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TRIBUTES TO HON. JON S. CORZINE

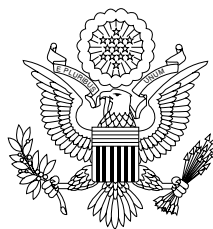
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Jon S. Corzine

U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

TRIBUTES

**IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES**



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Jon S. Corzine

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S. Doc. 109-12

Tributes Delivered in Congress

Jon S. Corzine
United States Senator
2001-2006



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*Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing
Trent Lott, Chairman*

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Biography

Senator CORZINE was born on January 1, 1947, and grew up on a small family farm in the central Illinois community of Willey's Station. His father farmed and sold insurance; his mother was a public school teacher. His interest in politics was forged in this farming community. It was there that he learned the meaning of hard work and the opportunities afforded by a strong education system.

The Senator graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1969 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. He remained in the Reserves until 1975, rising to the rank of sergeant in his infantry unit.

After his active duty in the Marine Corps, he began his career in finance, working as a portfolio analyst at the Continental Illinois National Bank in Chicago. He enrolled in the graduate business school of the University of Chicago in 1970, first attending classes at night. He received his MBA in 1973, and went to work at Bank Ohio, a regional bank in Columbus, OH.

In 1975 Senator CORZINE was recruited by Goldman Sachs, the New York investment firm, and he and his family moved to New Jersey. He was named a partner at Goldman Sachs in 1980, and became chairman and CEO in 1994. He left Goldman Sachs in May 1999 after successfully converting the investment firm from a private partnership to a public company.

During Senator CORZINE's leadership at Goldman Sachs, the business magazine *Fortune* named Goldman Sachs 1 of the 10 best companies to work for in America. The Senator was named by *Time* magazine as one of the top 50 technology executives in the country in 1997.

As the CEO at Goldman Sachs, Senator CORZINE expanded the company's community outreach and philanthropic programs, establishing a company-wide service program in which employees volunteer on a regular basis in their communities. Also in 1997, Senator CORZINE was the chairman of a Presidential commission to study capital budgeting as a

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means of increasing Federal investment in schools, technology, and infrastructure.

Senator CORZINE is a member of the board of trustees of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the University of Chicago, and New York University's Child Study Center. Throughout his career in both the private and public sectors, Senator CORZINE has developed a reputation as an energetic and thoughtful leader who works cooperatively with people from all backgrounds and ideologies. He has won effusive praise from partisans from both parties who have recognized Senator CORZINE as an independent thinker who puts the public interest first.

JON CORZINE was elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2000. During his time in the Senate, he focused on serving the State of New Jersey, applying his financial expertise to major economic and regulatory issues, and pushing a forward-looking, progressive agenda.

Senator CORZINE sought new Federal investments in New Jersey's transportation network, pursued new safeguards to protect chemical facilities against terrorist attacks, introduced legislation to improve access to education and health care, fought for stronger environmental policies, and led the effort in Congress to crack down on corporate abuse.

In a major victory, the Senate adopted Senator CORZINE's resolution declaring the need for new safeguards at the Nation's vulnerable chemical plants. He also secured Federal funding toward the construction of a second railroad tunnel underneath the Hudson River, long sought by New Jersey's congressional delegation, and won Federal support for a wide variety of community and economic development projects throughout the State. In addition, to protect the environment and the economy along New Jersey's shore, Senator CORZINE fought to prevent any oil or gas drilling off the coastline.

Senator CORZINE was a member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; the Intelligence Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and the Budget Committee. He also served on the Foreign Relations Committee and the Committee on the Environment and Public Works.

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Farewell to the Senate

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I would like to give what I think will more than likely be the last speech I give on this great floor, this historic floor, in front of this deliberative body. I am grateful for your courtesies. It is with bittersweet feeling that I make these remarks.

I have been honored beyond words to be a U.S. Senator. I think all of us know that feeling in our hearts and souls. I will be forever grateful to the 9 million New Jerseyans who put their trust in me and asked Senator Lautenberg and myself, and others before us, to represent their hopes and dreams at this time and in this place.

In the 229 years of our Republic, fewer than 2,000 men and women have come to this floor and represented the voices of the people who elected them or selected them in previous times. And like each of my predecessors and those to follow, including Congressman Robert Menendez, who will be sworn in to fill out my term, we have all been sworn to uphold and protect the Constitution.

I now look at the great Senator, Robert Byrd, who has so eloquently and so frequently represented the challenge that all of us take on as we are sworn in to be Senators to represent and carry forward those traditions of our Constitution and to serve the interests of our people. So there are really two purposes. I can only hope that the people of New Jersey will believe that has been my sole purpose here on this floor.

Now as I take my leave, I guess there will be some folks who will say some nice things about me, and they have. That is a little bit different than in the last days of the campaign. It reminds me of a Jack Benny story. He was giving a presentation and listening to the presenter praise him at length. He said, "I don't deserve this award, but I don't deserve diabetes either." I will take the compliments and the kind remarks. I very much appreciate it.

I want you to know that I cherish the friendships I have established with the men and women here. I admire the debates—I don't always agree with all of my colleagues—but I

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always respect and admire the commitments of the men and women who sit on this floor. And I add that it is on both sides of the aisle, not just my friends in the Democratic Party. Believe me, some of the remarks I have heard in the last few days are a little different than they were 6 years ago when I ran for my good friend Senator Lautenberg's open seat at that time. Ross Baker is a commentator on the national political scene, and he teaches at Rutgers. He told one reporter that the people in New Jersey don't know JON CORZINE from a cord of wood. Hopefully, we have gotten a little farther down the pike than a cord of wood.

This has been one of the most remarkable experiences anyone could ever dream of having. I came here for a clear purpose. I believe in American citizenship and the rights we have. We certainly have incredible opportunities in this Nation—I have experienced many of them—but it comes with responsibilities. To those of us whom much is given, much is required. I know that I had no chance to succeed in life without the kind of great support I have had from my community, my Nation, and my friends. That is why one comes here—to give back, to fight for fairness and the opportunity for all.

Senator Durbin knows of the little town in which I grew up. Like so many of you, I have lived the American promise. It is a little town in central Illinois called Willey's Station, with a population of less than 50. In fact, there are more cows than people there. My father was a corn and soybean farmer. He sold insurance. My mom was a schoolteacher. To have a chance to walk on the floor of the Senate and represent the interests of a great State that is really entirely different from the background from where I came represents the American promise. I believe in it, and I believe we have a responsibility to give back.

Both of my parents were good Republicans, Senator Durbin. My mom still is, by the way. I am not sure if she voted for my friend. She had big dreams, and so did my father, about how life would serve us.

I grew up at a time when Adlai Stevenson was Governor and then ran for President. Paul Douglas and Paul Simon worked the circuits in central Illinois. We had great Democratic Senators who passionately stood for economic and social justice for all Americans. We had another great Illinois Senator who worked the same circuits, Everett Dirksen. Like my parents, he was a Republican, but he also stood up for the promise of justice and equality for everyone in America.

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He believed deeply enough in those promises to use his position as leader to help pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mr. BYRD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. CORZINE. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. Lord Byron said, “Thank God I have done my duty.” May I say to the Senator from New Jersey, he has done his duty. He is a good Senator. We will miss you. I will. Thank you for standing up for what you believe. Thank you very much. Bless your heart.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, there is not much that means more than that coming from a great Senator who has served this Nation so well. Thank you.

I was talking about Senator Dirksen. He actually sat at this desk and worked at this desk. So did George Mitchell and a whole host of great Americans. It is remarkable what the history of this institution represents and the opportunities it affords. It has been a remarkable time. I think all of you know that.

In the last 5 years it seems as if we have jammed more historic moments in than you could ever imagine, with an unprecedented Presidential election in 2000, where we all sat in this Chamber and confirmed the results of that election. We had a 50–50 Senate, and everybody was trying to figure out how it worked. And then, with a shift of one vote in the caucus, that changed the control of the Senate.

That dark day on September 11 changed the lives of Americans forever. I live in Hoboken, NJ. It looks out almost directly across the river where the Twin Towers once stood. New Jersey’s heart has not fully healed from those losses. It never will. We lost 700 of our citizens. We have much to do, and it has stimulated even the debate we have on this floor today. There were kids who lost their lives on that day whom I coached in soccer when they were growing up in my previous hometown of Summit. We still have a lot to do.

Today we are challenged with the war against terrorism and debate about our constitutional freedoms, which we are talking about today—the challenge of tradeoffs in security and freedom, and protecting what it is that the American Constitution stands for. This is a great institution for making sure the rights of our people are represented.

I came to the Senate to try to use my knowledge and experience to help work on some of those problems that are most important to our Nation—health care, economic and racial

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justice, education—there is a whole series of those things. I am proud of that progressive agenda. I see so many peers and colleagues who fight so hard on those issues every day.

Mr. President, 9/11 brought us together regardless of our political backgrounds in ways we could never have imagined. I am proud of how our Nation responded and also how the leadership of this great body came together and acted, regardless of background or place, in ways I don't think any of us could have imagined. I am grateful to all of my colleagues for that leadership.

We also have great people in New Jersey. The Jersey girls, as a lot of my colleagues know, have been fighters for making sure we had the 9/11 Commission, the compensation fund, responses to human needs, as well as the strategic intelligence and homeland security needs that the American people deserve. I am proud of them. I am proud of the work we have all done because it encourages us.

We provided more than \$350 million to address New Jersey's unique security needs after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

There was an element of unity that I hope we can restore that was born in those moments because the challenges are just as great. The immediacy is a little different, but there is no reason we can't stand together.

I am proud of the opportunity to be a partner with my chairman, Senator Sarbanes, Chris Dodd, and others with regard to helping restore investor confidence that was also broken around that time where people lost their life savings, where people in the world I had come from had taken advantage of other human beings' savings, retirement securities, and their jobs. It is not a proud moment for those of us who believe in the capitalistic system.

With the kind of response that came through the Sarbanes-Oxley bill, I think we have actually made a major contribution to making sure that balance sheets and income statements are what they are, that people can have more confidence in our fundamental system. I was honored to be a part of the detail and the work that brought that back. We should protect it as we go forward.

There is more to do with our pension system. There are many things that are part of our financial structure, which is such a fundamental defining element of what America is about. We need to make sure they have the integrity that was built into the theme of the Sarbanes-Oxley reforms.

I am proud to have represented the Democratic caucus for 2 years in the push back against the privatization of Social

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Security. We had a debate on the floor where Senator Santorum, Senator Sununu, Senator Durbin, and myself, for a remarkable hour and a half, had a dialog among Senators. All of those elements of debate are still in play. We need to make sure we protect the security of our seniors. I know folks on this side of the aisle feel so strongly in winning that battle, and we should continue.

There are many others issues: affordable drug benefits, college tuition. Senator Kennedy and others have fought so hard to make sure everybody has access to the American promise. I am proud that I had a role—an amendment role, a voting role, a sponsorship role—to be a part of those agendas. We can do, and have done, a lot to protect our environment to make our quality of life better.

Together with my colleagues from New Jersey, we protected people in our State from Federal changes that would have weakened New Jersey's model prescription drug program for seniors and people with disabilities.

We lifted Federal home loan mortgage limits to help more New Jersey veterans buy their own homes.

We fought the administration's effort to reduce the availability of student loans. We held them off for a year—long enough to enable many students to stay in school instead of having to drop out.

