

TRIBUTES TO HON. CHUCK HAGEL

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Chuck Hagel

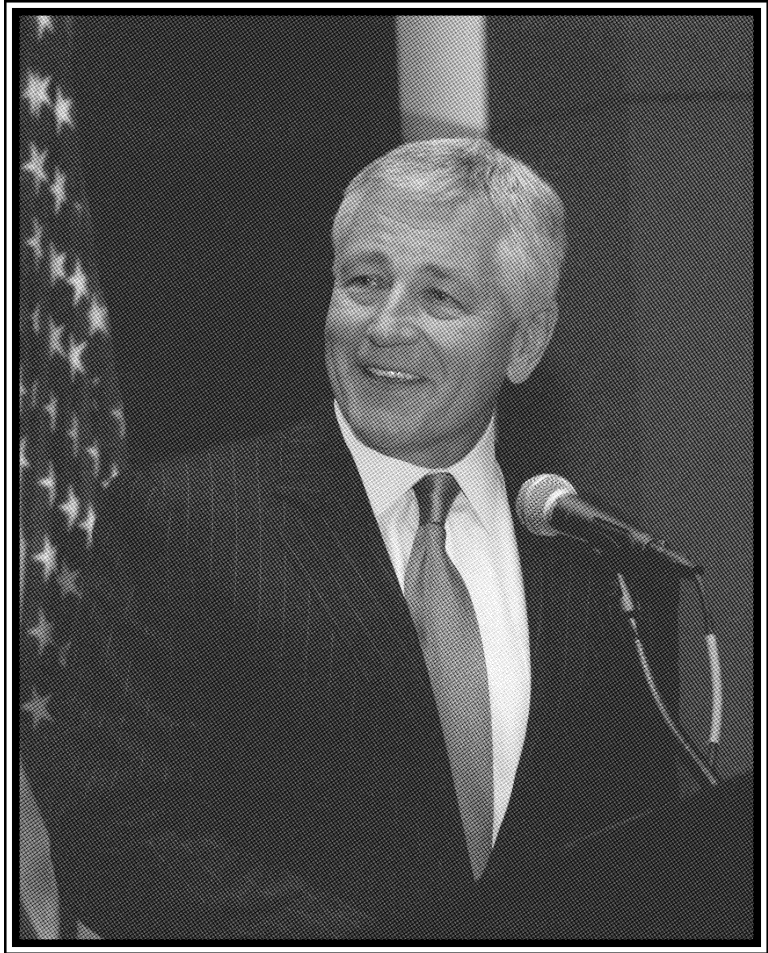
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Chuck Hagel

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Chuck Hagel
United States Senator
1997-2009



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BIOGRAPHY

CHUCK HAGEL, Nebraska's senior U.S. Senator, served two terms in the U.S. Senate. Senator HAGEL's duties included membership on four Senate committees: Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Intelligence; and Rules.

CHUCK HAGEL is the author of "America: Our Next Chapter," a straightforward examination of the current state of our Nation that provides substantial proposals for the challenges of the 21st century.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, HAGEL worked in the private sector as the president of McCarthy & Co., an investment banking firm based in Omaha, NE, and served as chairman of the board of American Information Systems (AIS). Before joining McCarthy & Co., HAGEL was president and chief executive officer of the Private Sector Council (PSC) in Washington, DC, deputy director and chief operating officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations (G-7 Summit) and president and chief executive officer of the World USO.

In the mid-1980s, HAGEL co-founded VANGUARD Cellular Systems, Inc., a publicly traded corporation. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated HAGEL to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, a nomination confirmed by the U.S. Senate. HAGEL also served as Deputy Commissioner General of the United States for the 1982 World's Fair. From 1977 through 1980, CHUCK HAGEL was manager of government affairs for the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company in Washington, DC. From 1971 to 1977, he was administrative assistant to Congressman John Y. McCollister (R-Nebraska). Beginning in 1969, HAGEL worked as a newscaster and talk show host with radio stations KBON and KLNG in Omaha, NE.

CHUCK HAGEL served in Vietnam with his brother Tom in 1968. They served side by side as infantry squad leaders with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division. HAGEL earned many military decorations and honors, including two Purple Hearts.

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Senator HAGEL has served on the board of trustees at Manville Personal Injury Settlement Trust and as chairman of the \$240 million Agent Orange Settlement Fund. His participation in civic, educational, and charitable organizations has included board of directors, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce; chairman, 10th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Memorial; board of directors and national advisory committee of the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; board of directors of the Arlington National Cemetery Historical Society; chairman of the board of No Greater Love, Inc.; USO's World Board of Governors; and the World USO chairman's advisory council. He is a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Among the institutions for which Senator HAGEL serves as a board or advisory committee member are the Institute of Politics at Harvard University; International Republican Institute; the German Marshall Fund's Trade and Poverty Forum; director emeritus, the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute; the Private Sector Council; the Ripon Society; the American Red Cross; Bread for the World; and the Council on Foreign Relations. CHUCK HAGEL is a trustee at Bellevue University and Hastings College. He is co-chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Corporate Council, and chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany.

Senator HAGEL is the subject of a 2006 book by University of Nebraska professor Charlyne Berens entitled, "CHUCK HAGEL: Moving Forward."

Senator HAGEL has received the 2008 Aspen Strategy Group Leadership Award; 2008 Congressional Award from the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the University of Nebraska at Omaha's 2006 Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service; 2006 Don Wagner Leadership Award; 2004 Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Award; the Boy Scouts of America's Good Scout Award; the National Parent Teacher Association's Outstanding Child Advocacy Award and the Committee for Education Funding's Special Recognition Award; the European Institute's Transatlantic Leadership Award; and numerous others.

Among other honors Senator HAGEL has received are the Commander's Cross With Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland; the first annual Cordell Hull Award; the Horatio Alger Award from the Horatio Alger Association; the Vietnam Veterans of America Legislator of the Year Award;

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the 82d Airborne Division Association's Recognition for the "National Airborne Day" Senate Resolution; membership in the Consumers for World Trade Hall of Fame; the Center for the Study of the Presidency's Distinguished Service Medal; the American Farm Bureau Federation's Golden Plow Award; the Friend of the Farm Bureau Award; the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Nebraska at Omaha; an honorary doctorate of public service degree from the College of William and Mary; an honorary doctor of laws degree from Creighton University; an honorary doctorate of commerce from Bellevue University; the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Outstanding Civic Achievement, the first World USO Leadership Award; the University of Nebraska-Kearney George W. Norris Distinguished Lecturer Award; and the Small Business Administration's Nebraska Veterans Advocate of the Year Award.

A fourth generation Nebraskan, CHUCK HAGEL was born in North Platte, NE, on October 4, 1946. He graduated from St. Bonaventure High School, Columbus, NE; the Brown Institute for Radio and Television, Minneapolis, MN; and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Senator HAGEL and his wife, Lilibet, have two children, daughter Allyn, 18, and son Ziller, 16.

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Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. HAGEL. On January 7, 1997, I took an oath of office in the Senate, an oath to the Constitution, and I became the 1,841st person who has ever served in the Senate. That number struck me that day because I recognized, once again—and soon to come to truly appreciate over a 12-year period in this body—how few people have had the opportunity, the privilege, the honor to serve in the Senate.

Less than 2,000 Americans in the history of our country have served in the Senate. That does not make us better. That does not mean we are smarter or in any way more privileged. But it does reflect upon the kind of responsibility that we have in this body and the expectations that are placed on each of us, as should be the case, for our service.

I first thank the people of Nebraska for the privilege I have been given to serve in this body for 12 years. I thank my staff not for their service to me but for their service to this country. I thank my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, from whom I have learned so much over these 12 years. In particular, I thank Senators Lugar and Biden, from whom I have learned much in serving with them on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the last 12 years. They have been patient with me, have helped me, as well as their staffs.

The two leaders of this body—Senators Reid and McConnell—I wish to thank. I have had privileged relationships with each. Senator McConnell and I have grown to have a very close relationship, friendship, and I very much value that relationship. I thank Senator McConnell for his many courtesies over the years, as I do Senator Reid. These two men are charged with great responsibilities, and especially over the last 2 years during as difficult a Congress certainly that I have served in, and I suspect most of my colleagues have served in. They have done a remarkably good and effective job.

Certainly, I thank my family for this privilege and their support and their guidance. They, too, have been privileged

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and enriched and enhanced by being part of this experience over the last 12 years.

These last 12 years have been years of global reorientation and historic events. As I have represented Nebraskans during these turbulent times, I have formed judgments and drawn conclusions about America's future.

The strength of any country is its people. Constitutions, governments, public and private institutions are important, for they form the structure of a society, the boundaries of social behavior. But it is the people, the individuals, who make the difference in life and in the world.

Americans possess a generous spirit and uncommon decency predicated on faith and family, hard work, fair play, and belief in a better tomorrow. The challenges that face America today and in the future are not just American challenges but global challenges. Everything we do or don't do has global implications, just as everything that happens around the world has implications for us here in our country.

