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Tributes Delivered in Congress
to
Strom Thurmond
To Commemorate His Service in the
United States Senate

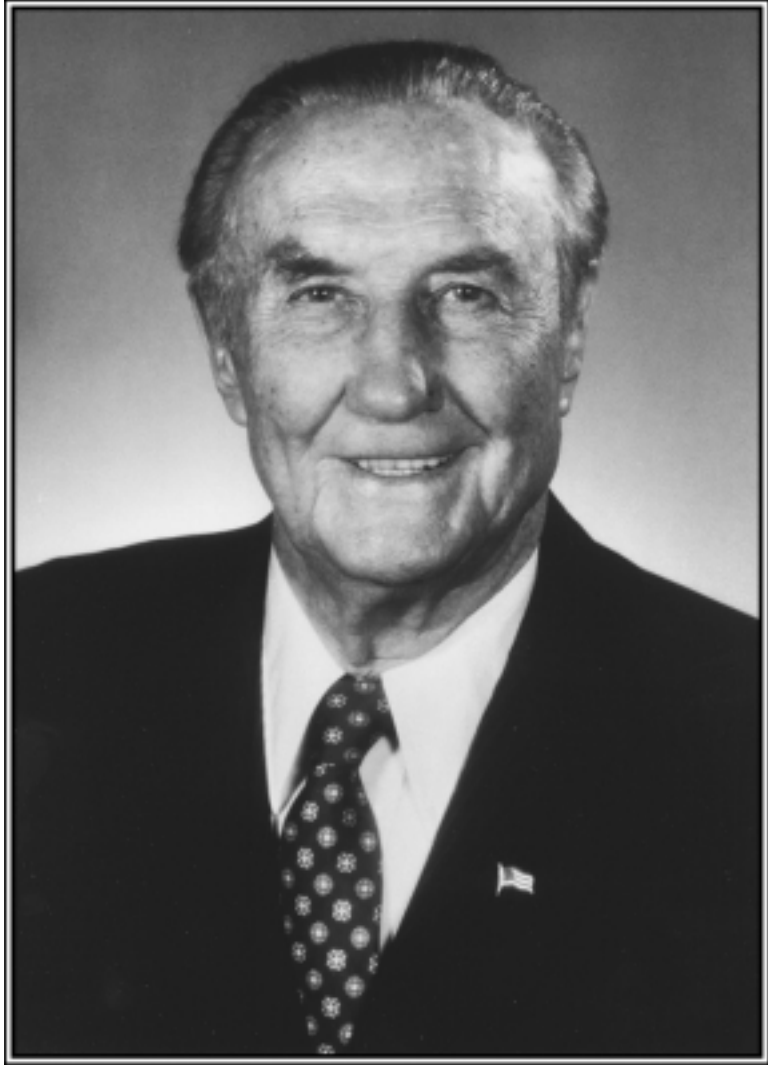


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TRIBUTES TO HON. STROM THURMOND

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Strom Thurmond

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To Commemorate His Service in the
United States Senate

One Hundred Seventh Congress
Second Session



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BIOGRAPHY

JAMES STROM THURMOND was born December 5, 1902, in Edgefield, SC. After graduating from Clemson University in 1923, he became a high school teacher and athletic coach. Soon thereafter he became the county superintendent of education and then State senator. At night he studied law under his father, and was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1930. He practiced law until 1938 when he became a circuit judge.

At the age of 21 he joined the U.S. Army Reserve, becoming a second lieutenant. When World War II was declared, he was 40 years old. Even though he was beyond draft age, and, as a judge, held a draft-exempted status, he volunteered for active duty the day war was declared against Germany. He served with the Headquarters First Army in American, European, and Pacific theaters.

On June 6, 1944, STROM THURMOND took part in the D-day invasion with the 82d Airborne Division by piloting a glider onto the beaches at Normandy. He was awarded 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. After the war he became a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In 1947 he became Governor of South Carolina. In 1948 Governor STROM THURMOND ran for President as a States Rights Democrat, carrying 4 States and winning 39 electoral votes.

In 1954 STROM THURMOND was elected to the U.S. Senate as a write-in candidate. This made him not only the first and only person in U.S. history elected to the Senate in this manner, but the only person ever elected to any major office in the United States in this manner.

Senator STROM THURMOND set a record for the longest individual speech ever delivered in the Senate—24 hours and 18 minutes, from August 28 to August 29, 1957.

In 1964 Senator THURMOND switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, a move that marked the be-

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ginning of the “southern strategy” that has reshaped the Republican Party.

In 1981, when Ronald Reagan became President, Senator THURMOND was chosen as Senate President pro tempore, placing him third in the line of succession to the Presidency.

On March 8, 1996, Senator THURMOND, at the age of 93, became the oldest person ever to serve in the Senate.

On May 25, 1997, he became the longest-serving Senator in the history of the Senate, surpassing the record of 41 years and 10 months held by Carl Hayden.

In 1998, Senator THURMOND became the second Senator ever to cast 15,000 votes.

During his Senate career, he served as chairman and ranking member of both the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee. He was chairman emeritus of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee and a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Senator THURMOND has worked tirelessly for the State of South Carolina and for the Nation in general. South Carolina has shown its gratitude by honoring the Senator in many ways. The people of Edgefield County, SC, have built and erected a life-sized statue of STROM THURMOND on the Edgefield town square. Things that have been named in his honor include the STROM THURMOND Lake, Dam and Highway in Clarks Hill; the STROM THURMOND Mall in Columbia; and the STROM THURMOND National Guard Armory.

There is a STROM THURMOND High School, Auditorium, Student Center, and Biomedical Research Center. There are numerous STROM THURMOND chairs and scholarships. There’s the STROM THURMOND Foundation, which assists in educating 80 to 100 needy, worthy students annually. And he has endowed 52 scholarships at 45 colleges and universities.

Some of the numerous awards that Senator THURMOND has received in his 100 years on Earth are the Disabled American Veterans Outstanding and Unselfish Service Awards (1964 and 1981); the Medal of the Knesset, Israel (1982); the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award (1982); the NY Board of Trade “Textile Man of the Year” (1984); and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George Bush, 1992.

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Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *September 24, 2002*

ORDER FOR PRINTING STATEMENTS OF TRIBUTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Members have until Friday, October 4, at 12 noon to submit statements of tribute to Senator STROM THURMOND and that the tributes then be printed as a Senate document.

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I join my colleagues today in this special presentation to acknowledge the distinguished Senator from South Carolina for his decades of service in this Senate.

America has changed in many ways in the 48 years since JAMES STROM THURMOND was first elected to the Senate. But some things have not changed. Among them are Senator THURMOND's fierce determination to do what he regards as the right thing for the people of his beloved South Carolina.

While Senator THURMOND and I often reach different conclusions and cast different votes, I admire his devotion to his State, to our Nation, and to this Senate. In recent years, fulfilling that obligation has seemed at times to require an extraordinary exercise of will or love or both.

Someday another Senator will sit in Senator THURMOND's seat, but it is hard to imagine anyone ever filling his shoes. He is, as I have said before, an institution within an institution.

He has been alive for almost half the history of the United States. Theodore Roosevelt was President when he was born. He was 17 years old when American women secured the right to vote. He is one of only a few Americans alive who received votes from Civil War veterans. He has lived through the term of 18 of America's 43 Presidents and served as a Senator under 10 of them.

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His long and distinguished career is remarkable for its many successes, both in and out of the Senate.

In 1996 Senator THURMOND became the oldest person ever to serve in the Senate.

In 1997 he became the longest-serving Senator.

In 1998 he became one of only three Senators, in addition to our colleague, Senator Robert Byrd, ever to cast 15,000 votes in this Senate.

In addition, Senator THURMOND has served as a senator in the South Carolina State Legislature and as Governor of that great State. He has been a senior member of both the Democratic and Republican parties and a Presidential candidate of a third party. There is not another American, living or dead, who can make that claim.

He has also served our country in uniform. Senator THURMOND entered the U.S. Army for the first time in 1924. Twenty years later, he volunteered for service in World War II, and on June 6, 1944, at the age of 43, he took part in the first wave of the D-day invasion, the airdrop of American troops on Normandy Beach.

I am told that Senator THURMOND wanted to parachute into Normandy Beach, but another officer who clearly did not know with whom he was dealing, decided Senator THURMOND was too old to jump out of an airplane. So Senator THURMOND piloted a glider instead, landing, with the rest of his company, behind enemy lines.

Senator THURMOND is today a retired major general in the Army Reserve, the President pro tempore emeritus of the Senate, a member of the South Carolina Hall of Fame, and a recipient of more honors and awards than any of us can name, including the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Simply said, we will never see another like him.

I join my colleagues this morning in our heartfelt expression of gratitude to Senator THURMOND for his decades of service. We wish him, his family, and staff our very best in his future, whatever life may hold beyond the 107th Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, today the Senate takes time to celebrate the life and career of one of its most outstanding Members who, though always a loyal son of South Carolina, has become, indeed, a Nation's treasure. It is not enough to

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say Senator STROM THURMOND has lived his life well. It has been an extraordinary life.

Again and again today, we will hear points made about various accomplishments in his life. Senator Daschle has already noted many of them, but there is so much that can be said about this particular Senator that words are almost inadequate.

As I was thinking about him over the weekend, I thought about his life and what he has done and what he has seen and the little acts he does on a human personal basis.

First, when one thinks about it, his is a life that has included being an educator, a judge, a soldier, yes, a general, Governor, a Presidential candidate. In fact, when I was 7 years old, Senator THURMOND was already running for President and carried my State as well as three others, I believe. As a U.S. Senator, he has served admirably as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and President pro tempore.

I remember in my first couple of years in the Senate, Senator THURMOND was managing a bill on the floor. I believe it was a crime bill. I remember he got right out in the center aisle and gave a fantastic speech, with energy, all the enthusiasm one would expect from a much younger man, but then he was young in spirit, and he made us all feel good about what we could do as the years went by.

He has been a philanthropist. He has practiced what he has preached. The record is replete with scholarships and examples of generosity from this Senator, what he has done for others on a financial basis but, more important, at times, on a very personal basis, and I will talk about that in a moment.

Obviously, he has achieved the ultimate in life also as a proud father. Watching him with his sons and daughters is a marvelous experience for all of us.

He truly has achieved the rank of statesman. Some serve their country as teachers, jurists, or as State or local officials, but Senator THURMOND has been all of those and so much more: A counselor to Presidents, a warrior in the cause of freedom, not to mention a humanitarian, a staunch patriot, and a faithful friend. I do not think we will ever see a life in history such as that of Senator STROM THURMOND; he has served his country in so many ways.

His public career spans the days of Franklin Roosevelt and the present President, George W. Bush. Senator THURMOND knew the veterans of the greatest war. He was there. He saw

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it in real time. He knows the soldiers of our current war on terrorism, and today, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, he works to make sure they have what they need to do the job because he understands the importance of their job in the defense of freedom.

When I was born 60 years ago, Senator THURMOND was already a judge and well on his way toward a governorship and his candidacy for President. Yet here we are today as colleagues in this great institution. I know I am not alone in feeling humbled by his presence.

In the days to come, the newspapers will emphasize his extraordinary political career, but the epic that is STROM THURMOND is far too grand to be summed up as an enduring politician and to leave it at that. No, we know better. After all, it is not many of us who have a room in this Capitol named for us while we are still here to use it.

Another Senator from South Carolina, John C. Calhoun, in his time was described this way:

As a Senator, he was the model of courtesy. He listened attentively to each one who spoke, neither reading nor writing when in his seat.

At one time or another, I believe every Senator in this Chamber has been touched by Senator THURMOND's courtesy, and we will honor him if we continue to follow his example in that regard. Hardly a day goes by when Senator THURMOND is on the floor, that he does not call me over and offer support and offer a piece of candy for my beautiful wife. He reassures me what a beautiful lady she is and what a credit she is to this Senator from Mississippi.

I wonder sometimes, too, if we all appreciate and even our pages realize that a great man of history walks among us every day, but he does it in such a humble way and such a generous way. How many of us have taken the time to not only acknowledge these pages who are seeing history in the making and are working for us to make the institution look better, but taken the time to bring them to the dining room for a meal?

I always loved it when I was in the dining room and Senator THURMOND came with a whole string of pages right behind him treating them to lunch. It was like a hen with her biddies behind her, a beautiful sight—a little thing, but typical of Senator THURMOND.

There are the calls he has made when friends have had trouble in their family or illnesses or deaths. There are stories of Senator THURMOND calling people or even going to the house of one of his former staff members after she had a

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baby. Knocking on the door, he came to congratulate her and to get a look at this newborn baby. Over and over, that is the kind of man he has been.

So while he has had these great achievements, he has kept that common touch. In fact, I think the greatest story about Senator THURMOND is not his list of achievements but the fact he has never wavered in defending, protecting, and working for the principles he believes in and the importance of keeping that human touch, that personal touch.

Senator THURMOND is a different case in many ways. He is, of course, of a different generation and he exemplifies its strengths just as he has worked to leave behind its shortcomings. During his last Congress with us, it was sometimes difficult to remember that at the start of World War II, a mere youngster of 39, he actually resigned his office as a judge in order to enlist. He was with the 82d Airborne Division and landed in the Normandy invasion on D-day.

Half a century ago, Gen. Douglas MacArthur addressed the Congress and delivered his famous line about old soldiers: "They never die, they just fade away."

Well, Senator THURMOND decided to do neither. He resolved to keep working for his country, devoting all of his experience, all of his wisdom, all of his energy to that task. We have been blessed and enriched by his determination. He has been here every day, and I have not checked the *Record*, but I think he has been here for every vote this year, which is typical of the sheer iron will that has been the example of his great life.

He has seen the defeat of nazism, the collapse of communism, and the bringing down of the Iron Curtain. He has been an important part of making all of that possible. He has worked with Presidents repeatedly to support their efforts to do what needed to be done for our country.

It has been 213 years since George Washington was inaugurated as President and the first Congress assembled to write laws for the new Nation. Senator THURMOND has seen more than 99 of those years. It re-emphasizes the fact we are still a young country. This great Republic is still very young in the annals of history, and this one man has seen almost half of those years. He is an institution, a senior statesman, but he is much more than that. He is a patriot. He loves this country of ours in an old-fashioned way, a simple and deep way that seemed to have gone out of style a few decades ago but a way we have re-learned during this past year.

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Our centennial Senator's life is a part of the rich rolling tapestry that is America's history. This soldier who fought at Normandy, this cold war warrior who helped Presidents overcome communism, has lived to witness a new enemy of freedom strike at us and all that we hold dear. He saw the tragedy last September that still tears at our hearts, but he saw, too, the resurgence of what he cherished most: pride in America, devotion, honor and sacrifice for America. I do not know of any other Senator who will earn this title, but it seems to be appropriate to refer to Senator THURMOND as our centennial Senator. He could have very easily been an inspiration perhaps for that great quote that is attributed to Teddy Roosevelt back in 1910 that sums up, I believe, the greatness of this Senator.

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Senator THURMOND has been in the arena. He has been dusty and sweaty and, yes, probably even bloody, but he still stands, the rock from South Carolina, a great Senator, a great man, a great friend. The Senate will not quite be the same when we convene next year, but we will all be better because of the Senator from South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND, you are the best. You are an institution, but more than that you are a great friend. We love you and we wish you many more happy days in your next career.

Mr. THURMOND. Thank you very much.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, the distinguished minority leader has noted STROM's comment about the beauty of his wife Patricia. STROM has also done that to my wife Peatsy. I think the record ought to be made here that for STROM THURMOND, all women are beautiful.

Madam President, as the longest-serving junior Senator in the history of the Senate, it is my distinct honor and privilege to pay tribute to the longest-serving senior Senator and

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the longest-serving Senator in the history of the Senate. The story is told about a Washington matron at one of these evening receptions, how she rushed up to a Spanish Ambassador and allowed: "Mr. Ambassador, this bull fighting, the No. 1 sport in your country, I think it is revolting."

After a pause, the Ambassador turned to the matron and said: "Madam, you are mistaken. Bull fighting is our No. 2 sport; revolting is our No. 1."

That has been the record of J. STROM THURMOND in the field of public service. He has definitely been a revolutionary with respect to public service. At age 29, he served as the youngest county superintendent of education in the history of our State; thereupon, being elected as the youngest State senator from his home county; thereafter, as the youngest circuit judge presiding, being elevated there in the year 1938.

Just a few days after December 7, when Germany declared war first on us before we declared war on Germany, STROM THURMOND, as a presiding circuit judge, took off those robes and volunteered for service in World War II. He was exempt from service under our judiciary rules in the State of South Carolina, but he didn't hesitate. And as has been noted here, made the invasion on D-day, June 6, 1944, in Europe and served in five campaigns with valor and courage, coming back to retire as a major general in the U.S. Army.

In 1948 he organized the only really successful third party movement in this country as a States Rights Party, and as a candidate for President he carried South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana—he carried four States.

Thereafter, in 1954 he was the first—and I take it the only—Senator ever elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. Then, in 1964, having been a Democrat, he changed parties. He saw the future of the State of South Carolina and the South in the Republican Party, and he has led the move ever since.

There is no question in my mind that he has had the most distinguished service up here, serving as the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the President pro tempore of the Senate. But I think people back home know STROM best of all for his constituent service. Whether it is the job found for a constituent, or helping a family get a relative admitted to the hospital, or sending a letter to the deceased's family, or helping when the soldier is brought back home, or whatever it is, you can count on

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STROM. I can tell that to you right now. He has made his fame looking out for the people of his home State.

It has been noted that STROM was born when Teddy Roosevelt was President. Elihu Root, who was the Secretary of State for Teddy Roosevelt, once remarked that: "Politics is the practical art of self government and someone must attend to it if we are going to have self government." And he made the cogent observation: "The principal ground for reproach against any American citizen is that he is not a politician. In representative America, every citizen counts."

Heaven knows, STROM THURMOND of South Carolina has counted at every particular turn, during illustrious service of some 70 years. I think he is the living example that the best politics is no politics. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him now. I am sure I am going to have the opportunity many times hereafter as we both move along. But it has been a distinct pleasure to serve as his junior Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I have listened attentively to every word that has been spoken today about this colleague of ours. Those words have been true. I well remember when I first came to the Senate, I remember STROM THURMOND's late wife used to sit in the gallery up here and listen to the debates. She was a beautiful woman. I remember very well the day she passed away. I remember coming to the Senate and seeking out STROM THURMOND, and here he was, sitting in the back row. I walked up to his desk, and he stood, and I said: "STROM, I'm so sorry to hear about your great misfortune." And he stood with that stoic way of his and thanked me and sat down.

I also remember when Erma and I lost our grandson Michael. It was 20 years ago. I remember the funeral service, and I remember who was there. I recall who came to share in the greatest sorrow of my life.

Some of my colleagues were there. Howard Baker was there, the majority leader. The then-Governor of my State of West Virginia, Jay Rockefeller, was there. Who else? Who else? No other Senator with the exception of one—STROM THURMOND. He came.

I have seen him at funeral homes of others who were the relatives of Senators and some who were not relatives of Senators. I have seen STROM THURMOND there.

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I shall never forget when STROM met with tragedy in his life not many years ago when he gave up the prized possession, a daughter. I went to South Carolina to be with STROM and to share his sorrow.

Then, just a few days ago, a message came into my office. STROM had called my wife. She had an operation—an appendectomy. Who called to express concern for her and to wish her an early recovery? That man—STROM THURMOND.

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine.
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine.
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er
And bread lasts only a day,
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul alway.

STROM THURMOND, in a few more weeks, will be the first sitting U.S. Senator to become a centenarian.

What an amazing record. What an amazing man. In his 100 years on this Earth, he has been a teacher, a coach, an attorney, a judge, a Governor, a soldier, a college professor, an author, a lawmaker at both the State and Federal levels, a delegate at six Democratic National Conventions and six Republican National Conventions, and a U.S. Senator who has served 47 years in this Chamber and cast more than 15,000 votes.

That is more votes than soldiers that Flaminius lost at the Battle of Lake Trasimeno in the year 217 B.C.

