

Wendell H. Ford

U.S. SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES







S. Doc. 105-31

Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

Wendell H. Ford

United States Senator  
1974-1998



*Compiled under the direction  
of the  
Secretary of the Senate  
by the  
Office of Printing and Document Services*

## CONTENTS

	Page
Biography .....	vii
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Boxer, Barbara, of California .....	40
Burns, Conrad, of Montana .....	19
Byrd, Robert C., of West Virginia .....	6, 21
Daschle, Tom, of South Dakota .....	4, 14, 26
Staff letter .....	15
Domenici, Pete V., of New Mexico .....	25
Dorgan, Byron L., of North Dakota .....	13, 24
Glenn, John, of Ohio .....	1
Gramm, Rod, of Minnesota .....	25
Inouye, Daniel K., of Hawaii .....	31
Kempthorne, Dirk, of Idaho .....	23
Lautenberg, Frank R., of New Jersey .....	18
Leahy, Patrick J., of Vermont .....	39
Levin, Carl, of Maine .....	16
Lott, Trent, of Mississippi .....	14, 34
McCain, John, of Arizona .....	12
McConnell, Mitch, of Kentucky .....	10
Nickles, Don, of Oklahoma .....	17
Sessions, Jeff, of Alabama .....	33
Stevens, Ted, of Alaska .....	11
Thurmond, Strom, of South Carolina .....	15
Farewell address of Senator Wendell H. Ford .....	41
Order for printing of individual Senate documents .....	44
Newspaper Articles and Editorials:	
Seniority Bites, <i>Roll Call</i> .....	47
Ford Helped Shape N. Ky., <i>Cincinnati Enquirer</i> .....	48
Senator Ford Announces He Will Retire; Fourth-Term Kentucky Democrat Voices Distaste for Fund-Raising Process, <i>Washing-</i> <i>ton Post</i> .....	50
Pragmatism, Personal Skills Boosted Ford, <i>Courier-Journal</i> .....	51
Democrats Pay Tribute to Senator Ford; Vice President Joins Thousands To Offer Praise, <i>Courier-Journal</i> .....	53



## BIOGRAPHY

WENDELL H. FORD, Kentucky's senior U.S. Senator has served in the Senate since December 28, 1974. Now in his fourth Senate term, FORD holds the position of assistant Democratic leader. First elected to the post in 1990, he was reelected without opposition to serve in that capacity for the 105th Congress.

FORD's career spans over a quarter of a century in elective office. He began as a Kentucky State senator in 1965 and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1967. Four years later, he became the Commonwealth's 49th Governor.

Currently in his 24th year in the Senate, FORD has risen to 12th out of 100 members in overall seniority and ranks 7th among Democrats in the 105th Congress. In 1992, he made Kentucky history when he received the largest number of votes ever recorded by a candidate for elected office in the Commonwealth. Prior to his last election, he was reelected by overwhelming margins in 1980 and 1986. On March 14, 1998, FORD became Kentucky's longest serving U.S. Senator, breaking the mark held by Alben W. Barkley.

Over the years, FORD has become known as a staunch supporter of the economic interests of Kentucky and as a national leader on energy, aviation, Federal-election reform and other issues. He has shaped such legislation as the National Voter Registration Act, the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Energy Security Act of 1992, the Aviation Safety and Capacity Act of 1990, the Airport and Airways Capacity Expansion Act of 1987, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1986, the Tobacco Reform Act of 1985, the Energy Security Act of 1977 and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of the same year.

He has taken the lead in many other legislative initiatives, including a long and persistent drive to adopt a 2-year budget as a tool to improve the Federal Government's trouble-plagued budget-making process.

FORD is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, where he has pressed for campaign-finance reform, improved voter registration procedures

and other measures to increase voter participation in Federal elections. He has also worked for a number of procedural changes to make the Senate a more efficient body.

As past chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, FORD was successful in cutting millions of dollars from the cost of government printing operations overseen by the Committee. He also introduced the first-ever program for the use of recycled printing paper by the Federal Government, which purchases over 486,000 tons of paper annually.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, FORD is the ranking member of its Aviation Subcommittee and serves on the subcommittees dealing with consumer and communication issues. He has also been instrumental in expanding airport-improvement programs and has taken a leading role in addressing airport noise policy, aging aircraft, pilot education and other critical aviation issues.