We preserved the unspoiled beauty and critical water supply in the New Jersey Highlands.

And we stopped a plan by the administration that would have paved the way for oil and gas drilling off the New Jersey shore, because America needs a balanced energy plan that invests in conservation and alternative energy sources—not oil derricks lining our beaches.

In the highway bill that passed this year, we increased New Jersey's rate of return on the Federal highway tax dollar from 90.5 cents to 92 cents. And we paved the way for the New Jersey Trans-Hudson Midtown Corridor.

There is a lot more to do. I have some challenges that I leave for all of my colleagues. Maybe the most important one, and the one I feel most passionately about, is the ongoing challenge of man's inhumanity to man in Darfur, Sudan. We have lost 300,000 lives, give or take. People don't really know the degree to which life has been lost. But we need to make sure that we don't revisit Rwanda and other places where we have turned our backs on the killing of one man and one woman, one at a time.

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There is much to do. I am proud of the efforts that Senator Brownback and I have done to make sure this body recognized for the first time that genocide was taking place, that we had some financing to sponsor the African Union to do that which would bring an end to the rape, the killing, and the pillaging that is going on. There is much more to do. Please, please, make sure, whether it is in Darfur or other places, that this body speaks out for humanity, something I know all of my colleagues carry in their hearts. It is one of the great hopes and dreams.

I know a number of my colleagues—Senator Obama, Senator Durbin, Congressman Payne on the other side of this great Capitol, communities of faith, concerned citizens—are really committed to these issues, particularly as it relates to Darfur. But we should stand up, and we should move forward.

I have a big hope that my colleagues will take the opportunity to move on chemical plant security, which is something I have hooted and hollered about and bored people to death with over the last 4 years. We are so close but yet so far and at such risk. Whether it is rail security—and all of us have a number of other issues—it is painful for us to get such low marks in how we have addressed our homeland security.

Now I go to be a Governor of a State where the primary day-to-day practice and responsibility is to protect the lives of the people who live in these communities. I hope we will move forward in an expeditious manner to address some of those items that we all know are at great risk.

There is a lot of progress to be made in a lot of areas. I could go on. I am proud of the initiative on kids' accounts, which I hope a lot of you will get behind. We can change the financial underpinnings and knowledge of so many folks. I am proud of this idea. I know there are a number of my colleagues who are interested in the idea of giving every child who gets a Social Security number a start in life. It is implemented in Great Britain. We ought to do it here. There is a real hope it can bring about a different opportunity and potential for every person.

And I'm proud of what we've done for financial literacy. It's mind-boggling to me that we live in a capitalist society, yet our schools provide students with few, if any, tools about how to navigate the system. We push our kids out into the world and say, "You're on your own. Good luck." As more financial risk is shifted onto individuals, the consequences of

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bad financial decisions grow more dire. That's why I pushed to include basic financial literacy in the No Child Left Behind Act to teach young people the basic principles of capitalism and responsible money management.

I will look to this body to come up with answers on health care, Medicare, making sure our children are educated appropriately. The agenda is large. There are great disappointments, by the way. I close with a few of those. It is hard for me to imagine when I came here that we were running a couple hundred billion dollars in surpluses, and now we have created debt that is greater in the past 5 years than was ever created in the history of the country. I think we are really in danger of going over the precipice on the twin deficits with regard to fiscal management of this country. It seems grossly unfair that we are placing that burden on future generations the way we are.

I can tell my colleagues, as it ripples down to our State levels, they are going to hear a former Senator hooting and hollering pretty loud about how we are crowding out and crowding in responsibilities that will be very difficult.

The fact we haven't raised the minimum wage in the years I have been in the Senate is hard to imagine. There is a study out this week that if you earn the minimum wage, there is not a county in this country where someone can afford a one-bedroom apartment. It is time to move on some of these issues.

I know I am preaching to the choir, but it is time to move. We ought to ban racial profiling. There are a whole host of issues.

Since I came to the Senate in 2001, the number of uninsured Americans has swelled to more than 45 million people. We have made some important strides in improving access to health care for certain populations, but these piecemeal attempts to address our health care crisis have fallen far short of providing all Americans with quality, affordable health care. I would like to see us come together as a Nation to guarantee health care to each and every American.

Senator Lautenberg and I would like to see Bruce Springsteen honored, too. We think we ought to step up and acknowledge both the poetry and the majesty of his fights for the working men and women of this world.

I wish to thank my colleagues and the people of New Jersey for this great opportunity. I leave the Senate with incredible excitement and optimism about the future. I am looking forward to my new job in a way I cannot even get

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my mind around half the time because it seems so profoundly interesting and applies to the day-to-day lives of folks.

I have no serious regrets. I have sadness about not being able to walk onto this great floor, but I love this place and look forward to coming back and working together on those issues that matter.

I close by especially thanking my colleague, Senator Frank Lautenberg, who has just been a gem to work with, and my leaders, Tom Daschle and Harry Reid, who have been extraordinary.

Mr. President, I say to all of my colleagues, you have been great.

I mentioned Robert Byrd, a giant on this floor.

I cannot help but remember the man maybe I admired the most here, because he had the greatest courage. It was Paul Wellstone and his incredible fire and commitment to equality and justice in every possible way.

It has been some run. I want to say thanks to my children, who supported me, Jennifer, Josh, and Jeffrey; an incredible staff who have worked hard. I have a list of the names of the staff who have served the people of New Jersey with me. I do not think I will read them all, but I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the *Record*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

CURRENT DC AND NJ STAFF

Cynthia Alicea, Renee Ashe, Lucas Ballet, Vicky Beyerle, Elizabeth Brinkerhoff, Alison Brosnan, Sandra Caron George, Jason Cassese, Anthony Coley, Gwendolyn Cook, Deborah Curto, Christopher Donnelly, Karin Elkis, June Fischer, Jennifer Friedberg, Elizabeth Gilligan, Michael Goldblatt, Evan Gottesman, Heather H. Howard, Julie Kashen, Vanessa Lawson, Scott Kisch, Mada Liebman.

Jose Lozano, Jonathan Luick, Anne Milgram, Jamaal Mobley, Emma Palmer, Dave Parano, Elizabeth Ritter, Keith Roachford, John Santana, Karen Slachetka, James Souder, Ellen Stein, Brooke Stolting, Jason Tuber, Margaret J. Van Tassell, Steven Van Zandt, David Wald, Barbara A. Wallace, Marilyn Washington, Sarah Wetherald, Benjamin Wilensky.

FORMER DC AND NJ STAFF

Steven Adamske, Arlene Batista, Simon Brandler, Allyn Brooks-LaSure, Christine Buteas, Brian Chernoff, James Connell, Amanda Consovoy, Anthony Cruz, Arpan Dasgupta, Marilyn Davis, Lizette DelGado, Kevin Drennan, Erica Farrand, Enrique Fernandez-Roberts, Lauren Garsten, Jessica Goldstein, Hamlet Darius Goore.

Derrick L. Green, Robert Helland, Roger Hollingsworth, Anne Hubert, Phillip Jackman, Christopher Jones, Grace Kim, Bruce King, Jarrod R.

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Koenig, Allison Kopicki, Mark Layl, Robert Levy, Jonathan Liou, Duncan Loughridge, Jonathan Lovett, Elizabeth Mattson, Shauna McGowan, Patricia E. McGuire, Lena McMahan.

Hemen Mehta, Francis Meo, Maggie Moran, Michael Pagan, Sara Persky Foulkes, Carlos Polanco, Miguel Rodriguez, Julia Roginsky, Andrew Schwab, Thomas Shea, Amanda Steck, Lauren Sypek, Todd Tomich, Dan Utech, Wilson Bradley Woodhouse, David York, Muneera Zaineldeen.

Mr. CORZINE. I would not be worth a darn without what they have been able to do. I want to say that the staff who works the floor has been remarkable. Without Lula Davis' help and people such as Marty and other folks who guide us through how we get things done, none of us would be in the same place, as well as the Parliamentarians, the clerks, and others. I am extraordinarily grateful for their support.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Jeri Thomson who has been so great.

To all of you and to all of those who go unmentioned but not unthought of, let me say thank you. It has been a privilege of a lifetime and I look forward to serving the people of the State of New Jersey and our great country in the years ahead.

I yield the floor. (Applause.)

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TRIBUTES
TO
JON S. CORZINE

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Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 15, 2005*

ORDER TO SUBMIT TRIBUTES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators be permitted to submit tributes to Senator (Governor-elect) CORZINE for the *Record* until December 29, 2005, and that they be printed as a Senate document.

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

FRIDAY, *December 16, 2005*

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wasn't here when JON CORZINE arrived in the Senate 5 years ago. In fact, he actually took my place at the time. We met to share ideas on an agenda for New Jersey and America and I followed his progress closely. I was impressed by what I saw in JON's service in the Senate, where he has earned respect and affection. JON came from great success in the world of finance and industry, but he is able to communicate with ordinary people as well.

Some people arrive here and immediately head for the headlines. But that isn't JON CORZINE's style. JON is a committed workhorse, who works long hours with high intensity. He doesn't have a lot of flash, but he is very effective.

He came to Washington for one reason: to serve the people of New Jersey. Now, with some sorrow on my part, he is leaving us here for the same reason: to help New Jersey even more directly.

Even before the terrorist attacks on 9/11, work had been done to strengthen security at our chemical plants. JON recognized the importance of that issue long before most people, so when he arrived here in the Senate, he took the ball and ran with it. JON introduced a plan to overhaul security at chemical plants, and many people were surprised when he

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got it unanimously approved in committee. But those who know JON CORZINE weren't surprised. Even when that bill was blocked by lobbyists, JON didn't give up. He has continued to fight to make our chemical plants safer. He has raised awareness of the problem, which I will take up once again, because we are at risk across this Nation from the most horrible devastation to our people and communities.

JON CORZINE carried an agenda here that was so appropriate for New Jersey that he established a place for himself in the history of the State even before he becomes Governor.

I wasn't a Member of the Senate on that fateful day of September 11, 2001, when my State lost almost 700 people. But I knew we would have a strong advocate in JON CORZINE. And we did. JON listened to the families who had lost loved ones, and he knew they deserved answers. So he fought to establish the 9/11 Commission. I honestly don't think it ever would have come to pass without his efforts. He has been a great ally in my fight to make New Jersey and our Nation safer by directing homeland security resources to where they are most needed.

By the time I returned to the Senate almost 3 years ago, JON had earned a reputation as a hard worker who cares more about getting results than getting credit. People had learned that when you talk to JON CORZINE, he really listens. They had learned that he isn't in love with the sound of his own voice. And they had learned that when JON CORZINE does speak, he has something to say.

Three years ago our Nation was rocked by the Enron scandal, and by other incidents that undermined public confidence in the integrity of major corporations. With his background as chairman and CEO of one of the largest financial services firms in the country, JON realized the importance of restoring public trust and confidence. Even though he worked mostly behind the scenes on the Sarbanes-Oxley bill—the most far-reaching corporate reform law since the Great Depression—he was recognized by the *New York Times* as the bill's "primary architect."

Sarbanes-Oxley improved business accounting standards, helped restore investor confidence, and protected the savings of millions of Americans. JON's name isn't on that bill, but his influence is.

JON has been a great teammate for me, working for New Jersey day in and day out. He has also worked with many of you, on both sides of the aisle.