Senator THURMOND was born into the Old South. His hometown of Edgefield was the home of the cane swinging Representative Preston Brooks, who gained a place in history for beating a northern Senator who had insulted his family and his State. Senator THURMOND's grandfather, George Washington Thurmond, was with General Lee at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant. His father, Judge J. William Thurmond was a lieutenant of the legendary South Carolina Senator "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman, whom I used to read about before I came to the arena of politics. A product of the Old South, Senator THURMOND emerged to become an important leader in the New South.

Senator THURMOND's amazing life has spanned 20th-century America. When he was born, the Wright brothers had yet to make their historic, heavier-than-air manned flight. He has lived to see man-made vehicles reaching the outer limits of our universe. What a change in a single lifetime. Perhaps an even greater, more monumental change

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took place right here in the U.S. Senate. When STROM THURMOND was born, on December 5, 1902, U.S. Senators were not elected by the people of their States, but selected by their State legislatures. The Senate had no permanent office buildings; Senators had no professional staffs. Boy, what a change STROM THURMOND has lived to see here.

Even more amazing is how his life and career have mirrored so much of the history of 20th-century America.

In 1928, STROM THURMOND, a Democrat at the time, was elected to his first political office, superintendent of schools, Edgefield County, South Carolina—when Calvin Coolidge was President. Those were the days of mechanically sliced bread.

In 1932, he was elected to the State senate of South Carolina—that was the year Franklin Roosevelt was elected President of the United States.

How well I remember the days when the coal miners of West Virginia marched—over 100,000 strong. John L. Lewis, the leader of that great United Mine Workers Organization, had his picture in every miner's home. STROM THURMOND was there.

It was Roosevelt's administration that marked the emergence of the Democratic Party as the majority party. I remind my colleagues that Senator THURMOND was a Democrat in those days.

In 1942, STROM THURMOND volunteered for service in World War II—the war that marked the emergence of the United States as a superpower. I might point out that Senator THURMOND could have stayed safely on the sidelines of that conflict. He was beyond draft age and, as a judge, he held a draft-exempted status. Yet he volunteered to put himself in harm's way and heroically served his country.

On June 6, 1944, paratrooper STROM THURMOND took part in the D-day invasion that began the Allied liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny and the defeat of worldwide fascism.

In 1946, like so many other World War II veterans, including Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy, STROM THURMOND returned home to a career in public service. While Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Nixon were elected to Congress that year, Mr. THURMOND was elected Governor of his beloved South Carolina.

In 1948, Governor STROM THURMOND ran for President as a States Rights Democrat, carrying 4 States and winning 39 electoral votes. This means that President Harry Truman's

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great upset victory over Thomas Dewey in the 1948 Presidential election included the defeat of STROM THURMOND.

In 1954, STROM THURMOND was elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. Imagine that. No other Senator was ever elected as a write-in candidate to this body. This made him the first and only person in U.S. history elected to the Senate in this manner. He is the only person ever elected to any major office in the United States in this manner.

In 1957, Senator STROM THURMOND set a record for the longest individual speech ever delivered in the Senate—24 hours and 18 minutes, from August 28 to August 29, 1957.

In 1964, Senator THURMOND switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party—our loss, your gain—a move that marked the beginning of the “southern strategy” that has reshaped the Republican Party.

In 1981, when Ronald Reagan became President, Senator THURMOND was chosen as Senate President pro tempore, placing him third in the line of succession to the Presidency. And in the early days in the history of this country, it would have been the Vice President and then STROM THURMOND, because he would then have been second in line of succession to the Presidency.

On March 8, 1996, Senator THURMOND, at the age of 93, 93 years and 94 days—oh, to be 93 years again—became the oldest person ever to serve in the Senate.

On May 25, 1997, he became the longest-serving Senator in the history of the Senate, surpassing the record of 41 years and 10 months held by Carl Hayden.

He is a man with whom I have never had a cross word in this Senate—never.

On December 31, 1997, Senator THURMOND’s colleague, Senator Ernest Hollings, became the longest-serving junior Member of the Senate, 31 years and 53 days, surpassing the “junior” record of Senator John Stennis.

In 1998, Senator THURMOND became the second Senator ever to cast 15,000 votes.

As I have said, what an amazing life. What an amazing career. There is none other like it.

But I am pleased and I am proud to point out that throughout it all, Senator THURMOND has always remained a man of his word. He is a devoted father, and a Senator ready to defend his State, his country, and his values, a distinguished leader, who is revered in his home State of South Carolina. The State has built statues in his honor, named

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buildings in his honor, named roads and dams and lakes in his honor.

Foremost, Senator THURMOND has remained a southern gentleman of the first order: charming, polite, optimistic, friendly, courteous, and enduring.

May God bless you, Senator THURMOND. May God bless you always.

This is a man. Whence cometh another?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I am humbled to be following my great friend from West Virginia and the statement he has just made.

When I came to the Senate 34 years ago, this true southern gentleman was among the first to make me welcome. I came from a fairly new State. Senator THURMOND had already served for 14 years as a Senator when I joined the Senate. He was generous with his time, helping this young Westerner to become familiar with the traditions of the Senate, sharing his knowledge of procedures, and some of the pitfalls, and emphasizing the importance of maintaining a sense of dignity.

I soon learned that the gracious STROM THURMOND was extending to me friendship, which is part and parcel of this man. His courtly manners and his helpfulness were legendary even then.

Today, all these years after he gave me that first crushing handshake, he remains the dignified, gallant gentleman of whom I became a friend in 1968. He continues to demonstrate the spirit that has given him the courage to beat the odds, overcome obstacles, and deal with some of life's toughest challenges.

As he prepares to leave us, after almost a half century of serving the people of South Carolina and our Nation, I just want to take a few moments to look back on the personal relationship I have had with Senator THURMOND.

While we share a bond of serving in the military during World War II, Senator THURMOND far surpassed any of my experiences. He landed, as people have already said, on D-day in Normandy. He served in both the European and Pacific theaters. And he earned an astounding 18 decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for valor.

When my first wife Ann died in a plane crash that I survived, STROM's helping hand was there, ready to assist always. The counsel and support he offered were born from the

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experience of his own tragedy 8 years earlier, when he lost his wife Jean. While he understood the importance of dealing with my grief, he lobbied me to find a new partner in life, as he had done.

When Catherine and I were married, STROM made sure she had a great welcome as the Senate's newest spouse. And when our Lily—now a senior at Stanford, who visited the Senate from time to time when she was a toddler—returns to these halls, she always makes sure to see Uncle STROM. As a matter of fact, there is not a day goes by that STROM does not ask me: How is Lily? And last night, Madam President, Lily sent me an e-mail. I would like to read from it. I quote:

When I think about some of my earliest memories, I always come back to images in my head of entering the big white Capitol to see you and your friends. Because, of course, I didn't know anything about the important roles of the people I knew or the grandness of the Capitol. What I really remember is going to see friends like "Uncle STROM" and running in circles around the patterns of the tiles by the entrance to the floor. I can't think of how many times I saw STROM's familiar face and ran to give him a big hug, hearing his voice calling, "Lily, look how big you've grown," or, "Miss Lily, you're such a pretty girl!" Seeing Uncle STROM was always a highlight of my trips to the Capitol, and once I got to know Julie, being with her also made some long nights of political gatherings much more fun! Julie, like her father, is such a generous, caring, and warm person, and I feel lucky to have gotten to know her, Nancy, and Uncle STROM.

Madam President, Lily had a great many birthday parties here in the Senate. At that time, I was the whip, the assistant leader, and Uncle STROM was always at the top of her guest list, which she prepared herself.

I think we can all testify to STROM's sweet tooth. He never saw a birthday cake or a scoop of ice cream he didn't like.

I will leave it to others, who will also pay tribute to STROM today, to tell of his many accomplishments. They will note he has many titles in his 100 years: From teacher to coach to superintendent of education; from second lieutenant to general; from attorney at law to judge; and from Governor to Senator. Those titles were all earned through dedication and hard work, and they are hallmarks of his distinguished career. I respect those titles. But there is one that is more important to me than all the others, and that is the title I used first: friend. We are all the richer for having STROM THURMOND in our midst. To be able to count him as a friend is the greatest privilege of all.

So I am here today, Senator THURMOND, to say thank you for your dedication, your patriotism, your generosity of spirit, but, most of all, on a very personal basis, for your friendship.

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Thank you, STROM.

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, there are some times even in the Senate when enough words cannot be said. Senator THURMOND has probably made more history than many of us will ever see. He has experienced more history than most of us will ever know. Every Member of the Senate would be proud to tell our grandchildren that "I served with STROM THURMOND." Because the senior Senator from South Carolina has been such a force in politics for over 50 years, I would like to tell my grandchildren that I served with STROM THURMOND.

He always did his duty and he spent the better part of a century shaping the greatest Nation on Earth.

There isn't a history teacher alive who wouldn't like to bring their class to Senator THURMOND's office to see a portrait of history laid out on his walls. One would think that to live and perform at the ripe young age of 99, one would be wise to pace oneself. Instead, Senator THURMOND has put in a professional marathon, but at the pace of a 100-yard dash. He is the Lance Armstrong and Cal Ripken of public service with over 15,000 votes. Alternatively, I would rather say that Cal Ripken is the iron man STROM THURMOND of major league baseball.

In his book, "Great Political Wit," our former colleague Bob Dole described Senator THURMOND's 90th birthday. At that festive event,

Senator THURMOND noted that, "all evening, people had been coming up to him to express the hope that they would be present for his 100th birthday. To which Senator THURMOND replied, "if you eat right and exercise regularly, I don't see any reason why you shouldn't be around to see it."

In terms of ethics and duty, he remains old fashioned. He believes that the real "woman's place" is sitting next to him testing his charm, and his grip.

If there is a more extraordinary resumé in a Congress full of honor and achievement, I cannot imagine. In his career, he has responded to the titles of teacher, coach, lieutenant, counselor, superintendent, judge, general, Governor, Senator and President pro tempore.

When Ted Williams set down his bat to go defend his country during World War II, Judge THURMOND set down his gavel, at age 40, to join the 82d Airborne that landed on Normandy Beach. Before he returned to the bench he had battled his way across France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg,

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Czechoslovakia, and Germany, and finished in the Philippines.

Few in the history of this country have dedicated so much energy on behalf of the country they loved. And through it all, it seemed that the senior Senator had energy in reserve.

I had my staff dig up the Senator's first floor statement which occurred on January 28, 1955. He spoke directly after Senators Long and Humphrey. He was speaking eloquently but directly and succinctly on the need to meet the threat of communism head on. This was in relation to an authorization of force to protect Formosa, requested by President Eisenhower. Let me read his final paragraph:

Our earnest prayer is for peace. If war should come, it would not be the result of any aggressive act on the part of the United States. But war might come as a result of any display of weakness, of disunity, or of hesitation. I shall cast my vote on the side of firmness, for unity and for decision.

As near as I can tell, his approach to and commitment to the security of free people has not deviated since that first floor statement.

We are all grateful for the distinguished tenure of Senator THURMOND; grateful to the people of his State for sending him here, and grateful to his family for sharing him. His retirement is well-deserved and I hope he now has more surplus time to build up his pushups and pullups so he can return to fighting shape again.

Additionally, after 36 years in the Senate, some of us are getting tired of calling Chairman Hollings "junior."

It is my high honor and privilege to humbly thank our still young-of-heart STROM and wish him a busy retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Corzine). The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, after hearing the remarks of the Senator from Alaska, I have to say I am very sorry that my children, Bailey and Houston, will not have the chance to have birthday parties with STROM THURMOND since he will be leaving this year. I know it was a rich part of Lily Stevens' heritage and probably why she is a student at Stanford today. She had such an upbringing and she learned a lot throughout her early life.

It is a privilege to be able to add to the accolades to Senator STROM THURMOND. So much has been said already today, but it is fitting that the first retiring Senator in this cycle who receives floor tributes is Senator STROM THUR-

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MOND. There is no one like him. There never has been, and there never will be.

On December 5, STROM THURMOND will celebrate his 100th birthday. To give you some perspective, STROM THURMOND was born the same year as Thomas Dewey, Charles Lindbergh, and the Nation of Cuba, which gained its independence from Spain. STROM was 14 when Lenin overthrew Czar Nicholas in Russia. STROM was 15 when a young, left-handed pitcher named Babe Ruth led the Red Sox to their last World Series victory. STROM was 17 when women earned the right to vote, and now he has served with 24 of the 31 women to ever hold a seat in the Senate.

On November 3, 1954, STROM became the only Senator ever to be elected as a write-in candidate. He is the oldest sitting and the longest-serving Senator in U.S. history. I doubt his record will be broken in the near future—maybe never.

During my own tenure in the Senate, a mere 9 years by comparison, I have been touched by STROM THURMOND's presence. South Carolina and Texas hold a rich heritage together. STROM often reminds me that William Barret Travis, a Texas hero who commanded the forces at the Alamo, hailed from STROM's home county in South Carolina.

Another South Carolinian who made his way to the wild west of Texas was Thomas Jefferson Rusk. Thomas Rusk was the first Senator from Texas to hold my seat. He was one of the heroes of the Battle of San Jacinto which liberated the Republic of Texas. Senator Rusk's family was living in a rented home in South Carolina when he was born. The home, which belonged to John C. Calhoun, would later become the site of STROM's alma mater, Clemson University.

An even more important connection is our States' contributions to the Nation's Armed Forces. I have been proud to stand side by side with STROM in supporting our men and women in uniform and ensuring that they have every available resource to do the job we ask them to do.

In his almost 50 years in the Senate, STROM THURMOND has accomplished a great deal. But his greatest legacy is his enduring support for those who serve in uniform. I was privileged to work with STROM when he was chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He focused on a host of important issues, such as military health care and quality of life for service members and their families. In 1998, we named the defense authorization bill the STROM THURMOND Defense

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Authorization Bill in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the defense of our Nation.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, STROM was a 40-year-old circuit judge who would have been forgiven most certainly if he had decided to spend the duration of the war guarding the home front. Not STROM. Even though he was exempt from the draft, he volunteered for combat and went on to become a highly decorated officer.

At the age of 42, LTC STROM THURMOND became the oldest man to help take the beach of Normandy on D-day. His unpowered glider was shot down behind enemy lines, and he survived by taking shelter in an apple orchard.

Given the casualties on that dreadful day on Normandy's beach, STROM THURMOND probably considered a long and fruitful life to be measured in days, not decades. Soldiers who survived the horrific days at Normandy or Guadalcanal or Iwo Jima often say that every day thereafter is a free day.

Fifty years later, in defiance of every insurance actuary who ever used a calculator, or more aptly a slide rule, STROM THURMOND skipped the 50th anniversary celebration of that brief but memorable flight. I remember because I was here at the 50th anniversary of Normandy. There was a huge celebration of the Members of Congress who had participated in that particular part of our war effort. But there was one Senator missing from that 50th anniversary at Normandy. It was STROM THURMOND. STROM THURMOND, who was 92 at the time, missed the 50th anniversary because that was the weekend of his son's graduation from high school. Think about it.

STROM has always known what matters. He has always focused on what is important. He continues to do that today.

He continued to serve after the war in the Reserves, rising to the rank of major general. His whole life has been a tradition of service. From World War II to the Governor's mansion and ultimately to the halls of the Senate, he has always made public service his top priority.

In the final scene of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," the movie's namesake returns 50 years after that battle to the grave at Normandy of the captain who gave his life to save Private Ryan. In one of the movie's most touching scenes, Ryan tells the long-dead captain that he has tried to honor his sacrifice by living a good life. That scene captures the essence of what we as a Nation owe to those who have fought for our country and our freedom: to honor their sacrifice by

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trying to lead a good life and by doing everything we can to keep our country free and at peace.

STROM has truly honored his comrades who fell that dreadful day and all those who have worn the uniform since. He has been good, as he has also been great. He has led the Senate to keep our military strong through the generations.

For those of us who have served with STROM in the Senate, he has been the senior Senator from South Carolina during our entire careers, including of course, Fritz Hollings. Fritz must be the oldest, longest-serving junior Senator in the history of the Senate. That will surely change.

And that change is going to take some getting used to. Having STROM THURMOND gone will make this a different place for all of us, particularly the Senate pages. STROM THURMOND has always been particularly attentive and sweet to the Senate pages, probably throughout his career. I have seen it time and time again where he has taken the pages for lunch or for ice cream to talk to them so that they can ask him questions. I truly believe if you ever took a poll of the Senate pages, their favorite Senator would always be STROM THURMOND.

He is a legend. He is an institution. More important, STROM THURMOND is the heart and soul of the Senate. We honor him today.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague, STROM THURMOND. I am proud to be his colleague and friend. What a great American. After my election to the Senate, he was there to greet me.

When we think about institutions, we think about established organizations that are dedicated to public service and advancement of science or culture. Institutions are created not by single people, but rather by the collective group that shares ideals and values which are inherent to their cause. But while institutions are defined by the ideas that created them in the first place, it is individuals that truly identify the institution.

Just as John Glenn personifies the achievements of NASA, just as Martin Luther King, Jr., embodies the civil rights movement, just as Albert Einstein represents the science of physics, the U.S. Senate is symbolized by Senator STROM THURMOND. Today we honor the gentleman who has spent nearly half his life in the Senate, a man who people cannot help but mention whenever the Senate is brought up in conversation.

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While his accomplishments in this body merit enough attention, what took place before his foray into national politics is just as noteworthy. From graduation at Clemson University, to becoming a State senator in South Carolina followed by confirmation as circuit judge, Senator THURMOND dedicated his life to public service. After signing an age waiver so that he could parachute onto the beaches of Normandy, STROM continued service in the U.S. Army as a reservist to eventually gain the rank of major general after 36 years in the military. Somehow he even found time to run for Governor of South Carolina and serve for 6 years.

We have ceremonies for men who were veterans in World War II and were involved in the D-day invasion in France. We have ceremonies for former Governors who are elected and serve their States with distinction. We even hold ceremonies for those fortunate enough to serve in the armed services for 36 years. And today we hold a day of celebration for a man who accomplished not one but all of these feats, and then was elected as a write-in candidate on his way to serving in the U.S. Congress longer than any other human being. Yet many of his past accomplishments are overlooked because of his remarkable service in his nearly 50 years in the Senate. It is a testimony to his nature and the impact he has had on American politics that we sometimes fail to mention the first part of his life.

As we honor STROM THURMOND today, I would like to thank him personally for not only his dedication to serving the people of South Carolina, but also for his leadership in the Senate and for being a friend. It has been a privilege to serve on the Armed Services Committee with Mr. THURMOND, and we all know about his hard work and commitment to our military that he has displayed over the years. Thank you also, Senator THURMOND, for your dedication to this institution that we serve in today, an institution that will bear your mark for years. But more important, thank you for your service to the United States; you certainly are a centenarian for the ages.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to join in paying tribute to Senator STROM THURMOND. Senator THURMOND will celebrate his 100th birthday on December 5 and has the most remarkable record of longevity in the Senate of any Senator in history.

I was disappointed when STROM decided not to run for reelection last year, but I can understand his views on the subject. He really has been a paragon of agility and sturdiness,

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taking steps two at a time coming up to the Senate Chamber—until very recently. STROM continues to have a very firm handshake and he continues to have an agile mind and he continues to make all the votes. So that is one of the reasons why I questioned his decision not to run for re-election. I had watched Senator THURMOND over the years, and when I was elected to the Senate in 1980, I looked forward to meeting him. But I did not have to await my arrival in the Senate to have my first contact with Senator THURMOND because one day late in November, I was sitting in my den and the phone rang. There was a deep southern voice: “I would like to speak to Senator Specter.”

I said, “This is he.”

He said, “This is Senator THURMOND.”

I said, “What a great pleasure to hear from you, Senator THURMOND.”

He said, “I called to ask if you would be willing to support me for President pro tempore.”

I said, “Senator, I thought the position of President pro tempore was automatically the senior member of the party in power, and I know that is you, sir.”

He said: “That is true, but I do not like to take anything for granted.”

I said, “Senator THURMOND, you may be assured I will support you for President pro tempore.” And I did.

I would like another chance to do that. Maybe we will have a chance to support him for President pro tempore after the November elections.

