

recently, after his home State was hit by the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States, the distinguished Senator—a colleague of his has already spoken of that but I mention it here—Senator COCHRAN used his role as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations to advance legislation that provided over \$87 billion—that is “billion;” a billion is one dollar for every minute since Jesus Christ was born—Mr. COCHRAN provided over \$87 billion in supplemental Federal assistance to the States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A country western artist once asked in song “where would we be without the love of a woman?” “Where would we be without the love of a woman?” Undoubtedly, the love and the support of his wife of over 42 years, Rose—I remember Rose—helped Senator COCHRAN achieve this great milestone. As I have risen to recognize the Senator, I also wish to salute Rose. She was a beautiful lady, very warm smile, Rose.

Again, I congratulate my colleague whose record in this Senate has been that of a true Christian gentleman and a man of genuine political humility.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I join my many colleagues today in recognizing this remarkable achievement of my longtime friend, THAD COCHRAN, who has crossed the threshold of casting 10,000 rollcall votes in the U.S. Senate. In the over 200-year history of the Senate, only 28 Senators have reached this historic milestone. THAD and I both are privileged to be 2 of the 28.

THAD and I were first elected to the Senate in 1978, and we are the only remaining Republican Senators of the class. He was sworn in 4 days prior to my taking the oath of office; and, consequently, he is senior to me. I have always dutifully acknowledged that seniority.

Colleagues have extolled his extraordinary record, and I shall not add further to his wonderful chapter of public service to Mississippi and our Nation.

I have, however, a most unique, unlike any other Senator, reason to have the highest regard for this wonderful man. For an extensive period in my life, over 20 years, I was a bachelor. There was a tragic loss of a life in our community—Belle Haven—of a man greatly admired and respected by all. I was privileged to have a friendship with this man. THAD helped his family and widow in the wake of that tragedy.

There came a time in the years that followed that loss when I said to THAD, you know, this widow is someone I admire greatly, could I be of help, for I am making little or no progress whatsoever in gaining her attention. Being very protective, he allowed he would—in his own good time—try to draw his friend's attention to me. And I am so grateful today to have my extraordinary wife, Jeanne, who as you well know, loves you dearly.

Mr. BYRD. Hear, hear.

Mr. WARNER. I don't know that I would be standing here today, given my wayward ways in life, had it not been for THAD COCHRAN and this wonderful lady who cares for me now. So, THAD, I wish you well. What the future holds for both of us remains to be seen. But I am proud to be counted among your most devoted friends.

As one describes you, I would say you reflect all the qualities a Senator should have—but foremost among them, is always your calm dignity. I yield the floor.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask to be able to address the Senate as if in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. At the outset, let me say as a rookie in the Senate, I add and echo everything that was said about Senator COCHRAN. He is truly one to whom all of us who are new to this body should subscribe and hope in time we could equal his accomplishment.

#### PRAYERS FOR CONGRESSMAN NORWOOD

Mr. ISAKSON. I rise for a moment to ask all Members of the Senate to join me in expressing their concern, their hopes, and their prayers for Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD. Congressman NORWOOD, of Georgia, yesterday notified the House and the Senate that he would be returning to his home in Augusta.

A little over 2 years ago, CHARLIE had a lung transplant to try to correct a degenerative disease which he had had with him throughout his life. That transplant was successful and he returned to the House of Representatives and, as he always did, he represented the State of Georgia with courage, with dignity, and with tenacity.

Unfortunately, last year, cancer occurred in the lung and successfully was removed by surgery. But it has reappeared now in his liver. CHARLIE is fighting for his life.

His lovely wife Gloria is in Augusta with him, and his countless thousands of friends are there. But in this business that we go through in this Senate, there is always a time that all of us should reflect on the blessings we have, and that is the blessing of life. I pray now that the good Lord will look after CHARLIE and give him as much of that life as He possibly can.

I think it is also appropriate that we reflect a minute on how important his service in the Congress has been. We all know that domestically health care, affordability of health insurance, doctor-patient relationship is probably the singular thing the American people look to us to help solve. CHARLIE NORWOOD and his cosponsorship of Norwood-Dingell laid a platform for which

one day many of those problems will be solved. He has fought tenaciously for better health care, for better patient-doctor relationships, and a better relationship between the Federal Government and the providers of lifesaving health care around the country.

At this moment, while a champion of health care is in dire straits himself, I hope all Members will join me and pray that his recovery will be fast and swift and that God puts His blessed hand on his shoulder.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONGRATULATING SENATOR THAD COCHRAN ON HIS 10,000TH VOTE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I just want to say a word about my friend, THAD COCHRAN. What a terrific gentleman and fellow legislator he has been over the years.

When I have gone to him to work out an appropriations problem, particularly with regard to the 2004 hurricanes we had—and you will recall we had four hurricanes within the span of 6 weeks in Florida, and we so desperately needed that assistance coming in to FEMA—Senator COCHRAN was there ready to help.

Mr. President, if I could get Senator COCHRAN's attention.

Senator COCHRAN, I am saying some good things about you, and I just want to say what a gentleman you have been to this Senator, particularly with regard to that time we had such difficulty in Florida during the 2004 hurricanes. When I came to you asking for appropriate help, you were there. And then, lo and behold, the next year is when you had your set of hurricanes, and it was my privilege to try to help return the favor.

You are a real gentleman, and passing the 10,000 vote mark is quite an achievement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, let me just say that when the distinguished majority leader is prepared to go forward or the chairman of the Appropriations Committee is ready to proceed to H.J. Res. 20, I will stand down. But I wish to take this opportunity to also commend my colleague, Senator COCHRAN.