

I have served on the Senate Budget Committee with FRANK LAUTENBERG since 1987; he became Ranking Member of the Committee in 1997. Senator LAUTENBERG played a key role in the 1997 negotiations on the bipartisan Balanced Budget Act, which completed the work of balancing the federal budget. That legislation provided important resources for education and health care, while cutting taxes for millions of Americans.

Senator LAUTENBERG has also been a good friend to the environment, serving as the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Superfund. Throughout his time in the Senate, Senator LAUTENBERG has fought to improve the Superfund program, and has worked for legislation preventing pollution, and ensuring clear water and clean air.

Senator LAUTENBERG's accomplishments in the area of transportation are impressive. He serves as the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation. Senator LAUTENBERG authored laws establishing the legal drinking age at 21, and was successful just this year in encouraging states to reduce legal blood alcohol limits to .08. He worked successfully to ban smoking on airplanes, and has championed funding for Amtrak and mass transit.

Senator LAUTENBERG has also worked for some time on health care, including tobacco policy issues. He is a nationally recognized leader in the fight to protect our young people from the health consequences of cigarettes. In 1997, I was extremely fortunate that Senator LAUTENBERG was chosen to co-chair the Senate Democratic Task Force on Tobacco. Senator LAUTENBERG was a particularly strong proponent of provisions on second-hand smoke and the so-called "look-back" enforcement mechanism to reduce youth smoking rates.

FRANK LAUTENBERG's dedication and expertise on many issues will be missed greatly in the United States Senate, even as New Jersey natives welcome him home. I will miss my good friend and colleague.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR WILLIAM ROTH

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in bidding good wishes and God speed to Senator WILLIAM ROTH, the distinguished senior senator of Delaware. I have served with Senator ROTH for most of my career on the Governmental Affairs Committee. For a significant period of that time, Senator ROTH chaired that committee and its Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Senator ROTH proved an able and dedicated advocate of government reform, guiding our committee through oversight hearings and investigations into how our Federal programs were or were not working. He also spearheaded

a number of key efforts—many of which were successful—to change our laws to reduce opportunities for waste, fraud and abuse.

When I sat in my seat on the dais of the Governmental Affairs Committee, I often heard Senator ROTH argue passionately and convincingly for the enhancement of the M, or management responsibilities, in OMB, the Office of Management and Budget. As much as anyone in this body, Senator ROTH truly cared about the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. He has my deep respect and the gratitude of all of us for his efforts in this area.

In addition, Senator ROTH distinguished himself as a gentleman in a chamber that has sometimes lost its gentlemanly manner. Senator ROTH could be tough, there's no doubt about that, on issues about which he cared, as well he should be, but he was always civil.

We will miss his gentlemanly ways and his guiding hand on the important but not-always-so-visible issues of government management. I wish him well and hope he enjoys an active but less hectic life which he so clearly deserves.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man I have worked with my entire Senate career: Senator BILL ROTH. He is a true friend and gentleman, as well as a superb legislator whose contributions to the nation are many.

Senator ROTH will likely be best remembered as the co-author of the famous Kemp-Roth tax cuts, initiated during President Reagan's tenure and for the Roth IRAs which have made it possible for millions around the country to invest taxable income that can be withdrawn tax-free in their retirement.

Senator ROTH has represented Delaware for 29 years, making him the longest serving Senator in our "First State's" storied history.

Senator ROTH is a decorated veteran of World War II, and began his Congressional service in 1966. He has served his country for almost 40 years. We all are indebted to him for his remarkable service.

I wish Senator ROTH and his wife, Jane, well and hope that they will cherish the years to come in the same way they have those that have past.

BILL ROTH's gentlemanly nature, his quietness and his humility were his hallmarks and strength.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, when this Congress finishes its work it will also mark the end of a particularly distinguished 30-year career in this body. I rise to pay tribute to my chairman on the Finance Committee and my friend, BILL ROTH.