The Senate is a unique institution. It is unique among all governing bodies of the world. It is imperfect. It is slow. It is tedious. Sometimes it is maddening, certainly frustrating. But the brilliance of our forefathers understood completely and carefully—how, I don't know—that the world would at some point come together with a great confluence of complications. The need to have a body whose main responsibility would be to take the longer view—the longer view of legislation, the longer view of actions, the longer view of alliances, of relationships, of all our policies—was its primary focus. Tough questions—questions about consequences of actions, consequences of inaction—that is the essence of the Senate.

The many lessons I have learned in the 12 years I have been here reinforced my belief in our country but also reinforced my belief in these institutions and, in particular, the Congress of the United States, for the essence of public confidence is transparency and accountability. That is our institutional responsibility. It is our individual responsibility. And a free people know the facts. If free people are living in a world where there is transparency, where there is accountability, that society will prosper. It will fix its problems, and it will deal with its injustices. Oversight—which we hear much about these days, especially in light of the financial crisis we are in today—oversight and accountability are critical components of our responsibilities.

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Article I of the Constitution is about the Congress. We are a co-equal branch of government. If there is anything I have learned in the 12 years I have been here, it is the importance of sharing, participating in the governance of our country, being part of that governance, helping make decisions with the President and the executive branch. The Constitution established three co-equal branches of government: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial—but anytime there becomes an imbalance in governance in a republic and one of those three becomes too powerful and the other too weak or one too weak, there will be a consequence, there will be a reaction, and it will not tilt in favor of an accountable, transparent, open, effective government. So it is like all things in life: We strive for balance. We strive for balance of governance. And the Founders of the Constitution of this great Republic have that as much the central focus as any one part of our government.

I believe this institution of Congress will be tested more over the next few years. We need a strong President. We need a strong executive branch. For it is the President and the executive branch that we charge to carry out the policies that are made and shaped on behalf of the American people in the Congress of the United States. They must have the flexibility, they must have the authority to carry those out but not without the active participation and partnership of the Congress of the United States. In my opinion, over the last few years, we have allowed that to drift, and I believe it has cost our country dearly.

I have also learned this lesson: Bipartisan consensus is the only way a democracy will work. No party has a corner on all the virtues, nor all the answers. A country of 300 million free people, who have every right to express themselves, question their leaders, question their government, at the end of the day must somehow find some accommodation, some consensus to govern and thereby address the issues and challenges and problems that face our country. Without that bipartisan consensus, we end up in the underbrush of political paralysis. Much of what we have seen in the last 2 years has been, unfortunately, political paralysis. We all have to take some responsibility for that. Bipartisan consensus—that has to be the focus of leadership in any institution.

I have learned also that a free press is indispensable to a free people. As frustrating as we all know, in this business, the press can be—sometimes we believe we are treated un-

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fairly, and maybe sometimes we are—there is no substitute in a democracy for a free press. A free press is the indispensable element for a free people.

I have learned too that power corrupts. Lord Acton had it right: Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. That doesn't mean we are a nation or a body or an institution of corrupt people or bad people, but the more authority that is concentrated in too small a space is going to end up with not an effect that is in the best interests of a free people. Concentrations of power in the hands of a few is dangerous to a democracy. We all who exercise some power as national leaders must be mindful of this reality and stay vigilant.

The next President, who will assume as big an inventory of challenges and problems as any President, in my opinion, since Franklin Roosevelt on March 4, 1933, must immediately reach to the Congress to make the Congress a partner, and regardless of who the new President is, he must also reach to the American people and begin building a consensus of governance in this country. There will be differences. There will be strong debates. There must be and should be. But in the end, we must reach some objective, some end point, and that is to fix a problem.

We did that last night on the floor of the Senate—not that what we passed in this Economic Stabilization Act will fix all the problems; it won't. But it is important that America, our markets, the world bring back some confidence in our governance, in our systems, thereby bringing all that does flow from that confidence in a market system, the elements of commerce and trade and the possibilities to build a better life.

This next President will be faced with those challenges. So will this next Congress. I believe that will occur, not just because the American people expect it and demand it, but they deserve it. I don't think the next President or the next Congress will fail. There is no perfect solution, no easy answer, but that is why we have leaders. That is why we have governments.

I wish to go back to accountability for a moment because that is such an elemental part of anyone's life. We are all accountable in life. In our personal lives, private lives, public lives, we are all accountable to someone.

I would like to read a very short statement. As a matter of fact, I had this hanging in my reception room in my office. This was a handwritten statement that was found in the

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coat pocket of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was found at the cleaners. This was a note he wrote in his hand on June 6, 1944, the beginning of the Normandy invasion, the invasion of Europe. We all recall that was D-day. This is what then-General Eisenhower, who was the commanding general, wrote in the event that D-day was a failure:

Our landings have failed and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air, and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone.

Now, that is accountability. That is accountability. This one simple, honest, handwritten statement should be as much a guiding point for all of us in public office as any one thing.

I have also learned over the last 12 years that democracy actually does work. As raw as it is, it works. We in politics, we in government, government itself, the institution of government only reflects society. Politics reflects society. We respond. We react in a democracy. But the countervailing pressures, the countervailing dynamics, the countervailing debates and philosophies and opinions and positions balance the wheel in a remarkable way. I am not nearly wise enough to understand it all. I have observed it. I have participated in it up close for 12 years. It works. It works. That is why transparency is so important, so the American people can see it, and feel it, and understand it, and be part of it.

We live in an imperfect world. There are no perfect solutions. We are all imperfect people. But institutions are important because within the imperfect world and in the process of trying to make a better world—maybe someday a perfect world—the process is important because it gets us to where we want to be. It is a highway. It is a process. We do that well here, as well as anywhere in the world. We are always striving to make it better.

I occasionally think about this great Republic, how it was formed, when it was formed. A couple of fairly recent things come to mind. When we think of less than 100 years ago, women in America could not vote. Less than 100 years ago, women did not have the right to vote. But we addressed that. We fixed that. We fixed it through amendment XIX in our Constitution.

Up until the mid-1960s, did anyone really believe that an African American had any hope or possibility to be a nominee for President of the United States, maybe even be Presi-

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dent some day? The Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of the mid-sixties changed that. We know the system can work.

These are defining times. We are living through a global reorientation. One of the great responsibilities this body will have, the next President will have, we all will have, is to reintroduce America to the world. The world does not know who we are. Part of that is our fault. Part of that is not our fault. There are 6.5 billion people in the world, and 40 percent of those 6.5 billion are under the age of 19 years old. Most people alive today were not alive at the end of World War II. This can be done. It must be done. America is a great country because we are a good people.

I wish to take my last minute in my comments today to read from a poem I have distributed to friends and staff for 30 years. I do not know the author of this poem, and I never have. I never found out who the author of this poem is. I have put it on a piece of glass and have distributed hundreds and hundreds of copies to people I have worked with over the years in different things I have done.

I end my remarks, Mr. President, this way this afternoon, by reciting this poem entitled "The Man in the Glass" because it reflects on each of us but, most poignantly, it reflects on each of us who has responsibility to serve the public and be accountable and honest:

THE MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.
For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.
He's the fellow to please—never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

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TRIBUTES
TO
CHUCK HAGEL

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Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *September 24, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Senator Pete Domenici, who is retiring from the Senate this year after serving since 1972, once said to me that we don't say goodbye in the Senate very well. As a matter of fact, we don't say hello very well either. We have a little orientation program, but we abruptly arrive and leave. We leave in the midst of a lot of turmoil and discussion with very little time to say goodbye. Yet in between that arrival and leaving, we have very intense personal relationships. We virtually live with each other. We see each other often for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We see each other more than we see our families. So when there is a time for saying goodbye, we look for ways to say it a little better.

There are five Members of our body, all of them Republicans, who have announced their retirement for this year. While I won't be speaking at length about them here today, I want to recognize their service. I will do it in the traditional way in the Senate, which is to start with seniority. By "seniority," I mean from the time I have known them. . . .

CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska is like the rest of us Senators. We are all accidents. None of us could have guessed we would be here. It is hard to plan your way into the Senate because we come from all different directions.

Senator HAGEL, who is Nebraska's senior Senator, is retiring after only two terms in the Senate, but he has had a full life so far, starting a business or helping to start one that became a public company. While we have a great many patriots in the Senate, men who are honored for their service in the military—such as Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Senator Inouye; Senator Stevens, who flew the first plane to land in Beijing after World War II ended; Senator McCain, whose story is well known, while he never discusses it—Senator HAGEL's heroism and service serving side by side with his brother in Vietnam is one of the most fascinating, heroic stories of any Member of the Senate.

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With that sort of independent background, you can imagine he brought to this body a sense of independence, a great knowledge of the world. Along with Senator Lugar on this side of the aisle, he understands the world better than almost anyone, and he works hard at it. He has been independent in his views, willing to criticize those he thought were wrong, including those in his own party. He has recently written an excellent book about the future of our party. We will miss Senator HAGEL. . . .

I say to all five of those Senators, we will miss them. We are grateful for their service. I know people must look at the Senate in many different ways.