When I joined the Senate, I selected the Judiciary Committee, which is right in line with my own training and interests. Senator THURMOND, of course, was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Regrettably, when there were efforts to form a quorum, members were usually very late. I made it a point to arrive on time. When I did that the third time in a row—the chairman has to arrive on time—Senator THURMOND asked what I was doing there on time. Then he thanked me, congratulated me, and said I might even start a precedent.

In 1982 when there were two Pennsylvanians up for confirmation, Judge Mansman and Judge Caldwell, I was there to present them to the committee. Senator THURMOND was presiding as chairman. He asked them a question. He said to them, “If confirmed, do you promise to be courteous?” I thought to myself: Why would he ask the question, If you are

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confirmed, do you promise to be courteous? Not surprisingly, both nominees said yes.

Then Senator THURMOND said, "Because the more power a person has, the more courteous a person should be." I have not heard a more profound statement in my 22 years in the Senate. Not that there is a whole lot of competition for profound statements around here.

When Senator THURMOND does not appear at Judiciary Committee hearings, I ask the question. I have had many nominees comment to me after a number of years how they thought that was a very significant question. If any judge is listening now, that is the hallmark of a judge. Judges have a lot of reasons to be out of sorts with lawyers who are not prepared, or witnesses who are unresponsive, but there is enormous power in that black robe with a lifetime appointment, and Senator THURMOND had his finger right on it.

There are a lot of vignettes I could tell, but Senator Allen has come to the floor, so I will limit myself to a couple more.

When Senator Howard Baker was the majority leader, we used to have all-night sessions, a very stark contrast from now when we hardly have day sessions. One evening we had a finance bill before us. It was 1982. It was 11:45 p.m. The floor was crowded with Senators. Nobody had any appointments left at 11:45 p.m. Senator Baker stood behind that podium and said: Amendments, like mushrooms, grow overnight, so we are going to stay and finish the bill. I have consulted with the chairman—Senator Dole of the Finance Committee—and we worked through the night. There were maybe three, four roll call votes, a lot of amendments taken, a lot of amendments dropped. We walked out at 6:30 in the morning into the sunshine with a complete complex finance bill.

If we did that tonight, we would finish homeland security by morning. In any event, that is one of the occasions I went down to the restaurant, which was kept open. I made it a point to find Senator THURMOND's table and have a bowl of soup and to hear great stories about Senator THURMOND's career in Washington, DC. He talked about Lyndon Johnson as a Senator, and that young fellow, John Kennedy, who came to the Senate, about the heroes and the legends of the Senate, because he has seen them all.

One story he told, which I thought was especially interesting, was about the inaugural parade on January 20, 1949. Senator THURMOND had run for President and had carried four States and almost threw the election into the House of

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Representatives. In the parade, after President Truman was elected and Vice President Alben Barkley was elected, STROM came down with his wife riding in an open-top car, probably dressed in a cutaway. I am not sure about that. Maybe I will ask STROM to yield for a question here. When he passed the reviewing stand, he stood up and tipped his hat. Vice President Alben Barkley started to raise his hand and, as STROM told the story, Truman grabbed his hand and pulled it down and said, "Don't you wave to that S.O.B." I might be more explicit but somebody might want to have it stricken from the *Record* as being an inappropriate statement.

One more short story. In a Judiciary Committee hearing on one occasion, STROM did not want to see a quorum reached because he did not want legislation to be passed out of the committee. So he stood right outside the Judiciary Committee door over in 226. He wanted to be right there poised to go into the room in the event there was a quorum so he could obstruct whatever it was he did not want to happen.

Ralph Yarborough, a Senator from Texas, came up and grabbed hold of STROM and tried to pull him into the hearing room. STROM—I do not know exactly what the wrestling maneuver was, but Yarborough ended up on the floor in a STROM THURMOND scissor. STROM did finally agree to release Senator Yarborough with Yarborough's promise he would not go into the hearing room.

As the story goes, Yarborough went into the hearing room. STROM should never have released him. He probably would still be there if STROM had not been so generous.

Senator THURMOND has been an example in many ways as his political philosophy has advanced. He is a great advocate for African-Americans, constituents—the wall of his office ought to be memorialized and left intact. He has so many plaques and commemorative memorabilia.

It has enabled me to tell a story on the stump which has been somewhat useful both from a political and humorous point of view, and that is, when running for re-election, I say: If I am re-elected in 2004 when I am next up and decide to run again 6 years later in 2010, and decide to try again 6 years after that in 2016, and run again in 2022, and then run again in 2028, at that point, I will be younger than Senator STROM THURMOND is today.

People are always amazed at the thought of running in 2028. So they think it is not too bad to run in the year 2004

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for a fifth term. They are always very much impressed by Senator STROM THURMOND.

So, STROM, I join my colleagues in saluting you for a fabulous career and wish you 100 more years of continued good health.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, 3 score and 10 years ago our colleague, STROM THURMOND, first won elective office when he was chosen to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He has been a figure of influence in—and on behalf of—his home State ever since.

The longest-serving Senator in the history of this body, he will be retiring at the end of this Congress, and today we have the opportunity to recount our own experiences with this American legend.

Senator THURMOND had been in the Senate 26 years when I arrived in 1983, a brand-new member of the Armed Services Committee. He never treated me as the neophyte, just-learning-the-ropes newcomer that I was. From the start, I was his colleague, and he was mine. His long history of work on national defense is based on his love of this country and his own experiences on the battlefield. Somebody thought he was too old to be a paratrooper for the Normandy landing. It is part of his extraordinary resumé that he got an age exemption, and took part in the D-day invasion.

There is no one quite like him. I have appreciated his friendship from my first day here, and, with my colleagues, will feel a great pang of loss when the new Congress opens in January and he will not take his seat as a Senator from South Carolina.

I think all of us recall those lines from “Hamlet” when we think about our friend and his remarkable life. “He was a man, take him for all in all/I ensure shall not look upon his like again.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in saluting the senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, as he prepares to celebrate his 100th birthday. JAMES STROM THURMOND is not just a man who is loved by the people of South Carolina, who elected him to a remarkable eight terms to the Senate, but he is a man who is respected and admired by this body and institution in which he serves.

Others who have spoken, who are much more senior to me, have recounted his distinguished careers, stories, the elec-

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tions, the changes in our country over the years, and also the positive changes in Senator THURMOND as he has moved forward with America and the times, in making sure that all Americans have opportunities in education in order to compete and succeed in life.

I find it interesting that he was the first person in 1954 to ever be elected to a national office by a write-in vote. The people of South Carolina elected STROM THURMOND to the Senate by a write-in vote. At that time, I was not paying too much attention to politics since I was only 2 years old when he won that election.

There are a lot of stories to tell and a lot of impressions have been made in the short time I have been in the Senate. I knew I had come to a very special place when the first meeting of the Republican Senate caucus was singing “Happy Birthday” for Senator THURMOND’s 98th birthday, and I was thinking of all the stories of STROM THURMOND, this living legend. That day we also had a very rancorous debate on different positions, the policy chairman, the Senate Republican chair. There were people giving nominating speeches and seconding speeches, and it was tough to choose among friends, but we finally decided who the policy chair was and the Republican Senate chair. There were all of these contests and seconding speeches.

At the end, Leader Lott said: We also have to elect the Senate President pro tempore and, of course, that is going to be STROM THURMOND. There were no nominating speeches and no seconding speeches. Everyone rose and said “aye.”

STROM then stood up, and this was the extent of STROM’s speech: Thank you all. You are darn smart people. And that is how STROM was easily elected.

There are so many memories of STROM THURMOND in the Allen family. I remember my mother always talking about dancing with STROM THURMOND. Whenever we bring up the Senate, she says, ‘I danced with STROM THURMOND.’ She says it every time I bring up the Senate, and this was back in the 1970s. I know there are a lot of ladies’ hearts that have fluttered over the years with the wonderful privilege of dancing with STROM THURMOND.

My wife’s family, the Brown family, is from South Carolina. Of course, he is revered as a hero in South Carolina, as he is all across the country but especially in South Carolina. Any time any of that family in South Carolina had a wedding, a birthday or a birth, STROM THURMOND was there congratulating them on that wonderful event.

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I also have the privilege of being assigned to an office in the Russell building that is in the same hallway as STROM THURMOND. I see STROM as he makes it to every vote. I see him on the elevator as we go to the trolley to get to the Chamber. He is always smiling. He is always cheerful. He is always in a good mood.

This year we all were blessed with those good South Carolina peaches to make sure we are all getting a good healthy diet. I was commenting about the great peaches and I said, "Most of my staff took those peaches," and STROM said, "Well, get that boy another bag of those South Carolina peaches." So our family was able to enjoy those wonderful peaches.

Last year, we had the national D-day memorial in Bedford County, VA, which had the highest per capita loss of life in the D-day invasion. It was a wonderful event. The President was there. The Ambassador from France was there. It was a wonderful ceremony. STROM THURMOND was there. STROM THURMOND was one of those brave soldiers who obviously stormed those beaches and fortunately survived the Normandy invasion on D-day. I will say the President received a slightly bigger cheer, but every single person who was there, those thousands and thousands of people loved seeing STROM THURMOND, a true American hero, in Bedford for that celebration and dedication of the national D-day memorial.

The point is, STROM THURMOND is an inspiration to many of us for many different reasons. While we all aspire to achieve such longevity, we admire STROM THURMOND for a life lived fully and in the advancement of public service. As Senator THURMOND reaches his centenarian status later this year, on behalf of all the good people of Virginia, I offer my best wishes to him, his family, and his constituents.

There will never be another STROM THURMOND. Nevertheless, I hope and pray God will continue to bless America with people who have STROM THURMOND's cheerfulness and devotion, and I surely hope we are blessed with people of his character.

It is great to be a Senator from Virginia, but it is truly an honor to serve with Senator THURMOND. I shall always and forever cherish the memories of your smiling, twinkling eyes which reveal your happy heart. You have been a great soldier, a great Senator, and a great leader. I thank God for blessing us with people of your character.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

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Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, what is perhaps more amazing than STROM THURMOND's record length of service in the Senate is how he made it here in the first place.

STROM THURMOND was the first and only American ever elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate. The dizzying prospect of waging a write-in campaign strikes fear into any aspiring or incumbent politician. After all, getting voters to the polls is one thing. Getting voters to go the extra mile and write in a name not listed on the ballot is a wholly different beast.

So once one knows that in 1954 STROM was able to inspire a majority of South Carolina voters to write him into the Senate, and into the history books, it makes perfect sense why he also ended up as our Nation's longest-serving Senator.

Today, of course, it is STROM's record-setting tenure that has captivated American political and popular culture. Turn the page of any magazine or the dial of any radio and, eventually, you will find Americans holding up STROM as the benchmark to near immortality.

For years, Senator THURMOND has attributed his age-defying achievements to "diet, exercise, and an optimistic attitude." Well, I dug a little deeper reading old clips on the advice he has given to friends and colleagues so I could try and piece together a more specific and exhaustive answer.

After sleuthing around a bit, here is the "simple" formula I can pass along: Begin your mornings with 20 minutes of calisthenics, 50 pushups, 10 minutes of weightlifting, and 20 minutes on an exercise bike. Oh, and swim a half mile twice a week; eat half of a banana, four prunes, a handful of grapes, blueberries, peaches, egg whites, a glass of orange juice, and a glass of prune juice. Inherit good genes. Abstain from fried or fatty foods. But eat lots of chicken, fish, and all kinds of seafood. Abstain from caffeine; abstain from sugars; abstain from smoking.

But beneath all the rubble surrounding "STROM's secrets," one ingredient stands out above all others. In an editorial celebrating the Senator's 99th birthday, the *Rock Hill Herald* revealed STROM's secret to longevity as "his determination to serve South Carolina as long as he's able."

I believe that this sentiment more than the prune juice or the pushups best explains STROM's record-setting service to South Carolina, from a small-town school superintendent among the peach groves of tiny Edgefield, SC, to almost a half a century in the Senate.

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Mr. President, as I said, the year Senator THURMOND came to this body on a write-in—a most astonishing thing because no other Senator in American history has ever been elected to the Senate by a write-in—I was playing little league baseball in Augusta, GA, across the Savannah River from Senator THURMOND’s hometown of Aiken. I confess I was not following politics all that carefully at age 12, but I do remember my parents talking about Senator THURMOND’s astonishing accomplishment right across the river in South Carolina, having been elected to the Senate on a write-in ballot.

As I grew older and began to pay attention to government and politics in America, I began to realize STROM THURMOND was something quite special. When I came to the Senate in 1984, 40 years after my parents told me about Senator THURMOND winning on a write-in, I knew instantly I was in the presence of a legend, as we all have been who have had the privilege of being a Member of this body at the same time as the senior Senator from South Carolina.

There will literally never be another American like Senator THURMOND. We all know he was too old for World War II, he did not have to go, but at age 42, as Senator Allen just made reference to, Senator THURMOND was there on D-day. In fact, he was in one of those gliders the night of D-day. Last year, we had an opportunity to see “Band of Brothers” on HBO about the 101st and its experience from D-day through the end of war. I watched every segment of that. In addition to what I was viewing on the television screen, I thought mostly about our colleague and his harrowing experience of going in the night of D-day on a glider. He did crack up, and as we all know, he was able to walk away and survive the crackup and survive the war and become an American hero.

Not many of us are ever going to be legends, and almost none of us are going to be legends in our own time. The Senator from South Carolina has lived long enough to observe his own legendary status, which is a truly remarkable thing. We will never, ever, see another STROM THURMOND. He is unique in the annals of American history.

I want to say to you, Senator THURMOND, as a son of the South myself, somebody who was born in Alabama and then migrated north to Kentucky—most people think of Kentucky as south, but for us it was north—and having lived in Georgia when you were first elected on a write-in, I want to say to you that you have been an inspiration to me and an inspiration to many of us in the deep South who have been so

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proud of you and your enormous accomplishments over the years.

I extend my congratulations to Senator THURMOND on his pending birthday, reaching 100 years of age. In fact, I had the “Today” show on this morning and Willard mentioned you, Senator THURMOND. He is working up to celebrating your 100th birthday in December and, of course, finishing up your term. You have had a truly remarkable career that will never be equaled in this body. My congratulations to you and our best wishes for the future.

So, Senator, today I raise my voice—joining the chorus of so many other voices—to pay my fondest farewell to your tireless and timeless dedication to serving the families of the great Palmetto State.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I apologize. I was not able to be here this morning when the Senators expressed their words and thoughts about our wonderful colleague, STROM THURMOND, who is retiring from the Senate this year. I wanted to join in the particular tribute in saying to him and the people of South Carolina and the rest of our colleagues something we all feel. Regardless of the disagreements we may have had on substantive policy matters, STROM THURMOND is truly an American institution in many ways.

I cannot even begin to imagine the U.S. Senate without this remarkable individual in our presence. For nearly 50 years—almost a quarter of the life of this country—through 10 Presidential administrations, STROM THURMOND has been an institution in the Chamber of the Senate. Eight Senators serving today were not yet born when STROM THURMOND was first elected to the Senate in 1954.

It is not the fact that Senator THURMOND has served in the Senate longer than any other Senator in our Nation’s history that makes him unique. It has been, in my view, STROM THURMOND’s fascinating journey through life that makes him unique. His story is truly a unique American story.

In the course of his nearly 100 years, STROM THURMOND has been a teacher, judge, combat hero, Governor, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and, of course, a Senator. In more than 20 years of our serving together, I have not always agreed with Senator THURMOND, as I know many of my colleagues have not over the years, but he has always been a true embodiment of the “way of the Senate,”—always

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thoughtful, always respectful, and always deliberative. In short, he has been a great Senate colleague.

My father, Senator Thomas Dodd, served with Senator THURMOND for 12 years. I have served with him for 20. That is 32 of his almost 50 years. They, too, had their differences, but they had tremendous respect for one another and were very good friends. My family will always think of STROM THURMOND not simply as a friend but as a loyal friend to the Dodd family.

I believe that no matter what your ideology or political persuasion, one cannot look upon the life of STROM THURMOND without concluding that it is in so many ways so remarkable.

What else can you say about a man who, at the age of 42, took a leave of absence as a circuit judge in South Carolina to volunteer to parachute behind enemy lines with the 82d Airborne Division during the Normandy D-day invasion, for which he was awarded 5 battle stars for bravery in combat?

What else can you say about a man who has dedicated his entire life to public service, to the service of his country?

While never neglecting to be a stalwart in support of the State and people of his beloved South Carolina, there are literally dozens upon dozens of schools, buildings, parks, and streets in South Carolina named after their senior Senator. Senator STROM THURMOND has never failed to put America first.

He has always treated public service to America as a sacred responsibility. In this respect, STROM THURMOND is a very rare breed.

Senator THURMOND was born at the dawn of the 20th century; born to a very different time; to a very different America.

Over the past century, America has grown as a Nation. Over the past century, America has become a more free, a more fair, and a more compassionate Nation.

And, over the past century, Senator THURMOND has also grown.

Senator THURMOND once said, "People evolve. They reach a higher truth in life."

STROM THURMOND lived through the entire 20th century, a century which began with two world wars and ended with a triumph of democracy.

It was a century of enormous political and social upheaval, but it was also a century of enormous progress and enlightenment.

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STROM THURMOND was not just witness to the entire 20th century, he was a full participant.

His journey mirrored America's journey.

And now, at the dawn of a new century, STROM THURMOND is still a participant in America's journey.

In closing I would just like to tell STROM THURMOND that his lifetime of service to his country and his nearly 50 years in the U.S. Senate is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

STROM, it is an honor and a privilege working with you, and I will miss you very, very much.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, several of our colleagues made some remarks concerning our esteemed friend and colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND. I wish to join them in that effort.

STROM THURMOND, by the end of this year, will complete 48 years in the Senate—eight terms in the Senate. I will be completing four terms, and it is mind-boggling to think someone would complete eight, 48 years in the Senate. He was elected to the Senate in 1954 and has served this body with great distinction and honor during that time.

Prior to that time, he was also Governor of South Carolina. Even before that, he was one of the heroes, in my opinion, who actually helped liberate Europe going into Normandy. He actually parachuted into Normandy behind enemy lines. He earned 18 decorations for his service, including the Purple Heart.

He is an outstanding hero, American, Governor, Senator, serving 48 years in the Senate. He has had a wealth of experience.

I remember my first contact with Senator THURMOND was when he called to congratulate me upon my election in 1980 and urged me to serve on the Judiciary Committee, which I respectfully declined, but I found it was hard to turn down STROM THURMOND. He has been a very close confidant and friend.

My daughter had the privilege of working for him for a short period, and she considers that a highlight in her career.

He served both as chairman of the Armed Services Committee and also the Judiciary Committee. He served with distinction and honor. He has brought great pride to the Senate. He is the Senator's Senator, and I join my colleagues in saying that we have the greatest esteem and respect for Senator STROM THURMOND.

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Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Senator STROM THURMOND achieved more before middle age than many of us achieve in a lifetime. Born in 1902, Senator THURMOND in 1933 was already a State senator in South Carolina. In 1938, he was a State court judge. From 1942 to 1946, he served in World War II, landing on the beach in Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne Division and earning numerous decorations, medals and awards. In 1947, the year he turned 45, he was the Governor of South Carolina. In 1954, when he was elected to the Senate, he already had a full history of serving the public, especially the people of his beloved home State of South Carolina. In the Senate, Senator THURMOND has demonstrated a keen political instinct and achieved a legendary reputation for constituent service. The people of South Carolina know Senator THURMOND will treat them royally—a standard I try to emulate for my own constituents. Senator THURMOND’s imprint on the Senate is with this institution forever.

Senator THURMOND is responsible for one of the highlights of my Senate service. In 1980, soon after I was first elected to the Senate, Senator THURMOND was becoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He asked me to join the committee. I explained I wasn’t a lawyer, but he explained I didn’t need to be. Senator THURMOND promised to get me good staff to help me with the technical points of Judiciary Committee work. He delivered on that promise, and I thoroughly enjoy serving on the Judiciary Committee. I hope to continue serving on that committee as long as I’m a Member of the Senate, although of course I won’t serve as long as Senator THURMOND. I appreciate Senator THURMOND’s support of me as a freshman Senator by giving me the opportunity to join his committee. I hope I haven’t disappointed him.