FORD also serves on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources which deals with complex issues touching on all aspects of energy policy. He is ranking member of the Energy Research and Development subcommittee, and serves on the Water and Power and Mineral Resources Development and Production subcommittees. He has worked successfully to increase Federal support for clean-coal technologies to strengthen the coal industry, lessen the Nation's dangerous dependence on foreign oil and protect the environment. He spearheaded legislation to create a government owned corporation for our Federal uranium-enrichment enterprise which holds many important economic and national-security implications for Kentucky and the Nation.

FORD's recent accomplishments on behalf of Kentucky include helping negotiate a buyout of tobacco surpluses and putting in place a mechanism to decrease imported tobacco. He gained Federal support for the Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center and also the International Trade Development Center at the University of Kentucky. He also was successful in securing authorization for Kentucky communities to band together to float \$370 million in community-improvement bond issues. As a believer in strong defense, he has played a leading role in protecting the National Guard and military installations in the Common-

wealth. He has also worked to improve the transportation infrastructure in the Commonwealth and open new export markets for Kentucky products.

Long active in Democratic politics, FORD served as chairman of the National Democratic Governors Caucus in 1973–74 and chaired the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee from 1976 to 1982.

FORD is a believer in community service and was named one of the three Outstanding Young Men in Kentucky. He served as State president of the Kentucky Jaycees and later as national Jaycees president and international vice president. He has received the highest service awards from both the March of Dimes and the Boy Scouts. He has been honored by the U.S. National Guard Association, and has also received special commendations from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion for his continuing service to veterans and their dependents. In addition, he has received special recognition for his continuing support of Kentucky Educational Television, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts, the National Association of Regional Councils and numerous other awards.

FORD was born in Thruston, KY, on September 8, 1924. He graduated from Daviess County High School in Owensboro and later attended the University of Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Army in 1945–46 and in the Kentucky Army National Guard for 13 years.

He is married to the former Jean Neel of Owensboro, and they have two children and five grandchildren.



TRIBUTES  
TO  
WENDELL H. FORD

## Proceedings in the Senate

FRIDAY, *March 13, 1998.*

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, earlier today Senator Daschle, our minority leader, made some remarks in tribute to the longest-serving Senator from Kentucky to serve in the U.S. Senate, and that is WENDELL FORD, our minority whip.

I wanted to add my words of congratulations, in recognition of this person that I believe to be one of our most outstanding U.S. Senators. He is a very dedicated public servant. He is also a good personal friend. He is the senior Senator from Kentucky, WENDELL FORD. I don't think it is any accident that the people of Kentucky have returned WENDELL time after time, one election after another, to where he now has served here almost a quarter of a century.

WENDELL, of course, is a very personable person. He likes people. I think that was evidenced early in his career when I believe he was national president of the Jaycees. Later on, the people of Kentucky, after having elected him Governor for a term, then elected him to the U.S. Senate. He has served them well here over the last nearly quarter of a century. I had the honor and privilege to serve alongside him for all that time since he came to the Senate. He and I were sworn in at about the same time, and for the first few years we were here, by the luck of the draw, we sat side by side in the Senate Chamber. That was back in the time period when we had many all-night sessions, and you got to know a person pretty well when you sat and shared views with them during some of those extended debates and lengthy all-night sessions.

WENDELL is certainly known for his wit and humor. I remember once we were sitting here about 3:30 or 4 o'clock in the morning and a debate was going on. WENDELL nudged me and said, "You know, John, the people back home think we are the ones that won." I got a kick out of that. We were going through some very troubled times in the U.S. Senate at that time.

The Senate class of 1974 was one that I think was remarkable not only because I happened to be one of those people but because it came in on the tail-end of Watergate. Watergate played an issue in that year's election. But the people we elected that year included a number of outstanding public officials who would continue illustrious public careers, including John Culver, Robert Morgan, Paul Laxalt, James Jake Garn, Gary Hart, and four Senators still serving—myself and Senators FORD, Bumpers, and Leahy. With the announced retirements that we have already, Senator Leahy will be the only representative out of that class of 1974 still remaining at the end of this year.

