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TRIBUTES TO HON. MARK DAYTON

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Mark Dayton

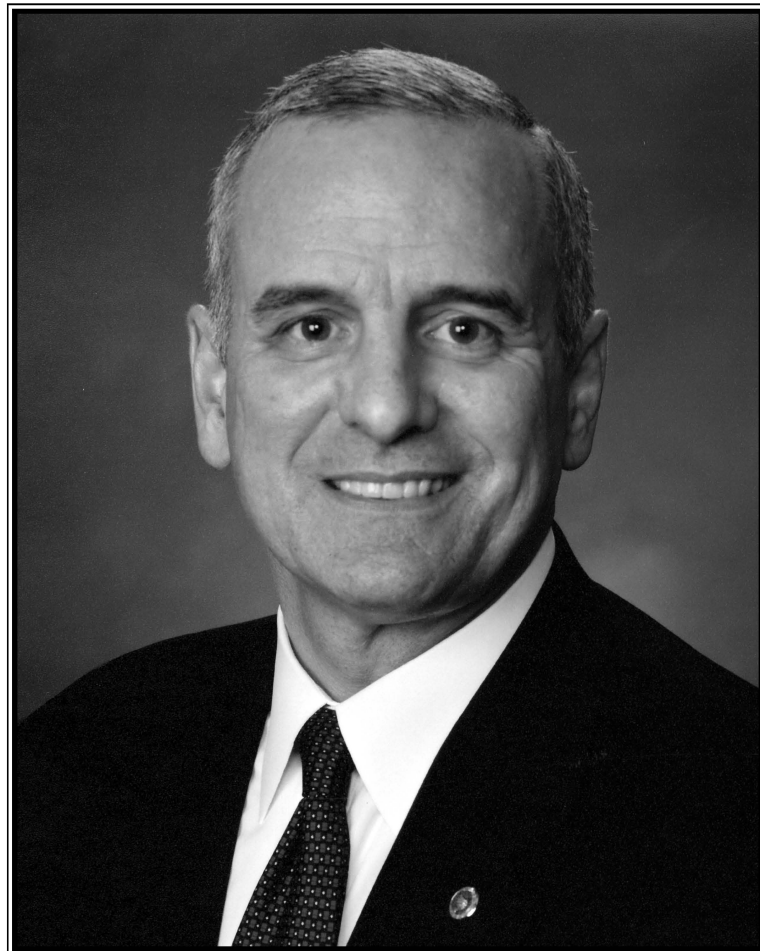
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Mark Dayton

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Mark Dayton
United States Senator
2001-2007



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Biography

Born January 26, 1947, MARK DAYTON is the eldest of four children born to former Dayton Hudson Corp. chairman Bruce Dayton and the late Gwendolen Brandt Dayton. He is the great-grandson of George Dayton, a one-time banker who opened a dry goods store in 1902 that became a national re-tailing powerhouse.

MARK attended Long Lake Elementary School in Hennepin County and then Blake School in Minneapolis, where he graduated, cum laude, in 1965. Like many Minnesota kids, MARK was a hockey fanatic. He spent his free time on the ice practicing to be a star goalie. His hard work earned him a place on Blake's "All State" first team in his senior year.

Following high school, MARK attended Yale University where he majored in psychology, played varsity hockey, and graduated, cum laude, in 1969. While at college, he joined Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, whose then-president was now-President George W. Bush.

After working as a hospital orderly for three summers during high school he thought he wanted to become a doctor so he completed pre-med course requirements while at Yale.

However, MARK decided medicine was not the right fit for him so after graduation he took a job teaching at P.S. 65, a tough school on New York's Lower East Side, and lived part of the time with a family on welfare. With 3 years of teaching under his belt followed by experience as a counselor for runaways, then as chief financial officer of a Boston social service agency, MARK felt a call to public service.

MARK's interest in public service led him to join the Washington staff of then-Minnesota Senator Walter Mondale in 1975. He focused on education, children and youth, and small business. MARK never dreamed that a quarter-century later, he would inhabit his own office in the same building as Senator Mondale once did.

When Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter selected Senator Mondale as his running mate the following year, MARK joined the campaign. At the campaign headquarters in Atlanta, he worked as a driver, midnight-to-dawn telecopy operator, and all-around go-fer. Immediately following Carter's

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election victory, MARK returned to Minnesota to work for incoming Governor Rudy Perpich and was asked to head the Minnesota Department of Economic Development. He served in that position for nearly 2 years.

In 1978, MARK married Alida Rockefeller, whose brother, Senator Jay Rockefeller, is currently one of MARK's Senate colleagues. They have two sons: Eric, age 23, and Andrew, age 20. Alida and MARK were divorced 8 years later; however, they remain dedicated parents and close friends.

Spurred by a growing recession and national energy crisis that hit rural Minnesota particularly hard, MARK founded and led the Minnesota Project in 1979. This economic development and public policy organization continues to support the social, environmental and economic health of Greater Minnesota communities.

Soon after Ronald Reagan was elected President, MARK began his own campaign for the U.S. Senate. He defeated former Senator Eugene McCarthy in the DFL primary; but in the 1982 general election, lost to incumbent Senator David Durenberger.

The following year, reelected Governor Rudy Perpich appointed MARK the commissioner of an expanded Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development. During his tenure, he set up the newly created Minnesota Economic Development Authority, which offered tax and other financial incentives to businesses willing to locate or expand and create jobs in Minnesota. He developed the Minnesota Star City Program, an initiative begun by his predecessor, which trained local officials, business owners, and other community leaders throughout the State to retain existing businesses and recruit new businesses into their cities. He also organized another new program established by the legislature, under which he named the first enterprise zones in Minnesota.

MARK left State government 4 years later and founded the Vermilion Investment Company. During this time, he also went through a 28-day alcohol treatment program. For the next few years, he devoted himself to his recovery, business, and family.

In 1990, MARK ran for State auditor and won. He served one 4-year term in a position he describes as "the taxpayers' watchdog." During this time, he formed a special investigations unit to uncover misuse and theft of public funds in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout Minnesota. He also served on the boards of the State Executive

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Council, the State Board of Investment, the State Land Exchange Board, the Public Employees Retirement Association, and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. MARK also successfully led the opposition to corporate attempts to use public pension funds to prop up their financially ailing operations.

Following his time as State auditor, MARK co-chaired the reelection committee of his long-time friend, Senator Paul Wellstone, and served as its finance chairman. In 1997, MARK launched his own campaign for Governor of Minnesota; however, he lost in the DFL primary to then-Attorney General Skip Humphrey.