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I know how hard he has worked with Senator Brownback, for instance, to stop genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, JON offered the first Senate resolution to classify this horrific situation as “genocide.” The passage of this bipartisan resolution, coupled with other efforts to increase awareness of atrocities in Darfur, prompted then-Secretary of State Colin Powell to declare that genocide was in fact occurring. After traveling to Sudan personally, Senator CORZINE championed a successful bipartisan effort to provide \$75 million for African Union peacekeeping troops. He also introduced a bill establishing sanctions against Sudan, which the Senate passed.

JON served in the Marine Corps Reserves, and he understands the burdens on our men and women in uniform, especially the National Guard and Reserves, who have provided so many of the troops in Iraq.

After I served in World War II, I went to college under the GI bill. JON CORZINE has worked to update the GI bill for the 21st century, to meet rising education costs. He has fought for better health care for veterans and military families. And he sponsored a bill that will help 90,000 vets buy their own homes. For these reasons and many more, the Veterans of Foreign Wars gave JON their Congressional Award in 2004.

Over the past 3 years I have been proud to call JON CORZINE my friend and my colleague. Today I am equally proud to call him the next Governor of my home State of New Jersey. I will miss him here in the Senate. But I will take comfort in knowing that he will be leading New Jersey in the right direction. I hope all of my colleagues will join me today in wishing Senator CORZINE a fond farewell and great success in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I think the Senator from California had a unanimous consent request?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may, and I thank the Senator from Massachusetts, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized when the tributes to Senator CORZINE have concluded.

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

The Senator from Massachusetts.

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Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join my Senate colleagues in paying tribute to JON CORZINE, congratulating him on his election as Governor of New Jersey, and commending him for his skillful service to the people of New Jersey and to the Nation as a Senator.

For the past 5 years in the Senate, Senator CORZINE has stood up for working families, for affordable health care, for pension security, and on many other challenges. Again and again, he has demonstrated his commitment to the fundamental principle of fairness—that government should represent the interests of all Americans, regardless of race, income, or disability. It has been an honor to work with him.

JON is committed to helping others achieve the American dream. He believes very deeply that through hard work and determination, people can make better lives for themselves and their families. He believes this so deeply, because he has lived it himself.

Growing up on a small farm in Illinois, JON dedicated himself to his studies and graduated from the University of Illinois. He then joined the Marine Corps Reserve and began his impressive career in business and banking.

His talents helped him rise in the business world too—from a bond trader at Goldman Sachs to chairman and CEO of the firm.

Once his hard work and talent helped him reach the pinnacle of his profession, JON decided to give something back by helping all Americans achieve their full potential.

When he came to the Senate in 2001, he made an immediate impact, bringing the same talents and commitment in the business world to his work for New Jersey and the country.

We could all see that JON was a committed and progressive public servant, motivated by a strong sense of what's right and what's fair.

Not long after he was elected, the Nation faced a sudden challenge of massive corporate fraud involving Enron, WorldCom, and others. Families' pensions were lost. Workers' savings went up in smoke because of cooked books and insider deals.

The administration dragged its feet, but JON stood up for those workers and sent a clear message to those executives that if they defraud the American people, they must pay.

JON's compassion and invaluable business experience helped persuade Congress to pass the most sweeping corporate reforms since the Great Depression.

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He brought that same knowledge of the financial markets and securities industry and that same sense of fairness to the battle to protect Social Security. When others tried to frighten the American people into undermining the most important social safety net program the Nation has ever had, JON stood firm, and the so-called reforms were not passed.

I was especially impressed by the way Senator CORZINE rose to the challenge of 9/11 and rallied the people of New Jersey after the terrorist attacks. He was only 9 months into his term, but he stepped up and provided real leadership at a time of enormous crisis and uncertainty.

He did his best to ease the grief of the survivor's families, and he did everything he could to see that the Federal Government lived up to its responsibility to provide relief to those families.

Month after month, year after year, JON also insisted that the 9/11 Commission get answers to their tough questions, no matter how entrenched the opposition.

For 5 years he has been a driving force to improve homeland security, by making sure that our Nation's ports receive the resources they need, and by pressing the administration to protect chemical plants in New Jersey and across the Nation.

We will miss JON's leadership and eloquence here in the Senate. The people of New Jersey are fortunate to have him as their new Governor, and I know he will continue the outstanding leadership we have all come to know and admire. New Jersey is in good hands, and I wish him continuing success in the years ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my comments, Senator Stabenow be recognized, then Senator Salazar and Senator Reed be recognized. All of us seek to speak about our colleague, Senator CORZINE.

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

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, in a few weeks our good friend, JON CORZINE, will leave the Senate, where he so effectively represented New Jersey and its people over the past 5 years, to become Governor of his State. I have been privileged to serve with Senator CORZINE on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to whose work he has brought an ex-

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traordinary combination of principle, vision, intelligence, and solid common sense. I wish to say a few words today about his spectacular work on that committee. For a while I was privileged to serve as chairman of the committee, and I can tell you that no chairman could have a better fate than to have JON CORZINE as one of his members.

Prior to entering the U.S. Senate, JON CORZINE spent nearly a quarter of a century with Goldman Sachs, the New York investment bank, including 5 years as its chairman and CEO. His long- and wide-ranging experience in the financial markets made him especially well-qualified to deal with the issues that came within the Banking Committee's jurisdiction. In very short order, it was apparent that whenever JON CORZINE's turn in a committee meeting came to put questions to witnesses, even the most confident and sophisticated among them listened more intently and responded more carefully.

Senator CORZINE's contribution to the accounting reform and investor protection legislation known as Sarbanes-Oxley was invaluable. Along with Senator Dodd, who also serves on the committee, JON CORZINE was among the first Members of the Senate to call for hearings on investor protection in the wake of the collapse of Enron Corporation. Those hearings took place in February and March 2002, and Senator CORZINE, along with Senator Dodd and others on the committee, played a critical role in shaping the reform legislation enacted 4 months later. I have done it before and I wish to acknowledge again the very substantial and significant contributions JON CORZINE made in helping to shape and develop that legislation. His work was invaluable.

Consistently in the work of the committee, JON CORZINE played a critical role in efforts to strengthen protections for investors in our capital markets. *BusinessWeek*, in fact, noted that his work in this area gave him "an unusually high profile for a junior Senator."

His contributions to the work of the committee were by no means focused only on these issues. Indeed, he touched virtually every issue in the committee's jurisdiction. He has worked vigorously to expand housing opportunities and the effectiveness of Federal housing programs. He has been a forceful spokesman for full funding for critical programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development—Section 8 vouchers, housing for the elderly, improved public housing, and other efforts to assist low-income homeowners and renters. It is indicative of his commitment, and in his

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statement here in the Chamber only a few minutes ago he again was making reference to how people who work at minimum wage can't afford an apartment in county after county across the country.

He led efforts to expand coverage of FHA insurance for multifamily housing, something especially relevant in States such as New Jersey where inflated housing costs affected previous program ceilings. He pressed for energy efficiency requirements in public and assisted housing, and he has remained committed to Federal action to assure secondary mortgage market liquidity and affordable housing.

JON CORZINE was an original co-sponsor of the legislation to stop predatory lending practices and spoke forcefully in the committee's deliberation about the harsh and cynical techniques predatory lenders used to exploit vulnerable borrowers seeking mortgages and other credit. He has been one of the leaders in the Senate in the fight against Federal preemption of State consumer protection laws which are designed to protect our citizens against these practices.

He has been among the Senate's most outspoken advocates for public and private financial literacy programs to ensure that all Americans of all ages and all backgrounds have the skills to grasp the financial implications of the often complex credit card loans and other financial arrangements they are offered.

He has obtained Federal funding for financial education programs in elementary and secondary schools and was the leader in the ultimately successful efforts in 2003 to pass the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act, which incorporates many of his ideas. For his work on this issue, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy named him "Federal Financial Literacy and Education Legislator of the Year."

Throughout his tenure, Senator CORZINE has been among our most articulate advocates for public transportation, whose importance in the day-to-day lives of his constituents he knows first-hand since he represents the most densely populated State in the Nation. He fought to preserve and enhance the Federal transit program as the new surface transportation authorization legislation was developed. As a result of his efforts, New Jersey will receive nearly \$2.5 billion in transit formula funds from 2004 through 2009, a 50-percent increase over the amount the State received in the preceding legislation.

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He also succeeded in assuring priority treatment in terms of planning, funding, and execution under this new legislation for a new commuter rail tunnel under the Hudson River. This project, the Trans-Hudson Midtown Corridor, has been identified as a crucial investment for the region's mobility and security. As a result of his efforts, the National Transit Institute, which provides training, education, and clearing-house services to support public transportation, will be maintained at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Senator CORZINE was a leader in the effort to develop a Federal backstop for terrorism insurance after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Those attacks left such insurance widely unavailable and put businesses and commercial property owners at risk of future losses from terrorism without having insurance coverage. He recognized immediately this situation would create a drag on economic activity and again brought his expertise to bear in helping to develop the legislation under which the Federal Government would share the risk of future terrorism losses with the industry.

Senator CORZINE was one of the first to recognize the threat that identity theft poses both to consumers and to the integrity of the Nation's payment system. He has been a leader in the fight for safeguards on personal information, on protecting the privacy of our citizens.

Many of these things I have spoken about reflect a common theme, and that is JON CORZINE's concern for those left out and left behind. It has been a hallmark of his service in the Senate that he has sought to bring into the mainstream of American life those who have been left out of it. This concern for those, in a sense, who have been forgotten, was reflected in his work in the international arena, particularly the emphasis he placed on the situation in Darfur. Again and again, JON CORZINE took to the floor of the Senate to bring to our attention the terrible things that were happening there and to push for measures to help alleviate that situation.

Finally, let me say what has distinguished Senator CORZINE's service in the Senate over and above his many specific accomplishments is the dedication and vision and principles that underlie all his work. Before coming to the Senate, he spent much of his professional life as an investment banker. But he brought to his responsibilities certain fundamental convictions about the nature of American society, a hopeful and optimistic vision of American life that first took place as he was growing up in a small farming commu-

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nity in central Illinois. It was there he has said he learned “the meaning of hard work and the opportunities afforded by a strong education system.”

JON CORZINE went on to earn his B.A. and Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve where he served for 6 years. He attended the University of Chicago Business School at night, and not too much later he joined Goldman Sachs.

His many years in the financial markets have not dimmed JON CORZINE’s vision of America as a Nation grounded in opportunity—opportunity for a good education, for a decent job, a place to raise one’s family and someday to retire with dignity, security, and self-respect. He has dedicated his efforts to advance programs that can make this vision a reality for all his fellow Americans.

When he announced his candidacy for Governor of New Jersey last December, Senator CORZINE pledged he would “fight like crazy to make sure that there is a view that government can be a partner in lifting up the lives of the rest of America.” This is surely what he has done in the Senate.

In just 5 short years, notwithstanding his junior status in a body that sets a high premium on seniority—when I first came here I was very critical of the seniority system, but I have to admit that as time has gone by I have come to see the virtues of the system. JON CORZINE has had an impressive record of accomplishment. He has demonstrated the astute and principled leadership in the Senate that will most assuredly make him a distinguished Governor of the State of New Jersey in the service of all its people.

If I may be so bold as to address a word to the people of New Jersey, I simply say they have an extraordinary leader about to take over as the Governor of their State. I urge them to give JON CORZINE their backing and support so he can bring his vision to bear in the State of New Jersey.