Let me conclude by telling a story about how some teachers look at it. We have a tradition in the Senate of making a maiden address. It is kind of a funny name, but we still call it that. We pick the subject of most interest to us. My subject was to put the teaching of U.S. history and civics back in its proper place in the school curriculum so our children would grow up learning what it means to be an American. There is not too much the Federal Government can do about that, but what we were able to do is to begin summer academies for outstanding teachers and students of American history. One group of those teachers was here in July, one from each State. I brought them on the Senate floor early one morning. I took them to Daniel Webster's desk, which is occupied by the senior Senator from New Hampshire right here by me. I took them back to that part of the Senate where Jefferson Davis' desk is, occupied by the senior Senator from Mississippi, and told them the story of how the marks in the desk are because a Union soldier came in during the Civil War and started chopping on it with his sword. His commanding officer came in and said, "Stop that. We are here to protect the Union, not to destroy it."

This Chamber is full of history, full of our country. Anyone who stands on this floor and sees the engravings of "In God We Trust" or "E Pluribus Unum" and gets a sense of what has happened here has respect for it. The teachers had that respect. When we got to the end of our visit, one teacher said to me, I think it was the teacher from Oregon, "Senator, what would you like for us to take home to our students about our visit to the Senate floor?"

I said, "I hope you will take back that each of us takes our position a lot more seriously than we take ourselves. We understand we are accidents, that we are very fortunate and privileged to be here, that each of us reveres our country,

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and we respect this institution. I can only speak for myself, but I think it is true of Senators on both sides of the aisle that we get up every day thinking first of how we can make a little contribution before we go to bed at night that will help the country be a little better off than it was in the morning. That means serving in the Senate is a very great privilege. I hope you will take that back to your students. I don't know what they see on television or read in the newspaper about the Senate, but that is how we feel about the privilege we have to serve here."

To these five Senators—Warner, Domenici, Craig, HAGEL, and Allard—we say goodbye. They are members of our family. We appreciate their service. We know they have believed it has been a very great privilege to serve in the Senate. For us it has been a great privilege to serve with them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will not be joining us for the next session of Congress. They are great colleagues, people whom I have enjoyed working with in my 3½ years here in the Senate. They include Senator Allard from Colorado, Senator Pete Domenici from New Mexico, Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator CHUCK HAGEL from Nebraska, and Senator Larry Craig from Idaho. . . .

Senator CHUCK HAGEL from Nebraska has likewise been one of those voices of independence, putting public purpose above partisanship and being a great example for all of us in doing so. He has some deep connections in Colorado, including his sister Claire who lives there, and his family whom I have met over time. Even though he teases me occasionally on the battleground between Nebraska and Colorado with respect to the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the University of Colorado Buffaloes, he has done a remarkable service in the Senate as a great Senator and someone whom I will sorely miss. . . .

I will miss my five colleagues. All of them are Republicans who are departing. Many of them brought a true spirit of bipartisanship and working together, which is worthy of the emulation of many Members of the Senate who will serve in this Chamber in the next Congress and in many Congresses to come.

I yield the floor.

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THURSDAY, *September 25, 2008*

Mr. DOMENICI. I wish to take this time to pay tribute to CHUCK HAGEL, the senior Senator from Nebraska, who is retiring after serving for two terms in the Senate.

Senator HAGEL, a fourth generation Nebraskan, has served his State and his country in many ways. He served as an infantry squad leader with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division and is a decorated Vietnam veteran, having been awarded many honors including two Purple Hearts. As a U.S. Senator, CHUCK HAGEL has served on four committees: Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Intelligence; and Rules.

During his time in the Senate, coinciding with mine, it has been my pleasure to work with the distinguished Senator on issues affecting our Nation. I can recall a chance meeting between a member of my staff, one of my constituent groups from New Mexico and Senator HAGEL, in which he took time out of his busy schedule to speak with my New Mexico constituents to offer his insights and share some very kind words. Such a small genuine instance like this made all the difference in their trip to our Nation's Capital.

As I said, when he came here, for some reason, I think I became one of his very first friends. He must have decided that I was a big chairman, and when I went on a trip with the Budget Committee to Europe, I asked him if he would go, and he jumped to it. So we got to know each other during the first 2 or 3 months of his term on a trip to Europe where we learned about the new monetary system that was about to be established in Europe. We did a number of other things together.

Obviously, he has been an exemplary Senator in all respects. He will return to his State and to America filled with ideas and ready to do other things for this great land. My wife Nancy and I wish CHUCK and his family all the best.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I recognize the work of an outstanding colleague, Senator CHUCK HAGEL. As he leaves the Senate, there are many things he will be remembered for, and I will add a few to that long list.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator HAGEL on both the Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees, where I have seen what a thoughtful and dedicated public servant he truly is. He has been an outspoken and independent voice on foreign policy, and against the current ad-

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ministration's reckless foreign policies, including the disastrous war in Iraq.

In our time serving together in the Senate, we have worked on a number of bills relevant to our work on the Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees. Senator HAGEL and I authored a bill to address the serious threat posed to our national security by gaps in our intelligence gathering. Building on the work of the 9/11 Commission, our legislation would establish an independent commission to improve how the U.S. Government collects and analyzes information, so that we can head off emerging threats. Senator HAGEL has brought critical attention to this issue, and I have no doubt he will continue to do so in the years ahead. I also appreciate Senator HAGEL's commitment to strengthening our citizen diplomacy, which is so important to improving the image of the U.S. abroad. His support for my Global Services Fellowship Program Act, and past efforts on this issue, has been just one more example of Senator HAGEL's willingness to reach across the aisle to work on issues important to our country.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, I particularly appreciate Senator HAGEL's support for a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous Africa. He has supported efforts to help protect civilians and provide them with access to basic services. His voice has been one for political solutions to conflict, and for initiatives that would bring long-term stability to the continent.

Senator HAGEL has served the people of Nebraska, and America, with great dedication and skill. I will miss having him as a colleague, but I value his service and his friendship, and I wish him all the best as he leaves the Senate.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, Senator CHUCK HAGEL, who will be retiring from the Senate at the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

I have worked with CHUCK since coming over to the Senate in 1998. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Senate Banking Committee with CHUCK. He is a man of integrity and patriotism. CHUCK has served his country proudly throughout the years, whether it be working as a staffer for Congressman John McCollister of Nebraska, as deputy administrator of the Veterans' Administration, as U.S. Senator, or earning the Purple Heart while defending the freedoms we enjoy today. He has a servant's heart, and the peo-

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ple of Nebraska should be proud to have been represented by a man of his character.

I am honored to know him and to have worked with him. I would like to thank CHUCK for his contributions to the Senate and to the country we both love. I wish him and his family the best in all of their future endeavors.

FRIDAY, *September 26, 2008*

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about our colleagues who have announced their plans to retire at the conclusion of this 110th Congress. We obviously will miss them. There are five individuals about whom I wanted to say a brief word: Senators Allard, HAGEL, Craig, Warner, and Domenici. They have all brought their intelligence, principles, and perspectives on the issues confronting our Nation. The Nation is better for their efforts.

Senators Allard and HAGEL both came to the Senate in 1996. . . .

CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska forged a very successful career in business and broadcasting, civic organizations and government, but first he served our country as a sergeant in Vietnam. It was an honor to work with him on the Vietnam Memorial Visitors Center legislation. He has championed that cause, knowing first hand how much it means to have lived through the experience of that war. He has a wide knowledge of the world, and he has informed his thoughtful and well-considered positions on foreign policy and arms control and national security issues with that knowledge.

He can always be counted on for a straightforward approach and an honest statement of his views.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will no longer be with us next year. I have known some of them for just a little while, others I have known for a long time. And, to all of them I bid a fond farewell and *mahalo* for their service to their State and to this country. They are dear colleagues and friends of mine and I know that even if they leave this fine establishment, our friendships will continue long into the future.

The Senators that I am referring to are Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator Pete Domenici from New Mexico, Senator Larry Craig from Idaho, Senator CHUCK HAGEL from

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Nebraska, and Senator Wayne Allard from Colorado. Please allow me just one moment to reflect on my service with each of these valuable Members. . . .

Another veteran that is leaving the Senate and a dear friend of mine is Senator CHUCK HAGEL. While he has elected to leave the U.S. Senate after serving two terms, his service to this country started long before he became a U.S. Senator. In 1968, he and his brother served in Vietnam, where he earned multiple military decorations and honors, including two Purple Hearts. His long career in public service began during his tenure as an administrative assistant to Congressman John Y. McCollister from Nebraska in 1971 and lasting until 1977. In 1981 he was nominated and confirmed to be Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration where had the privilege and honor to work for our Nation's veterans. Senator HAGEL has served the State of Nebraska with great distinction and will be missed by all.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I have really enjoyed working with CHUCK HAGEL.

Senator HAGEL honorably served our country by enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

While in Vietnam, he received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After working as Deputy Administrator of the VA, he became a successful entrepreneur and business leader.