As a farm State Senator, I seek like-minded Senators to support the survival of family farmers. Senator THURMOND has always supported any efforts to advance this cause. He comes from a largely agricultural State, and he understands how family farmers not only feed the world, but also make up an important part of the fabric of American life. I’m grateful to have served with Senator THURMOND over the years and to continue serving with him.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak in honor of my good friend—and legend—the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

From the moment STROM THURMOND set foot in this Chamber in 1954, he has been setting records. He was the

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only person ever elected to the Senate on a write-in vote. He set the record for the longest speech on the Senate floor, clocked at an astounding 24 hours and 18 minutes. He is the longest-serving Senator in the history of the Senate. As he approaches his 100th birthday, he is also the oldest serving Senator. Many of my colleagues will recall the momentous occasion in September 1998 when he cast his 15,000th vote in the Senate. With these and so many other accomplishments over the years, he has appropriately been referred to as “an institution within an institution.”

In 1902, the year STROM THURMOND was born, life expectancy was 51 years—and today it is 77 years. STROM continues to prove that, by any measure, he is anything but average.

He has seen so much in his life. To provide some context, let me point out that, since his birth, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii gained statehood, and 11 amendments were added to the Constitution. The technological advancements he has witnessed, from the automobile to the airplane to the Internet, literally span a century of progress. Conveniences we have come to take for granted today were not always part of STROM THURMOND’s world. Perhaps this explains why, during Judiciary Committee hearings, he has been heard asking witnesses who were too far away from the microphone to “please speak into the machine.”

The story of his remarkable political career truly could fill several volumes. It began with a win in 1928 for the Edgefield County Superintendent of Schools. Eighteen years later, he was Governor of South Carolina. STROM was even a Presidential candidate in 1948, running on the “Dixiecrat” ticket against Democrat Harry Truman.

I must admit, Mr. President, that he has come a long way in his political career, given that he originally came to the Senate as a Democrat. I am happy to say that wisdom came within a few short years when STROM saw the light and joined the Republican Party.

When I first arrived in the Senate in January 1977, he was my mentor. As my senior on the Judiciary Committee, it was STROM THURMOND who helped me find my way and learn how the committee functioned. He has not only been a respected colleague, but a personal friend, ever since.

During his tenure as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, STROM THURMOND left an indelible mark on the committee and the laws that came through it. He became known

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and respected for many fine qualities and positions—his devotion to the Constitution, his toughness on crime, his sense of fairness.

He is also famous for his incredible grip. Many of us in this Chamber have experienced STROM THURMOND holding our arm tightly as he explained a viewpoint and asked for our support. I might add that this can be a very effective approach.

STROM is also known to have a kind word or greeting for everyone who comes his way, and for being extremely good to his staff. Despite his power and influence, he has never forgotten the importance of small acts of kindness. For example, whenever he eats in the Senate dining room, he grabs two fistfuls of candy. When he returns to the floor of the Senate, he hands the candy out to the Senate pages. Unfortunately, it is usually melted into a kaleidoscope of sugar by then. I have a feeling that the pages prefer it when STROM takes them out for ice cream.

STROM THURMOND is truly a legend—someone to whom the people of South Carolina owe an enormous debt of gratitude for all his years of service. Clearly, the people of South Carolina recognize the sacrifices he has made and are grateful for all he has done for them. In fact, you cannot mention the name STROM THURMOND in South Carolina without the audience bursting into spontaneous applause. He truly is an American political icon.

Abraham Lincoln once said that, “The better part of one’s life consists of friendships.” With a friend like STROM THURMOND, this sentiment couldn’t be more true. I am a great admirer of STROM THURMOND, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. President, one final note about STROM THURMOND: he is a great patriot. I am grateful for his work with me over the years in support of a constitutional flag amendment. A decorated veteran of World War II who fought at Normandy on D-day, STROM THURMOND loves this country. Let me close by saying that this country loves him, too.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and colleague Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina for his 48 years of service to this country.

Senator THURMOND was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954, as the first person in U.S. history to be elected to a major office by a write-in ballot. As the longest-serving Senator in the Senate, STROM has been a part of a lot of firsts in our Nation’s history and he has contributed to every major

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policy issue facing this country for the last half century. He is a true legend.

STROM has been a respected authority on military issues. He served in World War II, fighting in 5 battles, including the Normandy invasion, and received 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, and the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster. In 1959, STROM attained the rank of major general. He has been a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959. His expertise in military issues has been a great benefit to our men and women in uniform.

His love for the State of South Carolina has been a guiding force in his life. He has been a coach, an educator, an attorney, a State senator, a judge, a Governor, and, most important, an impeccable leader for the people of South Carolina.

STROM has not only been a remarkable Senator, but an even better American. I know I speak for all my colleagues here in the Senate when I say that he will be missed.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great pride and honor that I rise today amongst my fellow colleagues to honor one of America's finest citizens, Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

When I look at STROM's career and all that he has accomplished throughout his life, I often find myself wondering how one man could possibly do so much in just one lifetime. STROM THURMOND truly deserves the title of Renaissance man. He has been a farmer, a teacher, a lawyer, a judge, an author, a Governor, a war veteran, a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve, a State senator, a U.S. Senator, a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, a Republican, a husband and a father.

Since 1954, when he ran and won a seat in the Senate as a write-in candidate, STROM THURMOND has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the people of South Carolina and the citizens of this great Nation, casting more than 15,000 votes in his time in the Senate.

I now ask that my fellow Members of the Senate join me in thanking and honoring our good friend and colleague for all that he has done throughout his life and throughout his tenure in the Senate. His brilliance, leadership and unmatched wit will be sorely missed by this legislative body and by the entire Nation. But we will always hold on to the many memories and stories he left behind.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. STROM THUR-

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MOND. Not only is Senator THURMOND the oldest Member ever to serve in the Senate, and the longest-serving Member, his entire life has been dedicated to service to his country. At the age of 21, in 1924, Senator THURMOND was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. At the age of 26, he was serving as the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield County, SC. From there he went on to serve as a State senator, and then as circuit judge of South Carolina, a position he left to serve his country during World War II. For his military service, he earned a total of 18 different medals, decorations, and awards. He served as the Governor of South Carolina, and while serving, he ran for President as the head of the third party, States Rights Democrats. He received 39 electoral votes, the third largest ever for an independent party candidate. Then in 1954 he was elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate, the first person ever to be elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate.

Senator THURMOND's career as a Member of the Senate has been not only long but distinguished. He served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 12 years and he served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for 6 years. In fact, he has served on the Armed Services Committee for the last 43 years, where he has been a leader in promoting a strong national defense.

So while we do well to recognize his extraordinary years of service to the Senate, it is worth remembering that Senator THURMOND is the perfect example of a true statesman, a man who has dedicated his life to serving his country in any way possible, in all branches of government, in times of war and in times of peace. Senator THURMOND has set an example not only as a great Senator, but as a great citizen of this country, and it is for that reason that we are here to pay tribute, to demonstrate our respect, and to offer our thanks.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Senator STROM THURMOND of South Carolina.

On December 5, 2002, Senator THURMOND will turn 100 years old, another amazing milestone for an indefatigable public servant. Throughout his historic years of service in the Senate, he has distinguished himself through his energy, his spirited patriotism, and his dedication to excellence. Every Member of this body counts him as a friend and as an inspiration.

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Beginning his public service career in 1923 as a teacher and athletic coach, he became the superintendent of education in Edgefield County, SC. He was elected to the State senate at the young age of 31 and later served as a circuit judge of South Carolina.

He left the judicial bench in 1942 to fight in World War II where he parachuted into Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne Division. He served in the Civil Affairs section of the First Army headquarters where he was awarded five battle stars, the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. Upon his return to South Carolina, he served as Governor before he was elected to the Senate in 1954.

STROM THURMOND's career as a Senator has been distinguished by love of his country and all the possibilities he has envisioned for it. His longevity and strength are a result of his determination to further his ideals, his commitment to personal fitness, and his devotion to serve the people of South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND's influence has been felt throughout the Senate, but it has been particularly noteworthy in his leadership on the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. In recent years, as President pro tempore, he set an example for us all with his thoughtful wit, his constancy, and his obvious love for the Senate as an institution.

Senator THURMOND is a statesman whose retirement from this Chamber will leave the Senate a diminished place. I am pleased to join with my Senate colleagues in acclaiming his lifetime of service to America.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating the senior Senator from South Carolina, our esteemed colleague and a legendary public servant, as we honor his service to America and his beloved constituents in South Carolina.

When the 107th Congress adjourns sine die later this year, it will end another chapter in the life and legendary public service of Senator THURMOND. For almost 48 years, STROM THURMOND has been an important person in the life of the Senate. Indeed, December 24, 2002, will mark the 48th anniversary of Senator THURMOND's arrival in the Senate after his election as a write-in candidate, a feat that itself is historic and unprecedented. December 5, 2002, also marks another marvelous milestone, Senator THURMOND's 100th

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birthday. In considering these truly remarkable events, it is humbling to recall that Senator THURMOND's service in the Senate is longer than the period of time that Hawaii has been a State.

It is even more remarkable to consider Senator THURMOND's accomplishments outside the Senate: attorney, State legislator, judge, decorated World War II hero and participant in the D-day landing, Governor of South Carolina, husband, and father.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator THURMOND during the 12 years I have been in the Senate, the last quarter of his remarkable tenure, and we serve together on the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees. As chairman emeritus of both committees, Senator THURMOND has earned a well-deserved reputation as a determined and powerful advocate for our Nation's men and women in uniform and our veterans. His commitment to improve services, benefits, and quality of life for service members and veterans and their families is unwavering.

On a personal note, our former colleague, Senator Bob Dole, Majority Leader Daschle, and others have spoken about emulating Senator THURMOND's diet and exercise regimen as a way of enjoying similar longevity. I would like to share with my colleagues one of Senator THURMOND's dietary secrets: he has a fondness for Hawaiian macadamia nuts. I can think of no better testimonial for the health benefits of macadamia nuts than the gentleman from South Carolina!

I thank our leaders for scheduling this time for the Senate to honor the remarkable life and times of a great American patriot and a gentleman of the Senate, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague from South Carolina and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

For the better part of the 20th century, STROM THURMOND devoted his life to public service—service to the people of South Carolina, service to his country in World War II, and service in the Senate.

He began his career as a teacher and coach. He became superintendent of education in Edgefield County. He landed at Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne Division, and returned home to become Governor of South Carolina.

In 1954, STROM THURMOND became the first Member of the Senate to win election as a write-in candidate. He has

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spent most of his life giving back to the people and the places that have given him so much in life.

As a U.S. Senator, no one has had a more distinguished career than STROM THURMOND. For more than 48 years, he has been a champion for our veterans. Time and time again, he has fought to strengthen their education and rehabilitation benefits and provide them with the best health care and housing.

In the last year, he continued to do more for our military. He filed legislation to ensure that disabled veterans have access to service dogs so that they can lead a more independent life. He has reached across the aisle to end the limit on Junior ROTC programs with our colleague Senator Graham from Florida.

He secured education benefits for our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. Each effort has brought more honor and dignity to the courageous men and women who give so much of themselves so that we can live in freedom.

Just as he began his career as a teacher in 1923, I know that he was so very proud to support last year's "No Child Left Behind Act." He understands that the best place to open a child's mind and heart to the opportunities that surround him or her is through education.

I want to take this moment to thank Senator THURMOND for supporting New York during this difficult year. In the wake of massive terrorist attacks, Senator THURMOND stood by the people of New York, and the people of New York are grateful for his assistance as the city rebuilds.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to honor STROM THURMOND and to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that he has done to improve the lives of the people he represents in South Carolina and every American.

We are honored for his years of service and wish him a very happy birthday.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in this tribute to Senator THURMOND and his extraordinary record of service to the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

As the longest-serving Member of the U.S. Senate in history, the Senator from South Carolina cast his first vote in January 1955—when seven of his current colleagues were not even born. His election in 1954 was an American first. Senator THURMOND was the first person ever elected to a major office as a write-in candidate.

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Senator THURMOND came to this body half a century ago as a man of humble origins with a teacher's background and a legal education given to him by his father, and he has never stopped teaching and learning.

In the years since he first came to the Senate, he has cast over 15,000 votes, and he has always stood up for his beliefs with a passionate conviction. Over the years, many of us have often disagreed with him on specific issues, but we have always had great respect for his ability and dedication.

Senator THURMOND has served our country with great dedication in the Armed Forces as well, from his early days as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1924 to his outstanding service in the 82d Airborne during World War II. He volunteered for service immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and piloted a glider onto the beaches at Normandy in 1944, earning five battle stars and numerous other medals for his courage in combat.

I have had the honor to serve for many years with Senator THURMOND on both the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and we often worked together to meet the important challenges facing our Nation.

Two decades ago, as members of the Judiciary Committee, we worked together for a period of several years to reform and improve the Federal sentencing system. Our proposal was eventually enacted as the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

Prior to the 1984 act, Federal sentencing was famously characterized by Judge Marvin Frankel as a system of "law without order." Judges had unreviewable discretion to sentence defendants to lengthy periods of incarceration—or no incarceration at all. Gross disparities in sentencing were common, even within the same Federal courthouse. Too often, those disparities were related to the race or the economic resources of the defendant.

Some thought the answer to that problem was mandatory sentencing laws. But Senator THURMOND and I developed the fairer and more effective approach of sentencing guidelines that is used today.

Senator THURMOND and I came to the issue from different perspectives, but we agreed on the goal of fair sentencing laws. It took several years of debates, but Senator THURMOND and I stood together. Our ideas prevailed, and I am proud to have worked with him on this important reform of the Nation's criminal justice system.

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We have worked together on the Armed Services Committee as well. Senator THURMOND has never forgotten the responsibility of the 82d Airborne to be America's guard, and to go "all the way" in protecting the rights of our men and women in uniform and our Nation's veterans.

From the STROM THURMOND Institute at his alma mater, Clemson University, to STROM THURMOND High School, to Interstate Highway 20, also known as STROM THURMOND Highway, the Senator from South Carolina has been honored by communities in his State and by the American people as well. I know that all of us in the Senate commend him, as he retires this year, for his long and distinguished service to the Senate and the Nation.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has been heartwarming to hear the eloquent remarks about the accomplishments and career of our distinguished colleague from South Carolina.

He has been my friend and colleague in the Senate for 24 years. It has been a high privilege and honor to work with him and to learn from his example of dedicated service to the citizens of his State.

As this session of the Senate nears an end, it is hard to imagine that it will be Senator THURMOND's last term as a U.S. Senator.

Since 1964, he has worked hard to strengthen and protect our country and defend the principles on which it was founded. He can be assured that his has been a successful and remarkable career.

I'm proud to join others today in thanking and commending him for his truly outstanding record of public service.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, born nearly a century ago, when Mark Twain was alive and Teddy Roosevelt was still President, STROM THURMOND has led a life of public service unmatched in the modern history of America. He has been a friend to all of the more than 400 Senators with whom he has served. And he will forever be a symbol of what one person can accomplish when they live life to the fullest.

STROM THURMOND has served in the Senate for all but 4 of my 50 years of age. Though that is a remarkable accomplishment in itself, we should not forget what STROM accomplished before coming to the Senate.

He was a teacher, an athletic coach, and a Superintendent of Education. He studied law under his father, Judge J. Wil-

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liam Thurmond and became a city attorney, county attorney, State senator, and eventually, a circuit court judge.

Though exempt from serving in the military, STROM, who had already been an army reservist and a commissioned second lieutenant by the age of 21, volunteered for active duty on the day we entered World War II. As a member of the 82d Airborne, he parachuted behind enemy lines on D-day and helped secure the foothold for the Allies to liberate the European continent.

For his distinguished service, STROM was awarded 5 battle stars and 18 other decorations, including the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Cross of War.

After the war, STROM returned home to South Carolina. He was elected Governor in 1946 and then ran for President of the United States as the States Rights Democratic candidate. Although Harry Truman prevailed, STROM won 4 States and 39 electoral votes. That tally still stands as the third largest independent electoral vote in U.S. history.

Despite not winning the Presidency, STROM was determined to serve in Washington. He ran for the Senate in 1954 and became the only candidate elected to Congress by a write-in vote in American history. STROM has been re-elected eight times since. Clearly the people of South Carolina value principle, character and courage in their leaders.

Though it has been more difficult in recent years for STROM to make it home to South Carolina, that has not stopped South Carolina from coming to him. And it shouldn't. For decades STROM attended every county fair, handled every constituent request, and sent a congratulatory note to every high school graduate, many of whom came to intern in his office.

It has been said that almost 70 percent of South Carolinians have met STROM THURMOND face to face.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career, STROM THURMOND has been a witness to history. As a young man, he knew people who had seen Andrew Jackson, and he campaigned for the votes of men who fought in the Civil War. He and Herbert Hoover won their first elective office in the same year, 1928.

But STROM has more than seen history; he has written it. Not only is he the oldest and longest-serving Senator, he has served with about one-fifth of the nearly 2,000 people who

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have been Members of the Senate since 1789. And he is nearly one half the age of the U.S. Constitution itself.

Like the great experiment that is American democracy, STROM THURMOND has certainly faced his trials, both politically and personally. Yet, through it all, he has always held tight to his principles, always upheld his beliefs, and always defended American values at home and abroad.

Today we say thanks to this giant of a man not only for the history he has witnessed and written, but for the service his life will inspire for generations to come. God bless our friend, our colleague, and the Senate's icon of time, the senior Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am proud to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to our friend from South Carolina, Senator STROM THURMOND, who through his 48 years of distinguished service in this body has given special meaning to the term senior Senator and left an indelible mark on the history of this great Nation.

Well before Senator STROM THURMOND celebrates his 100th birthday this year, he had become an institution within this institution. To many Americans, that is primarily because of his much-celebrated durability. But to those of us who have the privilege to work with him here in the Capitol, it is as much a measure of his inexhaustible amiability, the graciousness and decency that have come to define STROM's way, and his extraordinary dedication to the people and the country he serves.

Senator THURMOND has been such a fixture here in the Senate, it is easy to forget that he led a remarkable public life long before he came to Washington. He began his career as a farmer, teacher, and athletic coach. He was superintendent of education in his home county. He was town and county attorney. He was State senator in his great State of South Carolina. He was a judge. He served in the Second World War, and was part of the Normandy invasion with the 82d Airborne. He was Governor of South Carolina. And from that position of leadership he went on to run for President in 1948, before getting elected to the Senate for the first time in 1954.

Since then, Senator THURMOND has had the unique distinction of having been a delegate to six Democratic National Conventions and six Republican National Conventions. And he has found the time to be re-elected to the Senate an astounding eight times, serving as an esteemed member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959, and as Presi-

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dent pro tempore of the Senate from 1981 to 1986 and 1995 to 2001.

I have had the honor of serving with Senator THURMOND on the Armed Services Committee for more than a dozen of those years, and it is readily apparent why the people of South Carolina—not to mention his colleagues on both sides of the aisle—hold him in such high regard. Quite simply, every day he is happy to be helping and protecting the security of our country. Here in Washington, he has been a fierce protector of his State’s interests. And at home he has been a gentle and caring friend to his constituents, always ready to listen and willing to act on their behalf. It is a testament to that friendship and admiration that at least 20 buildings, centers, rooms, and statues in South Carolina have been named after him. And that’s not counting all the streets and roads that carry the THURMOND name.

The long list of these accomplishments would take most Americans 300 years to accumulate. Senator THURMOND has gotten them all under his belt in a mere 100. And through it all, Senator THURMOND has grown not only as a public servant and leader, but as a human being. After running for President as a States Rights candidate, he later supported the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday on behalf of his State. And today, in recognition of all his hard work for all the people of South Carolina, he is beloved throughout his State by constituents of all colors. That transformation sends a powerful message that all of us could become better Americans and better individuals—and that the United States of America, for all its blessings, can always become a better Nation.