No Senator could hope to serve under a more thoughtful and considerate Chairman than those of us on the Finance Committee have experienced over the last five years. BILL is a true gentleman who works as hard as any Senator I know to make sure that

issues under his control have the broadest possible consensus. He has consistently reached out to members on our side of the aisle in order to make law in a way that honors the Senate's best traditions.

Like BILL, I represent a small state. He knows, as I know, what a special responsibility that is. People in a small state expect to have a personal relationship with their Senators, and I know from the times I have taken short vacations in his beautiful state the deep affection BILL inspires all over Delaware.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work so closely with him on the important tax, health, and trade issues we deal with in the Finance Committee. BILL has a natural appreciation for the strong roles agriculture and tourism play in the economy of my state of North Dakota because they are such important components of Delaware's economy as well. He knows instinctively the value of looking for common ground.

Even as he leaves the Senate, however, one thing will set BILL apart. Many Senators are well known among the public at large, but very few have their names become household words. Senator ROTH earned his membership in that tiny elite. BILL's deep commitment to retirement security and savings led directly to the establishment of the Roth IRA, a retirement savings vehicle that will give savers decades from now a reason to be grateful to our beloved colleague from Delaware.

When we consider the departure of Senator ROTH in conjunction with the simultaneous retirement of the Senator from New York, the Committee on Finance is losing more than half a century of institutional memory and experience. That is a loss not only for our committee, but for the country as well.

We wish BILL ROTH all the best as he leaves us, but he will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues in the Senate.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR CONNIE MACK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to a colleague and good friend who will be leaving the Senate when the 106th Congress adjourns sine die, CONNIE MACK, the junior senator from Florida.

I have served with CONNIE MACK on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where, on the important issues of national security it considers, he can be counted upon to set partisanship aside, roll up his sleeves and get to work.

In the United States Senate we are called upon to work with colleagues of many differing points of view. While CONNIE MACK has served as a key member of the Republican leadership as Republican Conference Chairman, and he and I often disagree on the issues before the Senate, it has always been a pleasure to deal with him. Always an

able advocate for his point of view, he is a willing listener, open to compromise and when an opponent, always gracious, reasonable and fair.

CONNIE MACK has made a name for himself in the Senate on public housing and health care issues, particularly his efforts to make FDA-approved drugs available for other uses, especially in the fight against cancer. He and his wife, Priscilla, both cancer survivors, have been inspirational in their dedication to delivering the message to all Americans that early detection of cancer is a life-saver.

CONNIE MACK and I have shared a special bond, one of those inside jokes which create strong personal ties. Whenever I hear of someone making a great speech, I shall smile inwardly, think of CONNIE and miss his warm smile and the kind word he has for all of his Senate colleagues. I hope that in the years ahead, CONNIE and Priscilla will visit often.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to pay a tribute to my friend and colleague from the State of Florida who has decided to leave the Senate after a distinguished 12-year career here. It has been my pleasure to work with Senator MACK during that time on a number of important issues.

He has always been willing to reach across the aisle when bipartisan cooperation can make the difference. As colleagues on the Finance Committee, we have cosponsored each other's bills on such varied subjects as benefits for retired coal miners, fairer treatment for real estate under the Internal Revenue Code, and keeping gray market cigarettes out of the U.S. market. Senator MACK has been a generous, thoughtful, and constructive member of our committee, and we will miss his presence there every much.

Year in and year out, I am constantly impressed with the energy, intelligence, and commitment that CONNIE MACK brings to the challenging job of representing such a large and diverse State. Floridians have been privileged to have the benefit of his effective advocacy for their concerns.

I am confident that a man with public policy interests over as wide a range as CONNIE has shown during his tenure in the body is still going to be checking in with his old friends in the Senate to let us know what he's thinking. I hope we will see him often in the coming years.

I am happy to join my colleagues in wishing only the best for CONNIE and Priscilla as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Senator CONNIE MACK of Florida. There are many ways to discern the character of a Senator. CONNIE MACK has made his mark with strong leadership coupled with an unusual quality of gentleness. A true gentleman of the Senate. Senatorial courtesy was his hallmark. He loved this institution; it loved him.