In 1996 CHUCK HAGEL was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Six years later, he was overwhelmingly reelected with over 83 percent of the vote, the largest margin of victory in any statewide race in Nebraska history.

His knowledge and experience building a business and creating jobs was invaluable to the Senate.

He was a leader on the Foreign Relations Committee and represented the U.S. Senate admirably as chair of the Senate Global Climate Change Observer Group.

On a personal note, he always sent me a souvenir from the College World Series in Omaha when the University of Texas or Rice University was in the finals, which I am proud to say was almost every year.

I will miss CHUCK HAGEL, and I wish him well.

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SATURDAY, *September 27, 2008*

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators that appear in the *Congressional Record* be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion until Friday, November 21, 2008.

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

MONDAY, *September 29, 2008*

Mr. LIEBERMAN. . . . I offer thanks and best wishes to other colleagues who are leaving—Senators Allard, HAGEL, and Craig.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I know this afternoon at some point the majority leader intends to speak about the service of a number of the Members of this body who are going to be retiring at the end of the year. But seeing that people are elsewhere right now, I thought I might seize this moment and say a few words about two of my Republican colleagues with whom I have had long relationships, and both of whom I respect a great deal, and to wish both of them success as they leave this body. . . .

Mr. President, I also wish to say a few words today about Senator CHUCK HAGEL, who will be leaving this body.

CHUCK HAGEL and I have known each other for more than 30 years. We both came to Washington as young Vietnam veterans, determined to try to take care of the readjustment needs of those who had served in Vietnam. Senator HAGEL had been an infantry sergeant in Vietnam; wounded, came up, worked in the Senate for awhile, became a high-ranking official in the Veterans' Administration. He later ran the USO before he came to this body. He is known in this body as an expert on foreign affairs.

Again, as with Senator JOHN WARNER, he is someone who puts country first, who puts the needs of the people who do the hard work of society first. It has been a rare privilege for me to have made a journey with someone, beginning in the same spot in the late 1970s and ending up here in the Sen-

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ate. I know this country will hear more from CHUCK HAGEL in the future. I certainly wish him well.

TUESDAY, *September 30, 2008*

Mr. DODD. . . . I wanted to mention as well a couple of other colleagues who are also retiring. If I could, one is my great friend from Nebraska, CHUCK HAGEL, with whom I have served on both the Banking and the Foreign Relations Committees for the past 12 years, truly a wonderful person. We have worked together on a number of issues.

He got his first job at 9 years of age when he began to help his family economically. He was 16 when his dad died and took over raising his family along with his mother. I believe most of my colleagues are aware that he was a true hero of the Vietnam war. He saved his brother who, in fact, was serving with him in that conflict.

He has done a remarkable job in his public service years as well. We serve on the Foreign Relations Committee together and the Banking Committee. Whether the issue has been Iraq, Serbia, or Croatia, Cuba, regardless of who comes before our committee, no one asks tougher questions or gets straighter answers than CHUCK HAGEL.

On Cuba, for instance—again, an explosive issue politically—CHUCK and I offered a resolution to end the embargo in Cuba because we agreed that the current policy toward the island has failed the Cuban people and the American people alike and because we refused to let America wait on the sidelines while the future of one of our closest neighbors is determined by others.

It is that kind of courage that he brings to the debate, kind of blows through it all and says: What is the right thing for our country and, in this case, the people of Cuba?

On the Banking Committee, CHUCK and I worked for months to reinvent the infrastructure of our Nation with the creation of a national infrastructure bank, 2½ years developing that bill. In fact, it was CHUCK who convinced me we ought to announce the outcome of our work one day in August last year. I argued with him a bit. I said, “No one will pay any attention to announcing an infrastructure bill in August. Who wants to hear about infrastructure in August.”

CHUCK said, “No, let’s have that press conference and let people know what we are doing.”

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We met in the gallery at 10 a.m. I think we had two reporters who showed up. I said, "I think I was right, CHUCK. No one cares about infrastructure."

By 5 o'clock that afternoon, CHUCK HAGEL and I were on every TV screen in America because, regrettably, of the great tragedy in Minneapolis that occurred that afternoon. The bridge collapsed. Of course, infrastructure was the subject matter for the next weeks to come. So, once again, CHUCK HAGEL understood the timing of an issue in bringing it up and how important it was for our Nation. Little did we know that tragedy would fall on Interstate 35-W over the Mississippi River.

There again was CHUCK HAGEL, standing with a colleague of a different background, putting aside ideology and politics to work together to find new and innovative ways to address the Nation's most urgent priorities. That is CHUCK HAGEL, a remarkable person and a very good Senator over the years. Patriotic, never partisan, tough but fair, always engaged, sometimes even confrontational, but never, ever, belligerent, a strong Member. This institution will miss CHUCK's ability to transcend politics and serve the American people. As such, the people of Nebraska deserve our thanks for sending CHUCK HAGEL to serve with us over these past 12 years. I will miss him. We all wish him the very best. He served our Nation very well during his service.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 12 years ago when I came to the Senate, I was joined by a new Senator from Nebraska, CHUCK HAGEL. CHUCK became a friend, and we have worked together on a number of issues over the years. He also, in a weak moment, agreed to do my cable show. I went to his office. We talked about his background; first, his service in Vietnam, something I particularly admire, the courage he showed in volunteering to serve in our Army, and then coming together with his brother in the same unit and both of them under fire. Both of them served our country in combat. He came back and was a successful businessman. He went on to serve the people of Nebraska and eventually to serve in the Senate.

We have worked together over the years. I have always found him to be a gentleman. His word is good, and he has the courage to step up and take a position once in a while that may not be popular, even in Nebraska.

I know his leadership on the issue of the war in Iraq will be remembered because, during the last 2 years when we struggled to find a way to bring this war to a close, he is one

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who would cross the aisle and join us in an effort to find a reasonable way to end this conflict in an honorable manner. I respect him so much for that.

I have one special little measure of gratitude for CHUCK HAGEL. There is a bill I introduced which is as near and dear to me as any I considered. It is called the DREAM Act, to give literally tens of thousands of children across America who came to this country, were brought here by undocumented parents, grew up as Americans, never knowing any other life, any other culture, maybe not knowing any other language but English, and now find themselves graduating high school with no country. They are told officially by American law they are not wanted or needed and asked to leave. They have nowhere to go. This is home. They want a chance, just a chance to be part of America's future in a legal way.

This DREAM Act has been controversial because it relates to immigration, and that is not an easy issue. CHUCK HAGEL stepped up and co-sponsored that legislation with me, and I will never forget it. It meant a lot for him to show that kind of courage.

Even though we did not prevail, someday we will, and when that day comes, I will honor him on the floor for his exceptional courage on this matter that means so much to so many young people across our country. . . .

Those Senators leaving our ranks leave positive memories for this Senator from Illinois. The fact that I have been able to serve with them, know them, and count them as friends, I count as one of the real blessings of my service in the Senate.

WEDNESDAY, *October 1, 2008*

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today, as one of those who made the weighty decision not to seek reelection, to share my most personal thoughts—tributes—to my esteemed colleagues who will quietly, humbly, and with a deep sense of gratitude to their States, to our Nation, bring to a conclusion their public service as U.S. Senators.

This is a diverse group of Senators. Whether we hail from small farms, small cities or, in my case, from major metropolitan areas, we bring different backgrounds, different interests. That diversity gives the Senate its strength to serve equally all Americans. What we share, however, is an un-

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wavering love for our States, our country and for the institution of the U.S. Senate.

We aspire to Winston Churchill's quote: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

It has been my privilege, over my 30 years in the Senate, to serve with a total of 261 Members. Each, almost, shall be remembered as a friend. . . .

Senator CHUCK HAGEL has served his native Nebraska and his country with true heroism. When I was privileged to serve in the Department of the Navy during the war in Vietnam, CHUCK HAGEL, together with his brother, both served with courage in the same Army unit in South Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart not once but twice for his heroism and sacrifice in combat leadership.

His career has spanned the spectrum from public servant to entrepreneur, and this has given him a perspective on the world and global affairs, as well as of Main Streets in the hometowns and cities of his State.

Senator HAGEL will be remembered for his efforts on behalf of his fellow veterans and men and women in uniform, together with their families. At one time he served as president of the USO.

One of his proudest achievements will surely be his work with my colleague from Virginia, a former highly decorated Marine, Senator Jim Webb, who also served in Vietnam. The two of them started a very tough assignment, and that was to rewrite the existing GI bill. And along the way, two "old-timers," both World War II veterans—Senator Lautenberg and I—enlisted in their ranks as co-sponsors.

Our goal was to give to today's generation of men and women in uniform a level and diversity of benefits that approaches what the World War II generation received from a grateful Nation at the conclusion of that conflict. The GI bill at that time enabled any soldier, sailor, or airman—and there were up to 16 million who served in World War II—to go to almost any university or college of his or her choice, and the funds were nearly sufficient to fund the costs for tuition, room and board, and school books.