For all this, we honor Senator THURMOND as a man of iron with a heart of gold, who has a love for his country and all that makes it exceptional, and has given not just the best years of his life but just about every year of life to make his community and his country a better place. The Senate will just not be the same without him. But today we can and should celebrate the tremendous difference he has made. So we thank him for all your service and sacrifice, and wish you a long and healthy retirement. God knows you have earned it.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, at the close of the 107th Congress, the Senate will lose a legend, a colleague who has served more than 40 years in the U.S. Senate, cast more than 15,000 votes and achieved the record as the longest-serving Member in this body.

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Perhaps most notably, our colleague, on his retirement, will have completed the lengthiest record of public service on behalf of our country. Senator THURMOND has served his community as an educator; the State as State senator, judge, and Governor; and our Nation in World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters, an Army Reservist for 36 years, a candidate for President and a U.S. Senator. This record of service spans a period of more than 80 years.

Remarks by Senator THURMOND at the time of his swearing-in ceremony for his seventh term in 1997 express succinctly his views and commitment to public service. At the time he said, "there is no more rewarding endeavor than public service, and without question, the more than 40 years I have spent in the U.S. Senate have been among the happiest of my life."

As I review Senator THURMOND's record of service, and reflect on his service in the Senate and to our country, few Americans have had the opportunity to witness and shape history as he has. Senator THURMOND's achievements in the military and on defense matters serve to underscore this point.

Senator THURMOND is a veteran who served in World War II during some of the most difficult combat of the war. He parachuted into Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne Division, earning 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, including the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Croix de Guerre during his service. Following World War II, Senator THURMOND continued his military career by serving in the Army Reserve for many years. During this period, he attained the rank of major general.

Knowing the face of battle, Senator THURMOND never forgot the importance of maintaining a strong defense and especially of taking care of our military personnel. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since 1959, and chairman of the committee for a number of years during the 1990s, Senator THURMOND made certain that the needs of our military were met. He had a special concern for junior enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers along with the welfare of their families.

This concern was clearly demonstrated by his efforts during the Senate consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. In this act, a number of provisions were incorporated that significantly improved benefits for military personnel. Were it not for Senator THUR-

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MOND's leadership on military personnel issues, our Armed Forces would unquestionably not be receiving the benefits that they should and are entitled to receive. I am pleased that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 bears his name. It is a fitting tribute to an individual who cared so much for our military personnel.

There is so much that can be said about Senator THURMOND and his many contributions to our country. He was an 82d Airborne paratrooper with a remarkable service record in World War II, a disabled veteran, an educator, and a distinguished public servant at all levels of government. Unquestionably, Senator THURMOND deserves our respect. It is my hope that younger Americans will have opportunities to learn about Senator THURMOND's career and accomplishments. I have been privileged to serve with Senator THURMOND and thank him for his service.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to honor South Carolina's senior Senator, STROM THURMOND. Senator THURMOND will turn 100 on December 5. Only 126 years before Senator THURMOND's birth, the United States of America gained its independence; 37 years before Senator THURMOND was born, the Civil War ended; and when he was a year old, the Wright brothers engineered the first flight from Kitty Hawk. Senator THURMOND made a commitment at an early age to serve the interests and needs of our Nation. His life is full of our country's history, and he has made our country his life.

Since his days as a school teacher and athletic coach in the early 1920s Senator THURMOND has continued to be a leader and serve the interests of our country well above his own. Senator THURMOND served on active duty with the U.S. Army in World War II. He was a judge at that time, so he was exempt from military service. But Senator THURMOND volunteered, and as a 41-year-old lieutenant colonel, dropped behind enemy lines on D-day in Normandy with the 82d Airborne Division. During his 36 years of distinguished military service in the Active and Reserve Army, he was awarded 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, medals and other awards.

Senator THURMOND carried his military experience to the Senate and quickly became a respected leader advocating a strong national defense for America. As a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve and a World War II combat vet, his contributions to the Armed Services Committee since 1959 have provided a strong voice on the needs of our service men and women and a first-hand perspective on the realities of

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war. Senator THURMOND has also used his experience in law and in the military through his long-standing leadership on the Veterans' Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Senator THURMOND will be missed in the Senate as a friend, a leader, and a colleague. He will be missed for his tremendous contributions to our Nation. He is history in motion. Senator THURMOND was born during the Presidency of another fearless leader, Theodore Roosevelt. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "We have got but one life here. It pays, no matter what comes after it, to try and do things, to accomplish things in this life and not merely to have a soft and pleasant time." Senator THURMOND's life is an accomplishment of great leadership and selflessness. We are all grateful for his service to our country and I am proud to have served with him.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator STROM THURMOND and honoring him for his unparalleled record of public service to this Nation.

No Senator serving today can appreciate what this body will be like when STROM THURMOND leaves at the end of this year because Senator THURMOND has served longer in this body than any other Senator in history. His 48 years in the U.S. Senate have spanned the terms of 10 Presidents of the United States, and he keeps pictures of all 10 of those Presidents on the wall in his office.

Senator THURMOND's extraordinary private and public lives span the 20th century. He began his political career in 1929 as the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield, SC. In 1933, he became a State senator. In 1946, he was elected Governor of South Carolina. In 1948, while he was still Governor, he ran for President as a State's Right Democrat and received 39 electoral votes, the third best showing by an independent candidate in U.S. history.

Senator THURMOND was elected to the Senate in 1954 as a write-in candidate, the first person ever elected to major office by this method. But true to a campaign pledge he made, he resigned in 1956 to eschew the advantages of incumbency before running successfully for re-election. In 1964, he left the Democratic Party and became a Goldwater Republican, presaging, or perhaps, ushering in, GOP gains in the South. He has served as a delegate to six Democratic and nine Republican National Conventions, a distinction I doubt anyone else shares.

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When I joined the Armed Services Committee in 1979, Senator THURMOND had already served on the committee for 20 years. His love for and dedication to the U.S. military goes back even further, though, to his commission as an Army Reserve second lieutenant of infantry in 1924 at the age of 21. He served with distinction in both the European and Pacific theaters in the Second World War, receiving numerous decorations that include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, the Army Commendation Medal, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. He landed in a glider on Normandy with the 82d Airborne Division on D-day, and went on to win five battle stars. In 1959, the year that he joined the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator THURMOND was promoted to major general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

During Senator THURMOND's tenure on the Armed Services Committee, our Armed Forces have faced challenge after challenge in Western Europe, Vietnam, the Middle East, the Caribbean basin, the Persian Gulf, the Balkans, and Afghanistan. Through it all, Senator THURMOND has persevered in his unwavering support for our men and women in uniform. His steadfast commitment to our national defense has been a rock upon which we could all rely and has helped ensure that our military has always been ready to answer the call whenever and wherever needed.

Senator THURMOND served as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the 104th and 105th Congresses. I had the honor and pleasure to serve as his ranking member in 1997 and 1998. I know from personal experience how seriously Senator THURMOND treated his duties as chairman and how hard he worked to be fair and even-handed with every member of the committee. I am sure that I speak for all of our colleagues in saying just how much we appreciate not only the commitment that Senator THURMOND brought to his duties as chairman, but also his lifelong dedication to the defense of our Nation and to the welfare of the men and women in uniform.

As the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee in 1997 and 1998, it was a great personal pleasure for me to work with Senator THURMOND in producing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 and the STROM THURMOND National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. When Senator THURMOND leaves our committee and the Senate at the end of this Congress, we will

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miss his warmth, his sense of humor, and his tremendous dedication to our national security.

In my 24 years of service with STROM THURMOND, I have never known him to be anything other than unfailingly optimistic, always courteous, and ever-thoughtful of his Senate colleagues and their families. It is a pleasure to join all of my colleagues today in honoring and thanking this remarkable man, my friend, for his lifetime of service to his country.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to join my esteemed colleagues in honoring Senator STROM THURMOND and his lifetime of service to South Carolina and our Nation.

A career like that of the senior Senator from South Carolina will almost certainly never be duplicated. Although I am the senior Senator from Maryland, my colleague, Senator THURMOND, was a practicing attorney in Edgefield, SC, when I was born in 1933. And by that time, Senator THURMOND had already begun his distinctive career in the public interest.

Born in 1902, Senator THURMOND received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University in 1923 and was a teacher and athletic coach for 6 years while serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1929, he became the Superintendent of Education in Edgefield County, SC, and soon thereafter was admitted to the State bar, studying law under his father, Judge J. William Thurmond. While practicing law, STROM began his political career as a South Carolina State senator and circuit judge. Senator THURMOND took a 4-year leave of absence from his judicial duties from 1942 to 1946 in order to serve with the 82d Airborne Division in World War II. During the war, Senator THURMOND served in the American, European and Pacific theaters; landed in Normandy on D-day; and earned 18 decorations, medals and awards including the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre, during his military service.

If STROM's service to our Nation ended in 1946 with his military career, it would have been a remarkable record of achievement. But his contributions to education, the legal profession, and the military make up just the beginning of Senator THURMOND's legacy. From 1947 to 1951, STROM was known as Governor THURMOND, as he led his beloved State of South Carolina. After his 1948 bid for the Presidency, STROM returned to the practice of law and, in 1954, launched a successful write-in candidacy for election to the U.S. Senate. Pursuant to a promise made during his write-in cam-

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paigned, STROM resigned from the Senate in April 1956 to run in the Democratic primary election. STROM was re-elected to the Senate in November 1956, resumed his duties, and has been elected to the Senate seven more times by the people of South Carolina.

Reaching the age of 100, as Senator THURMOND will do this December 5, is, alone, a remarkable achievement. The 2000 Census counted just 50,500 Americans 100 or older. And STROM is a clear example for those older Americans, and citizens of all ages, of the remarkable impact one person can have on our Nation. For most of the past 48 years, Senator THURMOND has been a fixture and a legend in the U.S. Senate. He has held positions of power, including President pro tempore, and committee chairmanships. In the Senate, he has worked with 10 Presidents: Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. He is the longest-serving Member of the Senate, and cast his 15,000th vote in September 1998.

It goes without saying that throughout his time in this distinguished body, and over the course of his lifetime, STROM has seen our Nation change in remarkable ways. His service in this great deliberative body has given the Senate a perspective and continuity unparalleled in our history. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve with him over these many years, and to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to a true public servant, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, our colleague STROM THURMOND is retiring soon, and I just wanted to say a few words on this special day of appreciation, about the gentleman from South Carolina. For that is what he is: the consummate gentleman. There is the public STROM that everyone knows—the legend—then there is the private STROM, a colleague and collaborator I have always found to be eager to help a fellow Senator and accommodate his concerns. I have felt honored to work with him on issues of national defense, foreign policy, and many other matters important to the people of the United States. The people of South Carolina, in particular, can be very proud of this war hero, who landed in Normandy as a member of the 82d Airborne Division in 1942, who was Governor of South Carolina, and who, in the Senate, distinguished himself as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

There are great STROM THURMOND stories—many told by STROM himself, of course. For my part, I like to tell the one

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about his 90th birthday celebration, held here in Washington. One reporter asked if he could expect to see STROM on his 100th birthday. And Senator THURMOND looked him up and down and said: "Well, you look fit enough to me. If you eat right and drink right, you ought to be around to see me then."

He is an inspiration. As everyone knows, he represents continuity in the U.S. Senate, being, since 1996, its oldest serving Member, and, since 1997, its longest-serving Member. Those are for the record books. But on a personal level, I can say that the Senate will not be the same without his buoyant spirit. I thank him for helping me in so many ways, and for his invaluable service to our country.

Ms. SNOWE. I rise to join with my colleagues today in honoring a man the "Almanac of American Politics" rightly calls "the most enduring figure in American politics today," the senior Senator from South Carolina, the senior Member of the Senate, and the longest-serving Senator in U.S. history, our colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND.

I think that any of us who have had the honor of serving in this body have to be in awe of Senator THURMOND's remarkable 48-year tenure. The responsibilities of this job, the demands on one's time and energy, are incredible. That Senator THURMOND has continued to engender the trust, respect, and support of the people of South Carolina through nearly 5 decades in the Senate and nearly 70 years in elective office is a testament not only to his storied dedication to his constituents, but to his seemingly inexhaustible passion for service.

Senator THURMOND is quite literally an institution within an institution. If this were baseball, he would be Babe Ruth larger than life, shattering records, and giving 100 percent effort every time at bat.

Even today, I continue to marvel that I am serving alongside this legislative legend. This is a man who was on the floor of this Chamber when I was 7 years old, a man who was nominated for President when I was 1 year old, a man who was elected Governor of South Carolina before I was born. Alive even before the Wright brothers took flight, he has seen first-hand the greatest single period of societal and technological change in the history of the world. He would have even been old enough at age 15 to read first-hand news accounts of the last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. Now that is truly amazing!

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When you think about it, Senator STROM THURMOND's political life spanned the great majority of the 20th century, while he has witnessed—during his more than 36,400 days on Earth—nearly half of the history of the United States. It is possible he received votes from Confederate war veterans in his bid for the South Carolina Legislature in 1933. This is an extraordinary figure on the landscape of our land—a living history class and inseparable from any discussion or dissection of the U.S. Senate.

Indeed, Senator THURMOND's tenure has charted many changes in our country, the world, and American society. In an inspiration to all of us, Senator THURMOND has never stopped learning, never stopped drawing lessons from experience and from others. He bears the mark that defines great men and women—the integrity and honesty of an open mind.

And there should be no mistake—as if the time Senator THURMOND has devoted to public office is not enough for several lifetimes, he has also served his country in the crucible of war, gaining an exemption from being “over age” so he could don a uniform and ultimately participate in the invasion at Normandy on D-day.

Fittingly, years later, Senator THURMOND would call upon his “trial by fire” experience as chairman of the Armed Services Committee—and I was proud to call him “Chairman” for much of my time on the committee. He has always been a champion not only of a strong national defense, but also for the men and women who provide that defense, and we owe him a debt of gratitude that simple words fail to repay.

In short, some people live long, but not fully. Senator THURMOND's life, however, is remarkable not only for its apparent disregard for such trivialities as “time,” but also—and more important—for its richness.

The great American writer Henry David Thoreau aspired to, in his plain-spoken but powerful words, “live deep and suck all the marrow out of life ...” Well, Senator STROM THURMOND personifies that dream—making Thoreau's declaration his personal credo, and leaving the rest of us to watch in admiration and wonder.

So today, as we celebrate Senator THURMOND's century of contributions, let us also celebrate the remarkable story of America's journey, for in many ways they are one and the same. STROM, your colleagues wish you all the best—and we thank you for exemplifying what it means to serve in the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

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Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay respect to a man who has served his country for the past 78 years. In the year 1924, at the age of 21, STROM THURMOND was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. Twenty years later, STROM fought valiantly during World War II and amazingly, at the age of 43, he was part of the first wave of American soldiers who landed in Normandy during D-day, parachuting behind enemy lines with the 82d Airborne Division.

For his bravery and outstanding service in combat, STROM THURMOND was awarded 18 service decorations, awards and medals. In addition to his Bronze Star Medal for valor, he received the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster and the Purple Heart. For his merit and heroism during the D-day invasion and subsequent freeing of Belgium and France, he was awarded both the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Croix de Guerre from the Belgian and French Governments, respectively.

After returning from the war, STROM THURMOND began an unprecedented career in the Senate which has been marked by a dedication to upholding the honor and dignity of the U.S. military and America's heroic veterans. He has helped to ensure that every veteran has a voice in the Halls of Congress and the opportunity and protection commensurate with the dignity and honor with which they served.

In 1959, 36 years after he had been commissioned, STROM THURMOND retired from the U.S. Army Reserve a major general of the U.S. Reserves, ending an amazing career that spanned two wars and countless acts of personal bravery and leadership. In the Senate he has brought his many years of experience to many debates and, for the last 30 years, to the Veterans' Affairs Committee where his personal commitment to veterans issues has been heralded by all.

As a veteran, I have great respect for Senator THURMOND's active role on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and his contributions to make certain in words and deeds that our veterans and their families receive the best possible care and that the U.S. Government honors the promise it makes to each soldier who wears the uniform of our country.

When STROM THURMOND retires after this year, the Senate will lose a man who has seen the arc of the 20th century with his very eyes. From fighting in some of the greatest battles in world history to bearing witness to the Great Depression and the Great Society, STROM THURMOND has seen decades pass in which America has fought in war and prospered

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in peace; decades in which America emerged from isolation to lead the world to greater freedom and liberty for all; decades in which America made certain the promises of our forebears and their quest for a more equal society.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, like all my colleagues, I rise today to honor the senior Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, who is also America's senior Senator.

Some of my earliest memories of working in the Senate with Senator THURMOND were our efforts on balancing the budget and on the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. He was the real father of this amendment, dating back to his early years in the Senate. And he fought so hard on this issue because he cared so deeply about us leaving our children a legacy of opportunity and economic security.

Senator THURMOND told me he liked being around young people because they challenged him with new ideas and kept him young.

As the ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, every day I grow to appreciate a little more what Senator THURMOND has spent a lifetime teaching us: the importance of being young at heart.

That positive attitude was evident when, a few years ago, Senator THURMOND told Reuters he was ready to be a back-up space shuttle crew member for Senator John Glenn, saying: "I always believed that if NASA really wanted to study the effects of space travel on an older American, they should have called me."

Senator THURMOND has spent almost a century, not only as a witness to history, but as a shaper of history.

Today may be STROM THURMOND Day, but if the 20th century was the American century, then it was also the STROM THURMOND century.

Senator THURMOND was 41 years young when he climbed into glider number 34 of the 82d Airborne Division in June 1944 and took part in the Normandy invasion on D-day. Fifty years later, Senator THURMOND showed perspective when he did not return to Normandy for the 50th anniversary commemorations because it was more important to attend his son's graduation.

In 1948 he ran for President against Harry Truman and Tom Dewey, as the nominee of the States Rights Democratic Party, and won 39 electoral votes.

A few years after that, he became the only Senator in American history to be elected by a write-in vote, demonstrating the devotion of South Carolina voters to STROM

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THURMOND that has never wavered, as his dedication to them has never wavered.

Lyndon Johnson said the Senate has show horses and work horses. Senator THURMOND has always been a work horse.

The experts tell us that one of the keys to a long, healthy life is being adaptable and being able to renew oneself.

Over the years, Senator THURMOND has also displayed a firm foundation of principles in his devotion to family, faith, and freedom.

Like all the great persons of history who have had staying power, Senator THURMOND has shown that great balance of having a firm moral foundation and being able to renew himself.

In fact, he is the only Member of this body to have served in the majority as a Democrat, in the minority as a Democrat, in the minority as a Republican, and in the majority as a Republican. That is adaptability.

I would also add, he has always shown unfailing graciousness to colleagues, to constituents, and to all the Senate staff.

I remember our former Senate Republican Leader, Bob Dole, being asked what his health care plan was. He replied: "I'm in favor of the THURMOND plan. I want to do what he does. I used to follow him around and if he ate a banana, I ate a banana."

All of us could not do much better than to follow the example of STROM THURMOND.

In Jack Bass and Marilyn Thompson's biography of Senator THURMOND, they quoted a woman who knew him since boyhood, who said: "He hasn't changed. Everything he's done has been done to the full. There's no halfway doings about STROM."

Today we honor our colleague, friend, and mentor, for a full career of accomplishment, for his full dedication to America and South Carolina, and for a full life, in every respect.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in recognizing the distinguished Senator from South Carolina and his years of service in the U.S. Senate.

STROM THURMOND has lived almost one century—his 100th birthday will be December 5—and he has been a Senator for almost half of that time. He is now finishing his eighth full term, making him the longest-serving Senator and the oldest Member of Congress. But Senator THURMOND

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is known—and will long be remembered—for much more than his longevity.

He has had a remarkable life and career of service to South Carolina and the United States, having served as a school superintendent, State senator, judge, and as the Palmetto State's Governor.

He entered the Nation's military when he was 21 years old and almost 20 years later volunteered to serve in World War II. He was among the brave American troops who landed in Normandy on D-day with the 82d Airborne Division, and he received numerous awards for his military service including the Bronze Star Medal for valor and a Purple Heart.

Senator THURMOND has fought no less fiercely in the political arena. He has used his gifts, experience, the power and respect he has earned and knowledge of Senate rules and procedures to advocate on behalf of his causes.

Although he has switched political parties during his career, serving first as a Democrat, running for President as a States Rights third-party candidate in 1948, and becoming a Republican in 1964, he has consistently adhered to his political ideology.