The distinguished Senator from Kentucky, Senator FORD, has served on the Senate Rules Committee for many years, been chairman and ranking member. He became an expert on disputed elections quite early on in his service, because one of the first issues that that class of 1974 faced in the Senate was the disputed election in New Hampshire between John Durkin and Louis Wyman. In that case, the Senate determined that a new election was necessary. So WENDELL got tossed into that maelstrom of disputed elections very early on. I say that hasn't ended through all these years either, because even during this last year he worked toward a successful solution in the Louisiana election dispute.

I can say without any contradiction that Senator FORD is truly a Senator's Senator. He is rarely on the floor making long speeches and posturing before the camera. That is rare. In fact, he never does that. But his voice is heard. His influence is heard on almost all issues, because the Senate, his fellow Senators on the Democratic side, sought at this time to elect him as our whip, our No. 2 person in the hierarchy of leadership in the Senate.

I think Senator FORD would appreciate the fact, coming from Kentucky—and I have heard him make comments about the horses, and all of his attention to the horses in Kentucky, and the big business that is in Kentucky, and his attention to things like the Kentucky Derby and so on. But he would appreciate it that we know him as a “workhorse,” not just as a show horse, here in the U.S. Senate. He is always working behind the scenes for whatever the interests are of the party or his interests for Kentucky. And he has provided strong leadership in his ability as a negotiator and his talents for finding compromise that have served both parties and the Nation extraordinarily well.

He has been in the forefront of many issues during his career in the Senate, including such more recent things in just the last few years as motor-voter legislation, trying to make sure that every person in this country has a maximum opportunity to exercise the right to vote. Lobbying reform and campaign finance reform have been of particular interest in recent years.

Of course, Kentucky is first. I just wish I could say that I have been as tireless an advocate for Ohio as he has been for Kentucky, because even when we have disagreed on things, we find a way to work them out. WENDELL represents Kentucky and the interests of the people of Kentucky first. That comes out all the time. He and I have worked together on matters of mutual interest, including the regional airport in Cincinnati and Department of Energy facilities that are both in Kentucky and in Ohio.

As I mentioned earlier today, Senator FORD's service in the Senate will surpass the length of service of Alben Barkley, who had previously been the longest-serving Senator from Kentucky. Senator FORD will have served longer than any other Kentuckian in the Senate, including such statesmen as Henry Clay, John Breckenridge, Happy Chandler, and John Sherman Cooper.

I think WENDELL FORD adds an illustrious career that matches any of those other people the great State of Kentucky has sent to the Senate through the years. With WENDELL, you always know where you stand, but he also knows how to disagree without being disagreeable at the same time.

He is known for his wit, humor, and intense discussions. He knows how to break the tension with a little humor, a joke, or something that applies.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one other thing, and that is his dedication to his family—Jean, his wife, and his children and grandchildren. I remember last August, when other Senators were talking about what trips they were planning, and I asked WENDELL if he was planning to travel, he said, "Yep; I'm going to travel to Kentucky to go fishing with the grandchildren." That is exactly what he did, and I'm sure the grandchildren were the better off for it.

So I'm pleased to join my colleagues in recognition of the long service of Senator WENDELL FORD. He has been a very valued colleague and a personal friend to me in the Senate. His company will truly be one of the things I will miss next year, and I think, most of all, the people of Kentucky are going to miss the kind of leadership he has provided. We are

here today not to talk about that, but to recognize that today marks the day when he becomes the longest-serving Senator to ever serve from the State of Kentucky. I want to recognize him for that.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to call to the Senate's attention an impressive milestone that a Member of this body will reach this weekend. On Saturday the senior Senator from Kentucky, my friend and Democratic whip, WENDELL FORD, will have served the State of Kentucky in the Senate for the 8,478th day. He will become the longest-serving Senator in Kentucky history.

While I suspect that Senator FORD might be more concerned this weekend about how his beloved Kentucky Wildcats will fare in the NCAA basketball tournament than about achieving any personal record, I hope he will allow me a few minutes to recognize this tremendous achievement.

It gives me great personal satisfaction to see Senator FORD cap his distinguished Senate career by reaching this milestone. It is also appropriate that Senator FORD does so by surpassing the length of service of another great Senator from Kentucky, the former Democratic leader and then Vice President of the United States, Alben Barkley.