But through the ensuing years, the successive GI bills were not quite as fulsome; they did not keep pace with the rising cost of education. Prior to the Webb bill, today's generation was barely able to get enough funds to attend educational institutions in their home States, let alone some of America's better-known educational institutions. This bill recognizes the great contributions of our military men and

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women and increases significantly the GI bill benefits. It will make a great difference in the lives of so many of this generation, a generation that I believe is in every way equal to the Greatest Generation of World War II, for it faces even greater challenges as the uncertainty of threats and the advance of complexity of weapons face them today in a growing number of places worldwide.

I so admire this strong American, CHUCK HAGEL, who symbolizes “duty, honor, country.”

In public service, his compass is precise; for he always follows the needle as it points to what course of action is “best for America.” . . .

I am proud to say I have come to know each of these fine men. And I firmly believe that this is but yet another beginning in all of our lives, for, to quote Churchill again, “the chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.”

I yield the floor.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, there are a number of distinguished Senators who are leaving this body this year. I know there have been a number of tributes given to all of them and their service. . . .

CHUCK HAGEL, who exercises this tremendous independence, somebody with whom I have really enjoyed serving on Foreign Relations; . . . I honor all of them. I wish them well. I think we are all better having had the opportunity to serve with them.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, as this Congress comes to a close we bid a fond farewell to our colleague CHUCK HAGEL. As a Member of this body, CHUCK is completing 12 years of outstanding service to the people of Nebraska and to the country. But I expect that he will find new ways to contribute to the mission we all share: making the United States stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

CHUCK’s first legislative service was as a U.S. Senator. I like to think that those of us who were not seasoned legislators when we arrived here draw on a diverse set of experiences as we find our way to become effective lawmakers. CHUCK HAGEL’s background was probably more varied than most—decorated war veteran, businessman, broadcaster, and Deputy Administrator of the Veterans’ Administration, just to mention a few of the areas in which he has distinguished himself. His successes in these many disciplines undoubtedly helped him develop the independent voice that we grew accustomed to hearing over his dozen years in our midst.

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For several years, we served together on the Budget Committee, a legislative environment in which bipartisanship isn't always easy. CHUCK was always forthright and honest in our sometimes contentious deliberations and was never afraid to go where the facts led him—even if it meant irritating a colleague on his own side of the aisle.

We will miss him as a friend and as a fellow Senator, but I expect the Nation will hear from CHUCK HAGEL again. We wish him the best as he looks for new challenges.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, for the past 12 years, I have had the privilege of serving in the Senate with my friend CHUCK HAGEL. Upon his retirement from the Senate, I wanted to take a moment to tell him how much he will be dearly missed. CHUCK HAGEL will be missed not just by his colleagues in the Senate, but also by those Americans for whom he dedicated his career to fight for while serving in Washington, DC.

Although we sit on opposite sides of the aisle, I have found myself standing with Senator HAGEL on numerous occasions. Just in the past couple of years, we have fought for increased pay for our troops, establishing a center dedicated to the rehabilitation, treatment, and research of servicemembers blinded in combat, and advocating for additional mental health care resources for servicemembers returning from combat.

Because of Senator HAGEL's dedication to stand up for those who have fought for our country, we have a modernized GI bill. We have a GI bill that more accurately reflects the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform are making. We have a modernized benefits package that will cover the majority of tuition costs for our returning servicemembers, and I was proud to stand with him in that effort as well.

His service to our country has been truly admirable. Senator HAGEL has had a truly remarkable career representing the State of Nebraska. I thank him for his service to our country. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

THURSDAY, *October 2, 2008*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend just a few minutes today talking about CHUCK HAGEL, the Senator from the State of Nebraska.

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I was raised in an environment where things were physical—football, baseball, boxing, fighting, and being tough. That was important. And as I have looked through the Senate over these years, there is no one that fits that bill more than CHUCK HAGEL. The senior Senator from the State of Nebraska is both physically and mentally very tough.

Senator HAGEL is a person who suffered multiple broken noses playing high school and college football and, as we read in his book, an occasional scuffle off the field. Senator HAGEL is a man who won a football scholarship to go to college because of his athletic prowess but had to change his plans when injury left him with an uncorrectable pinched nerve in his neck.

Senator HAGEL is a man who risked his own life on many occasions, but on one occasion risked his own life and suffered terribly to save his brother's life in the jungle of Cambodia during the Vietnam conflict. Senator HAGEL is a man who still carries shrapnel from his heroic uniformed service to our Nation.

Senator HAGEL tells the story in his book about his childhood, that when he and his brother Tom were growing up, the Hagel family moved around Nebraska to seven different houses in small Nebraska towns. The seven places he lived formed a loop around the State. So when CHUCK first ran for the Senate in 1996, he could go almost anyplace in Nebraska and tell local crowds, "it's good to be home."

When CHUCK HAGEL's draft number was called in 1967, he was given an order to ship out to Germany after being inducted. But he said, "I don't want to go to Germany. The war is in Vietnam." So he asked to change his orders to go to Vietnam where the action was. What this young man from Nebraska believed was that fighting a war meant going to the front lines, not someplace thousands of miles away. So that is where he wound up.

Since the Sullivan brothers' deaths in World War II, it was not very often that siblings found themselves in the same combat zone fighting, but that isn't what happened in this situation with the Hagel brothers. No one really knows how—they think it was a stroke of luck, but it remains a bit of a mystery—CHUCK HAGEL and Tom Hagel wound up in the same infantry, same fighting unit, fighting shoulder to shoulder in the jungles of Cambodia.

Mr. President, in the span of less than a month, these two brothers each had the chance to save the other's life. Not

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only did they have the chance, but they took that chance and they were successful. Here is one account:

One of the soldiers . . . hit a trip wire, setting off a mine that had been placed in a tree so that it would detonate at face level. Bodies, body parts and shrapnel were blasted back into the ranks as the squad was crossing a stream. Tom picked himself up and looked for his brother. What he saw was a “geyser” of blood gushing from CHUCK’s chest. Tom, then only 19, stanchd the bleeding and bandaged the wound, only then noticing that he’d been hit himself in the arm. Twenty-five days later, it was CHUCK’s turn to rescue Tom when their troop carrier hit a hand-detonated mine as it emerged from a village in the delta. Tom had been in the turret behind a .50-caliber machine gun. He was unconscious, not obviously alive, when his brother got to him. The blast had blown out CHUCK’s eardrums and severely burned his left side, but knowing the carrier might soon explode, he worked feverishly to pull Tom from the wreckage, then threw his body on top of Tom’s as Vietcong fighters in ambush sprayed the area with gunfire.

For this remarkably courageous service, Sgt. CHUCK HAGEL was decorated with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and two Purple Hearts.

After the war, CHUCK HAGEL came to Washington and worked on Capitol Hill. By the age of 26, he was chief of staff to Congressman John McCollister of Nebraska. Within 10 years, he was appointed by President Reagan to be the second highest ranking official in the Veterans’ Administration. But very typical of CHUCK HAGEL, after just a few months during his term of service, he spoke out against a cut in benefits to Vietnam veterans and quit the Department in protest. This was not the steppingstone to an impressive career in Washington, as some had thought, because CHUCK HAGEL spoke out against something he thought was wrong.

When Senator HAGEL left Capitol Hill, he scraped together whatever money he could find by selling a car and cashing in life insurance policies to invest in an upstart business that built networks for wireless phones. Within a few years, CHUCK HAGEL’s company was one of the most successful cellular telephone providers in America. He entered the American system of free enterprise and was extremely successful. But after succeeding in business, CHUCK returned his attention to politics and won a seat in the Senate in 1996.

I have served with CHUCK HAGEL in the Senate for 12 years. One would be hard pressed to find a more conservative Member than the senior Senator from Nebraska. Although our political philosophies differ, I know CHUCK HAGEL to be one of the bravest and most fiercely independent Members of this legislative body. He has been a def-

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icit hawk when others in his party abandoned fiscal restraint.

He crossed the aisle and worked with my predecessor, Senator Daschle, as well as Senator Kennedy and Senator Martinez on the Republican side, to seek a comprehensive immigration plan that would be both tough and compassionate but, above all, fair.

He served the people of Nebraska well as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; the Intelligence Committee; and the Rules Committee.

I will be forever grateful for the courage Senator HAGEL has shown on the Iraq war. He spoke out early against the war, he spoke out often, and he was right. As all Senators know, speaking up against a hallmark policy of one's own party is no easy task. With Senator HAGEL's help, we were able to move the debate forward and to finally provide some oversight on the incompetent management of the war. Although Senator HAGEL will not see the end of the war as a Member of this body, there is no doubt that his courage has brought us closer to that day.

One of the most remarkable days in my political career was the time when we were working on how to do something to change the course on the war in Iraq. I visited Senator HAGEL in his office. As you walk in, you see a picture of Tom and CHUCK HAGEL in a mechanized vehicle in the jungles of Cambodia—or Vietnam. I don't know exactly where it was, but Southeast Asia. He is very proud of his military career. But we visited, and I probably wouldn't be a very good salesman, selling automobiles or a house because it was hard for me to close the deal, saying, "CHUCK, will you vote with me?" At home that night, he called me and said words to the effect: I listened to you; I'm going to vote with you.

