

the Commonwealth of Kentucky and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID YEPSEN

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a native son of Iowa as he prepares to leave the nest he has diligently feathered for more than three decades. A journalist who has earned his keep for 34 years at the Des Moines Register, David Yepsen honed his skills as a fair and balanced reporter upon whom his readers grew to depend to separate the wheat from the chaff.

With a few strokes of the keyboard, David Yepsen cut through layers of political posturing to identify stalemates at the statehouse or expose stonewalling from Terrace Hill. A non-sense newspaperman, David built a reputation for his astute understanding of Iowa politics and policymaking on the local, State, and Federal levels of government. From local boards of education to county seats of government, statehouse politics, and the Presidential campaign trail, David Yepsen knew how to boil down an issue and size up a candidate's prospects.

Like most Iowans, pomp and circumstance isn't his style. The genius of his political commentary is his ability to cut off grandstanding and get down to brass tacks. If the political leadership got bogged down in partisan gridlock, David would simply explain to voters in his next column how their elected representatives were baling political hay on the public's dime instead of ironing out the looming State budget deficit.

A shrewd journalist, David Yepsen understood how to cultivate contacts and build a reputation built on trust and truth. Cut from the gold standard cloth of journalism, David exercised independence and discovered that loyalty, like representative government, is a two-way street. No doubt the mutual agreement or lively disagreement with his subjects, readers, and publishers made his job all the more satisfying.

Although schooled decades before the Internet, blogs, and other tools delivered news to our laptops and cell phones, this seasoned reporter embraced the 24-hours news cycle. His profession bears the responsibility and privileges granted by the freedom of the press in American society. He upheld his end of the bargain by holding officeholders, public officials, and candidates accountable to the people. But he didn't fall victim to the "gotcha" style of ambush journalism that adds to public cynicism about the media and politics.

Instead, David fell back on his commitment to fairness and evenhandedness. That is the legacy David Yepsen will leave behind as he pursues the next chapter in his professional career. Next month, he will hang up his press credentials to assume lead-

ership of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

As I mentioned earlier, David Yepsen for more than 30 years has earned his paycheck and served the public as a reporter and political columnist at the Des Moines Register. For more than three decades, he immersed himself whole hog into politics, issues, and campaigns that have colored Iowa's landscape from the Missouri to the Mississippi Rivers. David earned a scholarly grasp of public policy that will prepare him well for his new position. Hot-button issues in recent times have included regulating hog lots; legalizing gambling; preparing for natural disasters and flood control; consolidating government from the courthouse to the schoolhouse; harmonizing Iowa's production agriculture heritage with sustainable stewardship of our natural resources; investing in renewable energy; bringing 21st century technology to rural areas; developing tourism, parks, and trails; balancing needs of an aging society; addressing Iowa's "brain drain", handling immigration; and juggling interests of labor and business or rural and urban. Instead of treating these issues as lightning rods that polarize people, David took the opportunity to challenge Iowans, whether newcomers or old-timers, to find common ground that would make our State an even better place to work, raise a family, enjoy a vacation, earn a world-class education, and retire.

David could slice through the debate with a lucid and logical reminder about just why it matters to taxpayers if the gas tax is raised during a recession or why Iowa lawmakers should seize the opportunity to take bold steps to restore and improve crumbling infrastructure projects. He provoked Iowans to think outside the box, choosing flattery or insult when necessary.

David faced the relentless scrutiny of his readers and also enjoyed many personal and professional rewards. Iowa's David Yepsen was often called upon by national news organizations for his respected analysis of Presidential politics. His departure leaves behind a big set of footprints in the fields of Iowa journalism and politics. I will really miss seeing "what Yepsen had to say in the Register" but wish him all the best.●

#### REMEMBERING CHAD MECHEL'S

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay honor to Deputy Sheriff Chad Mechels of Madison, SD, who was killed in the line of duty on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at the age of 32. He is survived by his wife Jamie Mechels and two children, Avery, age 7, and Thomas, age 3.

Chad dedicated his life to a career in law enforcement. He graduated from the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy in 2005. After graduation, Chad worked with several law enforce-

ment agencies including the Lake County and Kingsbury County Sheriff's Departments. He was currently serving with the Turner County Sheriff's Department when his life was tragically taken.

The sacrifice made by this brave officer is something we should always remember. Everyday heroes, like Chad, are those who keep us all safe. We should all be thankful to our community law enforcement officers who respond to protect the safety of others while sometimes jeopardizing their own.

Deputy Sheriff Chad Mechels paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, and for that we owe him a debt that can never be repaid. Let us honor Chad and so many other heroes that have made this country great.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 383. An act to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes.

S. 520. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 327 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the "Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 730. An act to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, and for other purposes.

H.R. 918. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building".

H.R. 1148. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a program in the maritime environment for the mobile biometric identification of suspected individuals, including terrorists, to enhance border security.

H.R. 1218. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located