WENDELL FORD began his Senate service back in December 1974. In 23-plus years, he has made his mark in the Senate in an extraordinary number of ways: as a tenacious fighter for the people of Kentucky, as a skilled parliamentarian and orator, as a leader and faithful soldier of his party, and as a genuinely warm, funny, and down-to-earth human being.

Perhaps the Almanac of American Politics best described his political tenacity when it said that Senator FORD's "fierce determination to champion Kentuckians' interests seems rooted in a sense that they are little guys who are victims or targets of big selfish guys elsewhere—that they are as humble as FORD's own economic background." Indeed, anyone who has engaged Senator FORD in the legislative arena knows that he is deeply rooted in the Kentucky soil from which he sprang.

He has been a thoroughly tireless defender of Kentucky's working families, from 60,000 tobacco growers on small farms across the State to the coal miners in Appalachia's hills and hollows. WENDELL FORD surely deserves one of the highest compliments one can give a Senator: that he has never forgotten where he came from.

Though I can think of no one more tenacious in defense of his constituents, I can also think of no Senator more loyal to his party, two traits that are sometimes difficult to reconcile.

WENDELL FORD has served his party in a variety of ways: as chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee; as chairman and ranking member of the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation; and, since 1991, assistant Senate Democratic leader and whip.

His friendship and counsel to me during my tenure as Senate Democratic leader have been invaluable. I could not imagine learning the many facets of this job without Senator FORD at my side. WENDELL FORD represents the best of the Senate's old school. He is someone who reveres the traditions and rules that are the foundation of the Senate. He is also someone who values the courtesy, humor, and personal bonds that give the Senate its life and its sense of common purpose.

Mr. President, the State of Kentucky has sent a number of talented men to this Chamber. Men like Albert "Happy" Chandler, Earle C. Clements, John Sherman Cooper, and certainly the legendary Henry Clay come to mind. It is a high honor that WENDELL FORD stands next to these great Kentuckians in service to their State. But it is perhaps most appropriate that Senator FORD surpassed the tenure of former Senator Alben Barkley. Like Senator FORD, Alben Barkley had roots in the soil, born on a small tobacco farm in Kentucky.

Like Senator FORD, Alben Barkley served his State and country in a range of positions, from county judge, to Congressman, Senator, then Vice President of the United States. And like Senator FORD, he was in the Senate leadership in both the majority and minority, serving as leader in both capacities.

Tested by the loss of the Senate majority in the mid-1940's, Senator Barkley turned adversity to his advantage. In 1948, a poll of journalists in *Colliers* magazine recognized minority leader Barkley as the most effective Member of the Senate. This was remarkable, since 10 years earlier, a similar poll had left him completely off the list of the 10 most effective Members even though he was majority leader.

In recognition of his effectiveness, one journalist commented that "under conditions that would have caused a less determined man to walk out and rest, he continued to work for his country through his party." Another said that "by his

wisdom, humor, and moderation, plus his devotion to the system, he has strengthened the concept of party responsibility." More appropriate words could not be spoken about Senator FORD, either.

We can only hope that Senator FORD may also look to one other example set by Alben Barkley. Senator Barkley became Vice President Barkley in 1948. He served in that capacity for one term. Not content to accept a permanent retirement after leaving the Vice Presidency, however, Barkley ran again for the Senate in 1954 and won, returning to his beloved Senate. Maybe Senator FORD will keep that in the back of his mind.

But taking Senator FORD at his word—that he will be leaving the Senate for good at the end of this year—his staff and I have tried to settle on a fitting tribute to the longest-serving Senator in Kentucky history. A tribute that will symbolize for every Kentuckian the enduring commitment to their well being that WENDELL FORD has shown.

Today I am introducing a bill to name the school under construction in Fort Campbell, KY, the "Wendell H. Ford Education Center." The Wendell H. Ford Education Center will assume its name the day Senator FORD leaves the Senate. I hope the students who enter its halls will fully appreciate the contributions of WENDELL H. FORD and the remarkable way in which he has led his colleagues, his State, and his country in the difficult challenges we have faced in the past 25 years.

