

I certainly hope the reverse was true—that I was there whenever she needed help.

Women, minorities, as well as the elderly with disabilities also learned they could count on Paula. She was a tireless advocate in their behalf—and they loved her for it. She also showed great political courage in 1984, when she disclosed during a hearing that she had been molested as a child. I am sure that horrific childhood experience, in part, informed her efforts to champion children's causes.

While her legislative accomplishments are too numerous to mention here, I would like to make mention of one in particular. Paula spearheaded the Missing Children's Act of 1982, the bill that instituted the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Thanks to that landmark legislation, the names of thousands of missing children are now part of the FBI's national crime database.

To secure the bill's passage, Paula personally lobbied President Reagan. As great a communicator as he was, the "Great Communicator" knew he had met his match in Paula and lent his support. Of course the President knew that Paula could always be relied on to help deliver a legislative win for "the Gipper" in the Senate—which she did many times.

As a staunch conservative, she found common cause with the President and other conservatives, including myself, on numerous issues. She was, for example, an ardent anti-communist who supported the President's hard line against Soviet expansionism. She also despised overly big government—and, there is certainly a lot to despise in Washington, especially these days.

Paula was an unwavering friend for those who shared her values and commitment, but she was an implacable foe of political corruption and to those who peddled illegal drugs on our streets and in our schools. She fought for legislation to cut foreign aid to nations that refused to reduce their export of harmful drugs. She further assisted in creating the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control and helped initiate the South Florida Drug Task Force.

I would be remiss if I didn't say something about Paula's stamina. She could endure as well as endear—often when she was in great pain. In 1982, she was knocked unconscious when a TV studio partition fell on her during an interview in Florida.

Those of us who worked closely with her know that the years that followed were often filled with crippling pain. Between votes on the Senate floor, she would often go to a room lent to her by Senator Strom Thurmond in the Capitol and lie in traction in a hospital bed.

Despite the immense pain stemming from her debilitating injury, Paula soldiered on during her 1986 bid for reelection. On campaign trips across Florida Paula would sometimes lay in

the back seat moaning between appearances, according to Congressman John Mica, her aide at the time. While she lost that race to Bob Graham, it is amazing that she did so well and a testament to her courage and determination.

Paula's service did not end with her Senate term. Her contributions to her State, community, family and church over the past 23 years have been truly significant. She also didn't lose her sense of humor. When a Florida State senator told Paula several years ago that she was trying to do a good job, Paula smiled, grasped her hand firmly and said simply: "Try harder, dear."

As great a public servant she was, Paula was just as remarkable in her private life—as a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She had a fierce love for each member of her immediate and extended family. And her husband Gene is no less remarkable. He is one of the kindest, most friendly, decent and honorable men I have ever known—and his love for Paula has always been uplifting to behold.

In every aspect of their lives, they have been an exemplary couple. They have been just as exemplary as parents. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gene and Paula took to heart the Mormon teaching that families are forever. They were determined to ensure that every family member worked hard toward achieving the goal of being able to be together in the hereafter. They have a great family and are well on their way toward achieving that lofty goal.

In the Old Testament book of Proverbs, we read:

Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil . . . She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy . . . Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in the time to come . . . She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her . . . Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates (Proverbs 31:10-31).

Today, I am honored to have the privilege of adding my voice to the chorus of praise for my dear friend, Paula Hawkins. I feel deeply that a loving Father in heaven and Jesus Christ have already embraced Paula and taken her into their care and treatment as one of truly great women who graced this Earth.

I truly loved Paula Hawkins. We were best friends. Like Gene and the Hawkins' three children—Genean, Kevin and Kelly—11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, my wife Elaine and I look forward to a joyous reunion one day with Paula on the other side of the veil.

In the meantime, it is my hope that all of us here in this chamber will re-

flect on her service and follow her advice to that State Senator: Try Harder!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROY OBREITER

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Office of Rural Development within the United States Department of Agriculture will soon say goodbye to Roy Obreiter, a longtime trusted adviser, friend, and colleague to all who have worked with him. I am delighted to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Roy, a staff appraiser with the agency in Michigan, who will retire after 38 years of dedicated service. I join many within the USDA, as well as the many who have benefitted from his work over the years, in celebrating this impressive milestone.

Roy has an encyclopedic knowledge of agency programs and appraisal guidelines. Through his hard work, focus, and passion, Roy has endeared himself to those who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Roy has been a role model and mentor to his peers and coworkers. His kind and gentle demeanor, combined with his ability to connect on a personal level, have helped him earn the respect and admiration of his colleagues within the agency. Roy is an incredibly decent human being, devoted to family and work, and loyal to those around him.

Beyond his personal qualities, Roy has distinguished himself with a remarkable record of contributions to the agency. The assistance he has provided to Rural Development programs during his career has been invaluable. Roy can be proud of his contributions to Michigan and to rural America. He will be missed by his colleagues and by those throughout Michigan who have been touched by his work.

I congratulate Roy Obreiter on a job well done and wish him the best as he embarks on the next phase of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO TERRY SHERWOOD

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I join many of my fellow Arkansans in recognizing and thanking Terry Sherwood with the Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District for his 40 years of work with this agency and to wish him all the best in his retirement.

Since the Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District was organized and began operation in 1967, it has served local governments by working as an indispensable partner to identify and implement State and Federal programs. Through Terry's hard work and leadership with the Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, communities throughout southwest Arkansas have been positively impacted and their lasting results are a testament to his dedication and vision and will be felt for decades to come.