When Woodrow Wilson became Governor of the State of New Jersey, he introduced a progressive agenda which became the model for the Nation. New Jersey went to the very forefront of the 50 States in addressing fairness and opportunity for its citizens and enhancing their quality of life. I say today, as we bid our dear colleague a fond farewell, JON CORZINE can provide that kind of leadership for New Jersey. He can move that State to the very forefront of the 50 States and make it a shining example of what can be accomplished when all of us pull together in order to enhance opportunity

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for each and every one. I wish him the very best as he leaves this body and in the years ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring a man I have come to know as a colleague, a dedicated public servant, and a friend.

JON CORZINE is a shining example of the American dream—of what one can accomplish with hard work and the opportunity to obtain a good education.

Growing up in rural Illinois as the son of a corn and soybean farmer and a public school teacher, JON CORZINE learned early in life the importance of family, responsibility and service to his community.

These are the values that led him to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves—and over the years, his strong values have guided his career both in private industry and public service.

JON CORZINE started his career on the ground floor of American business. And even as he worked hard and achieved extraordinary success, he never lost sight of his values.

When he served as chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, he led that company from a private partnership to a public offering. At the same time, he expanded the company's philanthropic outreach efforts to better serve people in need.

He continued that important work here in the U.S. Senate, where he used his political power to fight for people without political influence. For the last 5 years, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, seniors, students, women, children and families in New Jersey and across our Nation.

Senator CORZINE and I were sworn into the Senate on the same day—and I served with him on both the Budget Committee and the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. There we worked together to preserve funding for programs that help our Nation's most vulnerable citizens—programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, veterans health care, and education.

We also worked together to lead the fight to keep the security in Social Security.

His business expertise made him a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility. He fought to get the national debt under control so we could preserve and create opportunities for our

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Nation's young people—rather than saddle them with the burden of our Government's debts.

He has lived the American dream and continues to work hard to ensure that others have a chance to live it too.

JON CORZINE is a thoughtful, hard-working man who worked with his colleagues from both sides of the political spectrum to do the right thing for the people of New Jersey and this Nation.

I am honored to have him as a friend and a colleague—and I wish him well in his new role as Governor of New Jersey.

I add my comments, along with my friends and colleagues in the Senate, for someone who has become a personal friend, as well as someone I admire greatly and that we are going to greatly miss. New Jersey is very lucky to have JON CORZINE coming in as Governor of that great State.

Senator CORZINE and I have worked together both on the Committee on the Budget and on the Committee on Banking. I can say what Senator Sarbanes said is true, that even though he sat at the end of the table at the Committee on Banking and we were squeezed in with our staff trying to make sure we did not fall off the end of the platform, I always knew when the person at the end was about to speak and ask his questions, there was going to be silence in the room and tremendous respect for what he was going to say and concern about whether they would be able to answer his questions effectively, as the witnesses were answering various questions concerning finances.

To watch Senator CORZINE work has been to watch an example of what we want in public service. To see someone who grew up in a small town—like I did in Michigan—growing up in a small town, serve his country in the Marines, as so many of my colleagues have. I am particularly proud of the people on the Democrat side of the aisle who have served in public service as it relates to our Armed Services and continue to bring that perspective and support today.

But certainly Senator CORZINE is one of them. And to go on to be so incredibly successful in business, and then to bring that expertise here on behalf of the people of New Jersey to work with all of us I think is an example of a tremendously great American success story. I am proud to have worked with Senator CORZINE and look forward to working with him as the Governor of New Jersey.

I will simply echo my colleagues in saying when we talk about corporate responsibility and accountability, Senator

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CORZINE and his expertise have been there. Housing, public transit, homeland security, his passion for Social Security, addressing so many different issues that are important to people, important to communities, important to our democracy, have had the voice of JON CORZINE.

So I congratulate you on your service. I congratulate the people of New Jersey on the public service that is to come. And mostly I thank JON CORZINE for his generosity of heart and for his willingness to invest in so many ways to better the community with his own resources. This is someone who has been incredibly generous and caring and smart and compassionate and dedicated to the right values that we all care about deeply.

I know he is going to do an outstanding job as Governor and that we will all be better off for his public service. With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I stand here today not only to say thank you but to congratulate the Senator from New Jersey, the Governor-elect of New Jersey, JON CORZINE.

For me, my whole life has been touched by many people who have helped me live the American dream. But it is an American dream, too, that has come with challenges in dealing with the issues of poverty and in dealing with the issues of racism.

There was a time in my life when I thought anything was possible for anyone in America. There was also a time in my life when I thought there were limitations placed on myself personally that I could never overcome because of the history of racism and the effects of poverty within my own life.

Notwithstanding the fact that I was a proud son of that great generation of soldiers who fought in World War II, and steeped in the history of New Mexico and southern Colorado, there were many people who, when I decided to seek this position in the Senate, thought that it could not be done. There were many people who brought up reason after reason why this was not a place where I could serve.

One of the people who disagreed with those conclusions was JON CORZINE. JON CORZINE told me that, yes, it was possible to still believe in the American dream, that no matter what your background is and no matter what your economic circumstance might be, everything is still possible here in America. His inspiration and his vision and his leadership contributed to my serving today in the Senate.

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When I characterize my friendship with JON CORZINE and look at him as a person and as a leader, the words that come to my mind are “an authentic leader.” He is who he is. He is a very successful businessperson, but he is the kind of person whom we ought to have in the Senate all of the time; that is, people who care about our Nation and the people whom we represent here every day. He has put them and our Nation ahead of his own self-interest. That is the legacy that we now pass on to New Jersey, the legacy that New Jersey has grabbed for itself, as they take him as the next Governor of New Jersey.

I know he will continue to do great things in New Jersey as the Governor of that State, in the same way he has done great things in the Senate—those things my colleagues have spoken about on the floor of the Senate today.

I wish him well, and I know his continued leadership is something we will continue to see in the days and years ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, it is a privilege to be here today to say a few words about my colleague and friend, JON CORZINE. He has honored this Senate and he has honored the people of New Jersey with his service.

I did not know JON before he came here. I heard about his campaign. I heard about his success on Wall Street. I frankly must confess I did not know quite what to expect. Having seen the movie “Wall Street,” I almost thought that Michael Douglas would walk in the door in a \$3,000 suit and with expensive accoutrements.

JON surprised us all because he is not like that. He might have found his success on Wall Street, but his values were formed in the heartland of America and in the U.S. Marine Corps. He believes very deeply in values that are important and central to our party and to the people of this country: the notion of opportunity for all and the notion that this is a community, not just a collection of individuals.

His service in this body has exemplified those values and made us all extraordinarily proud. I served with JON on the Senate Banking Committee. As the chairman and ranking member at various times of the Housing and Transportation Subcommittee, I was familiar with all of JON’s efforts in

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making real progress on issues of importance to the people of New Jersey and the people of this country.

My friend and colleague, Senator Sarbanes, has pointed out some of these, and I would like to, for the *Record*, amplify again what JON has done.

The Federal Housing Administration Multifamily Housing Program provides insurance to those seeking to build multifamily rental housing. The program has played a critical role in the development of affordable multifamily rental housing. However, as the cost of building new housing has dramatically increased in recent years, Federal multifamily mortgage insurance loan limits have failed to keep pace with inflation.

In 2002 Senator CORZINE led the way to secure passage of a provision to raise FHA multifamily loan limits by indexing them to the annual construction cost index to ensure that the program keeps pace with inflation.

In 2003 Senator CORZINE further improved the FHA multifamily loan program by securing passage of legislation to boost those limits in high-cost communities around the country.

Specifically, his legislation raised the loan limits in high-cost areas to 140 percent of the statutory base limit and by 170 percent on a project-by-project basis.

These increases have been vitally important in the construction and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing in high-cost States such as New Jersey and my own State of Rhode Island where the shortage of affordable housing has become a crisis.

JON recognizes that at the heart of every family's efforts to educate their children, to find work, to hold work, is the need for safe and affordable housing. Senator CORZINE has been on the vanguard of that effort. I salute him for that.

He has also been particularly concerned about housing for veterans. The Veterans' Administration Home Loan Program provides access to home financing for veterans who often, because of their time spent serving our Nation, have not had the opportunity to build up the credit they need to qualify for a conventional mortgage. Senator CORZINE's legislation to increase veterans' home purchasing power, which became law as part of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, raised the loan limits available under the VA Home Loan Program to allow veterans to obtain mortgages of up to \$333,700, the same level available in the traditional mortgage market.

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Finally, the Senator from New Jersey has been a fierce advocate for mass transit funding, not only in his home State of New Jersey but across this country. He has been particularly effective, though, in helping his home State.

Senator CORZINE was instrumental in providing legislation to help build a commuter rail tunnel under the Hudson River as part of the recently passed Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The language that Senator CORZINE included will expedite the proposed rail tunnel under the Hudson River and require the Federal Transit Administration to sign a full-funding grant agreement with New Jersey Transit that will provide the Federal funding needed to complete the tunnel, and in so doing not only will he assist the people of New Jersey, but he will assist the economy of this Nation, since so much is dependent upon transit access through New Jersey to the Eastern Seaboard, Boston, New York and down to Washington, DC.

We all are going to miss Senator CORZINE immensely in the Senate, but he is going forth now to a mission that is equally important; that is, to serve the people of New Jersey as their Governor. I know he will be successful. And I know those values of opportunity and community and fairness and tolerance and decency that exemplified his service in the Senate will mark him as a remarkable Governor for the State of New Jersey.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, knowing JON CORZINE as I think I do, if he had known he was going to have to sit through all these speeches after he spoke, he would have come down here a lot later at night, I suspect, or certainly waited until we got out of town, because that is the nature of this Senator, Governor to be.

I have listened to my colleagues and I listened to his speech. He left us with some important warnings, some important pleas, which I hope my colleagues will take seriously. I would incorporate into my comments about JON all of the things Senator Sarbanes said. They were a wonderful summary of what he did and how he did it, his accomplishments.

He helped veterans, and he has been a passionate advocate for public transportation. He was instrumental in hous-

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ing. These are the sorts of signal accomplishments you can measure, which he can point to and my colleagues have, that define the few years he has been here.

I will say a word or two about the things that helped push him in the direction of accomplishing those goals. What has always struck me about JON CORZINE and the thing that has been singled out in a number of comments made by my colleagues is the quality of the person, almost an improbable quality when you measure it against the profession he chose for so many years.

Maybe I'll offer a comment about Wall Street, certainly a comment that I know JON CORZINE would articulate any number of different times in different ways, that we don't think of people traditionally, with the obvious exceptions, a Bob Rubin, some others. JON CORZINE always kept, first, a great sense of idealism; second, a very strong moral compass that led him to always distinguish between right and wrong; and third, an integrity about the approach to public life that willingly disclosed great wealth, willingly submitted himself to unbelievable attacks in order to pursue a greater good. Most people would shy away from that today. When you talk to people in the private sector today about running for office, they are quick to say: Do that? Why would I want to do that? Why would I want to subject myself to that? Why would I want to put myself through that scrutiny?

JON CORZINE has always been driven by his sense that there is too much missing in governance today, that there is a bigger purpose than all of us individually, a noble purpose in what we are trying to achieve. He believes unabashedly that government can be part of the solution, that government actually helps people. And unlike so much of the rhetoric of the last years that has attacked everything government does until you have a Katrina, when you understand why you need it, or until you see the potholes in the streets and the bridges falling apart and you begrudgingly acknowledge you need it, JON always believes you need it proactively. He understands the good it can do.