Like many in Kentucky, many in this Chamber are familiar with one of Senator FORD's trademark greetings, "How are all you lucky people doing?" This is sometimes abbreviated to simply, "Hey, Lucky!" Truly, all of us who have served with Senator FORD have been extremely lucky. He will be missed by a lot of people around here when he retires at the end of this Congress.

But today, we all should all take a moment to congratulate and thank Senator WENDELL FORD on his record-breaking service to the people of Kentucky, the U.S. Senate, and the country.

MONDAY, *March 16, 1998.*

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has provided the U.S. Senate with some of its finer Members. Take John Breckinridge, who in the early 1800's be-

came his party's most effective spokesman and legislative leader during his first term in the Senate, and who would doubtless have achieved further greatness had he not succumbed to typhus fever at the age of 46. Despite this early death, Breckinridge did achieve a form of posthumous success when his son, John C. Breckinridge was elected first Senator and then vice-President. (It was, incidentally, the younger Breckinridge who, in 1859, provided such a moving tribute to the "consecrated character" of the old Senate Chamber, before leading the Senators in procession to their new, and current home.)

Or consider the great Henry Clay, who promoted the American system, whose powerful oratory and forceful personality made him one of the dominant figures during the Senate's golden age of the 1830's, 1840's and 1850's. And what of Alben Barkley, majority leader during the 1940's, whose booming baritone and vast repertoire of humorous anecdotes made him one of the more popular Senators of his time?

Not to mention John Sherman Cooper, who sat right here on the floor during the year that we served together. John Sherman Cooper was a former Ambassador to India. I first met him in 1955, at which time I was a Member of the House of Representatives and was traveling with a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to the Pacific and the Far East. On that occasion we traveled 68 days. We went around the world in an old constellation. That would have been called a "junket" in these times. John Sherman Cooper was Ambassador to India when I and my House colleagues stopped there for a short time. John Sherman Cooper also played an outspoken role in the debates on the war in Vietnam. The list of outstanding Senators from Kentucky is a long list indeed.

Mr. President, today Kentucky has another native son of whom it can be equally proud. That man is WENDELL FORD, who on Saturday last, March 14, became the longest serving Kentuckian in the history of the State.

It seems only fitting that Senator FORD should hold this record, for few other politicians have served the great Commonwealth of Kentucky as ably or as successfully as has WENDELL FORD. After service in World War II, Senator FORD returned to his home State and in short order became a State Senator, then a Lieutenant Governor, then Governor, before his election to the Senate in 1974.

When WENDELL FORD came to the U.S. Senate, I was the majority whip. Since that date in 1974, Senator FORD has earned acclaim as a smart and savvy legislator, particularly during his excellent chairmanship of the Rules Committee from 1986 to 1994. I count it a great privilege and honor and a pleasure to have served on the Rules Committee during those years of WENDELL FORD's chairmanship. He did well. He was a mighty protector of the rules of the Senate and is one of the best chairman of any committee on which I have served. Senator FORD has also been prominent in the party leadership. He chaired the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee from 1976 to 1982 and he has served with distinction as party whip since 1990.

As a Senator, WENDELL FORD has endeared himself to colleagues and staffers alike with his warm personality and his vibrant sense of humor. He has also distinguished himself as a devoted and vigilant defender of the interests of his native Kentuckians. I should say of all Kentuckians, native or otherwise. I have always felt a kinship with Kentucky, which borders my own mountain State. I have felt a kinship with the people of eastern Kentucky, whose rugged, mountainous terrain resembles that of West Virginia. And, as a fellow U.S. Senator representing another less well-off State whose needs have often been overlooked for too long, I have the utmost respect and admiration for Senator WENDELL FORD's courageous and tenacious efforts to serve the interests of his State and its noble people. In this regard, Senator FORD may be seen as an heir to the legacy of Henry Clay, whose "American system" favored Federal spending on communications, transportation and other internal improvements. As a matter of fact, the Old Cumberland Road, as it is sometimes referred to, the Old National Road, began at Cumberland, MD, and went westward to Wheeling, WV, and on to Vandalia, IL. The work on that road began in 1811, and by the year 1838 the Federal Government had invested the astounding sum of \$3 million in that highway.