I am glad that we have an opportunity to acknowledge his contributions and to reflect on the considerable impact he has had on this body, his party, and the Nation.

Senator THURMOND is a living monument but just to make sure his service is recognized, the people of South Carolina, whom he has represented for so long, have honored him by erecting a monument for him and naming dozens of facilities for him.

Senator THURMOND will certainly be missed around here. I bid him farewell and extend my best wishes to him and his family.

THANKING THE SENATE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am surely honored by the generous remarks of my colleagues, Senator Daschle, Senator Lott, Senator Hollings, Senator Byrd, Senator Stevens, Senator Hutchison, Senator Allard, Senator Specter, Senator Allen, Senator McConnell, and all others.

It is hard for me to believe that it was about 80 years ago that I began my professional career. Beginning as a school teacher and coach, I have enjoyed public service as a County Superintendent of Education, attorney, State senator, State circuit judge, military officer, Governor, and Senator. While I have enjoyed each and every job I have held over the years,

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there is no job I have treasured more than serving as a U.S. Senator. I am proud to be a Member of this remarkable legislative body and have been blessed to observe nearly a half-century of our Nation's history from within this Chamber. I still recall the cold Christmas Eve, December 24, 1954, when I was sworn in by then-Vice-President Richard Nixon, with my late wife, Jean, by my side.

I came to Washington with one priority—to serve this Nation and my fellow South Carolinians with integrity and to the best of my ability. As I now enter the final days of my Senate career, with nearly 48 years of Senate service, I trust I have accomplished that objective.

The U.S. Senate is a special institution in many respects. The 6-year term assures that there is the stability within this Chamber which allows the Senate to be a deliberative body. The great history of this body reflects the great issues of American history. Here we have debated fundamental questions regarding the status of our Union, national territorial expansion, matters of war and peace, social and economic policies affecting every individual, and many other important matters of national interest as well as local issues.

Given the esteemed stature of this legislative body, it was with no small amount of humility that I moved from South Carolina to Washington so many years ago. Like every other man and woman who serves in the Senate, regardless of party affiliation or ideology, I desired to perform my duties with honor, to the best of my ability, and with a goal of making a difference in the lives of my fellow citizens.

As Senators, we have many roles to perform in the discharge of our duties. There is no other job in the world that allows us to have a more direct impact on improving the lives of individuals and strengthening our Nation. Through legislation, oversight, and old-fashioned constituent service, each of us is able to help the citizens of our respective States, as well as build a Nation which is stronger and better for all who live here. The work we do here benefits millions of Americans. One cannot help but take great satisfaction and pride in such important service.

As legislators we are called upon to vote on matters of local concern and national interest. I have cast over 16,300 roll call votes as a U.S. Senator. Each vote is cast considering the concerns of my constituents and what is right for our Nation. While I have missed a few votes, I am pleased that I have been present for over 95 percent of all roll call votes called by the Senate during my time in office.

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It is the floor debate and the roll call votes that citizens most closely associate with the work of the U.S. Senate. When visitors come to the Capitol, the overwhelming majority of them visit the Senate and House galleries to watch their Congress in action. I suspect that most Americans are less familiar with the committee system, but as we all know, that is where a significant amount of the work of this institution is accomplished.

During my Senate career, I have been privileged to serve on a number of committees in the U.S. Senate. As a member and chairman of the Armed Services Committee I worked hard to help build the finest military force that history has seen. On the Judiciary Committee, which I also chaired, my priorities were to safeguard the Constitution, keep the judicial branch independent and staffed with well-qualified men and women, and enact sound policies to help make our communities safe. As a founding member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee I have always fought to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Forces receive the health care and benefits they deserve. On each of the committees I served, I associated with Senators who were expert in their areas of oversight, who took their duties as committee members seriously, and who were exceptional legislators.

One of the primary duties of a Senator is to represent and assist constituents. I consider constituent service to be the most significant aspect of my Senate career. I am pleased that my Senate office has helped hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians interact with a government bureaucracy that can sometimes be confusing, unyielding, and intimidating.

As the calendar draws closer to the day that I walk out of the door of room 217 of the Russell Senate Office Building, I know that pundits and historians will examine my career and study my service and achievements. I pray that such an examination will determine that I was a man who rendered a worthy service to the Nation and to my State. I hope I am known, above all, as a man who tried to help others. I also acknowledge that whatever I have been able to achieve, through my years of Senate service, it was largely through working closely with my colleagues.

No single individual can accomplish what has to be done here without recognizing the contribution of those who served before we arrived. When I think of the South Carolinians who occupied this seat before me, I am humbled. To follow in the footsteps of such distinguished men as Pierce

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Butler, Charles Pinckney, Thomas Sumter, John C. Calhoun, Benjamin Tillman and many others, is indeed an honor.

Likewise, much of our own success is due to the colleagues with whom we serve. This is perhaps the greatest aspect of being a Senator—to associate with such fine individuals. I have been so fortunate that in my tenure here I have had the distinction of serving with so many fine men and women. I regret that it is simply impossible to identify each and every single Senator with whom I have had the pleasure of serving. As a historical note, 1,864 men and women have served as U.S. Senators. I have had the privilege to serve with 410 of these great men and women. I have had the distinct opportunity to serve, in some instances, with more than one generation from some great families. I note there are Senators serving today whose fathers were my colleagues some years ago. I am hesitant to recognize individual colleagues, for I have enjoyed my association with every Senator, but a few stand out in my mind.

My longtime colleague, Senator Hollings, has served with me for nearly 36 years. I greatly appreciate his friendship and extend my best wishes to him and his lovely wife, Peatsy.

Having served on both sides of the aisle, and having presided over the Senate as President pro tempore for a number of years, I am privileged to have friends in both parties. I enjoyed my association with distinguished Senators such as Richard Russell and Herman Talmadge. Bobby Kennedy was a special Senator, whose office was across the hall from mine. I have enjoyed a long and warmhearted association with Robert Byrd and Ted Stevens. Similarly, I have a great respect for Joe Biden, with whom I serve on the Judiciary Committee. My neighbor, Jesse Helms, is a great American and a great friend. Our current Republican leader, Trent Lott, always has a kind word and a friendly greeting. I admire the many genuine heroes who have served in the Senate—men like Dan Inouye.

In addition, much of the success of individual Senators and of the Senate is due to the leadership of the Senate. Distinguished statesmen like Mike Mansfield, Everett Dirksen, Hugh Scott, Howard Baker, Bob Dole, were great men who served this institution with dedication and concern for the well-being of the Senate and the Nation.

As a Senator I have served with ten Presidents, from Dwight D. Eisenhower to our current capable and dedicated leader, George W. Bush. Three of those—John Kennedy,

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Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon—were Senate colleagues. In the Supreme Court, 108 Justices have served since the formation of the Court in 1790. I am proud to have participated in the advice and consent in the confirmation of 20 of these outstanding men and women, as well as hundreds of judges in the lower courts.

Mr. President, today's Senate is much different than when I first arrived. At that time there were four fewer Senators, for neither Alaska nor Hawaii had been admitted to the Union. Our friends from the "Aloha" and "Last Frontier" States did not join us until 1959.

Not only were there fewer Senators, but the Senate support staff was much smaller. When I began my Senate service, I was assisted by just four attorneys and three typists. Today, I have over 35 hard-working, dedicated staff members. At the end of my first term there were about 6,000 staff serving Members and committees in the House and Senate. Today there are over 18,000 staff in personal and committee offices. An additional 13,000 staff support the Congress in various congressional support agencies.

This growth in the Senate staff, as well as the increase in the length of the Senate calendar, is a reflection of the growth of the Federal Government. Both in size and in scope, the Federal Government has enlarged its involvement in the life of Americans. I am not convinced, however, that this has always been in the best interest of our Nation.

There have been significant physical changes to the Capitol complex. When I first arrived in Washington, the Russell Senate Office Building housed all Senators, staff, committees, and other support personnel and functions. In 1958 the Dirksen Office Building was completed, and in 1982 the Hart Office Building was finished. The Capitol building itself was enlarged during my tenure with the east front extension. That extension provided additional rooms when it was completed in 1962. As I depart, a great addition is underway with the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center. I am proud of my contribution to this effort which began in earnest just a few years ago as I served as President pro tempore and co-chairman of the Capitol Preservation Commission.

Despite all the changes that have occurred in this institution and in our Nation, there is one constant—that has been the closeness of the Senate family. There are literally thousands of people who work quietly, outside the spotlight, to ensure this institution runs smoothly. I express my apprecia-

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tion to all in the Senate who contribute to the success of every Senator and make this institution a community. This family includes the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, the staff of those officers, the clerks, doorkeepers, Capitol Hill police, the staff of the Senate restaurants, the attending physician and staff, the cloakroom staff, the Chaplain's office, the Parliamentarian, the Architect of the Capitol and staff, the librarians, staff of the Congressional Research Service and the General Accounting Office, and many others too numerous to mention.

I must also pay tribute to my own staff. A strong, competent, and capable staff is absolutely necessary to any Senator. We could not keep up with all our duties, maintain contacts with constituents, or accomplish our legislative goals without our staff. Throughout my career, I have made it a point to hire the best people I could to work in my personal office and on my committees. I have enjoyed my association with literally hundreds of bright, talented and hard-working individuals. I have enjoyed watching them mature in their personal lives and grow in their professional careers. I am proud of my staff. I ask unanimous consent that a list of my current staff be inserted in the *Record*.

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

Duke Short, chief of staff and administrative assistant

Holly Richardson, executive assistant

Mark Ivany, personal assistant

Eliza Edgar, assistant to the chief of staff

Erin Goodin, receptionist

Walker Clarkson, receptionist

Press/Public Affairs

Becky Fleming, press secretary

Emily Dorroh, press assistant

Records

Les Sealy, office manager and systems administrator

David Black, assistant office manager

Projects

Bill Tuten, projects director

John Hawk, projects assistant

Kevin Smith, projects assistant

Michael Bozzelli, projects assistant

Melissa Kiracofe-Low, projects assistant

General Legislation

David Best, legislative director

Ernie Coggins, legislative assistant

James Galyean, legislative assistant

Helena Mell, legislative correspondent

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Ashley Hurt, legislative correspondent

Military Casework

Matt Martin

Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights

Scott Frick, chief counsel

Melinda Koutsoumpas, chief clerk

Armed Services

George Lauffer, military assistant

President pro tempore, emeritus

James Graham, staff assistant

THURMOND State Offices

Columbia: Warren Abernathy, State director; Jeanie Rhyne; Valerie Gaines; Lind Morris; Michelle Quinn; and Christie Humphries

Aiken: Elizabeth McFarland

Charleston: Patricia Rones-Sykes

Florence: Raleigh Ward and Kathryn Hook (volunteer).

Mr. THURMOND. Finally, I express my deepest appreciation to my entire family for their love and support, especially my children. Strom, Julie, Paul, and my beloved daughter, the late Nancy Moore, have been the joy of my life. I thank them for their sacrifices and devotion.

Mr. President, no matter which side of the aisle we occupy, regardless of the issues that may divide us, and despite any political differences we may have, all of us ran for office and fought to stay here because we want to serve and make a difference. There is no more noble calling than public service, and no more rewarding place to serve than the U.S. Senate. This is truly one of the most unique and special institutions in the world and the opportunity to serve in this body is a rare privilege and one which I think all of us value equally.

In my public service career, I have served in many different capacities and at every level of government, but none has been more meaningful or gratifying than the time I have spent as the Senator from South Carolina.

When I graduated from Clemson College in 1923, my father gave me a paper entitled "Advice" which I have always proudly displayed in my Senate office and after which I have always tried to pattern my life. The advice which my father gave me, and which I pass on to others follows:

Remember your God;

Take good care of your body and tax your nervous system as little as possible;

Obey the laws of the land;

Be strictly honest;

Associate with only the best people, morally and intellectually;

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Think three times before you act once, and if you are in doubt, don't act at all;

Be prompt on your job to the minute;

Read at every spare chance and think over and try to remember what you have read;

Do not forget that "skill and integrity" are the keys to success.

Mr. President, I leave you, and my friends, with my father's universal advice and add the following:

Always respect and appreciate your tenure in the world's greatest deliberative body; do your absolute best to serve this Nation with honor and decorum; and strive to keep the U.S. Senate the proud, historic and distinguished body of government it has been since the birth of this blessed Nation.

As I close out my public service career, I again thank my constituents, my colleagues, my staff and my family. May God bless each of you, the U.S. Senate, and God bless the United States of America.

I love all of you, and especially your wives.

WEDNESDAY, *September 25, 2002*

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, in each period of history, You have blessed us with great leaders who have exemplified love for You and dedication to our country. Today we celebrate such a man. Thank You for Senator STROM THURMOND.

By Your providential care, on May 25, 1997, he became the longest-serving Senator in our Nation's history. Yet, it is not just the quantity, but also the quality of these years of service that motivate our admiration. So today we join with all Americans in thanking You for his outstanding service to the Senate, to his beloved South Carolina and to the Nation.

Thank You for the enrichment of our lives by this man. He has shown us the courage of firm convictions, the patriotism of love for this Nation, and true commitment to the Senate. We praise You for the personal ways he has inspired each of us. He is an affirmer who spurs us on with words of encouragement. Your Spirit of caring and concern for individuals shines through this remarkable man.

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Gracious God, may Senator THURMOND know of our affirmation, feel our love, and be encouraged by Your blessing. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, *September 26, 2002*

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. INOUYE. STROM THURMOND will go down in the history of our Nation as an extraordinary citizen and an extraordinary patriot.

Few people can match his record of achievements:

He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve nearly 80 years ago. In 1959, he retired as a major general after serving 36 years in reserve and active duty.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, Lieutenant Colonel THURMOND boarded an Army CG4A glider and flew behind enemy lines into Normandy.

He served as Governor of South Carolina. Later, he was a candidate for President of the United States, receiving the third-largest independent electoral vote in U.S. history.

In 1954, he was elected to the U.S. Senate as a write-in candidate. Today, he is the oldest and longest-serving Member of the Senate.

I have been privileged to know and work with Senator THURMOND for nearly 40 years. I wish to thank him for his wealth of wisdom. I will always cherish his friendship.

But Senator THURMOND is not only my colleague and friend, he is also my brother in arms. During World War II, anti-tank gunners from my regiment, the 442d Regimental Combat Team, assaulted southern France in 1944. Like Senator THURMOND, they went into battle aboard gliders without armor. Glider-borne assaults were extremely dangerous and risky; some would even say they were suicidal missions. However, they were a necessary component of the U.S. invasion and liberation of Nazi-occupied France.

Senator THURMOND demonstrated rare courage, patriotism, and leadership as gliderman of the 82d Airborne Division. Most glider descents were "controlled crashes," and that was the case when Senator THURMOND's glider landed in Normandy. Although he was injured, he managed to safely lead his men to the 82d Airborne Division headquarters at daybreak. The 82d went on to accomplish its difficult ob-

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jective of seizing and securing key positions in enemy territory.

I am pleased to report that Senator THURMOND's distinguished military service will be honored with the naming of a new section of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC. The THURMOND Wing will house an exhibit dedicated to the courageous combat gliderman of World War II.

As a Senator, STROM THURMOND has often taken positions that were not universally supported. Yet one could always be certain that his decisions were honest. He is passionate in his beliefs, and his commitment to serving his constituents has been exemplary. At the end of our service in the Congress, we, his fellow Senate Members, can only hope that we will be able to say we have served our people with the diligence and devotion that Senator THURMOND has served his people. Indeed, Senator THURMOND can leave this Chamber and say, with confidence and without hesitation, that he has faithfully served the people of South Carolina.

WEDNESDAY, *October 2, 2002*

TRIBUTE TO STROM THURMOND

Mr. GRAMM. I put a statement in the *Record* today about STROM THURMOND. I was busy trying to deal with homeland security when we had the time to speak on STROM THURMOND. But I do want to relate one story about STROM, which is in my statement in the *Record*. When I was elected, like many new Senators do, before we went into session I brought my two sons to the Senate. I guess one of them was about 8 and one of them was about 10—or maybe 10 and 12, I lose track.

Anyway, we found my desk. So I said to my sons: Do you all want to sit in my chair? By this time they had looked around at all of the desks, and they decided they didn't want to sit in my chair. They wanted to sit in Barry Goldwater's chair and STROM THURMOND's chair.

I guess at the time my feelings were a little hurt. But looking back, when I am sitting on the front porch of a nursing home somewhere and nobody remembers who I am or what I ever did, I am going to be able to say to myself: I knew and

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I served with the great STROM THURMOND. An absolutely remarkable man, not because he is 100 years old, in the Senate, but because he is forever young—not in a physical sense. My God, his physical capacities are amazing.

I remember one night, it was about 2 in the morning, we were in session. Senator Byrd was keeping us here to debate something. I was dog tired. I was talking to STROM, and he was lamenting that his brother had died because he hadn't taken care of himself and burned the candle at both ends.

I said to STROM: How old was your brother? He was 89 years old. But to STROM, that was not taking care of yourself.

The amazing thing about STROM THURMOND's eternal youth is not physical, it is mental. This is a man in his long career who could learn new lessons. This is a man who is not ashamed to say: I am not as ignorant as I used to be. This is a man who could admit to changing his mind.

We are in the only profession where people look down on you if you learn something; that somehow you are inconsistent if you thought one way one day and you acquire more information and you change your mind.

The most amazing thing about STROM THURMOND to me is that through all of his public service, from supreme court justice in South Carolina, from superintendent of schools to general in the Army on D-day. We all know the story about one of our colleagues going over with President Reagan and saying to STROM he should have been there at Normandy, and STROM said he was there. And he was there when it counted, on June 6, 1944. It is that eternal youth, that ability to learn something new, to have a new perspective and to change that makes STROM THURMOND the most remarkable person with whom I have served.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I think it is important as we see our friends depart from this body to talk about what is outstanding in our own minds relative to their contributions. One could go on at great length relative to the contributions of Senator STROM THURMOND. But one of the things outstanding in my mind is the tours that Senator THURMOND used to give when we had a social event here in the Capitol. Upon the conclusion of the event, he would offer to take at least some of the guests on a night tour of the Capitol. He would recite instances that occurred 30, 40, 50, and almost 200 years ago relative to the sacred surroundings and the old chamber where the Supreme Court originally was here in

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the Capitol, and reflect humorous stories of who sat where and what their personal traits might be.

Looking back on my 22 years in the Senate, I treasure those moments. My wife Nancy and I have often talked about them. Unfortunately, his health does not allow him to conduct those tours anymore, but for those who were fortunate enough to share a few moments of his humor on those tours, the historical references, his magnificent memory, the reference to the uniqueness of the Senate, and the outstanding highlights of the various careers of those who have come and gone made it truly a memorable experience.

TRIBUTES TO STROM THURMOND

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Senator STROM THURMOND on his remarkable tenure as a U.S. Senator.

As a history teacher, I taught my students about Senator THURMOND. As a Congressman, I always admired Senator THURMOND's leadership and his willingness to speak out for his beliefs. As a Senator, it has been an honor to serve with Senator THURMOND.

He is a true patriot, a true civil servant. He has served his country in countless ways, and in every case, he has pursued this service with vigor.

He showed his dedication to the United States by serving in the Army during World War II. Senator THURMOND originally signed up for an administrative position, but he eventually went to both the European and Pacific theaters.

He served with the storied 82d Airborne Division and landed in Normandy on D-day. His combat service earned him 18 citations, including the Bronze Star for valor, a Purple Heart, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre. He continued his military career as a major general of the U.S. Army Reserve. He also acted as national president of the Reserve Officers Association.

It is easy to forget this heroism, because it was so long ago and he has accomplished so much since then. For me, as a veteran, and as someone who lost his father in service to his country, I believe we each owe Senator THURMOND our gratitude for his courage in his military service.

Senator THURMOND was first elected to the Senate 48 years ago. It was then, in 1954, that the people of South Carolina elected Senator THURMOND by a write-in vote, the only time in history that this has ever happened.

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However, Senator THURMOND had made his mark well before he was elected to the Senate. He showed his dedication to South Carolina by serving as city and county attorney, State senator, circuit judge, and Governor.