Every one of us who has had the privilege of being here for awhile was impressed by that passion and moral compass he brought to some of the issues. When business people in America were abusing their trust, JON brought this extraordinary credibility to that debate. There are huge provisions, as Senator Sarbanes will tell us, and a great deal of guidance through that process that came from this freshman Senator.

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Likewise, with respect to Darfur, an issue where the country ought to be providing a sense of moral outrage, JON doggedly and tenaciously pursued that issue without grandstanding, without trying to do it in a way that was sort of hit and run. He stayed at it and got the Senate ultimately to take some measures, though never what we ought to be doing, and this country has yet to do what he knows and understands we ought to be doing.

He always had a sense of right and wrong, and he always fought for the minimum wage. He understood that there is a different set of priorities, a sense of outrage that we would be cutting children off Medicaid, and so on down the list.

I am thrilled, and I know when I was privileged to be in New Jersey, I could feel it in the people of New Jersey who obviously were inundated with an onslaught of confusing and reprehensible kinds of claims in the context of a campaign, which we have seen too often. He plowed through that, because of that idealism and his sense of purpose for the State. Those folks are anticipating the same kind of excitement that he said in his comments he will bring to this new challenge.

The people of New Jersey have chosen wisely. They are going to have a leader who will do exactly what Senator Sarbanes talked about. He has the opportunity to make that State one of the great laboratories in the country, to do what we are unsuccessful and unwilling to do too often at this moment in our history here in Washington. I almost envy him that opportunity to grab the executive reins and go out and do it. He is going to be an exceptional Governor. He is going to continue to have an impact on what Congress chooses to do because of those priorities that he sets in the State.

There is no question in my mind that our caucus, which has looked to him regularly as sort of the resident expert on issues of fiscal, trade, and Wall Street matters, is going to miss that expertise enormously.

I thank this Senator for his service to us, to the country, and we look forward to the service he will provide as Governor of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to wish Senator JON CORZINE the very best as he goes from service in this body to become the next Governor of the State of New Jersey. I have had the privilege of serving with Senator CORZINE on

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the Budget Committee. He has been a valued member of that committee. He has made an extraordinary contribution there, always thoughtful and well-informed. Senator CORZINE is deeply respected by colleagues on both sides. It is fair to say that no one on the Senate Budget Committee and no one in this Chamber has a better understanding of financial markets or economic issues than Senator JON CORZINE.

On the Budget Committee, Senator CORZINE has warned repeatedly of the risks of exploding deficits and debt. As someone who has been extraordinarily successful in the private sector, and as someone who has displayed in the real world a profound understanding of what moves markets, Senator CORZINE's words have weight, especially when he says to the members on the committee and here on the Senate floor that we are running unacceptable risks as we run up the deficit and debt of the United States. Senator CORZINE has time after time alerted us to the risks to the economy of higher interest rates as a result of burgeoning deficits and debt.

Senator CORZINE has told this body and told the country that it is unsustainable to double the foreign holdings of our debt in 5 years. It is remarkable and terribly unfortunate that in 5 years we have taken the external debt of the United States, which was \$1 trillion 5 years ago, to \$2 trillion today.

Mr. President, it took, as Senator CORZINE has pointed out, 224 years to run up a trillion dollars of external debt, and that amount has been exceeded in the last 5 years. Senator CORZINE has said consistently and firmly that these are risks that have the potential to lead to a dramatic increase in interest rates, which would have negative consequences—extremely negative consequences for the American economy. It would threaten economic growth and has the potential to put us into recession.

Mr. President, we have been fortunate to have someone of JON CORZINE's character and wisdom serving with us in the Senate. I am going to miss Senator CORZINE very much. He has been such a strong member of the Budget Committee—someone to whom we could look for expertise that is highly regarded by all Members of this Chamber.

I know JON CORZINE will do a remarkable job as Governor of the State of New Jersey. As he leaves here, we wish him well. I thank the Chair.

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Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I also want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our departing Senator from New Jersey, Senator JON CORZINE. I met him for the first time when we were both sworn in on January 3, 2001.

Even before that time I knew of his success but also his high caliber by virtue of the fact that he was chairman and CEO of a great firm, Goldman Sachs, whose previous contributions to the U.S. Government included John Whitehead, Deputy Secretary of State under President Reagan, and Robert Rubin, the Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton. Senator CORZINE followed in that tradition of very successful men who could do anything they wanted for the rest of their lives, but had chosen to commit themselves to public service.

It has been an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to serve with Senator CORZINE these last 5 years, to learn from his own wisdom and experience as it relates to so many matters affecting the betterment of our country, and then to watch him forgo what would have been a safe track and a relatively easy re-election next year as a Senator because he felt he could be of better service to his fellow citizens from New Jersey by acting as their Governor, going through the rigors and ordeals of another campaign, a challenging endeavor but where he sacrificed himself and his own resources in order to give greater service to the people of New Jersey.

Our loss in the Senate with his departure will be a gain for his fellow citizens from that State as he devotes his full time to New Jersey to their better interests. I wish him well. We will miss him. He will carry out even further the great talents he has and his ability to improve his State and our country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when the Senate returns in January, we unfortunately will be without one of the finest Senators in this body. Senator JON CORZINE will be moving to New Jersey to serve as its Governor. I want to publicly congratulate Senator CORZINE on an impressive victory and congratulate the people of New Jersey for making an outstanding choice. Their gain is the Senate's loss.

JON CORZINE has been an exceptional Senator largely because he is an exceptional person. It didn't take Senator CORZINE long to demonstrate to his colleagues his intelligence and his impressive knowledge of a broad range of political and economic issues. But perhaps even more impor-

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tant, he quickly convinced Members on both sides of the aisle that he possessed a genuine decency and humility.

JON CORZINE surely has one of the most impressive resumes of any American anywhere. He has a remarkable record of accomplishment, both in business and public service. But success never went to his head. And if you are fortunate enough to meet him—no matter who you are or what your place in society—you can be sure that Senator CORZINE will treat you with respect. He is sincere. He listens. And he's humble. Its almost impossible not to like JON CORZINE.

When Senator CORZINE came to Washington just 5 years ago, it didn't take him long to earn both the admiration and the affection of his colleagues. But he wasn't just a nice, smart guy. He also worked on behalf of the citizens of New Jersey and the Nation like there was no tomorrow. And it didn't take long for him to make his mark.

Soon after coming to the Senate, Senator CORZINE played a critical role in efforts to respond to widespread abuses at corporations like Enron. At the time, Congress needed someone who understood corporate America and who could help find balanced solutions that made sense. JON CORZINE stepped up to the plate and helped develop one of the most important corporate reforms in American history. That legislation, known as Sarbanes-Oxley, may not bear his name, but it surely bears his mark, and all Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude for his contribution.

Senator CORZINE's economic expertise also helped him become a real leader on budget and fiscal issues. Since coming to office, he has been an outspoken advocate for fiscal responsibility and a leading defender of Social Security. In the last Congress, he headed the Senate Democratic Task Force on Social Security, where he developed the case against privatization long before the issue was in the headlines. Democrats stopped the administration's misguided attempt to privatize Social Security dead in its tracks this year. Senator CORZINE's efforts last year laid the groundwork for much of what we were able to accomplish.

Senator CORZINE also has taken up another important cause that still fails to attract sufficient attention: the genocide in Darfur. After prior mass murders abroad, such as the situation in Rwanda, many Americans looked back with regret at our Nation's failure to act. Yet today, in the midst of another terrible genocide, the U.S. response is again woefully and tragically inadequate. JON CORZINE has personally gone to Darfur and has worked hard to focus the Nation's atten-

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tion on this crisis. It has been a thankless task with no apparent political benefits. For his willingness to pursue this moral cause, he deserves real credit from every American. It will be incumbent on all of us to remain focused on this terrible tragedy after he leaves.

Another cause of great importance on which Senator CORZINE took the lead was the effort to prevent terrorism at chemical plants. As Senator CORZINE has told us repeatedly, there are more than 100 chemical facilities around our Nation where a terrorist attack could endanger more than a million people. Unfortunately, security at too many of our plants is grossly inadequate. Senator CORZINE recognized the importance of addressing these security risks now before a catastrophe occurs. Each of us has a responsibility to push forward on this issue that he has pushed so tirelessly.

I could go on about the many other issues on which Senator CORZINE has taken a lead—from protecting prescription drug benefits of New Jersey seniors, to promoting financial literacy, to preserving our environment, blocking cuts in student aid and protecting workers against unsafe conditions. In his relatively short time in the Senate, Senator CORZINE has been one of our most active Senators, and he has had an impact on a surprisingly broad range of issues.

I also want to take a moment on behalf of the Senate Democratic Caucus to publicly thank Senator CORZINE for his work in the last Congress as head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Senator CORZINE had a tough job and was dealt a tough hand. But he worked extremely hard, as he always does, and he did an excellent job.

Let me also express my appreciation to Senator CORZINE as Governor for selecting an outstanding Member of Congress to replace him. While we will miss Senator CORZINE greatly, Bob Menendez is going to be an excellent Senator for New Jersey. It is a credit to Senator CORZINE to have chosen such a talented and committed public servant, who I am confident will not only represent New Jersey well, but will also help this body better represent the great diversity of our Nation.

Now Senator CORZINE moves from Washington to Trenton, where he will take on some very difficult challenges. But nobody should ever underestimate JON CORZINE. The people of New Jersey have selected a man who not only has extraordinary talent but someone who always gives it everything he has. I know he will serve them well and I know at the end of the day, he will remain what he is today: a kind, humble,

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and principled person who represents the very best of our Nation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I just left a small farewell party for my colleague, JON CORZINE of New Jersey. He is, of course, leaving the Senate in a few days to become Governor of the State of New Jersey. Congressman Bob Menendez will be appointed to fill his vacancy and stand for election in about a year.

I am going to miss JON CORZINE for a lot of reasons. First, we have a lot in common. JON was born and raised in the small town of Willey's Station, which is just a few miles away from the bustling metropolis of Taylorville in Christian County, IL, just a few miles from where I live. I know a little about the Corzine family today, and I sense what his upbringing was all about. He grew up on a farm, with a dad who raised corn and soybeans. It was not a comfortable and wealthy existence, but it was a great upbringing. He was raised in the Midwestern tradition of working hard. He started at age 13 with his first job. He worked his way through college, going to the University of Illinois where he was a walk-on on the basketball team. He has assured me time and again he was no superstar. But the fact that he did that and served in the Marine Corps and went on to the University of Chicago for a master's degree in business tells me he is a person who had a good work ethic—not only that but a great deal of talent.

JON's career took him to the highest levels in the business world. He was a partner at Goldman Sachs at the age of 33. He was chairman and CEO of that investment banking giant at the age of 50. He started there fetching coffee for his superiors. He came up not only quickly but the right way. When he was first running, I remember reading accounts in the *New York Times* about what kind of a CEO he was. He knew the elevator operator's name, and he would go to the mailroom and talk to the workers there and try to provide financial assistance so that workers could go on to earn a college degree.

That is the same JON CORZINE I came to know in the Senate, a very caring and compassionate individual in so many different ways. He would fight tooth and nail for things he believed in, and he would also pick causes that were not quite that popular and put all of his energy and skill at work on them as well.

