

In the nine days since George Smathers has left us, many people have paused to remember.

The senator had become quite a successful businessman and philanthropist, giving the University of Florida \$20 million for its libraries, and the University of Miami \$10 million for its Wellness Center.

He was, in the words of his biographer, Brian Crispell, "congenial, humorous, and respected as a highly effective orator and legislator."

He also has been described as prophetic.

Indeed, he was so sure years ago that Miami would become a major international city and gateway to the rest of the hemisphere, that he insisted his sons learn to speak Spanish.

The year was 1946 when he set his sights on Congress.

That's when he took on a four-term incumbent U.S. congressman—and, with a group of young turks in Miami he beat the odds.

That was quite a class that went to Washington with him. It included the late Jacob Javits and Hale Boggs.

The young congressman from South Florida soon became close with President Truman, as the president would visit the Key West White House for his retreats.

No one will ever forget one of Smathers' earliest accomplishments, which was helping to create the Everglades National Park.

While he was in the House of Representatives, he also developed a passion for the politics and peoples of Latin America, making some 14 trips there.

Many years later in the Senate, his colleagues would refer to him, in jest, as the Senator from Latin America.

Everyone would laugh, and Senator Smathers would go along. But he would offer a disclaimer: Sure he had a specialty in foreign affairs in the Western Hemisphere, but his first duty was being the senator from Florida.

In 1948, the senator from Florida met Fidel Castro. And in a private conversation, Fidel told him he was going to take over Cuba. Smathers always was leery of Castro. And sure enough, 11 years later, Castro overthrew Batista.

While so many in America thought that was a good thing—ousting the hated dictator Batista—Smathers was one of the strongest anti-Castro voices around, saying, "Watch out for this fellow. You better be careful."

Leading up to the elections of 1950, President Truman called Smathers to the White House and asked him to run against Florida's incumbent Senator Claude Pepper. Apparently there had been a misunderstanding between Truman and Pepper, and the president still was angry.

Up to that point, Smathers had not seriously considered the Senate.

That 1950 campaign still is noted for remarks supposedly made to play on the ignorance of certain voters.

Years later, Smathers decided to debunk the myth by offering a \$10,000 personal reward to anyone who could authenticate and verify his alleged comments.

Nobody could.

When he went to the Senate, George Smathers joined the "club." There were giants. Symington of Missouri, Johnson of Texas, Dirksen of Illinois, Kerr of Oklahoma, Kennedy of Massachusetts. And right there with them were Smathers and Holland, of Florida.

Smathers became close friends with John Kennedy, and was one of the best men in the wedding party when JFK married Jacqueline Bouvier.

LBJ depended on George Smathers, too, even though they differed on a number of issues.

When there was a vacancy in the assistant majority leader, Lyndon Johnson asked Smathers to fill that position.

And then, when Johnson suffered his heart attack and was out for seven months, Smathers filled in as the acting majority leader.

When LBJ resumed his duties running the Senate, he asked his friend from Florida to be his permanent assistant majority leader.

Johnson, who was not accustomed to hearing the word no, had to accept just that from his friend from Florida.

In 1956, the senator was considered for vice president, for the first of two times.

During his Senate career, he chaired the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee and is credited with passing legislation to help small businesses, reform immigration and advance tourism for Florida.

He helped upgrade transportation, and fought for what would become, under JFK, the Alliance for Progress in Latin America.

He also helped eliminate the poll tax, establish the Kennedy Space Center, set up the Permanent Select Committee on Aging and, of course, set aside that natural wonder, Everglades National Park, the "River of Grass" that means so much to us in Florida.

In 1960, he was the southern chairman for Kennedy and Johnson; and that same year he created a new judicial district for southern Florida to handle an increasing case load.

In the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, Smathers Beach in Key West, named after the senator, was an antimissile battery. The world now knows just how close we came to a nuclear exchange in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Few know that George Smathers helped President Kennedy write the speech that warned the Soviet Union that any attack upon the United States from Cuba would be considered an attack by the Soviet Union.

After the Kennedy assassination, Smathers became a regular at the Johnson White House and an adviser to LBJ. In 1968, he turned down presidential nominee Hubert Humphrey's offer of being his vice presidential running mate.

The next year, he stepped out of public service and into private life, ending three terms in the Senate and two terms in the House.

Among the many accolades he received, perhaps the one he prized most came from Louisiana's Senator Russell Long. George Smathers, in Long's words, "was a statesman."