In early 2000, MARK was eager to once again have a role in statewide politics. Early in the year, he announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat then held by Senator Rod Grams. After hearing from hundreds of Minnesotans during his gubernatorial campaign, MARK launched a series of bus trips to Canada, funded by donated Senate salary, called the "Rx Express." These trips continue today to provide seniors with a way to buy much-needed prescription medicines at substantially lower prices. He also created the "Healthcare Help Line," which is in its 4th year of assisting Minnesotans with problems they have with their insurers.

In September, MARK won the DFL primary and 8 weeks later was elected to the U.S. Senate. On January 3, 2001, he was sworn in as the 33d Senator from Minnesota and as the 1,846th Senator in the Nation's history.

MARK served on four Senate Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Armed Services; Governmental Affairs; and Rules. He was also a member of the House-Senate Joint Committee on Printing, which he chaired in 2003.

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Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, it has been almost 6 years since I was sworn in as Minnesota's 33d U.S. Senator with my friend and colleague Paul Wellstone at my side. I began my term hopeful and optimistic. The Senate was evenly divided, with 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, and President-elect George W. Bush was promising to change the tone in Washington with a new era of bipartisan cooperation.

Our country enjoyed peace and relative prosperity. Outgoing President Bill Clinton, a Republican-controlled Congress, and over 6 years of economic expansion had combined to create the first annual surpluses in the Federal Government's on-budget account in 39 years, and they were projected by OMB to continue for at least the next decade.

The Social Security trust fund's annual surpluses were going to be saved in a lockbox for the upcoming retirements of a large baby boom generation. There was even discussion of paying down the national debt to further strengthen our financial position. Yet we still would be able to increase funding for such essential needs as public education, affordable health care, seniors' drug coverage, and infrastructure improvements.

Just 6 years later, our country's condition has changed drastically, and mostly for the worse. We are mired in a disastrous war in Iraq despite the heroic efforts and sacrifices by our Armed Forces. The fiscal integrity of the Federal budget has been destroyed, with record-high annual deficits continuing, despite budget gimmickry and a modest economic recovery. The Federal tax base has been decimated by huge tax giveaways to the rich and superrich that will burden our children and grandchildren. The Social Security trust fund's surpluses have been spent every year on what the non-partisan Concord Coalition has called "the most reckless fiscal policy" in our Nation's history.

The Bible says if the leaders don't lead, the people perish. Unfortunately, the Bush administration and the Republican majority in Congress have not led this country well, and our

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people are suffering the consequences: lost jobs, businesses, and farms; lost incomes, standards of living, and security; and lost loved ones killed or maimed in Iraq.

We have lost the national unity which followed the terrible atrocities of September 11, 2001, and the Bush administration has lost the world's support which they had after that awful attack. The President's decision to invade Iraq unilaterally, the absence of weapons of mass destruction that had been the initial justification for that invasion, and his administration's disastrous mismanagement of Iraq following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein has squandered most of our national unity and international goodwill.

The *Congressional Record* will show that I opposed those failed policies and supported other and better alternatives. I was 1 of 23 Senators to vote against the Iraq war resolution. I opposed the large tax giveaways to the rich and superrich. In fact, during my 6 years in the Senate, I voted 29 times to raise my own taxes. Why? Because our country needs those tax revenues, and I can darn well afford to pay my fair share of them, as can all other Americans with my good fortune.

I tried seven times unsuccessfully to get the Senate to honor its 30-year promise to school districts and school-children and fully fund special education. The Senate did pass my "Taste of Our Own Medicine" amendment limiting Members of Congress's prescription drug coverage to what they provided to senior citizens through Medicare. However, my amendment was discarded by the House-Senate conference committee.

It has pained me deeply to see the Senate's majority lead our country into what I consider the wrong direction. Our Nation's founding principle was "we the people," and it remains so today. If we are not always united by the common cause, we are bound together by a shared destiny. If the laws this Senate passes are successful, "we the people" benefit together. If those laws fail, we suffer together. Some Americans will suffer more than others as unfair victims of social and economic injustices, but ultimately all Americans cannot escape our common national fate. United we stand and succeed; divided we fall and fail. I regretfully believe that during my Senate term this administration and its congressional followers have caused too many divisions, declines, and failures.

Thus, I leave the Senate with strong feelings of frustration and disappointment. I have been unable to pass most of

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what I believe was most important to Minnesota, to our country, and to the world. I remain convinced that those policies would improve the lives of most Americans far better than what the majority here enacted.

A cornerstone of democracy, which I honor, is that the majority prevails. Winning, however, does not make them right and, unfortunately, it does not make them wise. In those decisions with which I have disagreed, time will tell us and the American people who was right and who was wise.

I do want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the privilege to serve these last 6 years with them. I am grateful for the friendships I have made, which I hope will continue after my departure.

I thank my excellent staff, those here in Washington and those in Minnesota, for their tremendous dedication and many hours of hard work. Most of the successes I have enjoyed here have been the result of their dedication and their abilities, and I thank them again for their support.

I especially want to thank the people of Minnesota who gave me this extraordinary opportunity to serve them in the Senate. Our democracy is, through all of human history, throughout the entire world, the most advanced and successful form of self-governance that human beings have ever devised. It is far from perfect, but it is far better than anything else. We who are elected as its leaders and its stewards have sacred duties to uphold its principles, to elevate its policies, and to improve its practices before we bequeath them to our successors. I have done my very best to fulfill those duties before I pass them on to my outstanding successor, Senator-elect Amy Klobuchar. We in the Senate and in the House of Representatives also have the duty to serve the best interests of all Americans. To be successful and sustainable, our Government must improve the lives of all of our citizens.

Unfortunately, here in Washington, the people who already have the most keep getting more than anyone else. The excessive influences of their money and political power on the Federal Government are serious threats to our democracy. They skew decisions and laws in favor of the rich and powerful, often at the expense of other Americans: the hard-working people who pay their taxes and hope their elected representatives will look out for them in Washington. It isn't too much for them to expect. However, it is too often more than they are getting.

They are told repeatedly that new laws and policies will improve their lives. Yet their real lives become worse, not

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better. They experience a deep disconnect between what they are told will happen and what is actually happening to them.

In attempts to hide those disparities, the words used in Washington are often carefully selected by very clever people in order to disguise reality rather than to describe it. For example, legislation that stripped many Americans of their bankruptcy protections for major medical expenses was named the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. Another bill that would have increased industrial pollution was entitled the Clear Skies Act. No Child Left Behind has knowingly underfunded Head Start, title I, and special education, which has left millions of school-children behind.