I can recall the terrible genocide in Darfur and how he made that his issue. Time and again, he came to the floor

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of the Senate to remind all of us about that tiny country on the other side of the world and the people being oppressed there. That is JON CORZINE. Time and again, he showed us that you could be both financially successful in life and not lose your bearings when it came to good moral conduct and good values.

When I think about his heroes in life, I share many of them. He used to talk about Paul Douglas, the first man I worked for in the Senate as a college intern. Paul Douglas was from the University of Chicago faculty, and he was a person who inspired many of us, not only because he worked hard and did his best to speak for the common man, but because he was all over the State appreciating the variety of life you can find in Illinois. Then, of course, was his successor and protege, Paul Simon, whom I was honored to succeed in the Senate, also a friend of JON CORZINE's. So we had the Paul Douglas and Paul Simon connection. And, of course, the admiration JON CORZINE had for them said it all.

When I look back at these heroes of JON CORZINE, I realize that we have that much in common—our Illinois roots and a lot more. We come from the same place. We share many of the same values. We fought on the same side of many of the same battles. We share many of the same heroes. Like JON CORZINE, I admired Senators Douglas and Simon. I had the privilege to know and work with them. Paul Douglas helped design Social Security. JON CORZINE helped to save it. Like Paul Douglas, JON CORZINE is a brave champion of civil rights, economic justice, and the environment. Like Paul Douglas, JON CORZINE is unafraid to speak his mind for the good of the country.

All in all, I am certain that Paul Douglas and Paul Simon would approve of the short, though important, Senate career of JON CORZINE. They would thank him, as we all do, for fighting hard and well for people and values of this great Nation. I will miss JON CORZINE. The people of New Jersey have made a wise choice. He will be a good, thoughtful, compassionate leader of their great State. I look forward to working with him for many years to come for the values that we share.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share my thoughts about JON CORZINE. He had a great record at Gold-

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man Sachs. I didn't really know he was a farm boy. That is something Senator Durbin added to the mix. I think I had heard that but had forgotten it. He was successful in the financial world in an extraordinary way. He was a marine. Of course, every marine I have known has been shaped by that, and I believe Senator Zell Miller wrote a book saying that everything he ever needed to know he learned in the Marine Corps, or something to that effect.

JON CORZINE has been an active Member of the Senate. I remember the time we spent together in Montgomery, AL, on a civil rights trip. We were at the church that Martin Luther King preached in on Dexter Avenue, the Dexter Avenue Church. We had a discussion at that time about Rosa Parks, whom we have just honored and who recently passed away. At that very site, Martin Luther King led the efforts of the bus boycott that ended the concept that people must go to the back of the bus because of the color of their skin. JON CORZINE didn't have to go to Montgomery, but he was interested in those issues and he believed strongly in equality and civil rights.

Senator CORZINE has been a strong advocate for the Democratic Party and its principles, heading its campaign committee. We didn't agree on those issues, but he was always courteous and professional. I cannot remember a single harsh word that we have had. In fact, I cannot remember him having a harsh word with any other Senators.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to know JON CORZINE and have gained respect for him. I wish him every success as Governor of the important State of New Jersey. That will be a challenge, but he has the gift and ability necessary to be successful in that job.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and bid farewell to my friend and colleague, JON CORZINE.

Our world has changed quite drastically since JON first joined the Senate. It has been an honor to work with him on the many issues we were forced to confront following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We will miss JON's leadership and determination on behalf of his constituents in New Jersey and the American people.

While JON has served in the Senate for a relatively short period of time, he leaves an important legacy of leadership on issues ranging from protecting our homeland to crafting legislation that stabilized our financial markets.

Rarely in this body does one Senator see the enactment of one of their first bills introduced as a freshman Member. But

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JON did just that when he called for mandatory Federal standards to protect our Nation's chemical plants and saw that become law.

When the entire corporate and financial community was rocked by pervasive accounting scandals, JON was instrumental in crafting extraordinary changes to accounting oversight that stabilized confidence in our markets when they were teetering. He recognized that Americans were at risk, and he worked tirelessly on their behalf, a legacy that will last well past his last day here in the Capitol.

JON also brought to the Senate an appreciation of open and accountable government. He saw security and accountability as going hand in hand, a way for citizens to know what their chosen representatives are doing to ensure the health and safety of their own neighborhoods and communities. He recognized that the ever-changing need for security had to be balanced with the everlasting principles of openness that make our democracy the strongest in the world. I was pleased to work with him to protect the Freedom of Information Act which the current administration has sought to weaken at every turn of the road.

As further testament to JON's leadership and determination, he will certainly be remembered for his work to secure an end to the terrible genocide that the world has witnessed in western Sudan. As the ranking member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I can personally attest that JON repeatedly brought the reality of this terrible tragedy to the attention of all of us. He knew that the solution would not be Democratic or Republican. Instead, he reached across the aisle, demanded a call for action, and spoke eloquently for those without a voice.

I will miss my friend JON CORZINE here in the Senate. I have enjoyed the time we shared working together in this body. Marcelle and I wish him all the best as he moves on to the new and exciting challenges that await him in Trenton. His service to the American people in the U.S. Senate has been selfless. His departure is a loss for the U.S. Senate, but a great gain for the citizens of New Jersey.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JON CORZINE, who is leaving the Senate and will be sworn in as the Governor of New Jersey on January 17, 2006.

I have greatly appreciated working with Senator CORZINE during his time in the Senate. We have served together on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, the

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Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Budget Committee. His depth of knowledge and experience will be missed on these committees, and in the Senate as a whole.

While Senator CORZINE will be continuing in public service, he has already had a long and distinguished career. After serving in the Marine Corps, he received an MBA from the University of Chicago and began working in the private sector, rising to be the chairman and CEO at Goldman Sachs. He decided to enter public service and was elected to the Senate in 2000, where he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of New Jersey. In November, Senator CORZINE was elected to be Governor of New Jersey and I am confident he will continue his outstanding public service work in this new position.

I am very pleased that while he served in the Senate, Senator CORZINE had the opportunity to visit my home State of South Dakota in 2002 during my re-election campaign. The trip gave him the opportunity to experience the beauty and friendliness of South Dakota, and I know that those who met Senator CORZINE were very impressed with him and pleased that he had visited the State.

Once again, I would like to thank Senator CORZINE for his extraordinary service in the Senate and wish him the very best on his new challenges and opportunities as Governor of New Jersey.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise to say a word or two about our good friend Senator CORZINE, who will be leaving the Senate to assume the governorship of New Jersey.

What I would like to do—because I have heard a lot about Senator CORZINE and his background in Illinois today—is to talk about when I saw him in action for the first time. It was when the Senate was working on the post-9/11 airline relief legislation. A lot of us were very troubled about how that ought to be done. We were sympathetic to the needs of the airlines after 9/11 but concerned about the very large sums of money that were going to be directed to one sector of our economy when many of our important economic sectors were hurt after 9/11. In that period our country suffered tragically in New York but there were economic ramifications across the country.

That legislation would not have passed if Senator CORZINE, along with help from our former colleague, Senator Fitzgerald, had not stepped in and figured out how to deal with the financing in a responsible way that protected taxpayers while providing some help to the airlines. Senator

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CORZINE took out a sharp pencil, using the expertise he had acquired in his years at Goldman Sachs and throughout his training in finance, and figured out how to make sure there was not a bailout in effect for just one sector that would have taxpayers holding the bag and was sensitive to the needs of all concerned.

I was struck, as I watched him deal with that airline legislation, by his combination of compassion, fairness, and intelligence and how he worked in a very quiet and dignified way to bring together different parties, different Senators who had widely diverse views, and tackled an issue of great importance.

I think that is exactly what he is going to do when he assumes the governorship of New Jersey. He is going to bring exactly that combination of fairness, compassion, and brains, always done in a kind of low-key, understated way. I believe the people of New Jersey will benefit as they have in his service here in the U.S. Senate.

We hope Governor CORZINE will come to Oregon because he has expressed an interest in looking at some of our innovative approaches, particularly in the area of health care and the environment. We wish him well and know he is going to have a very distinguished career as the new Governor of New Jersey.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the career of my colleague Senator JON CORZINE of New Jersey. This institution has benefited greatly from his presence, and the people of New Jersey can be proud that such an energetic and compassionate man will continue to serve them as their new Governor.

Senator CORZINE is a man who knows how to be successful, whether as a leader in the field of investment banking or as a champion on behalf of the interests of working families as a U.S. Senator. His commitment to public service is commendable, and he has set a positive example for his fellow lawmakers when it comes to establishing the right priorities for government. His philosophy is one of inclusion, which seeks to ensure that no American is left out of the enterprise of this great Nation.

I am particularly grateful for Senator CORZINE's work on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. His was an early voice for revamping the laws governing corporate accounting practices, long before the events of WorldCom and other accounting scandals destroyed the sav-

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ings of thousands of loyal employees and shareholders, tarnishing the reputation of corporate America. Before, during, and after the debates that produced the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley corporate accountability legislation, Senator CORZINE was there with the knowledge and energy to provide much-needed solutions to a serious problem. He has also championed many other inventive policies to tackle our Nation's problems, including his "kid's account" lifetime savings plan, his work to protect individuals from identity theft, and his initiatives to promote financial literacy for all Americans.

In addition to finding creative solutions to the financial problems that our country faces, Senator CORZINE has also been a reliable defender of public education, affordable health care and prescription drugs, and support for our men and women in uniform. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, he has championed the priorities of everyday, working Americans time and again. He consistently opposed the fiscal policies that have led our Nation to such a dangerous budget deficit, choosing instead to vote for sound economic and social policies that would keep America strong and healthy.

I wish my colleague from New Jersey the best of luck as he enters into this new chapter in his public life. His presence will be missed, but his work on behalf of working Americans will not be forgotten.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Senator and the Governor-elect of New Jersey, JON CORZINE. While Senator CORZINE has only been in the Senate for 5 short years, he has made an indelible mark on our Nation and on his Senate colleagues, myself included. I have had the opportunity and pleasure of serving with Senator CORZINE on the Senate Intelligence Committee, seeing firsthand his patriotism, his dedication to our Nation, and his work ethic.

Senator CORZINE has been an invaluable resource here in the Senate, especially as we confronted the corporate scandals of recent years. With his expertise as the former chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, we looked to Senator CORZINE during the reform process. He stepped up to the challenge, helping push through sweeping changes in our Nation's corporate governance. I know that he is proud of this accomplishment, and our Nation is better for his efforts.

While Senators come to Washington to represent their States, their actions have consequences for every American citizen. America has been well-served by having JON

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CORZINE in the Senate and I know that the citizens of New Jersey could not have chosen a better man to serve as their Governor. He will bring not only his work ethic and intellect, but a unique blend of government and corporate experience to bear on the challenges facing New Jersey.

I have been proud to call Senator CORZINE my colleague, and I congratulate him on his election. I also want to wish him luck on the new responsibilities he takes on and the new challenges he will face. Senator CORZINE, you will be missed.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in thanking the gentleman from New Jersey, Senator JON CORZINE, for his service to the people of the Garden State and the rest of our country. My colleague and friend brought his extensive experience from corporate America to bear on the business that we conduct here, and our country greatly benefited from his expertise.

I enjoyed working with Senator CORZINE during the time when I served on the Banking Committee. Under the leadership of Ranking Member Sarbanes, we shored up corporate governance through the enactment of Sarbanes-Oxley—the influence of which has been felt in corporate boardrooms, and even nonprofit boardrooms, across America.

