraph (2)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 804. IMPORTATION OF COVERED PRODUCTS.

“(a) **REGULATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 301(d), 301(t), and 801(a), the Secretary, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative and the Commissioner of Customs, shall promulgate regulations permitting importation into the United States of covered products.

“(2) **LIMITATION.**—Regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) require that safeguards are in place that provide a reasonable assurance to the Secretary that each covered product that is imported is safe and effective for its intended use;

“(B) require that the pharmacist or wholesaler importing a covered product complies with the provisions of subsection (b); and

“(C) contain such additional safeguards as the Secretary may specify in order to ensure the protection of the public health of patients in the United States.

“(3) **RECORDS.**—Regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall require that records regarding such importation described in subsection (b) be provided to and maintained by the Secretary for a period of time determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

“(b) **IMPORTATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations permitting a pharmacist or wholesaler to import into the United States a covered product.

“(2) **REGULATIONS.**—Regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall require such pharmacist or wholesaler to provide information and records to the Secretary, including—

“(A) the name and amount of the active ingredient of the product and description of the dosage form;

“(B) the date that such product is shipped and the quantity of such product that is shipped, points of origin and destination for such product, the price paid for such product, and the resale price for such product;

“(C) documentation from the foreign seller specifying the original source of the product and the amount of each lot of the product originally received;

“(D) the manufacturer's lot or control number of the product imported;

“(E) the name, address, and telephone number of the importer, including the professional license number of the importer, if the importer is a pharmacist or pharmaceutical wholesaler;

“(F) for a product that is—

“(i) coming from the first foreign recipient of the product who received such product from the manufacturer—

“(I) documentation demonstrating that such product came from such recipient and was received by such recipient from such manufacturer;

“(II) documentation of the amount of each lot of the product received by such recipient to demonstrate that the amount being imported into the United States is not more than the amount that was received by such recipient;

“(III) documentation that each lot of the initial imported shipment was statistically sampled and tested for authenticity and degradation by the importer or manufacturer of such product;

“(IV) documentation demonstrating that a statistically valid sample of all subsequent shipments from such recipient was tested at an appropriate United States laboratory for authenticity and degradation by the importer or manufacturer of such product; and