His vote made the difference. It allowed us to carry the day and send a bill to the President that the President vetoed. Senator HAGEL didn't wait for me to close the deal, he closed the deal. I have great admiration and respect for him and what he did that night. I think he changed the direction of the country and how it felt about the war in Iraq, and it allowed the people in America to know that we could do something, that we are not powerless.

It is well known that Senator HAGEL has been considered on more than one occasion as a candidate for President or Vice President. Here is what he said, though.

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I don't have to be President. I don't have to be a Senator. I just have to live with myself.

So whatever path CHUCK HAGEL follows next, he, his wife Lilibet, and their daughter Allyn and son Ziller, should have the deepest pride in the lasting impact of Senator CHUCK HAGEL's patriotism and service for the betterment of the Nation we love through both the military and the Senate, where he has served so gallantly.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize and pay tribute to several colleagues who are concluding distinguished careers in the Senate. These gentlemen have distinguished themselves. They have dedicated themselves to representing their States and representing the best interests of the Nation. . . .

Finally, let me pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague. We entered the Senate together 12 years ago. Senator CHUCK HAGEL has represented Nebraska with rare insight and extraordinarily good humor for 12 years. He is one of those individuals who is respected and liked by everyone because he is an extraordinarily decent person, someone who takes his job seriously but himself not so seriously. He is someone I have had the privilege to travel with across the globe—Russia, Afghanistan, Singapore, the Philippines, northern Africa, and back again to Afghanistan and Iraq. He, too, has a rare dedication to the men and women of the armed services, born of his own personal experiences. As a young man he chose not only to join the U.S. Army but to serve in Vietnam. He had the opportunity to be posted to Germany. He would have served out his time and left. But he decided he had to march to the sound of the guns. His brother was already there. Together in the same unit, he and his brother served the U.S. Army. He was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. He came back as a veteran and continued his education and then built a very successful business career. But he never lost sight of those men and women who serve in uniform. He is very active in the USO. He is someone who was active in veterans affairs. Then, finally, when he was elected to the Senate, he took his learning, his experience, and appreciation, and played a major role on the Foreign Relations Committee. His commitment to a broad multinational policy of using our alliances, of building our power not just through our military power but through diplomatic and reputational power has made a significant contribution to the country, not just for the moment but for many years. He is leaving the Senate to pursue other

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endeavors. I wish him well. He has been a remarkable friend. He, Lilibet, and their children, Allyn and Ziller, are a remarkable family. I will miss him particularly. I salute him, thank him. He, to me, is the very model of a Senator who has served his country in different ways and now has chosen to continue to serve in other ways. I am sure he will continue to contribute to the country.

To these Members, I wish them well. I thank them personally for their kindness to me and their thoughtfulness on so many other occasions.

Mr. ALLARD. . . . Another individual I wish to recognize who is retiring is Senator CHUCK HAGEL from Nebraska; again, one of the neighboring States of Colorado. The State of Nebraska is downstream from Colorado. So we have ribbed each other a little bit about water issues. Basically, though, we have been partners on water issues. We have been able to work together on many issues that have improved the management of water in the Platte River drainage system, which is one of the many rivers that originates in Colorado and flows downstream. I also worked with Senator HAGEL on the Banking Committee. He was one who pushed early on for the reform of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. He brought to this institution a great deal of experience. Again, he has decided to retire the same year as I have. I will always remember Senator CHUCK HAGEL and our relationship and how we have been able to work together, I think for the betterment of both of our States.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize and express my appreciation for my friend and colleague Senator CHUCK HAGEL. I have served in the Senate with CHUCK HAGEL for the past 12 years. During that time, he has established himself as one who is able to rise above partisanship, and he is respected on both sides of the aisle for his honest appraisals.

For the past 2 years, I have had the opportunity to work with CHUCK on our bipartisan efforts to change our course in Iraq. We have served together on the Intelligence Committee. When we have agreed on policy, he has been a thoughtful and effective partner; and when we have not, those same qualities served the Senate well nonetheless.

CHUCK HAGEL has brought to the U.S. Senate a deeply held commitment to our Nation's troops and veterans and an equally deep understanding of their needs. With that perspective, he has served as an honest broker between parties

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and positions, and he has been an effective advocate for our brave men and women in uniform as well as for the people of Nebraska.

He understands the power of this Nation's values, not just of our military, and he has eloquently represented those values. He has defended his extraordinary independent streak with great courage.

I extend my thanks to CHUCK and wish him and Lilibet all the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, with the end of a session fast approaching, it is time once again to say farewell to some of our favorite colleagues in the Senate. And today that includes our friend, the senior Senator from Nebraska.

CHUCK HAGEL's long record of service is well known to many. What some may not know is that that record of service long predates his time in Washington.

Responsibility was thrust upon CHUCK at an early age. A fourth generation Nebraskan, CHUCK became the man of the house at the young age of 16 after the death of his father.

And he accepted the responsibility head on, working hard to support his mom and younger brothers.

But even then working hard was nothing new to CHUCK HAGEL, who had taken his first job delivering papers at the age of 9.

As a young man, CHUCK answered the call and volunteered to serve in Vietnam, and CHUCK's fellow soldiers turned to him for leadership.

One of the soldiers who served right alongside CHUCK was his younger brother Tom. By coincidence, the Hagel brothers ended up in the same unit and rode together in the same armored personnel carrier.

In a defining act of heroism, CHUCK once dragged his brother out of that carrier after it had struck a landmine and burst into flames. The blast left CHUCK badly burned and ruptured both his eardrums. Yet despite serious injuries to himself, he brought his brother through enemy fire to safety.

After returning home from Vietnam, CHUCK worked his way through college and got his first taste of Washington working for Omaha Congressman John McCollister.

Later, CHUCK would show his drive and his leadership in the business world. Taking a risk, he sank his entire savings into a business venture that eventually paid off.

And then, 12 years ago, he took another gamble. And we are glad he did.

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A political newcomer, CHUCK defeated Nebraska's sitting State attorney general in a primary, and then a popular incumbent Governor in the general election for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

I will note, Mr. President, that the Governor he beat is now the junior Senator from Nebraska. And in a sign of CHUCK's character and commitment to the people of Nebraska, the two former rivals have worked in tandem on many issues for the good of the people of their State.

I know Senator Nelson would agree that Senator HAGEL's departure is a great loss for this Chamber and for the people of the Cornhusker State.

CHUCK's advocacy for the people of Nebraska was reaffirmed 6 years ago when the voters sent him back to Washington for a second term.

In a sign of his effectiveness and his popularity, he won reelection to the Senate by the biggest margin Nebraska has ever seen.

The one-time political newcomer trounced his opponent, winning 83 percent of the vote—and all 93 counties in the State.

In two terms in the Senate, CHUCK has earned the respect of his colleagues and risen to national prominence as a clear voice on foreign policy and national security. He has consistently fought to expand free trade, particularly with Vietnam.

CHUCK's stature as a leading voice in foreign affairs has earned him a reputation, in just 12 years in the Senate, as one of Nebraska's great statesmen. This is a tribute to his intelligence, hard work, and devotion to a country that he has served his entire adult life.

Elaine and I have enjoyed getting to know CHUCK, Lilibet, and their family over the years. I know CHUCK's a proud dad. And his kids should be proud of their dad.

CHUCK, it has been an honor, and a pleasure, to serve with you. We all wish you well in whatever future endeavors you choose to take on.

I am confident that, even though Nebraska is known as a flat State, whoever succeeds CHARLES TIMOTHY HAGEL in the U.S. Senate is going to have a very steep hill to climb.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, when the 111th Congress convenes next year, the Senate will be without Senator CHUCK HAGEL. Senator HAGEL has decided to retire from the Senate after two terms. His career in public service, however, long predates his service in Congress.

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Like many public servants, Senator HAGEL entered politics after first serving the Nation in the Armed Forces. He saw combat in Vietnam and served with valor, receiving two Purple Hearts among other decorations. He would later serve as a congressional staff member, and in 1981, President Reagan tapped him as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration.

When Senator HAGEL came to the Senate, his actions often reflected his experience as a combat veteran. He did what he believed was best for the men and women in uniform, and he defended his positions forcefully.

Senator HAGEL has continued to protect and defend the country, notably through his work on the Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees. He had strong opinions, and he was never shy about letting them be known.

I wish Senator HAGEL all the best in his pursuits after the Senate. I expect that he will devote much of his time to his wife Lilibet and their family, but I imagine he will save some time to follow his Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, one of the first experiences of a new Senator is to open the drawer in their desk here on the floor and learn a special lesson in Senate history. Traditionally, Senators do what we prevent sixth grade boys from doing: we write our names into our desks. When I first opened my drawer here, I saw decades of people who had occupied this particular desk, and it told me that for however long I am here, I am a temporary occupant. Many came before me and many will come after me. So at each 2-year interval, we say goodbye to many of our colleagues and await the new.