The Senate and the Congress will especially miss the dedication of our colleague in the effort to promote economic and financial literacy. Senator CORZINE has been a stalwart in working with me, and Senators Sarbanes, Stabenow, Enzi, Allen, and others, to bring to light the need to reverse economic and financial illiteracy in our country.

Senator CORZINE has been an important ally in supporting several of my initiatives in this area, including annual efforts to secure and increase funding for the Excellence in Economic Education Act for grades K through 12; efforts to work on college campuses through the College Literacy in Finance and Economics or LIFE Act, S. 468; and annual resolutions designating April as the month for highlighting the need for financial literacy.

I have been a proud co-sponsor of his initiatives in this area, S. 923, S. 924, and S. 925. The TANF Financial Education Promotion Act, S. 923, requires a State to specify how it intends to establish goals and take action to promote financial education among parents and caretakers receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families assistance. The Education for Retirement Security Act, S. 924, authorizes grants for financial education programs targeted toward mid-life and older Americans, including striving to increase fi-

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nancial and retirement knowledge and reducing individuals' vulnerability to financial abuse and fraud. Finally, the Youth Financial Education Act, S. 925, authorizes grants to State educational agencies for the development and integration of youth financial education programs for students in elementary and secondary schools, as well as a grant to establish and operate a national clearinghouse for instructional materials and information regarding model financial education programs and best practices.

It is clear that my colleague from New Jersey cares about giving people access to additional tools that can help them make decisions about credit and debt management, spending and saving, and essential choices in a world of limited resources, in addition to helping increase their financial acumen so as to avoid being taken in by predatory credit offers and unscrupulous marketing. I commend him for taking this broad view, and wish him and his family well as he goes on to lead the Garden State as its Governor.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague Senator and now Governor-elect JON CORZINE. With his election to the Senate in 2000, JON CORZINE has been a source of wisdom and a great friend to me and to many of my colleagues.

JON CORZINE was elected to the Senate after serving as chairman and CEO of the investment company Goldman Sachs. During his time in the Senate, he has focused on serving the State of New Jersey, applying his financial expertise to major economic and regulatory issues and pushing a forward-looking, progressive agenda.

Senator CORZINE has pursued new safeguards to protect chemical facilities against terrorist attacks, introduced legislation to improve access to education and health care, fought for stronger environmental policies, and led the effort in Congress to crack down on corporate abuse.

The Senate recently adopted Senator CORZINE's resolution declaring the need for new safeguards at the Nation's vulnerable chemical plants. He also secured Federal funding toward the construction of a second railroad tunnel underneath the Hudson River, long sought by New Jersey's congressional delegation, and won Federal support for a wide variety of community and economic development projects throughout the State of New Jersey.

On a more personal note, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with such a gifted and dedicated public servant. He has never hesitated to put the people of New Jersey and

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the people of this Nation first. The people of New Jersey have made a wise choice in selecting Senator CORZINE to be the chief executive of their great State. He will take the same enthusiasm and professionalism to the Governor's mansion that he has exhibited here in the Senate.

I wish him well in his new responsibilities. I know that he will be a benefit to the people of his home State of New Jersey. We will miss his passion and insight here in the Senate. But our loss will be the people of New Jersey's gain. Farewell and Godspeed.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, although we will miss him greatly in the Senate, I join my colleagues in congratulating Senator Jon CORZINE on his election as Governor of New Jersey. It has been a pleasure to serve with JON on the Intelligence Committee and to work with him on issues of corporate accountability. He has been a strong and determined leader here, and I know he will continue to make the people of New Jersey proud in his new position.

JON CORZINE has led a distinctly American life. He grew up on a family farm. He served his country in the Marine Corps Reserves. He had extraordinary success in business as a self-made man. And he has continued to serve his country in public life, first as a Senator and soon as a Governor. JON loves America and fights for what he believes is best for our people.

In the Senate, JON has used the financial expertise he gained at Goldman Sachs to become a singularly credible voice for corporate reform. He was a driving force on the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley legislation, which cracked down on corporate abuses such as those that led to the Enron and WorldCom scandals. He has been a leader on strengthening oversight of the mutual fund industry and on protecting the financial privacy of Americans. JON has also been at the forefront of promoting financial literacy, so that Americans can manage their personal finances wisely.

Working with JON on the Intelligence Committee, I have seen his piercing mental acumen and commitment to protecting our country. Following the September 11 attacks, which took a heavy toll on his State, JON recognized the weakness of our system of chemical plant security. He seized that issue and did not let go. In October, Congress finally passed mandatory security requirements at chemical plants based on JON's work. That this necessary improvement in our security will be substantially improved is due to his tenacity.

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On every issue, JON has been outspoken in support of policies that benefit working Americans. He has fought for universal health care, for expanded student aid, and for full funding for education programs. JON has also been a passionate voice for human rights around the world. Just last month, the Senate approved the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which JON sponsored with Senator Brownback, to help stop the genocide in the Sudan.

During his short time in the Senate, JON CORZINE has made a big impact. His is a unique voice that will be personally missed. I join my colleagues in saluting JON on his election as Governor and in wishing him well in his new position.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am proud today to join in honoring JON CORZINE and congratulating him on his outstanding service here in the Senate. I have had the pleasure of working with him for 5 years and have found him to be a tremendous ally on a number of issues, as well as a great friend and colleague.

This Senate has benefited enormously from his hard work and commitment since he came to this body in 2001. I have served with him on both the Foreign Relations and the Budget Committees, and I have seen him work diligently and effectively with Members from both sides of the aisle, and always in the best interests of the American people.

Senator CORZINE has led the effort to stop the ongoing violence in Darfur with the bipartisan Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005, of which I am a co-sponsor. I applaud his efforts in this area, as well as his work to reaffirm support for the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This is a critically important legacy as the world faces the tragedy in Sudan. There has never been a more important time for the United States to recommit itself to ending the crime of genocide, and Senator CORZINE has taken a lead role in that effort.

We have also worked together on issues of great concern to us both—racial profiling and the death penalty. On both these issues, Senator CORZINE has been a courageous voice for justice and fairness. He has been steadfast in his efforts to ban racial profiling, a practice that runs contrary to the fundamental American value of equal treatment under the law. And he has been just as dedicated in focusing attention on the glaring flaws in the administration of capital punishment, and in calling for a thorough, nationwide review of the death penalty.

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Finally, I want to say that I am deeply grateful for Senator CORZINE's support for the amendments I offered during the Senate's consideration of the PATRIOT Act in October 2001. I was proud to have his support that night, and I have been proud to work with him as a co-sponsor of the SAFE Act. I can't think of a better time to thank him for his work to protect Americans' freedoms than today, in the midst of a fight to make reasonable changes to the PATRIOT Act.

JON CORZINE has earned the utmost admiration and respect during his time in the Senate. I will miss him as a colleague and friend, but I am so glad that he will continue to serve the people of New Jersey with such dedication and integrity. I have no doubt that he will be an outstanding Governor, and that he will continue to be a national leader on the issues to which he was so committed in the Senate.

So today I join my colleagues in thanking Senator CORZINE for his work in this body. He is a great public servant and a good friend. I wish him all the best.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute and bid a fond farewell to my colleague and friend Senator JON S. CORZINE of New Jersey. Senator CORZINE, as we know, will be leaving the Senate next month to serve as New Jersey's Governor, and before he leaves us to begin what I can only be certain will be a wildly successful and innovative tenure as New Jersey's chief executive, I thought it appropriate to take the time to celebrate not only Mr. CORZINE's fine service in the Senate, but his inspiring life story as well.

In many ways, JON CORZINE's life is an example of the American dream fulfilled. Mr. CORZINE was born on New Year's Day, 1947, and grew up on his family's farm in Willey's Station, IL. His father ran the farm and sold insurance; his mother was a public school teacher. Through his own hard work and that of his family, Mr. CORZINE attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1969. After graduating college, Mr. CORZINE served his country by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and he continued in the Reserves until 1975, rising to the rank of sergeant in his infantry unit.

After Senator CORZINE's active duty was finished, he began what would become a long and successful career in the finance sector. His first job was with the Continental Illinois National Bank in Chicago, where he worked as a portfolio analyst. At the same time, Mr. CORZINE began taking night

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classes at the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business, where he received his MBA in 1973.

In 1975, after working briefly at a regional bank in Ohio, Mr. CORZINE was recruited to go to work for the New York investment firm Goldman Sachs as a bond trader, beginning what would be a meteoric rise through the company's ranks. After only 5 years, Mr. CORZINE was named a partner in the firm. In 1994, Mr. CORZINE became both the firm's chairman and CEO. Through hard work, Senator CORZINE rose from his family's farm in rural Illinois to being the chairman and CEO of a New York investment firm.

But the story doesn't end there for Mr. CORZINE had a very successful tenure at the helm of Goldman Sachs. When he took over in 1994, the proud and respected firm was in a period of some decline. But Mr. CORZINE and his team turned the company's fortunes upward. During his 5 years as chief executive, Mr. CORZINE also oversaw the firm's successful transition from a private partnership to a public company.

While serving as chief executive, Mr. CORZINE also demonstrated a passion for public service. Under his leadership, Goldman Sachs was a strong corporate citizen, expanding its community outreach and philanthropic programs. Mr. CORZINE also chaired a Presidential commission that studied how capital budgeting could be used to increase Federal investment in education.

It is this commitment to public service that I saw JON CORZINE bring to his work in the Senate every day. Elected in 2000 by the people of New Jersey, Senator CORZINE has been a tireless advocate for corporate accountability, helping co-author the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and has worked to protect our environment, where he has been a steadfast ally in the fights to prevent drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to tackle climate change. On the international front, Senator CORZINE has sponsored the Darfur Accountability Act, an act I am proud to co-sponsor, which seeks to address the terrible genocide currently occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan.

What I will remember most about Senator CORZINE's tenure is his commitment to strengthening our Nation's homeland security. Having worked with Senator CORZINE on several homeland security issues, I know firsthand that he was determined to do everything in his power to protect the American people from another terrorist attack. Senator CORZINE and I worked together in passing legislation that created the 9/11 Commission, and we are all well aware of

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its service to the American people. In addition, Senator CORZINE has been a leader in legislative efforts to increase security at our Nation's chemical plants, which remain vulnerable to attack. Senator CORZINE crafted strong legislation aimed at protecting these facilities, and I remain hopeful that Congress will act on this area of great vulnerability. I will continue to be inspired by the dedication Senator CORZINE applied to this critical issue.

Let me end my statement, Mr. President, by taking the time to thank JON CORZINE for his service in the Senate. I wish him, his daughter Jennifer, and his two sons, Josh and Jeffrey, nothing but the best for the future, and I look forward to seeing the fine things I know he will continue to do for the people of New Jersey, now as their Governor. Once again, thank you, JON CORZINE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly about our colleague Senator JON CORZINE, to congratulate him on his recent election as Governor of New Jersey, and also to thank him for his great contribution to the Senate and to the entire country during the time he served here.

JON came to the Senate from a very successful career on Wall Street. We are all aware of that. He came here for the best of reasons: his desire to make a difference, to improve the situation of average Americans in this country, to see that this country pursued an economic course that created opportunity and jobs for the people he represented in New Jersey and throughout this country.