One unique, but subtle mannerism reveals the inner security of this great

man—how he handled the gavel. The gavel is that symbol of authority so coveted by all Senators. As we all know, a gavel consists of two parts: the relatively small handle to hold, and the large hammer-like head to strike the blow. Senate Chairmen love the sharp "bang" connoting authority and decision.

Senator MACK is the only Senator, the only Chairman, whom I have observed in my 22 years of service who simply used the hammer head for the grip and conveyed his authority by gently tapping the end of the handle.

"May we have order, please." Immediately following was always quiet acceptance.

This symbolized to me how this elegant man commanded the great respect of all in the Senate. As with the gavel, his voice was always firm, and always with the soft tone of confidence.

We wish him well, together with his wife and family, as they accept life's next challenge.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR RICHARD BRYAN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the selfless and noteworthy service of our esteemed colleague from Nevada, Senator RICHARD BRYAN. At the close of the 106th Congress, Senator BRYAN will retire from public service, and will end the final chapter in a most glorious and dedicated career as a servant of the people.

Even at an early age, RICHARD BRYAN displayed the leadership, sense of caring, and charisma that make for a successful public servant. Throughout his education he served as the president of many of his classes, including as the student body president his senior year at the University of Nevada-Reno.

After graduating, Senator BRYAN was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served his country on active duty from 1959 to 1960. He then entered the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and graduated with honors in 1963.

Senator BRYAN returned home to Nevada and began a career in public service that would, to the benefit of the citizens of Nevada, span more than three decades. From 1964 to 1978, he served as a Deputy District Attorney, a Public Defender, a State Assemblyman, and a State Senator. In 1978, Senator BRYAN won his first state wide election when the people elected him Attorney General. Four years later RICHARD BRYAN became Nevada's 26th Governor. After two terms as Governor, in 1988, he won election to the United States Senate. Richard BRYAN is the only Nevanadan to have served as the state's Attorney General, Governor, and United States Senator.

Clearly, Senator RICHARD BRYAN has always kept in mind the best interests of the people of Nevada and they have consistently asked him to represent these concerns. Additionally, over the

last twelve years, Senator BRYAN has become one of the Nation's leading consumer advocates. His deep concern for the consumer was evident by his successful campaign to require the installation of passenger side air bags in all cars sold in the United States. Many lives have been saved because of Senator BRYAN's promotion of this legislation.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Senator RICHARD BRYAN these past twelve years, and I wish he, and his fine wife Bonnie, the best of luck in the future. I know they will enjoy all the benefits of retirement, especially the opportunity to spend more time with their family.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the leadership and accomplishments of an esteemed colleague who will be retiring at the end of this term. Senator RICHARD BRYAN has served in the Congress as a representative of Nevada for more than a decade. During his tenure, he has been a tireless advocate of a wide range of legislative reform activities.

Throughout his career, Senator BRYAN has fought for improving natural resources, enhancing the quality of the nation's classrooms, and protecting privacy on the Internet. Senator BRYAN has also been nationally recognized for his efforts on behalf of consumers.

As the former Chairman of the Senate Consumer Affair Subcommittee, Senator BRYAN was responsible for enacting laws to give consumers new powers to correct errors found on their credit reports and led the fight against telemarketing fraud. Perhaps most notably, DICK BRYAN was a champion of 1993 legislation that required air bags be installed in every new car sold in the U.S. These are important accomplishments that benefit consumers across the nation.

As colleagues on the Finance Committee, we have fought to address the challenges facing Social Security and Medicare. Just this year, we worked closely to develop a proposal to provide prescription drug coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries. I am proud to say that this proposal would provide much needed drug coverage to millions of seniors citizens and disabled individuals.

I have also had the opportunity to work with Senator BRYAN to address a very important priority for the nation—balancing the federal budget. We enjoy federal budget surpluses today because of the efforts of members like Senator BRYAN who supported measures to cut government waste and get our fiscal house in order.

For these and many other reasons, I have been honored to serve with DICK BRYAN. I would like to join my colleagues in wishing the Senator and his family the best in the future and in paying tribute to DICK BRYAN's lifelong commitment to public service. I wish him well.