

accident left her in a wheelchair just days after Hurricane Katrina reshaped the coast of Mississippi, Jeanne didn't stop. She kept working. She continued her work with an unwavering commitment to the values she held dear, always finding a way to move forward.

Jeanne's influence went far beyond politics. Jeanne cared deeply about education and the people of Mississippi. As a member of the board of trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning, she worked tirelessly to make Mississippi's universities stronger and more inclusive, especially for those with disabilities. Always focused on serving others, her contributions will be felt for generations.

What truly defined Jeanne was her strength of character. She was a woman who made others better. Her husband always said it best:

She made me a better person than I otherwise would have been.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing her can attest to that. Her wisdom, her kindness, and her ability to bring people together left a permanent mark on everyone she met.

Jeanne leaves behind a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire those whose lives she has touched. My heart goes out to her husband Alwyn, to their two daughters Laurel and Taylor, and to her grandchildren Cornelius and Toxie Ray.

Mississippi has lost an amazing woman and a true leader, but Jeanne's spirit, her passion for life, and her commitment to making our State and country a better place will endure.

TRIBUTE TO TIM WOLVERTON

Madam President, today, I am pleased to commend and bid farewell to my longtime legislative director, Tim Wolverton, who has loyally served the Senate and the great State of Mississippi for more than 15 years. Tim has not only been a trusted member of my staff but a dear friend.

Born and raised in Starkville, MS, Tim attended Mississippi State University where he began his political career, winning an election to serve as student body president.

Apparently, Tim enjoyed being an elected official so much that he decided to move to the one place in the country where elected officials are everywhere: Washington, DC. It was here that Tim interned for one of his home State Senators, the late, great Senator Thad Cochran. If Tim hadn't caught the bug before that summer, he definitely had it now. A year later, Tim moved to the Nation's Capital to begin his professional career by accepting a job in Senator Cochran's office right after graduating with a degree in communications and a minor in leadership studies.

Tim started his career as many of our aides do—fresh out of college, wide-eyed, and ready to make a difference. Under the leadership of Senator Cochran, Tim quickly rose through the ranks and grew from the eager, young staffer into an effective legislative aide and a valuable member of Senator

Cochran's office. Throughout that time, Tim continued his studies, completing a program from the Air Command and Staff College and earning his master's from the U.S. Naval War College.

When Senator Cochran's career was coming to an end and I was appointed to the difficult task of carrying forward his legacy and representing all the people of Mississippi, I made the smart choice of asking Tim Wolverton to stay on as my legislative director, and I am forever grateful that he said yes. Even now, 7 years later, I couldn't imagine having anyone else guiding the legislative priorities of my office with as much skill, dedication, and integrity as Tim Wolverton. His steady hand and deep understanding of the legislative process have been instrumental in advancing the policies that matter most to Mississippi and to our Nation.

Tim approached every challenge with the same unwavering commitment to help create a better Mississippi, whether it was working to secure disaster recovery funds for storm-ravaged areas of the State, advancing military installations to provide well-paying jobs and security for my constituents, or championing infrastructure projects to expand economic opportunity. His ability to navigate complex issues, deliver meaningful results, and do so with humility and grace speaks volumes about his character.

Beyond Tim's many professional accomplishments, he has been a volunteer in his community and a mentor to younger staff members in the office. Although this is just one of the many examples of Tim's generosity, he coached a boys basketball team from their third grade all the way to their senior year. Tim dedicates his time and energy for the betterment of others.

In the office, Tim is no different. He always keeps his door open to staff, listens, gives good advice, and passes on his many years' worth of knowledge and experience to others. They say a true leader's legacy is not measured by their achievements but by the achievements of those who he prepared to lead after he is gone. By any measure, Tim Wolverton stands out among the best.

While his coworkers and I regret to see Tim move on, we are equally excited about the opportunities that await him. The skills he has honed, the relationships he has built, and the impact he has made will undoubtedly serve him—and whoever is fortunate enough to work with him next—extraordinarily well.

To Tim, thank you for your years of dedicated service. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Mississippi and to the United States. Most importantly, thank you for your good counsel and your friendship, which have undoubtedly helped me serve Mississippi and our Nation in the best way possible over the past 7 years. Now, I wish you every success in all of your future endeavors.

I yield the floor.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, if the 118th Congress were a baseball game, we would be nearing the bottom of the ninth. As every Senator is well aware, our to-do list for the next 2 weeks is long.

There are very important issues we need to resolve before the last vote of the year. We need to keep the government open. We need to extend the farm bill and vote on the NDAA. And critically for Vermont and for so many States around the Nation, we must pass the comprehensive disaster aid package.

Legislating is a team sport. If we work together and find common ground, we can send a bill to the President's desk before the end of Congress and deliver for those communities that desperately, desperately need action from the U.S. Senate.

Despite our differences, whether they are political or geographic, communities from Montpelier, VT, to Mankato, MN; from Houston, TX, to Asheville, NC, to Maui, HI, are all asking for Congress to help with the devastation that has happened in those communities.

For months, bipartisan Members of Congress from States that have been affected by floods, fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes have approached our colleagues in the time of our need. We have asked publicly and privately for the assistance and financial support that our homeowners need, our farmers need, and businesses, towns, and local governments urgently need, because when it comes to these extreme weather events, we all know that if it is not us now, it may be us tomorrow, because there but for the grace of God, go I, when the extreme weather events decide to descend upon any community.

I found in the conversations I have had with my colleagues—Republican and Democrat—about Vermont's recovery needs, there is an unspoken acknowledgement that they are not in the Vermont situation or in the Asheville, NC, situation, but it could change.

The climate change that we are experiencing all around the country requires that, No. 1, we be ready to respond; two, we be more resilient and prepared; and, three, that we have better funded responses to recovery so that it can be faster, locally driven, and more efficient.

In July of 2023, Vermont experienced torrential rains and severe storms. For a week, the rain didn't stop. That rain quickly led to catastrophic flooding and landslides. Many homes, many of our farms and businesses and communities were absolutely destroyed, and the damage to infrastructure was fierce. Roads, rail lines, dams, bridges, wastewater plants, the capital city's post office, which after 14 months finally reopened, those were destroyed.

Nine States around Vermont came to our aid, and we are grateful. They sent