I will be particularly sad to say farewell to the senior Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL. He came to this body with an extraordinary career in communications, finance, and international business. He was like a Senator of a bygone era, when Members of this body often were the national experts in their fields.

He made a tremendous contribution to the world of the Senate because he had first-hand knowledge of the dynamism and transformational nature of the global economy all around us. He is the kind of decisionmaker that is shaping the new economy, and it has been so valuable to have him among us.

CHUCK HAGEL's whole life expresses his conviction that the world can and should be a better place, and it will not get that way by itself. He is fully engaged in a lifelong effort to

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make the world a better place, and he applies every waking hour to the quest. I know that “retirement” is not the word for his departure from this place—in a way he is released from this responsibility to pursue his passion of public service in multiple other ways. He is the embodiment of the ideal of a life of self-sacrifice for the betterment of others.

Senator HAGEL brought his analytical, probing mind to the Foreign Relations Committee, where I served with him these last 6 years. His contributions to the committee’s work were always thoughtful and challenging—and that was just his Halloween costumes.

CHUCK HAGEL is one of the most energetic people I have ever met. When you look at the list of organizations he supports with this ideas and his leadership, it looks like the combined resume of five people. He works with veterans organizations, antipoverty organizations, international cooperation organizations and the list goes on and on. He has been honored by dozens of organizations for excellence in public service.

For some reason, Nebraska has a habit of sending independent-minded Members to this body, and they play a key role in our deliberations. Perhaps because Nebraska is kind of a plains State, kind of a Midwestern State, kind of a Western State, and in that way unique, Nebraskans have contributed a great deal of independence to our deliberations, which is so valuable in the Senate’s search for consensus.

We in Minnesota are glad to be a part of CHUCK HAGEL’s life. Since some of his education occurred at the Brown Institute in Minneapolis, we too claim a piece of him.

We thank the people of Nebraska for sharing him with the Nation as a Member of the Senate. We will certainly miss his razor sharp analytical mind and his wonderfully engaging personality. I am personally grateful to him for the way he introduced me to the habits and ways of the Senate and for helping me understand how to do my best for the people of my State.

In the history of this Nation, different kinds of men and women have given some of their talents and vision to this place for the benefit of the whole Nation. We thank Senator HAGEL for his willingness to serve and for the way he made the most of every moment of his time here in the Senate.

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MONDAY, *November 17, 2008*

Mr. INOUYE. Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator HAGEL has been a committed and avid servant to his home State of Nebraska. He has served in Congress for two consecutive 6-year terms with ardent fervor for the welfare of Nebraskans and all Americans.

Senator HAGEL has always placed the well-being of Nebraska and our Nation ahead of partisanship and personal feelings. He has been an earnest supporter of bipartisanship, recognizing the productivity that can accompany joint labor. His devotion to the people of his State and this Nation is apparent to any who know him. He has distinguished himself as a soldier and public servant of the people, demonstrating an exemplary character of which Nebraskans can be proud.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

WEDNESDAY, *November 19, 2008*

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity before the 110th Congress adjourns to honor our distinguished colleague and my good friend, CHUCK HAGEL, who will be leaving the Senate after 12 years of achievement.

Senator HAGEL has applied his estimable talents to many of the most critical areas of public policy. Throughout his time in the Senate he was a stalwart member of the Foreign Relations Committee, where he became one of the Senate's experts on international affairs.

Upon CHUCK HAGEL's arrival in the Senate in 1996, he had already distinguished himself in service to his country. He was decorated for his service as an infantryman in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. He went on to careers as a congressional staffer, a Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, and a successful businessman.

When CHUCK came to the Senate, it was clear that his unique background would be an asset to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I encouraged him to join the committee and was pleased that he did so. In the Senate, CHUCK embraced responsibility for U.S. national security as few Senators have in recent decades.

Senator HAGEL's years in the Senate will be remembered for his willingness to challenge conventional wisdom and his

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ability to see issues from multiple perspectives. He has been a determined advocate for an independent point of view, but also a good listener who has often forged compromises that benefited our Nation.

For the last 9 years CHUCK has sat next to me through hundreds of Foreign Relations Committee hearings and meetings. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with him, to compare perspectives on our witnesses, and to develop common approaches to problems. He was always candid and thoughtful in both his public statements and his private advice.

He understands that the world's problems are our problems; that our economic health is tied to the prosperity of the rest of the industrialized world; that the cleanliness of our environment is deeply affected by the environments of those even beyond our continent; and that our access to global natural resources and energy supplies depends on maintaining stable conditions in some of the most volatile regions on Earth. In a "Memo to the Candidates" written last summer, he underscored the interconnected nature of our world, saying:

America's long-term security interests are directly connected to alliances, coalitions, international institutions, and our standing in the world. The next President will have to reintroduce America to the world in order to regain its trust in our purpose as well as our power.

CHUCK contributed greatly in recent years to the committee's efforts to improve our government's stabilization and reconstruction capacity, to elevate the priority of energy diplomacy, to facilitate NATO expansion, to reauthorize the PEPFAR Program, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to safeguard the international environment.

I have greatly appreciated his personal friendship and thoughtful remembrances of events in my public and private life. My entire office benefited from his personal generosity in 2001 when the Senate endured the anthrax attack. My staff and I were displaced from our office for more than 3 months. Senator HAGEL stepped forward and offered us a large room in his suite in the Russell Senate Office Building, which became the nerve center of my Senate office while we were displaced. Senator HAGEL's thoughtfulness allowed us to continue operations during this difficult period.

I will greatly miss CHUCK's presence in the seat next to me at committee hearings, and I know that the Senate as a whole will miss his wisdom and well-deserved reputation for

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humor. But I have no doubts that he will encounter other opportunities to serve the United States. His counsel on foreign and defense policy will be sought out by Members of Congress and Presidential administrations for many years to come. I look forward to many insightful conversations with my friend and to witnessing all that he will achieve in the future.

Mr. SPECTER. Senator CHUCK HAGEL's intellectualism and independence will be sorely missed in the Senate. CHUCK HAGEL's service in Vietnam, where he earned military decorations and honors including two Purple Hearts, has given him special standing on key defense issues. With that background, he enjoys a sort of immunity from a charge of being soft on defense and his views are more closely followed.

Senator HAGEL will be especially missed by the few Republican moderates who were encouraged by his independence.

My sense is that CHUCK HAGEL will stay in public life in one form or another, but I would have preferred to have seen him stay in the Senate to promote the resurgence of moderation within the Republican ranks and bipartisanship extending across the aisle for important legislation.

THURSDAY, *November 20, 2008*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, soon the last remaining items of business on the legislative calendar will be taken up and the current session of Congress will draw to a close. When it does, several of our colleagues will be returning home and leaving public service. We will miss them, their good ideas and the touch of creativity they brought to our work in the Senate during their years of service to the people of their home States.

When I am asked about the Members with whom I have had the privilege to serve during my Senate career, CHUCK HAGEL will certainly come to mind. I don't think anyone has a more interesting life story to tell than CHUCK and certainly few have achieved the level of success he has been able to attain in his public life and in the business world.

CHUCK grew up in a small Nebraska town where he learned the value of a day's work at an earlier than usual age. CHUCK found his first job when he was only 9 and he's been hard at work ever since. When he lost his father at the

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age of 16 it fell to him, as the oldest child, to help raise the younger ones of his family.

That was also about the time that CHUCK made his first run for office. When he was in high school he decided to run for student council president. He knew he would have to do something different in his campaign to separate himself from the others who were running, so he tied a chicken to the hood of his car and drove around the school announcing the reasons why he was in the race. No one had ever seen anything quite like that before and he won quite easily I am sure.

After his high school years, CHUCK heard the call to serve his country and he and his brother joined the Army and served in Vietnam. He was seriously wounded twice and received two Purple Hearts during his military service. During one of his missions, he and his brother were trapped in their armored personnel carrier when an enemy mine exploded beneath them. CHUCK pulled his unconscious brother to safety and probably saved his life. It took 10 years for him to fully heal from the effects of the injuries he suffered that day.

When he graduated from the University of Nebraska he began his political career in earnest. He joined the staff of a Republican Congressman from Nebraska and impressed him and his staff so much that he steadily rose in responsibility to be his top aide.

Equally impressive has been CHUCK's success as a businessman. He sold almost all he had to begin a cellular phone company with two partners. His hard work and determination to succeed paid off and his investment was multiplied many times over.

That kind of success would have been enough for most people, but not for CHUCK. CHUCK felt the call to bigger things and he set his sights on going to Washington to make life a little better for the people back home in Nebraska.

That was his platform when CHUCK ran for the Senate in 1996. The experts thought he was a long shot and a lot of people said he didn't stand a chance. Once again, CHUCK defied the odds and relied on the judgment of the people of Nebraska instead of the predictions of the experts. The people of Nebraska knew a good thing when they saw it and CHUCK was sent to the Senate to represent them.