That was the highway which many settlers traveling from the east and going to the west, took, as they made their way to the Ohio River. I should say that Henry Clay was one of the foremost supporters of appropriations for the Old Cumberland Road, and we who live in the mountainous terrain of West Virginia, and particularly in the northern part of the State, have not forgotten that nor shall we forget it. Few Senators have been as dedicated to serving the needs of their

constituents as the able senior Senator from Kentucky, and I salute him for that.

At the same time, Senator FORD has also done much good work on a national level. As a member of the Commerce Committee, Senator FORD has become a national leader on aviation issues, a leader who played key roles in shaping the 1994 Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act and the 1987 Airport and Airways Capacity Expansion Act. On the Energy Committee, Senator WENDELL FORD has worked tirelessly to lessen our country's dependence on foreign oil and to support clean, environmentally friendly coal technologies. And whether fighting for campaign finance reform or sponsoring the motor voter bill, Senator FORD has been a valiant soldier in the ongoing struggle to make this country's political system as fair, as open, and as representative as possible.

Mr. President, the same words spoken by Senator Clay in his farewell address to the Senate 156 years ago could just as well be attributed to Senator FORD's career in the Senate. Senator Henry Clay declared in part:

\* \* \* that I have been actuated by no personal motives—that I have sought no personal aggrandizement—no promotion from the advocacy of those various measures on which I have been called to act—that I have had an eye, a single eye, a heart, a single heart, ever devoted to what appeared to be the best interests of the country.

Senator FORD's good work has not gone unappreciated by his constituents. The host of State records that he holds testifies to his popularity with Kentuckians. After all, Senator FORD was the first candidate to carry all 120 counties against opposition and, he did this in 1980. In 1992, he won the highest number of votes cast for any State candidate. And in 1996, he surpassed Alben Barkley's record of having the longest consecutive service of any Kentucky Senator. Now, with this latest accomplishment to his name, there can be no doubting that Senator FORD's position is as one of the most successful and popular politicians in the State's history.

Mr. President, although Senator FORD has announced that he will not stand for reelection this fall, he may rest assured as he prepares to leave this Chamber that his contributions and accomplishments have earned him a place in the Senate's and Kentucky's honor rolls. I am sure that I can speak for all of my colleagues when I say that Senator FORD will be sorely missed. His combination of personal charm and legislative skill is a rare one, and whoever fills his seat will have much to live up to.

My wife, Erma, and I shall regret to see him and his lovely wife go.

WENDELL FORD in his service here and in his service to the people of Kentucky, reminds me of a bit of verse by John G. Holland, entitled "God Give Us Men":

God give us men!  
A time like this demands strong minds,  
great hearts, true faith, and ready hands.  
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honor; men who will not lie.  
Men who can stand before a demagogue  
And brave his treacherous flatteries without winking.  
Tall men, sun-crowned;  
Who live above the fog,  
In public duty and in private thinking.  
For while the rabble with its thumbworn creeds,  
It's large professions and its little deeds,  
mingles in selfish strife,  
Lo! Freedom weeps!  
Wrong rules the land and waiting justice sleeps.  
God give us men!  
Men who serve not for selfish booty;  
But real men, courageous, who flinch not at duty.  
Men of dependable character;  
Men of sterling worth;  
Then wrongs will be redressed, and right will  
rule the earth.  
God Give us Men!

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today marks another milestone in the extraordinarily successful tenure of my friend and colleague from Kentucky, WENDELL FORD. He becomes the longest serving Senator in Kentucky history. I remember well when Senator FORD got his start; I was in law school at the University of Kentucky. I remember reading a story about a State senate primary in Owensboro, KY, in which the Senate majority leader of the Kentucky State senate was upset in the primary by an impressive young man named WENDELL FORD, who had been involved in politics some time and had been in fact national president of the Jaycees.

Then in my senior year in law school, I remember this young State senator, who obviously didn't want to stay in the State senate too long, running for Lieutenant Governor and defeating the attorney general of Kentucky in that primary.

Then that November, an unusual thing happened in Kentucky—they elected a Republican Governor. It has not hap-

pened since. It is a fairly rare occurrence in our State. But State Senator WENDELL FORD was elected Lieutenant Governor, so he beat one of those rare Republican tides in our State.

