

As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama from 1981 until 1992, I had the opportunity to practice before Judge Butler and saw first hand that his experience gained from having been a former prosecutor, a former public defender, and a former private practitioner were extremely valuable to him.

During several years of Judge Butler's service, the Court was understaffed by one or more judges. During this time, Judge Butler worked very hard not only handling his own caseload, but handling a great deal of extra work caused by the shortage. While doing all of that, he also found time for the many demanding duties of his position as chief judge and as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

In describing his service to the Southern District, I would like to quote from his letter of nomination for the 2003 Judicial Award of Merit, which he received: "Despite the overwhelming demands on his time, Judge Butler worked tirelessly to reasonably maintain the civil and criminal docket of the Court. Judge Butler routinely held hearings on criminal matters before civil trials commenced, during his lunch hour, and after civil trials concluded for the day. As Chief Judge, Judge Butler further worked to improve the administrative efficiency and user-friendliness of the Court. During his tenure, court rooms have been updated with cutting edge trial presentation technology.

"All the while, Judge Butler has served with the dignity and decorum deserving of our Federal courts and he has given his undivided and thoughtful attention the myriad and varied matters routinely presented to him."

Judge Butler brought a natural courtesy to the courtroom that made all feel at ease. While he was a strong judge who never, ever lost control of his courtroom, his ease of manner facilitated a courtroom atmosphere most conducive to fair outcomes. His strong faith and character reflect the essence of who he is. He was raised right and his faith has deepened over the years. While he routinely imposes sentences according to the guidelines on wrongdoers, he is compassionate and felt for those he sentenced. Indeed, he is an active backer of his wife, Jacque, and her faith-based outreach to women prisoners and their families. They are active Episcopalians and strong believers that every human being is precious and worthy of compassion.

I also have been pleased and proud to watch Judge Butler's active and important leadership role on the Judicial Conference of the United States. He has served as a member and on its executive committee. Judge Butler's experience in a wide variety of trials and his personal knowledge of a working courtroom have been most valuable to the Judicial Conference.

Finally, I would like to commend him for his stewardship of and leader-

ship of my courthouse and its remarkable family. For many years, the court family, in which I include the Magistrates, the Clerk, the Probation Officers, and the security personnel, has worked together closely and harmoniously over the years, committed always to the highest ideals. Judge Butler inherited an excellent court family and has raised their teamwork for justice to an even higher level. I wish all courts could operate so harmoniously. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama has a proud record of integrity, industry, legal skill and collegiality. Judge Butler has been an outstanding judge under some demanding circumstances. His dedication and commitment to duty have greatly benefitted this court.

My appreciation and respect for the service of Judge Butler is unbounded. He has served the people of the United States and the rule of law with fairness and integrity. I am glad that he remains fit and active. While he deserves to catch his breath, I am sure that he will continue to reward the citizens of this great country by carrying an active caseload. That will be a blessing indeed.

On March 28, 2005, Judge Butler took senior status and on June 17, 2005, his portrait presented by the Mobile Bar Association, was unveiled in the ceremonial courtroom of the John A. Campbell Courthouse in Mobile, Alabama. I was honored to have a place on that program.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SID HARTMAN

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, while the Senate is in recess next month, a remarkable event will take place in Minnesota, the Sid Hartman "Close Personal Friends" Celebration. It is worth a few moments of the Senate's time for me to honor this great Minnesota personality.

They say that history is just the biography of very significant people. Individuals create history with their words, their style, and their accomplishments. Sid Hartman never ran a company or held elective office. But he has had an impact on Minnesota just by being who he is: a hardworking, opinionated, and irrepressible sports journalist for more than 50 years.

Sid's life began the way most great lives start: with humble beginnings and hard work. He worked his way up from being a newspaper delivery boy, to copy boy to reporter. He helped run the original Minneapolis Lakers NBA team. He had a hand in the start of two of Minnesota's other major sports franchises: the Twins and the Vikings.

And to this day, his column appears in the Minneapolis Star Tribune every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday. It is full of news, speculation and prophesies about the world of sports, and everything that touches it.

Sid Hartman's popularity and impact comes from three sources we should all tap into:

First, he works harder than anyone else. He frequently reminisces that he develops news stories the way he sold newspapers: start early, keep moving and be aggressive.

Second, he understands the power of relationships. He is a "Google" of first hand sports information about the main figures of sports over the last 50 years. Just mention Bud Grant or Bobby Knight or George Steinbrenner or any famous player to him and you get a fascinating personal download. He builds and maintains relationships.

And third, Sid is just who he is: nothing more, nothing less. I don't know if Bill Cosby is a "close personal friend" but he sure describes his life with this quotation: "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody." In an era of carefully measured words and hypersensitivity, Sid Hartman just speaks his mind.

Half the fun of sports is talking about the games after they are over and anticipating them before they begin. Sid has livened up the conversation. He has made us laugh, made us angry and some times made us wonder where in the world he was coming from. But he always added spice to our lives.

Sid Hartman is being honored on August 7, 2005, in Minneapolis. But the event is not about him: it is about bringing people together to support the scholarship fund of the University of Minnesota, Sid's great love. Despite his sometimes gruff exterior, Sid has a soft spot in his heart for the athletes of the U and all Gopher sports. His love and support and his encouragement, public and private, has made a big difference in hundreds of young lives.

Growing up, I heard the expression: "Hearts that are tender and kind and tongues that are neither make the finest company of all." Sid has been great company for thousands of ardent and casual sports fans of the Upper Midwest. He has helped make Minnesota the fun, interesting place it is today.

Congratulations, Sid Hartman, for your example and your contribution to the quality of life of our State—and Go Gophers!●

#### CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD BROWN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. Edward Brown of Albany, KY. In the winter of 2005, Edward won the Kentucky competition for the 2005 Voice of Democracy Patriotic Audio Essay Contest.

This nationwide competition is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and is now in its 58th year. The competition requires high school student entrants to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. The theme for 2005 is "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service."

Mr. Brown's accomplishment has also earned him the "\$1,000 Department of Wyoming and its Ladies Auxiliary