These discrepancies and the disparities they create will be even more destructive to the American people's trust in their Government in the years ahead. That is because the choices facing Congress will become even more difficult as the needs of an aging population grow but revenues do not. In about a decade, the Social Security trust fund's large annual surpluses will be replaced by deficits, and its IOUs from the general fund will add to that fund's own chronic deficits. If combined with today's enormous and unsustainable balance of trade deficits and a continuing erosion of our manufacturing job base, the consequences could be catastrophic.

That somber forecast has replaced my hope and optimism of 6 years ago to my deep regret. Following the wisdom of "speak truth to power," I present my truth to the world's most powerful legislative body, the U.S. Senate, and one of the two institutions that must act to keep our Nation strong. I hope that you will. I will pray for your wisdom to discern what is right, for your courage to act accordingly, and for your success on behalf of our great Nation and the world.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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TRIBUTES
TO
MARK DAYTON

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Proceedings in the Senate

FRIDAY, *September 29, 2006*

Mr. BYRD. . . . Mr. President, I say farewell to Senator DAYTON. Seldom has a freshman Senator made more of an impression on me than has Senator MARK DAYTON of Minnesota who has announced that he will be leaving us at the end of this session of the Congress.

From the start of his service in this Chamber, I have been struck by Senator DAYTON's determination to learn the rules, to learn the traditions, to learn the customs of the Senate.

When Senator DAYTON presided over the Senate, which is one of the responsibilities of freshman Senators, he always did so with attention and dignity. His demeanor was inspiring. It reassured my belief in the future of this great institution.

When I meet with new Senators, as I often do, about the duties of the Presiding Officer, I urge them to use that gavel on that desk vigorously to bring the U.S. Senate to order.

I recall one instance when Senator DAYTON banged the gavel so hard that he nearly fell out of his chair. That is the way it should be. I thought to myself: Bang that gavel, bring the Senate to order so that the Senate can conduct the Nation's business.

I am also impressed about the reverence that Senator DAYTON shows for our Nation's most basic, most important document, the Constitution of the United States.

Many people who have served in this Chamber will have to answer to history for the way they have ignored and trampled upon our Constitution. As President Lincoln once reminded the Members of Congress: "We cannot escape history."

I am confident that history will hold Senator DAYTON in high regard.

Time after time, this freshman Senator has stood with me and the Constitution of the United States on the important issues before us. Senator DAYTON was one of the lonely 23 Senators who voted not to go to war with Iraq. I have been,

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as I say, 48 years in this body, and it is the greatest vote I ever cast, the vote of which I am most proud of all the 17,000 and more votes that I have cast.

Senator DAYTON was willing to defy public opinion and the forces of war because he, Senator DAYTON, was determined not to hand over to President Bush, or any President, Democrat or Republican, any President, the power to declare war. No. Why? Because the Constitution says Congress shall have the power to declare war.

With firm belief in our constitutional doctrines of the separation of powers and checks and balances, Senator DAYTON was the only person on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee who voted against the flawed Department of Homeland Security bill that this White House pushed.

How I have admired the courage and the fortitude of this man, Senator DAYTON, this Senator and his firm belief in our constitutional system.

How I have wished that he would change his mind. I have spoken to him numerous times about that. I wish we had more like him, more who would say: Come one, come all, this rock shall fly from its firm base as I.

I thank Senator DAYTON for standing shoulder to shoulder and toe to toe with me on so many constitutional issues, and I thank him for the reverence he has shown this institution, the U.S. Senate.

Senator DAYTON is a descendant—get this—Senator DAYTON is a descendant of Jonathan DAYTON, who was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 from the State of New Jersey. I know that Jonathan DAYTON is up there somewhere today looking down and smiling upon his kinsman who has worked so hard to preserve and to protect the Constitution, the sacred document that he, Jonathan DAYTON, helped to create along with George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison.

Senator DAYTON has brought to the Senate a vigor and a vision of public policies that is both refreshing and needed; yes, needed.

MARK DAYTON has devoted his life to public service. And why he ever decided to leave the Senate is beyond me. I have done the best I could talking with him time and time again, but he remains firm.

His public service included teaching school in the lower east side of New York City, also known as the Bowery, and serving as a social worker in Boston, the great city of Boston. Senator DAYTON's social and political activism landed him on

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President Richard Nixon’s infamous “enemies list”—which he, Senator MARK DAYTON, probably considered a badge of honor—and on the staff of Senator Walter Mondale, one of our fine Vice Presidents.

Senator DAYTON brought his concerns for the less fortunate and the powerless with him to the Senate. As a freshman Senator, he proposed a new farm bill to help struggling family farms. He proposed a prescription tax credit plan to help Medicare beneficiaries offset the costs of their medications. He established a health care help line to assist working families in his State in getting health coverage from their insurance companies that they had paid for. He proposed a global trade agreement to limit the President’s ability to negotiate trade deals by giving the Congress the power to reject parts of negotiated trade deals if they violated existing laws.

I expected great things from this Senator. He had been serving in this Chamber for only 2 years, when on March 13, 2003, I predicted that Senator DAYTON would have a “long career, if he wishes to make it a long one.”

I was surprised, I was disappointed, I was saddened to learn that he has chosen instead to make a short career in the Senate. I hope he does not retire from public life because our country—especially our less fortunate—will always need public servants like MARK DAYTON.

But whatever he chooses to do, I wish him happiness and success. And I will always be grateful for my friendship with MARK DAYTON and the work—yes, the work—that we have done together.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield briefly?

Mr. BYRD. I do yield.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BYRD. I yield to the Senator 2 minutes. Is that sufficient?

Mr. DAYTON. I will be very brief.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for those gracious words. I am deeply honored because they come from the mouth of one of the greatest Senators in the history of this country. And whatever I have learned to apply with my understanding of the traditions of the Senate, the integrity of

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the Senate, the dignity of the Senate, I heard first and foremost from the great Senator from West Virginia, who has been a mentor, a guide, a leader, for whom I have the utmost respect. And when I did preside and listen to the Senator speak about such subjects as the U.S. Constitution, I learned more from his wisdom than I have learned in the previous 55 years of my life.

I was honored to stand with him, really behind him, when he led the public outcry against the war resolution. And I was honored to be 1 of those 23 Senators, and history has proven us also correct. For his incredible service to his State for which he was cited as the Greatest West Virginian of the last century, and I expect will be cited as the Greatest West Virginian of this century as well, and for that same quality of devotion to our country and incredible leadership to our entire Nation, we are all—all of the country men and women—in great debt to him. I am, again, deeply honored by his words.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator, and I will always cherish, as long as I live, his words. . . .