On economic issues, I think all of us in the Senate came to believe—I certainly did—that no one was better able to read the tea leaves about what was happening economically in this country, what was happening in the various economic statistics which come out each week, than JON CORZINE. He could understand the economic circumstance we continue to struggle with in this country and the impact it is having on the lives of average Americans.

While he has been here, he has demonstrated a passion for fairness to all in our society. He has not been a representative of Wall Street. He has been a representative of the great mass of the American people. He has looked to raise the standard of living of all Americans and lift all boats. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for that passion he has brought to this job.

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I serve as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We have been very fortunate that JON has served on that committee as well. He has been an active participant in the writing of energy legislation which we passed earlier this year. He made a great contribution in that legislation. In short, JON has had a very distinguished career in the Senate. I am confident he will have a very distinguished career as Governor of New Jersey and will have a very long and successful career in public life.

Again I congratulate him on his victory. I thank him for his service and his friendship, and I look forward to opportunities to work with him again in his new capacity as Governor of New Jersey.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to say farewell to the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, Mr. JON S. CORZINE. In January, he will resign his seat, bound for greener pastures. While he will be missed tremendously in this Chamber, I know that, as Governor, he will serve the people of New Jersey well.

Senator CORZINE and I were elected to the Senate in the same year, and I have since been glad to have his friendship and advice. I would also like to say how fortunate New Jersey has been to be represented by Senator CORZINE. I am proud of the work that we did together in the time we shared in the Senate and am sad to see him go.

Along with his dedication to building a practical, progressive government, Senator CORZINE always brought a fresh and original perspective to this body. His previous career as chairman and CEO at Goldman Sachs allowed him the benefit of invaluable experience in helping to solve the problems that face our economy and our financial sector. His combination of principle and practice, are, more than anything, what the Senate will sorely miss.

Consider Senator CORZINE's role in crafting the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. His work on this bipartisan legislation helped produce reforms that, in the wake of corporate abuse scandals, restored confidence in the markets, protected shareholders, and ensured that additional and more impartial oversight would act to prevent the damage to our economy that might flow from unchecked corporate malfeasance. Senator CORZINE stood by his principles, worked with Democrats and Republicans, and used his expertise to help craft legislation to promote ethics, accountability, and economic growth.

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We can also look to Senator CORZINE's efforts to end the crisis ravaging Darfur, Sudan. I was proud to co-sponsor the legislation by Senator CORZINE and Senator Sam Brownback to expand aid to the African Union and provide a framework for tackling the ongoing violence. We can all be proud that Senator CORZINE was able to help usher the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act through the Senate. His dedication to the issue and commitment to stopping the genocide is admirable to say the least. Senator CORZINE has stood by his values, and worked hard to see those values reflected in the work of the Senate, the Congress, and the Nation.

Recently I joined Senator CORZINE in introducing legislation to help the victims of sexual assault receive the medical treatment they need and deserve. Senator CORZINE believes as I do that we have a duty to these women; a woman who has already suffered so much should not have to worry about whether she will be offered emergency contraception to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. Senator CORZINE's passion for protecting and improving access to health care and medical treatment, and to protecting the rights of patients, is truly exemplary.

Finally, Senator CORZINE served New Jersey and his constituents with compassion and dedication in the days, weeks, months, and years following the attacks on September 11, 2001. New Jersey and New York shared in so much grief and loss that day, and Senator CORZINE was tireless in his commitment to the citizens of New Jersey who bore the burden of that loss.

In the years since, he has remained steadfast in fighting for the families of 9/11 and fighting to strengthen our Nation to prevent future acts of terrorism. His hard work to secure our Nation's vulnerable chemical facilities serves as a noteworthy example. I was proud to co-sponsor his legislation to safeguard our Nation's chemical plants, the Chemical Security Act, and share in his commitment to doing all we can to strengthen America's homeland security.

I would also acknowledge Senator CORZINE's tenure at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. In his leadership at the DSCC and throughout his time in office, Senator CORZINE served with honesty, integrity, and a passion for improving the lives of all Americans.

JON CORZINE's absence will long be felt in the Senate, as will his good work. He brought his expertise and values to bear on the challenges facing our economy, our security, and our country.

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To the great benefit of the citizens of New Jersey, JON CORZINE—while retiring from the Senate, will bring his values, his expertise, his passion, and his dedication with him to the governorship of the Garden State. The citizens of New Jersey will no doubt continue to be fortunate to have JON CORZINE in their corner.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, as Senator CORZINE spends his final days representing the people of New Jersey in the Senate, I wish to spend a few moments speaking about his commitment to human rights and the pressing crisis of genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

I have worked on the issue of war and humanitarian disaster in Sudan for several years. But nearly 2 years ago, as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan was in its final negotiations, we became aware of the unfolding crisis in Sudan's western region of Darfur. It was Senator CORZINE who came to me to work together and champion this issue. We joined each other on the Senate floor in countless speeches showing photos of the anguish in Darfur. We joined each other in seeing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act through the Senate. We joined each other to secure funding for the security and humanitarian needs of the people.

I have had the opportunity to work with many Members across party lines on human rights and humanitarian issues. I remember partnering with Paul Wellstone on the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act. Some called us strange bedfellows since we were at opposite ends of the political spectrum. But I have learned an important lesson: these issues are sufficiently urgent that ideological and partisan differences should not be allowed to impede cooperation, especially where lives and basic freedoms are at stake. And such has been true in the case of Darfur. I have no doubt that Senator CORZINE's commitment and perseverance to raise this issue to the highest levels has made a difference to the people of Darfur. I also saw firsthand his sincere compassion and commitment to the suffering of the world when we traveled to tsunami-ravaged South Asia together earlier this year.

I will always consider Senator CORZINE an ally and a friend on one of the greatest moral issues in foreign policy today. In his absence, I will look to my other colleagues to ensure that this crisis is not easily forgotten.

As we close out 2005, I urge my colleagues to secure additional funding for the African Union in the defense appropriations conference and I urge my colleagues in the House

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to pass the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. Without continued action by the United States and the international community, more lives will be lost.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank Senator CORZINE for his partnership and his commitment to the people of Darfur. I express my very best wishes as he leaves this body to become the next Governor of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I believe I am to be recognized by unanimous consent directly following the tributes to Senator CORZINE. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Senator from New Jersey. He has been indeed a good Senator. His tenure here has distinguished him. That is clearly recognized by the people of New Jersey. I believe he is going to be a great Governor for that great State.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield me 30 seconds?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Certainly.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the very able Senator from California for her yielding to allow these tributes to be paid to Senator CORZINE. I know she has been waiting here quite a while to speak on another issue. It was extremely gracious of her to do that. I wanted to recognize that and thank her very much.

Mr. CORZINE. Will the Senator yield for my last word?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I certainly will.

Mr. CORZINE. I am appreciative of the Senator's gracious and kind words as well. I follow with great interest her views and visions on a lot of major issues of the day. I know she is going to speak on one of the more important ones in a few minutes. I am particularly appreciative of her kindness.

MONDAY, *December 19, 2005*

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our most remarkable Members, Senator JON CORZINE, who leaves us this year to continue his work on behalf of the people of New Jersey in a new capacity. Experience and

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leadership qualities like his are rare, and with them, he has set himself apart as a champion of the environment, a safe homeland, affordable health care, and working men and women everywhere.

After managing one of the most successful businesses in the world, JON arrived in the Senate 5 years ago with the negotiating skills and leadership experience that allowed him to succeed so admirably here. Most notably, JON came to Washington with an unusual and important perspective. He understands the bottom line. He understands that it is not right for our children to inherit our unpaid bills and that we have a responsibility to ensure that we leave them a safer, more secure and more compassionate America.

In pursuit of these goals and never shying from a challenge, JON CORZINE was a leader in the fight to protect Social Security from privatization and helped lead the charge to secure our chemical facilities from terrorist attacks.

However, while tackling those critical national challenges, it was obvious that his heart was with New Jersey. Over the past 5 years, JON fought hard to improve the quality of life for all of the people of his State by investing in the local economy and protecting New Jersey's natural resources.

Last month, New Jersey residents showed their gratitude and admiration for JON's service and elected him Governor of their State. With their votes, they showed that they believed in Jon's quest to make New Jersey one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. As a former Governor, I know the challenges and the rewards of running a State. And from working with JON in the Senate, I know that he will help move New Jersey forward and will make sure that the State government provides people with value for their hard-earned tax dollars, while respecting the values that unite us all.

Today the Senate loses a valued colleague. However, today New Jersey gains a great Governor.

JON, we will miss you. Susan joins me in wishing you all the best in the future. New Jersey is lucky to have you.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Senator JON CORZINE, on his election to the governorship of New Jersey. The Senator from New Jersey and I joined this body in the same year, 2001, and in that time, he has worked for New Jersey and the country with skill and determination.

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He is a man who believes in security, whether it is securing our homeland, securing our financial future or securing our world from genocide.

Senator CORZINE recognized the deadly risk posed by lackluster protection of our Nation's chemical plants. As we debated this year's homeland security appropriations bill, his amendment let everyone know that we must take steps to protect against a terrorist attack on chemical facilities within the United States.

He has doggedly fought for retirement security for all Americans, helping to protect Social Security from deep benefit cuts and preventing a substantial increase in the national debt. Senator CORZINE knows that we made a promise to our seniors that they can retire with safety and dignity, and he is helping to keep that promise.

By introducing the Sudan Accountability Act, Senator CORZINE put this body on record that we cannot allow the genocide in Darfur to continue. Hundreds of thousands are already dead, and millions have been displaced by the atrocities in Sudan. He has helped push for sanctions against those committing these crimes and to put money into our efforts to stop them.

Over the past 5 years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Senator CORZINE on important issues.

We recognized a gaping hole in benefits provided to widows of our service members, and he joined me in introducing the Military Retiree Survivor Benefit Equity Act. The bill has attracted bipartisan support based on its fundamental fairness and because it is the right thing to do for America's military retirees and their survivors.

Florida and New Jersey both have beautiful shorelines that serve important economic needs for our States, and Senator CORZINE has helped me in the fight to protect these shorelines from the devastation of oil drilling. I look forward to continuing this fight with his successor, Congressman Menendez.

I expect that as Governor of New Jersey, he will take with him to Trenton the same passion to protect our homeland, to protect our environment, and to protect our future that he had here in the Senate. I thank him for his service in Washington, DC. I congratulate him on his victory, and I wish him well as he continues his service for the people of New Jersey.

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WEDNESDAY, *December 21, 2005*

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to wish Senator JON CORZINE the very best as he leaves his service in the Senate to become the next Governor of the State of New Jersey. Although we didn't always agree on all the issues, it has been an honor to work with him. He has always been courteous and professional, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to know him.

Senator CORZINE's career has taken him to the uppermost levels in the business world. He was a partner at Goldman Sachs at the age of 33 and he became CEO of that prestigious firm at the age of 50. As someone who has been extraordinarily successful in the private sector, I am sure Senator CORZINE has had many life opportunities offered to him. The fact that he has chosen a career in public service speaks a great deal to the type of person that he is.

Senator CORZINE's economic expertise helped him become a leader on budget and fiscal issues in the Senate. I had the privilege of serving with Senator CORZINE on the Budget Committee. His knowledge and understanding of financial markets and economic issues will be missed.

JON CORZINE has been a good Senator, and I wish him success as he leaves here to become Governor of the State of New Jersey.

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