As a former teacher, coach, and school board chairman, I believe there is no more noble public service than teaching. Between heroic military service and a half century of political service, STROM THURMOND managed to set aside time to teach future generations.

He was a teacher in South Carolina. He was also an athletic coach. He later went on to serve as the superintendent of education for Edgefield County, SC.

As a U.S. Senator, STROM THURMOND has accomplished numerous achievements. As you all may know, in 1996, Senator THURMOND became the oldest serving Senator in history. A few months later he became the longest-serving Senator in U.S. history.

In 1998 Senator THURMOND cast his 15,000th vote on the Senate floor. While these milestones are significant, it is what he did with this time that makes these records important.

Senator THURMOND well remembers the great baseball Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig. They used to call him the Iron Horse. He never missed a game. He always gave 100 percent. He was the essence of sportsmanship.

STROM THURMOND is the Iron Horse of the Senate. He is the essence of statesman, of public servant. He has given 100 percent for his entire career, and those of us who are privileged to know him draw energy and inspiration from his example.

I will always remember any time I came in early in the morning to open the Senate. It was always Senator THURMOND presiding. As President pro tempore, he did not have to do that. He could appoint someone else to do it. But that's just how STROM THURMOND is. It is part of his character.

Of course, I have always admired his dedication to his conservative values. Throughout his life Senator THURMOND was a Democrat, a Dixiecrat, and a Republican, but most important he was always a patriot.

His unflinching devotion to his country manifested itself in his service and chairmanship of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Moreover, his unflagging dedication to justice was represented by another chairmanship, that of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As a Senator who has served with Sen-

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ator THURMOND on both of these committees, I have had the privilege of seeing a great legislator in action.

As a veteran, I am thankful for all that Senator THURMOND has done, such as serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for over 30 years. As a former teacher, I commend his work with the youth of South Carolina when he was an educator. As a Senator, I admire his forthrightness and dedication to his principles. As an American, he makes me proud.

Senator THURMOND, thank you for your many years of devotion to this country and the ideals that make it strong.

Mr. GRAMM. There are so many things you could say about STROM, but there is one thing I can say about STROM THURMOND that I am certain of and that is, someday I will proudly tell my grandchildren that I served in the U.S. Senate with STROM THURMOND. Like that happy band of brothers who fought with King Harry on St. Crispin's Day, I will tell my grandchildren how I fought with a great man, a great leader, to accomplish great deeds.

He has had a profound and lasting impact on our country. But there is something more remarkable. He is eternally young. Not just in being a 100-year-old Senator, but young in the ability to adopt new ideas, to change as circumstances change, and in the process to grow, even during the longest tenure in the Senate in history. I love STROM THURMOND. I admire him, and for my whole life, I will be proud that I was able to call him colleague and friend.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a colleague of ours whose career of public service may never be matched again in the history of our country. My friend STROM THURMOND sits on the other side of the aisle of the Senate Chamber, but I consider him a friend with whom I have worked closely, and I will miss him.

I remember when I was first sworn into the Senate in January 1975. Because of a tied vote in the State of New Hampshire that election year, it was a matter that did not get resolved until we actually went back and did the election over in the middle of the year. I was the most junior Member of a 99-Member Senate. We did not have the Hart Building at the time. We had the Russell Building and the Dirksen Building, and a couple of us very junior Members were in basement offices. Senator Garn of Utah, Senator Laxalt of Nevada, and I were down in the dungeons. When we were

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sworn in, I had a small reception down there. I invited Members of the Senate to come, not thinking that anybody would actually show up. There were far more noteworthy people being sworn in that day, some to begin subsequent terms, others newly elected.

I remember standing there with my mother and father, and one of the very first people to come through that door was STROM THURMOND, walking arm in arm with John Stennis of Mississippi. I remember STROM welcoming me to the Senate and telling my mother and father I seemed like a nice young man, and that I might actually have a career ahead of me.

I note that has been the routine of STROM THURMOND, to welcome new Senators from either party. He has done it with hundreds of Senators. This one remembers it well.

We often worked in the field of antitrust laws. We worked together on the National Cooperative Production Amendments of 1993, the very first high-technology bill signed by President Clinton, and to improve the protections against anticompetitive conduct in the Digital Performance Right in Sound Recordings Act.

Senator THURMOND has been a legislator. I must admit, when Senator THURMOND and I have worked together, it has raised some eyebrows, and when we have introduced legislation together, some have remarked that either it is brilliant legislation or one of us has not gotten around to reading it. But there are so many issues that we did join together. Of course, there have been occasions when he and I have sat on opposite sides of an issue, but even though there were issues about which we felt deeply, Senator THURMOND always conducted himself with the utmost integrity. He has always told the Senate how he felt. He has done so with the people of South Carolina first and foremost in his mind.

I recall him inviting me down to talk to the STROM THURMOND Institute at Clemson. He wanted to put on a debate on economic matters. He had an impartial moderator from the Heritage Foundation. When I walked in, I saw half the Republican Party of South Carolina and the Heritage Foundation. I knew I was to be the sacrificial lamb, and I was loving every minute of it. When they stated how much time would be allotted, Senator THURMOND stated he should have twice as much time as I because I spoke twice as fast as he did.

We had a very good meeting. I am sure I did not change his mind, or most of the minds of the audience, on a couple

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of issues. We walked out of there arm in arm, laughing, having a good time. I remember a couple of days later STROM coming on the floor and slapping me on the back and saying, I want to thank the King of Vermont, as he said, for going down with him.

One of the strangest meetings during that time was when we were in the Senate dining room and I introduced him to Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead. It was a meeting of cultures, very different cultures.

I share with Senator THURMOND the distinction of being from a State that has provided the Senate Judiciary Committee with three chairmen over the history of the committee. South Carolina and the State of Vermont have each had three different people who have shared the Senate Judiciary Committee. With that in mind, I have always asked what I call the STROM THURMOND question at judicial hearings. He has always reminded nominees that the people and lawyers who appear before them, whatever their position in the case, whether rich or poor, white or black, man or woman, whatever their religious or political affiliation, deserve respect and fairness. He has reminded everyone of that.

I will miss my friend STROM. He has been named President pro tempore emeritus for a very good reason.

I have learned much from the senior Senator from South Carolina. Let me share one additional aspect of Senator THURMOND's legacy to the Senate as he completes this term and retires from office. In addition to all his longevity records and legislative achievements and buildings named for him, there is something else about him I will always remember.

When we hold hearings for Federal judges—and we have held a number this year—I am always careful to carry on a tradition that Senator THURMOND started. Senator THURMOND always reminded nominees for high office that it is essential to treat others with courtesy and respect. He always reminded nominees that the people and lawyers who appeared before them, whatever their position in the case, whether rich or poor, white or black, man or woman, whatever their religious or political affiliation, they are each and every one deserving of respect and fairness.

Senator THURMOND was right to remind judges—and even Senators—of that simple rule. It is another contribution he has made to all of us that will continue to serve us well. As

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I said earlier, I will miss STROM THURMOND. He has been named President pro tempore emeritus for good reason.

THURSDAY, *October 3, 2002*

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, what can I say about STROM THURMOND?

I remember, back in 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee had a new chairman—and a new ranking member, and there were more than a few folks looking forward to the fireworks.

There was a new conservative Republican administration and a new Republican majority in the Senate. The Judiciary Committee seemed destined to be one of the main ideological battlegrounds over issues that divided us then and still divide us today.

There were more than a few Washington insiders who thought that STROM THURMOND, the seasoned veteran conservative Republican chairman who first made his mark on the national political scene as an advocate of State's rights, and Joe Biden, a Northeastern Democrat still in his thirties whose interest in politics was sparked, in large measure, by the civil rights movement, would never find an inch of common ground—not an inch.

But I knew that was not going to be the case. I had served with STROM for 8 years by then.

I knew his personal strengths and admired them greatly, regardless of our political differences, and I knew those strengths would guide us to consensus rather than gridlock.

I knew with STROM there would be comity—not enmity.

And I knew debate would be civil and constructive rather than divisive and filled with meaningless partisan rhetoric.

STROM, as usual, didn't let me down. In his 6 years as chairman—and for several years after that when we switched roles—he exceeded my expectations in every way.

There were many heated debates and contentious hearings, but we weathered them and we weathered the kinds of controversies which I've seen poison the well for other committees for years afterward.

But that kind of cooperation would not have happened if it weren't for STROM THURMOND's strength of character.

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It would not have happened if he were not, first and foremost, a gentleman—unfailingly courteous, respectful, and always dignified.

STROM's word is his bond, and each of us, even the most partisan political opponents know that, in the heat of debate, under extraordinary pressure, when the stakes are exceedingly high, STROM THURMOND will always, always keep his word.

There's an old Greek proverb that says: "The old age of an eagle is better than the youth of a sparrow."

Well, STROM THURMOND is an eagle among us.

He's been my neighbor in the Russell Building for many years now. Actually, he has most of the offices around me so I'd say he is more like the landlord.

He has more seniority in this Chamber than any U.S. Senator has ever had, and more seniority than most Americans will ever dream of having. But longevity is not the measure of a man like STROM THURMOND.

Longevity is a very small part of why we come to this floor to pay tribute to him today—a tribute he richly deserves—not only for a long life, but for a grand life, an accomplished life.

I joke about it sometimes. About the time, for example, someone came up to him and challenged his strength and his tenacity and—right there—STROM took off his coat and started doing pushups.

He has lived long and he has lived well. He has served his country well. And, more than any other public figure, he has been a constant force in this Nation for the better part of a century. Never stopping. Never giving up. Always fighting for his beliefs. Unequivocally. Unashamedly.

Whether it was his independent run for President 54 years ago, or serving the people of South Carolina as superintendent for education of Edgefield County, a city and county attorney, a State senator, a circuit court judge, Governor, or U.S. Senator—he has been truly, sincerely, honorably, one of America's most engaged, committed, and enduring public servants.

He was born back in 1902. It was not until a year later that the Wright brothers flew the first powered flight. He was 6 when Henry Ford introduced the Model T.

He received his degree from Clemson 1 year after the Yankees signed Babe Ruth.

When STROM joined the army, Calvin Coolidge was elected President.

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The Golden Gate Bridge was completed the year STROM was elected to the State senate.

Judging from that timeline, you might conclude that American legends tend to lead somewhat parallel lives.

There is no doubt that STROM THURMOND is an American legend.

He served only one term as a State senator, but in that one term most people don't realize he became an education Senator, raising teachers' pay and extending the school year.

Not to mention the fact that he sponsored South Carolina's first Rural Electrification Act.

Legend has it that when the United States declared war against Germany—STROM was a circuit court judge at the time—he literally took off his robes and volunteered for active duty that day.

He went on to earn 5 battle stars, 18 decorations, medals, and awards—the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Belgian Order of the Crown and the French Croix de Guerre.

Then, in 1947, he was elected Governor of South Carolina. He added 60,000 new private sector jobs; paved 4,100 miles of farm-to-market roads; raised teachers' pay again; started a trade and technical education system; and lowered property taxes. Not a bad record. But STROM was not done.

He was elected to this Chamber in 1954. I have been here for 30 years. I consider that to be quite a long time but STROM arrived 18 years earlier. STROM came the hard way. He was a write-in candidate.

I believe he has the distinction of being the first person to be elected to a national office that way.

It wasn't long before he became an expert on the military and an advocate for a strong national defense. He's been on the Armed Services Committee since the Eisenhower administration—1959.

He was a Democrat back then. We could use you again now, Senator.

But seriously, STROM held to his convictions about a strong military and, in 1964, said the Republican Party more closely represented his views, so he switched and, when he did, changed the future of South Carolina politics.

STROM and I may disagree on most issues, but, the fact is, it was STROM THURMOND who, one way or another, helped shape the debate on many of those issues for the better part of the last century.

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A long life is the gift of a benevolent God, but a long life with a powerful and lasting impact is the treasure of a grateful Nation.

He has had that kind of impact, and we are grateful.

His achievements, his list of awards, the many schools and buildings named for him—too many to enumerate here—are only a small tribute to a man who has done in 100 years more than most of us could accomplish in 1,000 years. And, the truth is, most of us wouldn't have the energy to even try.

The real beneficiaries of STROM THURMOND's legacy are the citizens of South Carolina.

Not since the days of John C. Calhoun has South Carolina enjoyed such memorable representation as it does today with Senator THURMOND and Senator Hollings.

From his own reflections and experiences, Calhoun wrote the famous Disquisition on Government. Some political scientists have said that essay is a key to modern American politics, a handbook for defending against the tyranny of the majority, and for building pragmatic coalitions.

In that work, Calhoun wanted to maintain the Constitutional rights of States, and the delicate relationship between Federal and State powers.

STROM THURMOND wears the mantle of that heritage.

Some years back, Senator THURMOND was quoted as saying, "The Constitution means today exactly what it meant in 1787 or it means nothing at all."

Armed with that conviction all of his life, he's been an able advocate of State's rights—the balance of power between branches of government—individual rights against government prerogatives and usurpations—private enterprise—decentralized government—and strict Constitutional interpretation.

He has not only been a successful politician who helped shape the last century, but a political philosopher with whom I do not always agree, but for whom I have the deepest respect.

Let me tell you one of my most memorable stories about STROM.

It was when we went down to the White House to try to convince President Reagan to sign a crime bill.

President Reagan was in the beginning of his second term. We sat in that Cabinet Room. We were on one side of the table and William French Smith, Ed Meese, and someone else, I can't recall whom, were on the other side.

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The President walked in and sat down between STROM and me. We told him why we thought he should sign the bill, why it was important for him to sign it.

At first, the President looked like he was thinking about it, and then, to the shock of everyone on the other side of the table, he began to look like he was being convinced—that he actually might sign it.—This is absolutely a true story.

Ed Meese stood up at that point. He looked at us and then he looked at the President and said. “Mr. President, it’s time to go.”

The President hesitated. He looked over at STROM and nodded as if he wanted to hear more. But Ed Meese said again, “Mr. President, it’s time to go.”

At that point, the President made a motion to get up, and STROM reached over and put his hand firmly on the President’s arm. He grabbed it and pulled him back down and said, “Mr. President, the one thing you got to know about Washington is that when you get as old as I am, you want to get things done, you have to compromise.”

There was Ronald Reagan, not that much younger than STROM, and there was STROM, smiling, making the President laugh. And there was Ed Meese not looking very happy as STROM talked the President into his position.

That’s a remarkable ability, and it works for STROM because people always know where his heart is. They know what his objective is.

People know that he believes what he says and says what he believes, and it’s real and it is honest.

One more personal story that I will never forget. It was during a contentious hearing on a Supreme Court Justice and a difficult time in my career. STROM and I disagreed on the nominee. And I was being blasted in the press back in 1988.

I called a meeting of the entire committee and said that if the accusations relevant to me were getting in the way of the work of the committee, I would resign as chairman.

But before I could get the last word out of my mouth, STROM stood up. “That’s ridiculous,” he said. “You stay as chairman. We all have confidence in you.”

I said, “Don’t you want me to explain?”

And STROM said, “There’s no need to explain. We know you.”

I will never forget what he said that day.

I have told this story before, but to this day, I can’t think of many other people who would, having a significant politi-

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cal advantage, not only not take it, but stand by me. That's the STROM THURMOND I know and will always admire.

I have been honored to work with him, privileged to serve with him, and proud to call him my friend. As I said earlier: A long life may well be the gift of a benevolent God, but a long life with an impact as powerful and lasting as his is the treasure of a grateful Nation.

STROM THURMOND is, without doubt, an American treasure.

The truth of the matter is that his longevity lies in his strength of character, his absolute honesty and integrity, his sense of fairness, his civility and dignity as a gentleman, and his commitment to public service.

None of these things are skills you learn. They are qualities that burn deep within leaders like STROM THURMOND. And people who know him well can sense them.

The measure of STROM THURMOND is not how long he has lived or how long he has served, but the good he has done, the record of success he has achieved, and the standard of leadership he has set.

The truth is that STROM's ongoing legacy is not about time, it is about extraordinary leadership and dedicated service to the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

And for that we say, "Thank you, STROM, and 100 more."

FRIDAY, *October 4, 2002*

SENATOR STROM THURMOND: STATESMAN, PATRIOT, LEADER

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, last week, several Senators spoke during morning business one day about our distinguished colleague from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND. Long before I came to the Senate, I myself spoke many times on television editorials commending Senator THURMOND.

He was then, and is today, even more of a genuine American patriot than when I was in Raleigh never dreaming that I would one day be a colleague to Senator THURMOND in the Senate.

Trying to capture the essence of STROM THURMOND in a relatively few words of tribute is impossible. Who can adequately describe his firm handshake, his unmistakable South Carolina cadence, or his almost superhuman capacity for

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work? How can one convey the explosive energy STROM THURMOND has carried anytime he walks into a room?

The sheer breadth of experience STROM THURMOND brings to the Senate boggles the mind: Born in 1902, he served South Carolina as State senator, as a circuit judge, as Governor and as U.S. Senator.

He voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, and more than 50 years later, voted for Ronald Reagan in 1984. He ran for President against Harry Truman in 1948 and actively participated in Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999.

When the Army told him he was too old to fight in World War II, he managed to obtain an age waiver to participate in the fighting. Then, in typical STROM THURMOND fashion, he landed with the 82d Airborne Division in Normandy on D-day. Small wonder that Fort Bragg recently honored him by christening its newest building the Major General STROM THURMOND Strategic Deployment Facility.

My simple references to STROM THURMOND's accomplishments fail to convey the historic legacy he will leave in the Senate. In 1997 STROM became the longest-serving Senator in the history of the institution, but he was the quintessential Senator long before he officially assumed that honor.

Senator THURMOND had great influence on my decision in 1972 to become a candidate for the Senate from North Carolina. He came to Raleigh many times urging me to run, and countless others to support me.

Every time he came, he told me again that if I would just run for the Senate, he would come to North Carolina frequently to campaign for me.

I decided to run because thanks to Senator THURMOND, there were many urging me to do it. And, sure enough, there he came, down from Washington to Raleigh, to help me. Again and again he came.

He was a fellow Southerner, and like me, he was a Democrat who had converted to the Republican Party. In those days, there were not a lot of Republicans in North and South Carolina, but STROM was determined to change that. And I might add, parenthetically, that no single individual, with the possible exception of Ronald Reagan, has done more to build the Republican Party in the South than STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND knows how much I admire and respect him. He knows how grateful I am for his enormously helpful trips to North Carolina where we stood together, day after

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day, night after night, urging the people of North Carolina to send Helms to Washington to help STROM THURMOND.

I am proud to say, that STROM THURMOND became one of the best friends I have ever had, and one of the finest men I have ever known. He tutored me in the intricacies of the Senate and its traditions, the personal dedication the job requires, and the genuine commitment Senators owe to their constituents.

Some years ago, STROM paid me the ultimate honor of asking me to serve as godfather to his newborn daughter. Today, Julie Thurmond Whitmer is a beautiful young woman, and the pride I take in her is exceeded only by her father.

One final note, I owe Senator THURMOND my eternal gratitude for a favor he did for me.

When I arrived in the Senate, I was searching for young people to help me with my Senate responsibilities. Senator THURMOND referred a wonderfully smart, principled, and competent young lady for my staff.

After 30 years of working with, and for, the irreplaceable Mrs. Pat Devine, I can genuinely say that her presence among the "Helms Senate family" is the finest helping hand STROM THURMOND could possibly extend to me.

Senator THURMOND watched over her protectively, and he often jokingly needled me about how I had "stolen away his redhead."

The Senate simply will never be the same without Senator THURMOND sitting tall and straight at his desk, serving the people of South Carolina and the country he loves.

He is a true friend, a great statesman, and a blessing to all who cherish the strength of statesmen like J. STROM THURMOND. He is a great patriot. He is my friend and I am his. This is a stronger and greater country because of his service and his dedication to the principles that made America great from the beginning.

TUESDAY, *October 8, 2002*

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL STROM THURMOND

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, throughout America's history, our Nation has been blessed with leaders of rare courage, character, and conviction. The Senate for almost half a cen-

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tury has been fortunate to count among its members an especially remarkable individual, Senator STROM THURMOND.