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I see my colleague from Minnesota, Senator DAYTON. He will not be here in January, and I come to the Senate to associate myself with the praise of my distinguished colleague from West Virginia [Mr. Byrd] for Senator DAYTON.

We live in very partisan times. We live in times where there is great cynicism about politics. We come from opposite sides of the political aisle, and there are moments we are butting heads on issues and press releases, but I have to say my colleague's heart is pure. On issue after issue, when MARK DAYTON, the Senator from Minnesota, says something, he says it because he believes it and he is passionate about it.

We worked together to try to make sure our troops, when they were on leave from Iraq, came home at no cost. We came together.

Earlier today, we were in the Senate talking about agricultural disaster assistance for Minnesota farmers. The public does not see all the times we work together. They do not look into a man's heart. I have been here 4 years, and what I call the pureness of the heart, the commitment to public service, a lifelong commitment to public service, again and again at

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level after level on the State and now in the U.S. Congress is something to be celebrated.

I express to my colleague and my friend—and we use that word rather loosely on occasion here, but he is my colleague and my friend—thanks for your service. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you on behalf of the people of Minnesota and the people of this country.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I might have 1 minute to respond.

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

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I thank my friend, and I mean that sincerely, and my very distinguished colleague from Minnesota for those very kind words.

The Senator said we don't agree on everything, but we are not meant to agree on everything. That is part of the wisdom of the process here.

I have endless respect for the Senator from Minnesota. He was elected to the Senate by the people of our State under very difficult circumstances in the immediate aftermath of the tragic death of his predecessor. He handled that situation with great dignity and class, and he has continued to do so.

He represents our State with effectiveness, success beyond his young years. That is demonstrated by the high regard he is held in by most of the citizens in our State.

I thank him for his friendship. I thank him for the opportunity to work with him. I wish him continued success after I leave the Senate.

I yield the floor.

TUESDAY, *December 5, 2006*

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President . . . As we recognize, it is a distinct privilege and high honor to serve our country in any capacity, and certainly none higher than in uniform. But it is especially important that we recognize those who have given years of their lives, sacrificing their families, their own time, to help make a better world for all of us. I know of no capacity in which we serve our country that has given those who have had this rare opportunity to serve in the Senate any-

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thing more noble than trying to shape a better world from this Senate.

These individuals who will leave the Senate, some on their own terms, some on the terms of the election, but, nonetheless, in their own specific way have contributed a great deal to this country.

I take a few minutes to recognize each. . . .

Senator MARK DAYTON from Minnesota, a neighbor. I served on two committees with Senator DAYTON, the Rules Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee. He is a unique individual who served in many ways, beginning with his service to Senator and then Vice President Walter Mondale. Senator DAYTON has a rich history and understanding of this institution and his State. We will miss Senator DAYTON's character, his ability to also cross party aisles and help resolve the issues of our day. . . .

Mr. President, in conclusion, it is not easy to put one's self on the firing line and offer one's self as a candidate for any office. It takes a certain amount of courage and, I suspect, a little dose of insanity. But nonetheless individuals who believe deeply enough to commit themselves to a cause greater than their own self-interests need to be recognized. Having nothing to do with me or you or any one individual, but it is the essence of our country, it is the very fabric of our democracy that makes it all work and probably gives rise to, more than any one reason, why we have been such a successful nation for over 200 years—because people from all walks of life, in every community, in every State, offer themselves for office. Whether it is a mayor, a Governor, city councilman, county official, a sheriff, these individuals deserve recognition.

We all make mistakes. That is who we are. But in the end, it is not unlike what Teddy Roosevelt once referred to in his magnificent quote about the man in the arena. And it is the man and the woman in the arena who change our lives. It makes a better world that shapes history, that defines our destiny. And for these individuals who will no longer have that opportunity to serve our country in the Senate, we wish them well, we thank them, and we tell them we are proud of them and their families and wish them Godspeed.

Mr. President, I thank you for the time and yield the floor.

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WEDNESDAY, *December 6, 2006*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this is an opportunity to recognize the service of several of our colleagues who are departing from the Senate. To Senator Jeffords, Senator Frist, Senator DeWine, Senator Talent, Senator Santorum, Senator Burns, and Senator Allen, let me express my appreciation for their service to their States and their service to the Nation and wish them well. I particularly want to comment, though, on three colleagues with whom I have had the privilege of working very closely. . . .

Finally, let me say a word about my colleague and friend, Senator MARK DAYTON. He is retiring after 6 years in the Senate. He began his public life much earlier, in 1990, as a public school teacher in New York City, and throughout his work he has dedicated himself to help the people of Minnesota and the people of this great Nation. He has placed himself on the front lines to provide better health care for seniors in Minnesota. He has worked closely on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP. He has a good head and a great heart and he served with distinction. I wish him well as he leaves the Senate.

To all my colleagues who served and conclude their service, let me once again express deep appreciation for their friendship and for their service to the Nation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we are coming to the end of the session and 10 of our colleagues are retiring. I want to say a word about them . . .

MARK DAYTON's interest in the environment in Minnesota has been so exceptional. . . .

When the most recent class of Senators was sworn into office nearly 2 years ago, in the gallery were three women. One was the grandmother of Barack Obama. She was from Kenya. One was the mother of Senator Salazar, a 10th generation American. One was the mother of Mel Martinez, the new Republican National Committee chairman, who, with her husband, put her son on an airplane when he was 14 years old and sent him from Cuba to the United States, not knowing if she would ever see him again.

In a way, each one of us who is here is an accident. None of us knew we would be here. Each of us is privileged to serve, and one of the greatest privileges is to serve with our colleagues. We will miss them and we are grateful for their service.

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I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as the time for my departure from the Senate draws near, on behalf of the greatest blessing in my life, my wife Susan, and on behalf of myself, I thank all of my colleagues for their many courtesies and friendships that have been forged during the past 6 years. I offer a few concluding reflections about our time here together, as well as about the future of our Republic. . . .

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I see others who wish to speak, and I will make a couple of brief comments.

In the comments of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. Allen], his final couple of comments recalled for me a statement made in the closing of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, when on the back of the chair of the presiding officer was a sunburst. Someone opined in that Constitutional Convention: Dr. Franklin, is that a rising sun or is it a setting sun? And Franklin ventured to say that with the birth of the new Nation, with the creation of the new Constitution, that he thought it was a rising sun.