CHUCK and I were part of the same freshman class and when we arrived we both looked forward to being named to the committees on which we would serve so we could make a difference for our States and the Nation. CHUCK was very

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pleased and proud when Senator Lugar offered him an invitation to join the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

CHUCK took full advantage of the opportunity and made it the focus of his efforts in the Senate. He made a point of visiting other countries and meeting with foreign leaders to increase his expertise on foreign policy. Working closely with Senator Lugar and Senator Biden, he has been a voice on the committee that is sought after for his perspective on the issues that involve our relations with other countries.

Over the years I have enjoyed serving with CHUCK and working with him on two of his top priorities, cutting Federal spending and making our tax system more workable and more responsive to the needs of our national economy. He can be very proud of all he has achieved, especially his support of fast track authority so the President could negotiate trade deals that cannot be changed by the Congress. His work in the area of international trade has made a great difference throughout the United States and helped improve our relationship with our trading partners.

Now CHUCK's Washington years are coming to a close and he will be moving on together with Lilibet to something new and different in their lives. Diana and I have always found that when one great adventure ends another one takes its place. That is our wish for you. Whatever the future holds for you and Lilibet we wish you all the best. The only good part about saying goodbye is the knowledge that you will keep in touch with us and continue to offer your good advice and the unique brand of common sense that you learned from your service in Washington, your success in your business, and your years growing up in Nebraska, Wyoming's neighbor to the east.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

TUESDAY, *December 9, 2007*

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I came to know Senator HAGEL in 1997 when we worked together on the Byrd-Hagel Resolu-

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tion related to the Kyoto Protocol. We made a good team because our effort was approved unanimously, by a vote of 95 to 0.

In our work together, I made a new friend because I found Senator HAGEL to be a likeable and cooperative person as well as a knowledgeable and hard-working Senator.

My respect for this dynamic Senator increased as I watched him become one of the Senate's most outspoken critics of Mr. Bush's war in Iraq. Several of us were already pointing to the disastrous results of the Bush administration's flawed and failed Iraqi war policies. But Senator HAGEL's opposition to the war carried very special impact. He is a conservative, a member of the President's own political party, and a military veteran. In fact, he still carries shrapnel in his chest and remnants of burns to his face from his service as an infantryman in Vietnam. Senator HAGEL now calls Mr. Bush's war in Iraq "an absolute replay of Vietnam."

I will miss my friend and colleague. The Senate needs strong, independent voices like Senator HAGEL—lawmakers who are willing to put the best interests of our country and American people over partisan politics.

WEDNESDAY, *December 10, 2008*

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise tonight to recognize and pay tribute to my colleague from Nebraska, Senator CHUCK HAGEL, who is retiring from the Senate. When I entered this body nearly 8 years ago, Senator HAGEL welcomed me, and since then we have worked together on a number of important issues for the good of our great State and our country. We teamed up to seek Federal assistance to help Nebraskans recover from natural disasters, such as floods, ice storms, and drought; to win congressional approval for naming the new FBI Building in Omaha after our esteemed late colleague, Senator J. James Exon, and on numerous other Nebraska projects.

Like me, CHUCK HAGEL grew up in small communities in Nebraska. It is a special experience to be raised among Nebraskans under the wide open skies of the Great Plains. Helping hands are always nearby and opportunities seem limitless. From our families, friends, and neighbors, we both learned the bedrock values of love, of community, of faith, responsibility to others, and devotion to country. These values

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have been evident during Senator HAGEL's tenure in this body.

Also evident has been an important perspective he shared, one only a few Senators know first hand, about the reality of war, gained as a decorated U.S. Army sergeant on violent battlefields in the Vietnam war and later as Deputy Secretary Administrator of the U.S. Veterans' Administration during the Reagan administration.

Here in the Senate, he represented the people of Nebraska and the United States well as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; the Intelligence Committee; and the Rules Committee. He will long be remembered as one of our most outspoken and candid Members, as a patriot, and as one who took seriously his duties. Particularly through expressing his views on foreign policy, he fiercely advocated the constitutional principle that the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government are equal partners.

I take this opportunity to commend him for his honorable service to our State and Nation over these many years. And whatever path CHUCK HAGEL embarks on next, I wish him and his wife Lilibet, daughter Allyn, and son Ziller only the best in their lives. It has been an honor to serve with him.

THURSDAY, *December 11, 2008*

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise to acknowledge the work and commitment of a colleague whom I have had the pleasure of serving with for the last 12 years here in the U.S. Senate. Senator CHUCK HAGEL joined the Senate in 1997 after an already successful career in business and public service, both in his home State of Nebraska and here in Washington, DC.

While in the Senate, CHUCK has been a strong independent voice for all Nebraskans and citizens of this country. He is not afraid to share what is on his mind and he is certainly not afraid to reach across the aisle to work with all Senators. In one of his first acts of bipartisanship, Senator HAGEL joined me as a co-sponsor of the Landmine Elimination Act of 1997. I worked with CHUCK, who was himself injured by landmines while in Vietnam, to ban new deployments of antipersonnel landmines.

Senator HAGEL has demonstrated an incredible alacrity on defense and foreign policy issues. While it was not popular

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within his own party, he made the difficult decision to support a timeline for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. This is just one example of many stances he has taken in Washington that demonstrates how CHUCK HAGEL was an independent voice that Nebraska is proud to call their own.

I am also pleased to know CHUCK and Lilibet as wonderful travel partners. The last trip we took together, in May 2007, was to the Middle East to assess regional conflicts in Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and the West Bank. Trips like these provide the opportunity to get to know Senators and their spouses beyond the day-to-day encounters in Washington, and I cherish the time we had together.

I am pleased to call CHUCK a friend and voice of reason in the U.S. Senate. I will miss him as both a friend and colleague. Marcelle and I wish him and Lilibet well in whatever way he will next serve Nebraska and our Nation.

FRIDAY, *December 12, 2008*

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to express my enormous gratitude and deep appreciation to my good friend and colleague, Senator CHUCK HAGEL, for his 12 years of sterling leadership and steadfast service in the U.S. Senate.

A man of deep-seated principle, honor, conscience, and conviction, Senator HAGEL has been a stalwart legislator and an unwavering guardian of the first branch of government during his remarkable two-term tenure in the Senate. And, having served with CHUCK side by side for that entire period—including, in the 107th Congress on the Senate Committee on the Budget, and subsequently for the remaining three Congresses on the Senate Committee on Intelligence—I can attest first hand to the tremendous intellect, independence, and integrity that he has brought to his office and to some of the most consequential debates of our time.

Anyone familiar with Senator HAGEL's background will notice readily how a fourth generation Nebraskan steeped in the time-honored traditions and mores of the heartland was well equipped with the bedrock character and unshakable foundation necessary to reach the highest heights in both the public and private sector. Whether serving as President Reagan's Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, demonstrating keen entrepreneurial acumen as an early leader in the cell phone industry, heading the World USO, or eventually running successfully for the U.S. Senate from

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Nebraska, the common denominator, time and again, pervading Senator HAGEL's life—and what has shaped his renowned trajectory of accomplishment in every undertaking he has pursued—has been his unwavering love for his country and abiding faith in its founding principles.

Nowhere was Senator HAGEL's devotion to our Nation more paramount than when his country called on him to serve in Vietnam, where he and his brother Tom, having bravely enlisted together, fought shoulder to shoulder as infantry squad leaders with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division. Both displayed enormous heroism on the field of battle and were decorated soldiers, with CHUCK earning two Purple Hearts.

As you can imagine, it has been a privilege over these past 12 years to witness the courage and candor of this American hero and esteemed colleague, whether on measures addressing war, specifically in Iraq, or matters concerning the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA. Senator HAGEL was indeed my compatriot and ideological soulmate on the Senate Intelligence Committee. If you must go into battle whether in war or in politics, you want to engage your opponents with someone of CHUCK HAGEL's mettle and fortitude.

A true conservative who believes in limited government—and that the diffusion of power and authority are the surest check against despotism and the best hope for democracy—Senator HAGEL has demonstrated a visceral and unending passion for this institution and for the possibilities of effective governance by people of good will. And Senator HAGEL crystallized this deeply held belief in his farewell speech on the floor of the Senate when he emphasized to his colleagues that:

... Article I of the Constitution is about the Congress. We are a co-equal branch of government. If there is anything I have learned in the 12 years I've been here, it is the importance of sharing, participating in the governance of our country, being part of that governance, helping make decisions with the President and the executive branch.

Finally, as a Mainer, I must say how fitting it was that a few years ago Senator HAGEL was recognized as one of the esteemed recipients of the Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Award. Senator HAGEL exemplifies the best of the Muskie tradition which was built upon certain irrefutable, sterling standards for high intellect, unassailable integrity, and a lifetime of legendary service.

To his wife Lilibet, their daughter Allyn, and son Ziller, thank you for sharing your husband and your father with us

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for these 12 years. And to CHUCK, we will miss your voice and your vision. By your words and in your deeds, you bring to mind the Greek playwright and poet, Aeschylus, who wrote that “his resolve is not to seem the bravest, but to be.” You have been a brave steward of the public trust, and we are forever thankful.

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