

are not static and cannot be taken for granted. As we celebrate his 90th birthday tomorrow, I hope we will take seriously that challenge and commit ourselves to the hard work of standing up for freedom and justice. For the people of Sudan, Zimbabwe and so many other parts of the world, the stakes have never been higher.

RETIREMENT OF DON MITCHELL

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, you and I and all of our colleagues know that the Senate could not function without the superb work of the Senate staff. These dedicated men and women work day in and day out, often logging long hours, working under pressure, and performing extremely sensitive jobs, not for high pay, but because of their dedication to their country.

All of these individuals deserve our praise and our thanks. But occasionally one of them deserves to be singled out. Today I rise to pay tribute to one such individual, Mr. Don Mitchell, professional staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Don is retiring soon after 24 years of government service, 22 of them here in the Senate. In 1984, the same year I was first elected to the Senate, Don began his career as a legislative assistant for national security in the office of his home State Senator, John Glenn. In 1989, Senator Glenn moved Don to the staff of the Intelligence Committee. His association with Senator Glenn and the committee lasted until 1999 when Don left to become Director of Intelligence Programs for the National Security Council.

After spending 2 years at the National Security Council, the Intelligence Committee was lucky enough to lure Don back to the committee staff. And I have been fortunate that he has stayed throughout my tenure on the committee.

While on the committee, Don has worked on a wide range of issues. He has handled the budgets of the FBI, and the Departments of State, Energy and Treasury and he has been responsible for counter intelligence programs. In addition to Senator Glenn he provided liaison support to Senators Richard Bryan and DICK DURBIN. For the past few years he has overseen all covert action activities, the most sensitive programs within the intelligence community.

Throughout this time, Don has done his job with a professionalism that has earned the respect of his colleagues and Members on both sides of the aisle.

While Don's professional accomplishments are impressive, they are far from the sum of who Don is. Don is an accomplished author, having published works on one of his political heroes, Adlai Stevenson, and most recent, a biography of his first boss, Senator Glenn.

Don's true passion though is his family. His wife Grace, his son Logan, and

his daughter Ella know well of his devotion to them. They also know of his dedication to his work here in the Senate, having supported him for so many years and having endured the many late nights and weekends he has sacrificed for the Senate.

Don is the type of staffer who does not seek glory or recognition for himself. He does not look for ways to insert himself into issues in order to be noticed. He knows what is important and he works toward that goal. He shuns the limelight, but he has made deep and lasting contributions to the process of intelligence oversight. His steady presence, his solid advice, and his devastating wit will be missed.

I wish him well in his coming endeavors and hope that our paths cross again.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BROIN FAMILY GENEROSITY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Todd and Linda Broin family of Sioux Falls, SD, and applaud their generosity. Through a charitable gift to the Sanford Project, the Broins have made a major contribution in the global effort to cure type 1 diabetes.

The Sanford Project, an initiative of one of South Dakota's health care systems, seeks to focus research efforts on one critical health care issue with the goal of making significant process toward curing or otherwise eliminating the disease. Last month, Sanford Project leaders announced their focus on curing type 1 diabetes, with a specific emphasis on beta cell regeneration.

Type 1 diabetes, also called juvenile diabetes, is a severe disease with no known cause or cure that affects nearly 3 million Americans and their families. Linda Broin's own experience with type 1 diabetes, stemming from her diagnosis with the disease at age 12, makes this contribution all the more personal, and inspirational. The Broins' generosity will allow for the establishment of the Todd and Linda Broin, chair, of the Sanford Project, and their gift will be used to support the salary and related expenses of the person who leads the campaign to cure type 1 diabetes. I am extremely pleased the Sanford Project is dedicating health research resources to cure type 1 diabetes, and, like so many others, I am grateful that the Broins' gift will advance the recruitment of top researchers to lead this project.

Diabetes is a severe disease that can result in a range of disabilities, including blindness, amputations, and kidney failure. Given the cost of diabetes not only to Americans' health, but also to our personal finances and our economy, it is clear that funding for diabetes research and prevention needs to be a priority. Biomedical research is the key to solving unanswered questions

regarding this disease and holds the potential to impact millions of lives. While government funding clearly plays an important role in fueling research, the Broins' private contribution provides vital flexibility and garners even greater interest for the project.

I am pleased the Sanford Project's efforts have been amplified and I commend the Broin family's generosity in their gift and efforts to increase awareness about this disease.●

TRIBUTE TO PHIL ROBBINS

• Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of Philip Austin Robbins III, of Kodiak, AK.

Phil was born on June 28, 1943, in Anacortes, WA, where he spent his youth. After graduating from high school, he set out on an adventure that would take him around the globe. With little money, Phil hitchhiked, took odd jobs, slept where he could find shelter, enjoyed the hospitality of strangers, and made many new friends, as he traveled through Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

Upon returning home, Phil was drafted into service during the Vietnam war. As fate would have it, though, he was not sent to Vietnam but instead stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, where he worked as a code-breaker in the U.S. Army.

After serving in the Army, Phil lived for a few years in Makaha, HI. He attended the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, and married Lisa Gayle Tatsumi.

Not long after this, Phil would embark on another adventure, moving with his wife and newborn son to Kodiak Island in Alaska. Here, the young family would live in a log cabin in the woods of Island Lake, and Phil would pursue a career as a commercial fisherman. It was a career that would span 40 years. During this time, Phil would see firsthand the boom and bust of the lucrative Kodiak king crab industry from the 1960s to the early 1980s as well as the recordbreaking salmon prices of the late 1980s. He would participate in the cleanup efforts that followed the disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989 and the frantic derby-style halibut seasons that were phased out in the 1990s. Phil was one of the pioneers of the potcod fishery in Kodiak. Cod fishing had previously been dominated by large trawlers. Over the years, Phil saw fortunes made and friends perish in dangerous waters. He owned three fishing boats at different times during his career, all of which he named the "Lisa Gayle" after his wife.

Phil had a tireless work ethic, a great sense of humor, and a warm heart. He was a modest man and the last to expect his life story would be told on the floor of the U.S. Senate. His bold spirit is emblematic of that of many Alaskans who come to our State with big dreams and a taste for adventure.