Indeed, it is that hope of which the Senator from Virginia has just spoken that motivates this Senator from Florida to get up and go to work every day, and to look at this Nation's challenges, not as a Democratic problem or a Republican problem, but as an American problem, that needs to be solved in an American way instead of a partisan way.

We have had far too much partisanship over the last several years across this land, and, indeed, in this Chamber itself. And of the Senators who are leaving this Chamber, I think they represent the very best of America, and on occasion have risen in a bipartisan way. It has been this Senator's great privilege to work with these Senators: Allen of Virginia, Burns of Montana, Chafee of Rhode Island, DAYTON of Minnesota, DeWine of Ohio, Frist of Tennessee, Jeffords of Vermont, Santorum of Pennsylvania, Sarbanes of Maryland, Talent of Missouri.

As the Good Book in Ecclesiastes says: There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to get up, and a time to go to bed. There is a time for a beginning, and there is a time of ending.

For these Senators who are leaving, it is clearly not an ending. It is an ending of this chapter in their lives, but this Senator from Florida wanted to come and express his appreciation for their public service, to admonish those where admonishment is needed when this Chamber, indeed, this Gov-

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ernment, has gotten too partisan, but to express this Senator's appreciation for the quiet moments of friendship and reflection and respect in working together, which is the glue that makes this Government run.

Whether you call it bipartisanship, whether you call it friendship, whether you call it mutual respect, whatever you call it, the way you govern a nation as large and as complicated and as diverse as our Nation is—as the Good Book says: Come, let us reason together—that is what this Senator tries to be about. And that is what this Senator will try to continue to do in the new dawn of a new Congress. So I wanted to come and express my appreciation for those Senators who will not be here, for the great public service they have rendered.

Mr. President, I am truly grateful for their personal friendship and for their public service.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. . . Mr. President, MARK DAYTON served representing the State of Minnesota. Business was his background, not politics. But Senator DAYTON developed a passion for politics at an early age. While his parents supported Richard Nixon in 1960 and 1968, Senator DAYTON found another hero in Bobby Kennedy. As a college student at Yale, he protested the Vietnam war. He began using a share of his family's fortune to support progressives.

In return, he made it on an enemies list. He was investigated by the FBI, targeted by the IRS, and had that dubious distinction of being on Richard Nixon's enemies list, a distinction that he now wears as a badge of honor.

He has devoted his entire adult life to public service, broadly defined. Born into privilege, he fought for those less fortunate from the start, especially for poor children. After college he taught science in New York City and counseled runaway children in Boston. Returning to his Minnesota roots, he served as an aide to Walter Mondale, then as Minnesota's State economic development commissioner, and later State auditor. MARK DAYTON was elected to the Senate 6 years ago on his second try. His first 2 years in the Senate he had that great colleague, Paul Wellstone. For the last 4 years, MARK DAYTON, like many of us, has tried to carry Paul Wellstone's standard, to fight for the people that Paul Wellstone used to call "the little fellers," who don't have expensive lobbyists to watch out for them in the Senate.

MARK DAYTON has been a consistent voice for fairness. He has used his own Senate salary to pay for seniors to travel

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to Canada to purchase less expensive prescription drugs. He has been a strong advocate for ethanol, renewable energy, strengthening America's energy security, reducing global warming, and boosting the income of family farmers.

Senator DAYTON was 1 of only 23 Senators who voted against the Iraqi war resolution in 2002. He has used his seat on the Senate Armed Services Committee to ask hard questions of those who planned and are overseeing the war. He has demanded accountability from them while he has continued to show consistent support for the men and women in uniform.

I look forward to seeing how Senator MARK DAYTON will serve America next, and I wish him the very best. . . .

I wish all of my colleagues who are retiring well as they begin the next chapters of their careers.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to several of my friends here in Washington. Too often we get caught up here in the back-and-forth of politics and lose sight of the contributions of those with whom we work every day. It is only at moments such as these, at the end of a cycle, that we have a moment to reflect on the contributions of our colleagues. And while we may not always see eye to eye, this Senate is losing several admirable contributors who have made many sacrifices to serve our democracy. . . .

Then there is my colleague on the Agriculture Committee, Senator MARK DAYTON of Minnesota. For much of his life, Senator DAYTON has dedicated himself to public service, both in Minnesota and in Washington—as a leader on economic development for his home State and later as State auditor before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000. The Twin Cities may be cold this time of year, but we all know that Minnesota DFLers will welcome him home warmly after his service in the Senate. . . .

America, when held to its finest ideals, is more than a place on the globe or a work in progress. It is the inspiration to those around the world and here at home to seek out excellence within themselves and their beliefs. It has been a pleasure to work alongside each of these gentlemen, who have helped me as I have found my way, sometimes literally, through the halls of the Senate, in the pursuit of these greater ideals that we all share: security, prosperity, and an America that we leave better than when we arrived. These ideals will resonate here long after we all are gone and another generation stands in our place making the decisions of its day.

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Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a decent and principled Member of this body, MARK DAYTON. Over the past 6 years, Senator DAYTON has proven his dedication to the highest ideals of this body through his devotion to economic justice, education, and health care concerns.

In October 2002, MARK DAYTON voted against the Iraq war resolution, despite the fact that President Bush was presenting fairly convincing evidence that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and most of the Nation was supportive of the decision to go to war. MARK DAYTON held to his convictions, and history will judge him favorably because of it.

As a Senator, MARK has donated his entire Senate salary to help his constituents pay for prescription drugs. His salary goes to the Minnesota Senior Federation for "Rx Express" bus trips to help senior citizens buy cheaper prescription drugs in Canada. In the Senate, he has fought to make such trips less necessary by proposing the Meeting Our Responsibility to Medicare Beneficiaries Act to permit the Government to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. He has also introduced the Taste of Our Own Medicine Act to require Members of Congress to share the same prescription drug benefits as Medicare recipients.

MARK DAYTON's 6 years in the Senate are a continuation of his lifelong commitment to public service. He previously worked as a teacher on the Lower East Side of New York, as a counselor for runaways, and as the chief financial officer for a social service agency in Boston. He worked for Senator Walter Mondale and campaigned with him during his Vice Presidential bid with President Jimmy Carter. MARK also served twice as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development.

MARK DAYTON has used the economic experience he gained as commissioner, and as Minnesota State auditor to help American workers during his time in the Senate. He has supported extended unemployment assistance and an increase in the minimum wage while opposing outsourcing of American jobs.

Senator DAYTON has been a strong supporter of increased funding for education. He introduced the Nontraditional Student Success Act and the Restore the Dream Act to help students pay for higher education. He has repeatedly insisted that Congress live up to its promise to America's public schools and children by offering amendments to fully fund the Federal Government's commitment to special education.