Then, as if that were not enough, 4 years later everybody in Kentucky thought that former Governor Bert Combs, who subsequently had a distinguished career as a U.S. court of appeals judge, was a lead pipe cinch to be the next Governor of Kentucky and at the very least to win the Democratic primary. But Lieutenant Governor WENDELL FORD defeated, against everybody's expectations, former Governor Combs in the primary, and the rest is, as they say, history.

He came to the Senate, beating a Republican incumbent in 1974, and is into the final days of his fourth term. He has served Kentucky long and well, having had an extraordinarily successful public career. I join with all of my colleagues in congratulating him for his not only lengthy service but his excellent service on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the people of the United States.

FRIDAY, *September 25, 1998.*

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is the WENDELL FORD National Air Transportation System Improvement Act, as Chairman McCain just pointed out.

I see my good friend from Kentucky is here. I think that this is an act that should be named after the Senator from Kentucky because of his long service on the Commerce Committee and particularly on the Aviation Subcommittee.

Our Nation has come through a very interesting period during the time that WENDELL FORD has been Senator from Kentucky—a total revolution in aviation and a concentration on safety and improvement of our airway system.

WENDELL FORD has been a leader in that effort. This bill signifies the totality of what he has done for the aviation community.

I come to the floor today, because, as I believe most Members of the Senate know, Alaska is completely dependent upon air transportation.

Over 70 percent of our communities can only be reached by air year-round. We believe in the safety of that system.

I have been pleased to have the honor to be able to work with the Senator from Kentucky on a whole series of matters dealing with operations, with safety, and with the mainte-

nance of the airways system, and in particularly with the development of air transportation facilities on the ground.

As you go throughout this country and go to these major new terminals, you should think of WENDELL FORD, because he has led us, through the period when he was chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, and during the period when he has been ranking member of that subcommittee, to an understanding of what is necessary to keep the lead that we have as a Nation in aviation.

I come to the floor to thank my good friend for all he has done for us and for the Nation, but particularly to thank him on behalf of all of us in Alaska who rely so much on this system that he has improved and made more safe.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I join Senator FORD in thanking the staff for their contributions: John Raidt, Ann Choiniere, Michael Reynolds, Lloyd Ator, Scott Verstandig, Brad Sabala, and Bill Winter on the Commerce Committee staff; Ivan Schlager, Sam Whitehorn, Jim Drewry, and Becky Kojm with Senator Hollings' staff; Brett Hale and Jeanne Bumpus with Senator Gorton; and David Regan with Senator FORD. Charles Chambers and Tom Zoeller, who are no longer Senate staffers, made efforts in making this legislation happen. Also, Mr. President, because of the scope associated with this bill, we have negotiated with literally every Senator and their staff members on various provisions of this bill, and I thank all of them, also.

But obviously, Mr. President, I wish to express again my deep and profound appreciation to the Senator from Kentucky for his efforts on this legislation and many, many other aviation bills that have moved through the Senate during my time here. I think it is a very small token that the bill before us is named for him. He deserves that recognition and much, much more.

Mr. President, Senator FORD has been a Member of the U.S. Senate for 24 years. That is a long time, even in the history of the U.S. Senate. I have had the privilege of working with him for 12. When I first came to the Commerce Committee 12 years ago, I spent a lot of time with Senator FORD then and in the intervening years, especially on aviation issues, because he is regarded, perhaps, as the most knowledgeable Member of the U.S. Senate on those issues.

Senator FORD is also known—as I think, perhaps, I may be to some extent—as a person who fights fiercely for the principles that he believes in, for what he believes is right

as God gave him the right to see it. And he also is a strong advocate for his party. I noted, while looking at his biography this morning—I was scanning it—not only is he a former Governor, but for 6 years he was the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. I know that there are many times when he and his colleagues yearn for those golden days of yesteryear.

Mr. FORD. No, we lost then.

