

recorded by a candidate for elected office in the Commonwealth.

In March of this year, he became the longest serving United States Senator from Kentucky in history.

Mr. President, although New Jersey and Kentucky are very different states, Senator FORD and I share many things in common. First of all, our vintage—we were born in the same year. We both fought for our country in World War II. We both ran businesses before we entered public life.

These common experiences helped make WENDELL FORD an instant friend and mentor to me when I arrived in the Senate. His extensive knowledge and public service experience has made him an invaluable asset to our caucus' leadership.

And he has been quite a leader, now as Minority Whip, first as Chairman and then Ranking Member of the Rules Committee, and in prior years, the Chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Mr. President, Senator FORD has left a formidable legacy to the nation as a whole, in addition to his legendary status in Kentucky. He was the chief sponsor of the National Voter Registration Act, also known as the "motor voter" law.

This law helps ensure that more of our citizens are officially registered to participate in our democracy. He was also instrumental in the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1986, and many other landmark aviation and energy laws.

The Senior Senator from Kentucky will be greatly missed here in the United States Senate. We will miss his leadership, his experience and also his great wit. But our personal loss will be the Commonwealth of Kentucky's gain.

I wish him, his wife Jean, their children and grandchildren Godspeed as he returns to Owensboro.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAN COATS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished Senator from Indiana, DAN COATS. While he has only been in the Senate ten years, he has made an important contribution. One example is the work he put into developing the historic, bipartisan Family and Medical Leave Act.

Mr. President, believe it or not, even though I am a Democrat from the Northeast and Senator COATS is a Republican from the Midwest, we have worked together on legislation. Senator COATS has consistently fought to improve the lives of our nation's children. This commitment led him to join me in support of the Juvenile Mentoring Program—otherwise known as JUMP. This program supports mentoring programs across the country, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We have fought together for funding and reauthorizing the program because

we share the belief that all children can succeed if we lend a helping hand.

Senator COATS also became a leading expert in the Senate on military issues as a member of the Armed Services Committee. He also worked hard on education and poverty legislation as a member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Mr. President, during Senator COATS' tenure in the Senate, we did have disagreements over policy issues. One environmental issue consistently put the State of Indiana at odds with the State of New Jersey. We always had a vigorous debate when this issue came to the floor. Despite our differences, he showed me great respect and courtesy during these deliberations. I left these debates with a great respect for his energy and determination to help his state.

Mr. President, I wish Senator COATS, his wife Marcia, and their children and grandchildren the very best for the future.

I yield the floor.

A GOOD SENATOR DEPARTS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, first appointed to the United States Senate in 1989 by Governor Robert Orr to succeed Vice President Dan Quayle, Senator COATS subsequently won reelection and has served this body during these past nine years with knowledge, skill, and a true dedication to his Senatorial duties. As he departs this great institution to pursue future endeavors, we bid him farewell and best wishes.

Prior to joining the United States Senate, Senator COATS made his mark in several arenas. In his early years, he served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, experience he drew on as a member of the Armed Services Committee. With a passion for law and politics, he worked full-time as a legal intern while attending the Indiana University School of Law at night and serving as Associate Editor of the Law Review. Later, in an effort to gain business experience, he switched tunes from bar-rister to become a vice president for an Indiana life insurance company, all before embarking on his legislative career in the House of Representatives, where he was elected in 1980 to represent Indiana's Fourth District.

During his tenure in the Senate, Senator COATS has served on three powerful and influential Senate Committees—Armed Services, Intelligence, and Labor and Human Resources, and has crafted sound education, health care, and national security policy for the nation. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator COATS on the Armed Services Committee, where he has served on the Personnel, Readiness, and the Airland Forces Subcommittees. There have been a variety of national defense issues on which we have concurred, always keeping in mind the best interests of our national security and the importance of a strong and well equipped line of defense. Just this

year, I appreciated his insight and support of my amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill to require separate training units for male and female recruits during basic training.

And, of course, there have been the issues on which we have not seen eye-to-eye. I distinctly remember tangling this year on the Senate floor over Constitutional issues relating to the deployment of troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina. And, on the balanced budget amendment and the line item veto, we have been on opposite sides of the coin as well. Yet, Senator COATS always carries himself well, demonstrating the utmost respect for his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. For this, I hold him in high regard.

Perhaps, Senator COATS' greatest contribution to the United States Senate has been as a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee. His dedication to strengthening families began long before his political career. He is a longstanding member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, and was recently elected national president of that organization. His service in the House included serving as a leading member of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. On appointment to the Senate, he became Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, where he has served as Chairman since 1995. He has been the author of the "Project for American Renewal" to revive civil society and America's character-forming institutions, and he is a passionate advocate for school choice, unpaid leave for family and medical emergencies, and prayer in schools.

Most recently, Senator COATS shepherded legislation through Congress to reauthorize the Head Start and Low Income Home Energy Assistance program. In appreciation of his efforts and compassion for our nation's children and families, it was only fitting that this piece of legislation was named in his honor. The Coats Human Service Reauthorization Act is but just one example of his fine work here in the United States Senate.

In speaking of his "Project for American Renewal," he says, "The goal of public policy should be to revive the institutions of civil society that build character. Arguably, it is the erosion of those institutions—the family, community organizations, and private and religious charities—that has led to the most severe pathologies we now suffer." I commend Senator COATS for his tireless efforts in behalf of these fundamental institutions, and, as he departs this body, I wish him well.

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I understand we are under an order that the Senate go into recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. We were going to go into recess at 3 o'clock. However—