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MARK has also fought for additional career and technical training.

During his time in this body, MARK DAYTON has nobly stood up for the American people. In a speech on the Senate floor, he noted:

A government of the people, by the people, and for the people is a government that tells the truth to its citizens. If it doesn't, it is not a government of them, not by them, and certainly not for them. It is imperative.

Although MARK DAYTON's voice will no longer be heard on the Senate floor, I know that he will continue to do great work for Minnesotans and for all Americans. I am proud to have served with him and wish him all the best.

THURSDAY, *December 7, 2006*

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of being here for the 28th year beginning shortly. I calculated not long ago that I have served with 261 individuals. I am not about to try and review all of the many magnificent friendships I am privileged to have through these years. Indeed, if one looks at the rewards, of which there are many serving in this historic institution, the Senate, it is the personal bonds, the friendships that we so firmly cement and that will last a lifetime as a consequence of our duties of serving the United States of America and in our respective States.

We are called "United States" Senators. I often believe it is the first obligation, our Nation, the Republic for which it stands. . . .

I would also like to pay tribute to nine other U.S. Senators who will retire from the Senate in the coming days. . . .

Now, I would like to take a few moments to salute our majority leader, Senator Frist, as well as Senators Chafee, Burns, Santorum, DeWine, Jeffords, Talent, and DAYTON. Each and every one of these U.S. Senators has served his State and his country with great distinction.

Without a doubt, I could speak at-length in honor of each of these outstanding individuals. In light of time constraints, however, and the fact that so many of my colleagues wish to similarly pay tribute, I shall endeavor to keep my remarks brief. . . .

Senator DAYTON was elected to the Senate in 2000, and throughout his years in the Senate I have had the privilege of serving with him on the Senate Armed Services Com-

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mittee. As a hardworking member of that committee, MARK was a strong advocate for our Armed Forces. Notably, he was a strong supporter of increasing the death benefit gratuity for survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces from a little more than \$12,000 to \$100,000. Thanks in part to his efforts, this increased death benefit gratuity is now law.

Senator DAYTON also reached across the aisle and worked closely with me in support of efforts to provide Medicare beneficiaries with a prescription drug benefit. Together, we introduced legislation to provide America's seniors with a refundable tax credit to help offset the costs of prescription drugs.

In conclusion, over the years I have served with each of these 10 Senators, each has not only been a trusted colleague, each has also been my friend. I will miss serving with each of them in the Senate but know that each will continue in public service in some capacity. I wish each and every one of them well in the years ahead.

Mr. President, I see a number of colleagues here anxious to speak, and I have taken generously of the time the Presiding Officer has allowed me to speak.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend our colleague MARK DAYTON, the Senator from Minnesota, for his distinguished service in the Senate and for his commitment to helping our country live up to its highest ideals at home and abroad.

MARK's life has been about service to others. Whether as a teacher in the bowery of New York, a counselor to troubled teens in Boston, an aide to our beloved Fritz Mondale, a State economic development leader working to bring quality jobs to his constituents, or a Senator, MARK DAYTON has consistently answered the call of public service throughout his long and outstanding career.

He has been a champion of the right to quality and affordable health care for all Americans, and I know how frustrated he has often been by our inability to make greater progress on this critical domestic issue. Sadly, it will be harder to get there without him, but I am optimistic that we will still be able to accomplish it, and I have no doubt that MARK will continue with his commitment and compassion to help lead the charge from outside the Senate.

As a Senator, he had an indispensable role in our effort to expand the availability of prescription drugs. His heart went out to the senior citizens in Minnesota whose only hope to

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afford the drugs they desperately needed was to cross the border into Canada. Fortunately, in its effort to build a legal fence to keep them out, the drug industry more than met its match in Senator MARK DAYTON. Even my constituents in Massachusetts loved MARK, as they boarded buses from Boston to Minnesota to catch the lifesaving bus to Canada to get their medicine.

MARK also has had the courage to stand against the administration when it launched the tragic and misguided war in Iraq.

He never wavered in the Senate from what he believed was right, and we will all miss the skill and eloquence, the decency, honor, and generosity he brought to our Senate debates.

We regret very much that he won't be here with us in the debates ahead, and we wish him well. Perhaps he will be able to make that Arctic trek to the North Pole that he had to put on hold when he came to the Senate 6 years ago. But I know that whatever new course he chooses, he will continue to be a strong and vital voice in improving the lives of others.

As Robert Kennedy said:

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Throughout his brilliant career, MARK DAYTON has sent forth many ripples of hope, and I'm certain he'll send forth many more in the years ahead. We'll miss you, MARK.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a retiring colleague, Senator DAYTON of Minnesota.

MARK DAYTON has made a career of public service, in the very best sense of the term. After graduating from college, he taught public school in New York City and served as a counselor to teenage runaways before returning to Minnesota. For 20 years, he served in a variety of positions in State government in Minnesota, from commissioner of economic development to State auditor.

In the Senate, MARK DAYTON has been an independent voice in the tradition of our former colleague, Paul Wellstone. He eschewed political expediency and instead relied on his conscience in making important decisions. For example, he agonized over his vote on the Iraq war, before ulti-

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mately deciding to join the small minority of Senators who voted against it.

I have worked most closely with MARK on agriculture and other issues affecting rural Americans. Throughout his Senate service, he has been a strong and consistent voice on behalf of family farmers. He has helped lead the fight for much needed disaster relief. He has opposed misguided cuts to commodity and conservation programs. And he has been a leader in calling for a significant expansion of ethanol and other renewable fuels that can benefit our rural economies and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Senator DAYTON has also been a strong voice on behalf of our troops and their families at home. He has called for better armor and equipment. He has insisted on better care for veterans. And he spearheaded efforts to ensure that soldiers on leave could get all the way home to visit their loved ones rather than simply being dropped off at remote cities and asked to pay last-minute airfares to get home.

MARK DAYTON has insisted on integrity and honesty in every aspect of his public life. He has been a true champion for Minnesota. Lucy and I wish him well as he goes on to other ventures. . . .

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the great service of retiring Senators Paul Sarbanes, MARK DAYTON, and James Jeffords. . . .

I will also express a fond farewell to Senator DAYTON.

It has been an honor to serve on the Armed Services Committee with Senator DAYTON.

He has done a wonderful job for the people of Minnesota. In his time in the Senate Senator DAYTON worked hard to live up to the legend of Senator Wellstone, to honor the values that Senator Wellstone championed in this body.