During a lifetime of public service, he also was a good husband and father, a Marine, a prosecutor, congressman, senator—a leader.

In later years, George Smathers said when asked, that he'd like to be remembered as a fellow "who worked hard for the people he represented and did his best for his country."

That he will be and much more.

Senator Smathers, thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

LIHEAP FUNDING

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a very important Federal program that helps hundreds of thousands of Michigan families and millions of Americans across the country. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, is critically important for families and seniors who struggle to pay high energy bills to heat their homes in the winter and cool their homes in the summer. Without LIHEAP, many of these households would be forced to make the impossible

choice between paying for energy or paying for food and medicine.

Today is the National Fuel Funds Network's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP and folks from many different States will be walking the Halls of Congress to make sure we know how important it is to fully fund LIHEAP.

As winter kicks into high gear, the importance of the LIHEAP program is even more pronounced. According to the Energy Information Administration, American households spent an average of \$948 in 2006 on their winter heating needs—an increase of \$250 over the 2000–2001 winter season. That might seem like a modest increase, but for most Americans living paycheck to paycheck, it could have disastrous effects on their household budgets. LIHEAP assistance, which emphasizes partnerships between utilities, charitable organizations, and State governments, is a highly effective and cost-efficient way for our country to help the neediest families manage these incremental increases in their home energy costs. It has thus become an important component of our social safety net.

Not surprisingly, LIHEAP assistance historically has been targeted to cold-weather States in the Northeast and Upper Midwest. In the State of Michigan, for instance, more than 470,000 households received LIHEAP aid in 2006. In recent years, however, the program has been retooled in order to recognize the need to provide similar assistance to warm-weather States in the South and Southwest to help their neediest citizens meet their home cooling needs. Last year, more than 6.2 million households received assistance nationwide, including many new families in the warm-weather areas.

Unfortunately, the LIHEAP program has never been funded to its authorized level—which recently was raised to \$5 billion as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Even though LIHEAP was funded at \$3.1 billion in fiscal year 2006 the highest level ever—many who are eligible remain unable to get help because there are simply not enough funds to help them. We need to take a good, hard look at our funding efforts so that we are not forced to make unfair choices between cold and warm-weather States, much less deny support to eligible recipients.

Increased gas prices, unforeseen medical bills, sudden unemployment, or any other unexpected situation that causes a family's living costs to rise while their income stays fixed, forces families to make some truly hard choices. But no one should have to choose between the need to heat and the need to eat. At its foundation, the LIHEAP program helps these families deal with one of the most basic of their needs—a warm home in wintertime as they work to regain their footing.

Today, the National Fuel Funds Network has mobilized a coalition of charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army and The Heat And Warmth Fund, THAW, utilities such as CMS Energy and DTE Energy of Michigan,

State government officials, and low-income constituents to meet with congressional offices to educate Congress about the LIHEAP program and make the case for greater funding. I commend the organizers and participants of today's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP, and I urge my colleagues to support and fully fund the LIHEAP program. By supporting this important program, we are supporting hard-working American families. It is the right thing to do.

DARFUR

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, In reflection of the New Year, I have thought about what I wanted my New Year's resolution to be. I had a wonderful holiday that I was fortunate to spend with my family, and I thought about those in the world who did not have that same opportunity. World peace is our ambition, but, today I want to speak about our hope for the people of Darfur, Sudan.

I rise to add my voice, and that of my constituency, on the crisis in Darfur. Everyday I hear from Arkansans concerned about the escalating chaos and destruction happening in Darfur. Whether it is through church groups, schools, the newspaper, Internet, or the television, the reports from Darfur are shocking and disturbing. Darfur, Sudan, is 7,117 miles away from Little Rock, AR, but it is not removed from the thoughts and prayers of our citizens.

The statistics on this crisis are heartbreaking. It has been estimated that between 200,000 and 400,000 people have been killed and thousands of women have been raped. Over 2 million people have been displaced. Their lives have been completely uprooted, and their only chance of survival is refugee camps. These makeshift camps provide little shelter and are subjected to raids by armed militias. Aid workers and organizations have recently pulled out of the region due to safety concerns, and the conflict is spreading to neighboring countries, destabilizing governments that may be ill-equipped to integrate an influx of refugees. Moreover, the Sudanese government has restricted media and diplomatic access to the region.