Earlier, I joined in paying tribute to Senator THURMOND's unparalleled record of public service both to his country and to his beloved citizens of South Carolina. His extraordinary record of service spans almost 80 years.

We should also recall another aspect of service to his country—Senator THURMOND's heroic and selfless record of military service.

His distinguished military career spanned more than 3 decades, commencing shortly after his 21st birthday when he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. When he retired in 1965, Senator THURMOND had risen to the rank of major general, the highest rank then available to a Reserve officer.

Inasmuch as he was serving as a South Carolina circuit judge at the outset of World War II, Mr. THURMOND was exempt from military service. But then-First Lieutenant THURMOND did not hesitate: he volunteered for duty the day the U.S. declared war against Germany, receiving a commission in the active Army and becoming a member of the First U.S. Army.

While serving in the European theater, STROM served in all battles of the First Army, fighting through France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, and Germany. A lieutenant colonel at the time of the Normandy invasion—STROM volunteered for temporary duty with the All-American Division, North Carolina's 82d Airborne, with whom he would land on the first day of the invasion.

Senator THURMOND once recounted this experience with the 82d:

On May 23, they informed us that they needed Civil Affairs officers for temporary duty with the 82d Airborne. Three of us volunteered. . . . On May 29, our units headed for an airfield near Newbury, where the three of us were briefed, given final instructions, and assigned to various gliders. We were to arrive with the 82d in France on D-day, June 6. The primary mission of the 82d and the 101st Airborne Divisions was to keep enemy reinforcements from the invasion beaches. One fifth of the American airborne soldiers were killed or wounded that day, but we succeeded in accomplishing our mission.

After we crossed the coastline of France we were subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire, and soon thereafter the tow plane cut us loose. Well, after that, we lost altitude fast. All I could see rushing toward us were fields full of fences and trees and crooked up gliders. As we came in to land, we hit a tree and tore off one of our wings. The crash threw us into another tree, and that clipped off our other wing. What was left of us kept going until it plowed into a fence. We had crash landed into an apple orchard.

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We had landed within the German lines and as soon as we touched the ground we were hit with enemy fire. I headed a reconnaissance party with personnel from my glider to locate a command post. I borrowed a jeep from an officer of the 4th Infantry Division and made a reconnaissance of other nearby gliders, trying to assist injured personnel in getting to the rendezvous. As soon as we had consolidated the group and set up a temporary camp, we started to dig foxholes. We were still being shelled, but not as heavily, along with [receiving] small arms fire. I had busted up my left knee when the glider had landed, so once we had taken care of more urgent matters, I had the medics patch me up.

With typical humility, Senator THURMOND failed to note that he was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries that day. In addition, he has been the recipient of numerous other decorations for heroism and valor, including 5 battle stars and 18 decorations, the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with V device, the Belgian Order of the Crown, and the French Croix de Guerre.

In an effort to honor all soldiers of the 82d Airborne and to acknowledge the spirit and actions of Major General STROM THURMOND during his military career, I wrote to the Secretary of the Army this past April. My request was that Fort Bragg's new 82d Airborne Division Strategic Deployment Facility—a key complex ensuring that Fort Bragg will serve as the Army's principal power projection platform for years to come—be named in honor of Major General STROM THURMOND.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of my letter of April 19, 2002, and the Department of the Army's response of June 4, 2002, be printed in the *Record*.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2002.

Hon. THOMAS E. WHITE,
Secretary of the Army, 101 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The Honorable STROM THURMOND has established an unparalleled record of public service during his almost 48 years in the United States Senate.

For the past 29 years, it has been my privilege to serve as a colleague of Senator THURMOND's. During that time, his leadership, dedication, and integrity have served as a source of personal inspiration.

As STROM will soon be retiring from the Senate, I expect there to be a number of tributes and dedications honoring various aspects of his unprecedented service to our country. I would like to ensure that his 36 years of dedicated service to the United States Army are also recognized in an appropriate manner.

As you are probably aware, STROM's remarkable record of service to the Army began in 1924 when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. An Army Reserve First Lieutenant on the eve of World War II,

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STROM volunteered for an active Army commission on the day the United States entered the war against Germany (in spite of the fact that his duties as a South Carolina circuit judge exempted him from deployment). After receiving his commission, Lt. THURMOND became a member of the First U.S. Army where he would subsequently be attached to Fort Bragg's own 82d Airborne Division for the Invasion of Normandy. It was during that operation that he sustained an injury that led to the eventual award of a Purple Heart.

As a gesture of our country's gratitude for his remarkable military and public careers and as an inspiration to the soldiers who will pass through it in defense of our nation, I request that the Army dedicate the soon to be completed 82d Airborne Division Deployment Staging Complex adjacent to Pope Air Force Base's Green Ramp as the "Major General STROM THURMOND Airborne Operations Center."

So dedicating this premier facility, designed by the Army and the Air Force to ensure that Fort Bragg and Pope AFB will function as the Army's leading Power Projection Platform for many years to come, will serve as both an appropriate tribute to STROM THURMOND's immeasurable contributions in service to our country and as an inspiration to the courageous young men and women who have committed their lives to the security of our Nation.

Mr. Secretary, I will appreciate your expeditious consideration of my proposal as I am told that the facility is expected to open in July. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or David Whitney of my staff.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

JESSE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2002.

Hon. JESSE HELMS,
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HELMS: Thank you for your recent letter to the Secretary of the Army, proposing the soon to be completed 82d Airborne Division Deployment Staging Complex at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, be named in honor of Senator STROM THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND's distinguished record of almost 48 years in the Senate, coupled with his military service and heroic actions in the line of duty during World War II, merit recognition. The package recommending that the Secretary of the Army grant an exception to policy permitting the requested naming has been prepared and is being expeditiously processed.

Thank you for your efforts to gain recognition for Senator THURMOND for his long and distinguished service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH W. WHITAKER,
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the
Army (Installations and Housing),
OASA (I&E).*

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Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, needless to say, I am grateful to have received the Army's positive response and in September a ceremony was held at the green ramp at Pope Air Force Base, adjacent to Fort Bragg. More than 200 gathered to dedicate a premier facility, to honor the 82d Airborne, and to pay tribute to Major General THURMOND's exemplary contributions as a soldier and a statesman.

On that occasion, many fine tributes were spoken. I was particularly moved, though, by the words of the Under Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Les Brownlee. As a result of his distinguished service as majority staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he served under both Senators THURMOND and Warner, Secretary Brownlee is well-known to many Senators.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Secretary Brownlee's remarks from the September 16 dedication and a copy of a document "THURMOND Military Service Record" be printed in the *Record*.

REMARKS BY HON. LES BROWNLEE, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AT DEDICATION CEREMONY, MG STROM THURMOND STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT FACILITY, POPE AFB, NC, SEPTEMBER 16, 2002

Congressman Hayes, thank you very much for your very enthusiastic remarks to our soldiers here in the 82d Airborne Division.

I hope you forgive me if I don't mention everybody's name again, since they have been mentioned a number of times already. But I did want to recognize the soldiers of the 82d Airborne Division and the airmen of the 43d Airlift Wing who are here today and who I know will enjoy the benefits of this marvelous facility.

I also wanted to recognize that not only did Congressman Hayes play a pivotal role in this facility but Senator Helms and his staff did as well, and I know that Senator Helms insisted that this facility be named for his colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND.

This year we will lose two giants out of the Senate. Senator THURMOND and Senator Helms will complete their tenure in the Senate this year but they will be sorely missed by the Nation.

I want to recognize also the great work that was done by everyone concerned in achieving this marvelous facility. It is truly a wonderful example of the jointness and cooperation that exists between the Army and the Air Force, and I want to recognize and express our appreciation to our Air Force comrades in arms.

I'm going also to pay a special tribute here to Mr. Duke Short, chief of staff at the current time to Senator THURMOND for almost 30 years. But more important, as a lieutenant he was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division and served here at Fort Bragg. Duke, please stand. Please join me in giving Duke a big round of applause for his many years of outstanding service to the Nation and to Senator THURMOND.

I spent some time last week with Senator THURMOND and remarked that I was planning to borrow Duke Short from him for a few hours so that he could participate in this dedication ceremony. In typical STROM THURMOND

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fashion he didn't blink an eye as he deadpanned "that's fine ... just bring him back."

As many of you know, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of working directly for Senator THURMOND for many years on the Senate Armed Services Committee, so I feel especially grateful for the opportunity to say a few words today. Senator THURMOND has been, and continues to be, an inspiration for us all and I am certain he is both honored and humbled by the dedication of this facility in his name.

Pay particular notice that this facility is dedicated to Major General STROM THURMOND—not Senator THURMOND. This is significant as it recognizes his military career and accomplishments. But let's also take note of the extraordinary list of important positions STROM THURMOND has held throughout his life: superintendent of education for Edgefield County, South Carolina State senator, circuit judge of South Carolina, Governor of South Carolina, candidate for President of the United States, U.S. Senator where he served as chairman of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Judiciary Committees and as President pro tempore, major general in the Army Reserve, and the oldest Senator, as well as the longest-serving senator. On December 5 this year Senator THURMOND will be 100 years old and still an active Senator. What an impressive list—what a marvelous life of public service.

In 1924 STROM THURMOND was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. During World War II, although exempt from military service due to both his age and position as a judge, he took a 4-year leave of absence from a circuit judgeship in South Carolina in order to voluntarily serve his country as a soldier. As a 43-year-old lieutenant colonel he served with the All Americans—the 82d Airborne—and landed in a glider carrying 8 other soldiers and a jeep as part of the D-day invasion in Normandy. His team reinforced parachute troops that landed earlier that day and collectively routed the German forces from the town of Ste. Mere-Eglise.

In fact, I remember discussing the glider operations with Senator THURMOND. Riding a glider into battle is high adventure, and the usual result was a crash-landing. That's in fact how Senator THURMOND landed—a terrific crash that wounded him and destroyed the jeep the glider was carrying. I asked the Senator how he got out of the glider and into the battle. He explained that the entire side of the glider was torn open. "All you had to do was to stand up and walk right out the side!"

Four days after landing in the glider Lieutenant Colonel THURMOND, armed with only a pistol, captured a German motorcycle and commandeered it for his section's use.

Subsequently, Lieutenant Colonel THURMOND participated in the liberation of Paris, the Rhine Campaign, and was among the first Americans to liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp. As a result of his actions, STROM THURMOND was awarded the Legion of Merit—the Bronze Star for valor, the Purple Heart, and five battle stars. Although the war ended in Europe, General THURMOND didn't return straight home. He volunteered for and was transferred to the Pacific Theater at the conclusion of combat in Europe and was preparing for the final assault on the Japanese island of Okinawa when the war ended.

In 1959 Senator THURMOND was promoted to the rank of major general, and retired from the Army Reserve in 1964 after 40 years of active and reserve duty. Senator THURMOND obviously knows the military, is a stalwart

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supporter of the Army, and holds dear to his heart the soldiers, particularly the paratroopers, of our Army.

At this time I have a letter from Senator THURMOND which he asked that I read to you this morning:

DEAR FRIENDS: I am sorry that I am unable to join you today as you dedicate the Major General STROM THURMOND Strategic Deployment Center.

When the Commander-in-Chief needs to project American military might quickly, he has no better option than the 82d Airborne Division. For more than the past 50 years, "The All American" has distinguished itself in military operations around the world.

I think one of my proudest distinctions as a soldier is my association with the 82d Airborne Division. A lot of things have changed over the past 55 years that makes the paratrooper an even more efficient soldier than he was in 1944. Thank goodness you do not use wooden gliders anymore. I must confess that my one day only ride in that particular aircraft is not one of my favorite memories. We can be proud that today's paratrooper is better equipped, better trained, better armed and more lethal than the airborne soldiers of any other generation or army. The military power that a regiment of 21st century paratroopers brings to bear in a fight is nothing short of awe-inspiring to our allies, and nothing less than terrifying to our enemies.

In addition to advances in weapons and tactics, there have been considerable changes in quality of life for our soldiers. Investing in the well-being of our soldiers and their families is not only a downpayment toward readiness, but it is simply the right thing to do. The Deployment Center being dedicated today will give paratroopers a modern and well-designed power projection platform.

That this facility is being named in my honor is a recognition that is truly flattering and meaningful. I am proud of this . . . and I am proud of my affiliation with the 82d Airborne Division. I am very appreciative of this distinction and I am always proud to do whatever I can to help the fine men and women of our Armed Forces.

With best wishes and kindest regards,
Sincerely,

STROM THURMOND.

In December 1996 Senator THURMOND celebrated his 94th birthday with the 82d Airborne Division. He served as honorary jumpmaster on a C-141 with the same unit he had served with in 1944. Senator THURMOND said at the time that he wanted to parachute into Normandy in 1944 but was told that he was too old. Then, with his typical style, Senator THURMOND stated "Perhaps they will finally let me jump and I'll get a pair of Airborne wings in celebration of my 94th birthday!"

Almost 5 years ago I was honored to attend Senator THURMOND's 95th birthday party. Throughout the party many friends and well-wishers all remarked to the Senator that they hoped that they could attend his 100th birthday party. The Senator looked at each of them and said, "well, if you eat right, exercise, and take care of yourself there's no reason why you can't be there."

This Strategic Deployment Facility is a tremendous testament to the spirit and tenacity of General and Senator THURMOND. STROM THURMOND admires courage, toughness, and perseverance—traits he believes, and I certainly agree with him, are found in every soldier. The soldiers who pass through this facility will be the standard-bearers of our great Nation, and will undoubtedly live up to the ideals of STROM THURMOND. The soldiers

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who train here, the soldiers who will deploy from here, the soldiers who we send in harm's way, will be better prepared to meet the challenges of today's environment because of both this facility and the lifelong dedication to the Nation rendered by Senator STROM THURMOND—a man committed to our Nation's security.

We have learned all too well the uncertainty of our world. The threats to our Nation's interests are more complex and diverse than at any time in our history. The stakes are high. The United States must safeguard our national interests and fulfill our world leadership responsibilities as well. Today, the U.S. military is protecting our Nation's interests both on the war front and on the home front, and the call may come at any time, day or night, for our valiant troopers to pass through these portals and answer the call to battle.

As our military forces use this MG STROM THURMOND Strategic Deployment Facility to protect and defend this great Nation, I am confident that all of us, military and civilian, soldier and family member, will always remember and live up to the words of our President, George W. Bush, on 14 September last year when he stated: "America is a Nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America, because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time."

A week later President Bush declared: "We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

The paratroopers who pass through this facility will never fail us. They will continue to live to the high standards of courage, valor, and selfless service demonstrated by Senator THURMOND. I know that our soldiers of today and the future will draw strength, resolve, and inspiration from this facility and its namesake, and will continue to protect the security of this great nation.

God bless each and every one of you and God Bless America!

THURMOND MILITARY SERVICE RECORD—JANUARY 9, 1924—NOVEMBER 22,
1964

STROM THURMOND began his military career when he was a Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet at Clemson Agricultural College from 1919 to 1923. He was appointed an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, at the rank of second lieutenant, on January 9, 1924, and received the rank advancement to first lieutenant on August 9, 1927. He enlisted in the Army shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 11, 1941. However, he did not actually enter the service until April 17, 1942. He performed various military duties with the military police, as captain, in the United States until October 26, 1943, when he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Division (Section G-5) of the headquarters, First Army, as major and lieutenant colonel, which was formed on October 23, 1943. He worked in the European (England, France, Belgium, and Germany) and Pacific (Philippines and Japan) theaters, and participated in the Normandy invasion with the 82d Airborne Division. THURMOND was awarded 5 battle stars, 18 decorations, medals and awards, including the Legion of Merit with oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre. He took official leave on October 19, 1945, to return to the South

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Carolina Circuit Court and was officially discharged on January 20, 1946, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He then joined the U.S. Army Reserve Corps and also became involved with the Reserve Officers Association and the Military Government Association. THURMOND served as the national vice president (July 1953–June 1954) and president (June 1954–July 1955) of the Reserve Officers Association and the president (December 1957–c. December 1958) of the Military Government Association. THURMOND retired at the rank of major general of the Army Reserves on November 22, 1964, after 40 years of service in the Armed Forces.

STROM THURMOND served with the Civil Affairs Division (Section G–5) of the First Army Headquarters during World War II. The division’s mission was to occupy, govern, and help restore devastated, war-torn countries and their economies, and usually arrived during large-scale combat operations. THURMOND studied and used various military school instruction materials, i.e., military police, legal, G–5, European geography and history, etc., in connection with his civil affairs/military government training and responsibilities. This material covered numerous directives and rules dealing with civilians, displaced persons, welfare, finance, background information on Germany and France, etc. Of interest, and further study, is a report discussing the activities of the First Army Civil Affairs Division during the D-day invasion titled, “Civil Affairs: Soldiers Become Governors,” by Harry L. Coles and Albert K. Weinberg[. It] was published by the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, Washington, DC: GPO, 1964 (SuDoc number D114.7:C49).

From 1946 to 1959 THURMOND used the civil affairs/military government training material and manuals he collected, along with prior experience and knowledge, as he taught basic and advanced officer courses to officers of the 352d and 360th Military Government Area Headquarters Units.

From 1948 to 1958 THURMOND was involved with the Reserve Officers Association and the Military Government Association in leadership capacities. In particular, THURMOND served as president of the South Carolina Department of the Reserve Officers Association and as the organization’s national president and vice president, and as the national president of the Military Government Association, mentioned above.

On January 15, 1948, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Lieutenant Colonel STROM THURMOND was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). On February 20, 1955, at Third Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, Georgia, Colonel THURMOND was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the USAR by General A.R. Bolling. And on April 25, 1960, at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, Brigadier General THURMOND was promoted to the rank of major general in the USAR by General R.V. Lee, U.S. Army Adjutant General, witnessed by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker.

Senator STROM THURMOND (D–SC), as colonel in the USAR, organized the 360th Military Government Area Headquarters (MGAH) Unit on October 1, 1950, and commanded it from that date until January 3, 1954. During the 4 years Colonel THURMOND commanded the 360th MGAH he received various commendations including a superior rating by the South Carolina Military District Headquarters, 3d Army Headquarters, and Army inspectors from Washington, DC, rated his the top reserve unit in 3d Army area.

During the last two weeks of October 1956, Senator THURMOND, as brigadier general in the USAR, accompanied the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Carter L. Burgess, on an inspection tour of the Far East. Secretary Burgess was traveling in dual capacity as Assistant Secretary of Defense and Vice

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Chairman of the Defense Advisory Committee on Professional and Technical Compensation, as a part of the Gordiner Committee. They visited Air Force and Army personnel on bases in Alaska, Japan, Okinawa, and Korea. Senator THURMOND made a special point of greeting all service men and women from South Carolina during his visits to each base.

The last two weeks of September 1957, Senator STROM THURMOND, as brigadier general in the USAR, and Congressman LeRoy H. Anderson (D-MT), as major general in the USAR, during their active tours of duty, visited Air Force and Army personnel at bases in France, Germany, and Italy. Again, Senator THURMOND made an effort to visit with service men and women from South Carolina.

From October 25 to November 7, 1959, Senator STROM THURMOND, as brigadier general in the USAR, attended a 2-week senior officer's course at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In November 1962, Senator THURMOND, as a major general in the USAR, toured U.S., German and Pakistani bases in Germany and Pakistan with other members of the Congressional Command & Operations Group consisting of Members of Congress and their congressional aids. Senator Ralph W. Yarborough (D-TX), a colonel in the USAR, was a member of the group as was Captain Harry S. Dent, Senator THURMOND's administrative assistant.

In January 1964, Senator THURMOND, as a major general in the USAR, was one of the 84 students enrolled in the Special Warfare School's Senior Officers Counterinsurgency & Special Warfare Orientation Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he viewed various demonstrations and presentations including scuba diving.

And in November 1964, prior to his retirement from the military, Major General THURMOND, again with members of the USAR Congressional Command & Operations Group, consisting of Members of Congress and their congressional aides, visited elements of the Southern European Task Force in Italy. The purpose of the visit was to become familiar with the organization and mission of the bi-national command. During the latter part of his trip with the active duty group Major General THURMOND also toured Wheelus Field in Libya.

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