One example: I was grateful to Senator DAYTON for his support of the Nontraditional Student Success Act, a piece of legislation to help more people attend college while working and raising families—to open the doors of opportunity wider for more and more Americans.

I am grateful to MARK DAYTON for his work to honor his values, and I know he leaves this body having made the people of Minnesota proud. . . .

Finally, I also wish the very best to my Republican colleagues who will leave the Senate at the conclusion of this Congress. The Senate, at its best, is a body that promotes bipartisanship, deliberation, and cooperation, and the dedica-

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tion to shared values. It has been a privilege to work with my departing colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

FRIDAY, *December 8, 2006*

Ms. LANDRIEU. . . . To all of our retiring Members, I say thank you. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of my State when you were needed and thank you for your service to America.

Mr. HARKIN. . . . Mr. President, I would like to follow that up by expressing my respect and admiration for a longtime friend of mine, my neighbor to the north, so to speak, who is also retiring this year; that is, our Senator from Minnesota, MARK DAYTON.

Senator DAYTON is a public servant in the purest sense of that term. He did not come to the Senate 6 years ago in search of status or celebrity or power for power's sake. He has never sought the spotlight. He came here for one reason: to serve the people of Minnesota and of the United States. He has done so in a diligent, consistent, and selfless manner.

I especially appreciate the way Senator DAYTON has followed in the progressive tradition of Minnesota's great Senators, Hubert Humphrey, Gene McCarthy, Fritz Mondale, and Paul Wellstone. On issue after issue, he has fought for working people and their families, for seniors, and for the least fortunate among us. To take just one case in point, no Senator has been more persistent and eloquent in fighting to allow seniors to purchase prescription drugs in Canada where pharmaceuticals are oftentimes less expensive. He has donated his entire Senate salary to the Minnesota Senior Federation to help finance trips on the "Prescription Express" to purchase cheaper drugs in Canada, and he has gone to bat for seniors when they were harassed by border agents upon their return.

To his everlasting credit, Senator DAYTON voted against a resolution effectively authorizing the war in Iraq. He spoke out passionately against the dangers of launching that war. He has used his seat on the Armed Services Committee to take the administration to task for its multiple mistakes and failures in conducting that war. There has been a singular absence of effective oversight of this war on the part of this Congress, but as an individual Senator, MARK DAYTON has done his best to fill that vacuum. On the Armed Services

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Committee he has been courageous and outspoken, and we will remember him for that.

Throughout his adult life, MARK DAYTON has been devoted to serving others and looking out for those in the shadows of life. After graduating from Yale, he could have gone on in the family retail business. He could have coasted on his family's wealth, but he chose a very different course. He chose to work as a teacher for 3 years in a pretty tough public school on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Later he went to work as a counselor for runaway young people, as chief financial officer of a social service agency in Boston, and then as a staffer to Senator Walter Mondale. After returning home to Minnesota, he also served as the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development. He was elected State auditor in 1990.

I think the first time I met MARK DAYTON, I was a Congressman in Iowa and he was running for the Senate in Minnesota, and that was 1982. I went up to campaign for him. I had been involved in agriculture and agricultural endeavors, and so I went up to meet with them and met this young guy running for the Senate. He was unsuccessful that year—I hope not due to the fact that I went to campaign for him. He was unsuccessful that year, but he never gave up. He never gave up trying to find new avenues to serving the people of Minnesota.

As I said, that culminated in him serving as the commissioner of the Department of Energy and Economic Development for a number of years under Governor Perpich and then being elected in his own right as the State auditor in 1990. Under his leadership as State auditor of Minnesota, he did a lot to make sure that State government was running efficiently and effectively and transparently and making sure the auditor's office kept a check on all the different agencies in Minnesota to make sure they were expending the taxpayers' dollars wisely and legally and transparently.

So I was delighted when, even though in 1982 he didn't make it to the Senate, he then made it in the year 2000. In the last 6 years, again, as I said, MARK DAYTON has devoted himself selflessly to helping people less fortunate in our society. His common theme has been amplified powerfully: his passion for public service and his commitment to looking out for others. So I have no doubt that MARK will pursue other avenues of public service in the years ahead.

I will miss his friendship here on the Senate floor, but our friendship will continue. I know that in whatever capacity he

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can find, he will do what he can to make Minnesota and our country a better, fairer, and more just place for all its citizens. I certainly wish my good friend MARK DAYTON the best in the years ahead.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I also will say a word about a couple of my colleagues who are leaving, and I will be brief. . . .

I know we all move on at some time and that none of us is irreplaceable. But by the same token, these colleagues of ours who will be leaving will be missed and they will be remembered for their great service to the Senate, to their States, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DEWINE. . . . Mr. President, I want to wish the best to all of my fellow Senators who were defeated this fall or who are retiring this year—Senators Frist, Santorum, Talent, Burns, Allen, Chafee, DAYTON, and Jeffords. They are all good people and all good friends. I wish them well. . . .

Mr. DODD. . . . Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my departing colleagues who have, for a time, lent their talents, their convictions, and their hard work to this distinguished body. I may have had my disagreements with them, but the end of a term is a time for seeing colleagues not simply as politicians, but as partners who have “toiled, and wrought, and thought with me.” Each, in his own way, was distinctive; and each, in his own way, will be sorely missed. . . .

I would also like to recognize Senator MARK DAYTON of Minnesota. Senator DAYTON’s talents have long been apparent, whether graduating cum laude from Yale University, starting in goal for the college hockey team, or spending time as a teacher on the Lower East Side of New York City. Senator DAYTON has long been involved in public service and Minnesota politics, serving on Walter Mondale’s Senate staff in the 1970s and working in the 1980s and 1990s for economic development in his home State. Senator DAYTON was elected State auditor in 1990, serving a 4-year term fighting the misuse and theft of public funds. In 2000, he once again entered State politics, defeating an incumbent to win a term in the Senate.

MARK DAYTON took many principled stands during his time in the Senate, from his opposition to the Iraq War resolution to his work to fully fund special education. Senator DAYTON was also known for his engagement with the needs of his Minnesota constituents. He won \$3 million for a Min-

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nesota National Guard program to provide soldiers with postcombat counseling and support, worked to hire 148 additional patrol agents to secure the United States-Canada border, and even donated his Senate salary to pay for bus trips to Canada so seniors could buy cheaper prescription drugs.