While the United States has taken considerable actions to support an end to the horrible violence in Darfur, the situation continues to deteriorate. Darfur is the world's crisis, and we must do more to ensure that an effective peacekeeping force is in place to stem the escalating rape, murder, and destruction.

I am hopeful that the United Nations' most recent effort will work. I am encouraged that so many humanitarian organizations have worked tirelessly to find a resolution to this matter. It is my wish that peace and stability will come to Darfur in 2007.

The people of Darfur have been deprived of the most basic of human lib-

erties: the right to live in peace. It is our responsibility as U.S. Senators, as Americans, and as humanitarians to do all that we can to bring about an end to this world crisis.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

USC-RIVERSIDE CITRUS RESEARCH CENTER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 100 years of groundbreaking research and education at the University of California Riverside's Citrus Research Center—Agricultural Experiment Station. This year, the university celebrates a century of improving our Nation's agriculture, environment, and natural resources.

The idea behind the creation of a citrus experiment center began with the pioneering work of Riverside citrus grower John Henry Reed, who first proposed the idea in 1900. At the time Riverside was the hub of a rapidly expanding citrus industry, in part because refrigeration made nationwide shipments possible. His proposal became a reality in 1905 when the California Legislature passed a measure authorizing the establishment of the Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside. By 1907, the Citrus Experiment Station became an open branch of the Statewide Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of California.

From that time on, the Citrus Experiment Station continued to grow and develop, to become one of California's premier agricultural research institutions. In 1914, the station maintained a staff of 18 with an annual budget of \$60,000. Over the next 40 years, the Experiment Station's research area grew from 30 acres to almost 1,000 acres, and staff grew to 265.

During that time, Leon D. Bachelor, as director, worked to initiate many of the long-term fertilizer experiments and worked to ensure the strength of the walnut industry through disease research. During his tenure, shipping and processing of produce was vastly improved, and improvements were implemented in citrus rootstocks, disease resistance, and fruit quality.

While this was taking place, facilities and physical plant construction continued to increase as more research stations and research buildings were being built. In 1954 Weber Hall was constructed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Boyden Entomological Laboratory was built in 1961, and research property increased to 1,100 acres. There were also advances in research focus, beginning in 1955 with the arrival of a vegetable crops group from UC Davis. During the next year, the Department of Nematology and the Biometrical Laboratory were established. Work also came from UCLA focusing on entomology and plant pathology on ornamentals.

Just after this, the Air Pollution Research Center was established on the

UC Riverside campus, and agronomists from Davis were welcomed to join in the research efforts. A Dry Lands Research Institute was added in 1963, and in the year following, the UC Riverside campus added a Department of Agricultural Engineering. The year after this, the Department of Agronomy accepted further work from UCLA on turf grasses.

With the expansion of research into all of these areas, it became clear that the university did not simply research citrus, and the Citrus Experiment Station was appropriately renamed the Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station, CRC-AES, in 1961. A full college devoted to this research effort was added in 1974, establishing the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Today, UC Riverside agricultural and natural science researchers pave the way for many of our Nation's important scientific advances. Studies in plant sciences and environmental and natural resources continue to improve the quality of life for our Nation and our planet. As the Citrus Research Center—Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of California, Riverside celebrates its centennial, I applaud the tremendous efforts and advances and look forward to another century of progress.●

TRIBUTE TO 2006 KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER BARBARO

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life of Barbaro, the 2006 Kentucky Derby Champion. He was an inspirational survivor and was beloved by the State of Kentucky. Barbaro's motivational rise to the top of horse racing history and relentless fight for his life against all odds, serves as a shining example of strength and courage to us all.

Barbaro first entered this world on April 29, 2003, when he was foaled in Nicholasville, KY, at Springmint Farm. He is the son of the great champion racehorse Dynaformer and was destined to be a champion from the beginning.

Barbaro was always a favorite of the crowd, but it was his performance at the Kentucky Derby, May 6, 2006, that would make him a legend. He ended up winning the Derby with a lead of seven lengths, which was the largest margin of victory since 1946. Because of this spectacular race, many people believed Barbaro was destined for greatness in the horse racing industry and favored him to go on to win the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing.

Later that same year, Barbaro ran the Preakness Stakes on May 20, 2006, as the crowd favorite. After an initial false start through the starting gate and signs of distress early on in the race, it was clear that Barbaro had sustained a severe injury. Laboratory tests showed that he had fractured three bones in and around his ankle and right hind leg. This resulted in immediate surgery and many subsequent