Senator DAYTON chose to retire after serving out his term, but he declared that “everything I’ve worked for, and everything I believe in, depends upon this Senate seat remaining in the Democratic caucus in 2007.” Senator DAYTON’s wish came true when Amy Klobuchar won an election to fill his seat; and I trust she will continue in MARK DAYTON’s tradition of capable and hard-working representation for the people of Minnesota. Senator DAYTON is returning to private life in his home State, and I wish him all the best. . . .

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the great Senator Daniel Webster once remarked that the Senate is a place “of equals of men of individual honor . . . and personal character.”

He was right, and we can see what he was talking about in the fine men the Senate is losing to retirement at the end of this Congress: Senator Frist, Senator Sarbanes, Senator Jeffords, and Senator DAYTON.

On previous occasions, I have talked about how much I appreciated serving with Senators Frist and Jeffords. Today, I would like to say a few more words about Senators Sarbanes and DAYTON. . . .

Mr. President, MARK DAYTON has served in the Senate just one-fifth of the time Paul Sarbanes served here. But he, too, has made his mark. He’s been a fine public servant, and an even better friend.

Of course, Senator DAYTON’s service has always been closely intertwined with that of our dear departed colleague Paul Wellstone. Paul was a legend in our country, but MARK has kept his legacy alive these last 4 years by fighting for the working people of Minnesota.

MARK was born in Minnesota in 1947. He graduated from Yale University in 1969, where he majored in psychology and played varsity hockey. MARK had many options coming out of college, but he chose to become a teacher at a public school on New York City’s lower east side.

It was an unselfish choice, and it would not be the last time MARK chose a path in life that put the public’s interest ahead of his own self-interest.

In 1957, after his years of teaching, MARK came to Washington, where he worked on the staff of then-Senator Walter

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Mondale. When Mondale was selected the running mate of Jimmy Carter in 1976, MARK was there to serve.

In 1990—following jobs in the Minnesota State government and the private sector—MARK ran for Minnesota State auditor and won. In 2000, he came to the Senate, where he has served ever since.

MARK is known here as a strong advocate for the people of Minnesota. He has used his Senate salary to send busloads of seniors to Canada for prescription drugs. He has used his power in the Senate to help low-income constituents get the oil they need to heat their homes. And he has created a “healthcare help line,” which is available to Minnesotans who have problems with their health insurers.

Mr. President, MARK DAYTON, like Paul Sarbanes, like Jim Jeffords, like Bill Frist, will be missed.

The Senate—and our country—are better off because of their service.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as Senator MARK DAYTON prepares to leave this body, I would like to share with my colleagues a few thoughts about his service. In September, I had the pleasure of speaking on Senator DAYTON’s behalf at a dinner paying tribute to the retiring Senators, and I ask that my remarks from that event be printed in the *Record*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*.

On the night six years ago when Minnesota voters chose him as their 33rd Senator, MARK DAYTON told the cheering crowd: “No matter what your political party or personal philosophy, no matter who you voted for today or even whether you voted at all, I’ll work for you. When, next January, I become Senator DAYTON, please—call me MARK. Because I’m your public servant. I’ll work for you.”

For the past six years, MARK has kept that pledge, because those words were not the rhetoric of a campaign; they were a reflection of MARK’s deeply-held beliefs. MARK DAYTON treats everyone—from the wealthiest to the least fortunate—with the same sense of fairness and compassion, and he carries himself with a humility to which we can all aspire. MARK’s lack of guile has characterized his service here, where political calculating is an accepted reality.

When MARK came to the Senate, he brought with him a broad range of experience. In the private sector he had worked as a public school teacher in a challenging New York City school; as a counselor to runaway youth; as a chief financial officer for a non-profit group; and as head of an investment group. In public life, he had served as a Senate aide to Walter Mondale; as head of Minnesota’s Department of Energy and Economic Development; and as State Auditor, among many other capacities.

That path of service to Minnesota led to his own election to the Senate. MARK and I serve together on both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. As the ranking mem-

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ber on both committees, I have witnessed in MARK a Senator who is passionately dedicated to public service. MARK reads the long reports, he attends the dry meetings, he masters the difficult material, and he asks the tough questions with a disarming directness and quizzical curiosity.

On the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, MARK has been a strong voice in our hearings examining abusive tax shelters and offshore tax havens. MARK has been a leader on prescription drug issues, and he even donates his Senate salary to help seniors buy prescription drugs they could not otherwise afford. And MARK has been a great battler on issues common to our two States, including fighting on behalf of our steel and mining industries and to strengthen our Northern Border.

As part of our work on the Armed Services Committee, MARK traveled with Chairman Warner and me and six other Senators to Iraq, where we saw firsthand MARK's deep dedication to the men and women of our Armed Forces. After allegations surfaced that our troops in Iraq had been given contaminated water by a contractor, it was MARK's insistence that led to an ongoing investigation into the contractor's actions. And MARK has been a true champion for our National Guard and Reserve forces, working forcefully to ease their difficult transition back to civilian life when their tours of duty finally end.

As MARK writes the next chapter in his own life, he can return home to the people of his beloved Minnesota knowing that he has served them honorably and well. Some of them will probably insist on calling him "Senator." But, for most, this idealist with a good heart never stopped simply being "MARK."

We shall miss MARK DAYTON and wish him well as he leaves us. . . .

Mrs. HUTCHISON. . . . Mr. President, I wish Senator DAYTON well as he departs from the Senate.

During his 6 years serving the citizens of Minnesota as their Senator, I got to know Senator DAYTON by working together with him on the Committee on Rules and Administration. I have seen firsthand Senator DAYTON's tireless efforts to protect the interests of his State.

During his political career, Senator DAYTON has held many leadership roles for Minnesota, including commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development, State auditor, and, most recently, U.S. Senator.

As the eldest of four children, he grew up knowing what it meant to set a good example. I have no doubt that Senator DAYTON will continue to serve as a shining example for his two sons.

I know that Senator DAYTON's love for public service—and for Minnesota—will remain strong in the future, and I wish him well. . . .

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTES TO RETIRING
SENATORS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 27, 2006.

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

WEDNESDAY, *December 27, 2006*

Mr. STEVENS. . . . Mr. President, Senator MARK DAYTON's path to the Senate was marked by years spent in service to others. As a teacher, a counselor to troubled children, and then as an administrator of a Boston social service agency, MARK has long fought for those less fortunate—and his service in the Senate reflects this commitment.

It was my pleasure to travel to China with him this past August for meetings with the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Group. He was a fine addition to our bipartisan delegation. During those meetings he brought a unique insight and perspective to many issues.

I commend Senator MARK DAYTON on his public service to the people of Minnesota. Catherine and I wish him the best in the years ahead.

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