Mr. McCAIN. Did you? But Senator FORD has obviously served his party with distinction as well. Around this place you have the opportunity of working with your colleagues on a variety of issues, but I do not believe that I have observed anyone as effective, as single-minded, and as dedicated as the Senator from Kentucky. Yes, we have had fierce differences of opinion which have always been resolved at the end of the day with a smile and a handshake. I have learned from those encounters. I believe one of the great learning experiences of my life was in 1990 when Senator FORD was responsible for a massive restructuring of the aviation system in America. The impact of that will be felt well into the next century. I watched him guide that legislation through all the rocks and shoals of the process around here, and it emerged as a landmark piece of legislation.

I am proud to have learned from him. I am proud to have worked with him and to be associated with him on a broad variety of various areas. Most of all, I will be pleased many years from now to be able to call him my friend. So I thank him. I look forward to observing that same fierce determination as we do battle with the folks on the other side, to try to maintain this legislation intact as it has been reported out through the Senate.

As has often been observed, the Senator from Kentucky is not dying, he is just leaving the Senate.

Mr. FORD. Thanks.

Mr. McCAIN. We will, for many, many years in the future, work with the Senator from Kentucky and maintain our close relationships with him. I know I speak for every Member on my side of the aisle when I say that.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me add my words of admiration for the work done by Senator FORD. He has been an important part of the Senate for many years and has done some very important things for his country and the Senate will miss very much the service that he has offered. He is in the leadership, has been for many years on the Democratic side of the aisle. But he is fiercely independent.

He is smart. He is tough, and he has all the qualities that you look for in a good legislator. He will, in my judgment, for many, many years be remembered as one of the really outstanding legislators in this body, and I feel very fortunate to have been able to serve with him. I just wanted to add those words to the words offered by the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the importance of today's passage of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill. Today is a great day for rural America's air passengers. This legislation, now known as the Wendell H. Ford National Air Transportation System Improvement Act of 1998, will bring much needed air service to underserved communities throughout the Nation. It will grant billions of dollars in Federal funds to our Nation's small airports for upgrades, through the Airport Improvements Program (AIP).

Additionally, Senator McCain, chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, is to be commended for his superb leadership on this complex and contentious measure. Together with Senator FORD, their joint efforts moved this bill through the committee and to the Senate floor in such a manner that the amendment process went smoothly.

It is only fitting that this must-pass legislation be named after such a worthy Senator. WENDELL FORD has spent nearly 24 years as a Member of this body. For the last 10 years, I have enjoyed working with Senator FORD on a variety of issues within the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee. Through his leadership on this legislation, Senator FORD has proven himself as a champion of rural aviation issues. The Senate will certainly miss his guidance and insight. Likewise, the Senate will miss his wry, biting humor.

FRIDAY, *October 9, 1998.*

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as the majority leader noted, this is a bittersweet time for many of us. We bid colleagues farewell and we recall the times we have had together. In some cases, we have worked together and shared friendships for many years.

I have been asked to do something somewhat unusual tonight. I have been asked by the staff of our distinguished

Senator from Kentucky, my dear friend, Senator FORD, to read a letter they have composed to him for the congressional Record.

I am delighted that Senator FORD is on the floor to hear this personally.

So, as requested, I will read the letter, which was written by his staff. I know my own staff shares these feelings for Senator FORD. The letter is dated October 9, 1998.

*October 9, 1998.*

DEAR SENATOR FORD: After several weeks of tributes, receptions, dinners and other special events in your honor, we're sure that a man of your humble nature is probably ready to have people quit making a fuss and let you leave town as unnoticed and as low-key as possible.

However, these weeks have given us the opportunity to hear others tell you what we've also known all along: your legacy of serving our State, your labor of love on behalf of all Americans, and the unfailing kindness you've shown during your time in the U.S. Senate will never be forgotten.

On top of just being a plain 'ole good boss, you've also been a mentor, a teacher, and someone we could always look up to for guidance and support, no matter the situation. But most importantly, you've been a friend to all of us.

You've given us the opportunity on a daily basis to personally witness the countless hours of hard work you put in on behalf of Kentuckians. We've seen you stay into the early morning hours here in the Senate during an all-night session, and then rush to catch an early morning plane for a commitment back home. We've seen you toil late into the night working on a conference committee, only to have you beat us into work the next morning with a smile and joke for everyone.

These are some of the things your Kentucky constituents may never have known. But at the same time, we know they've benefited greatly from your accomplishments on their behalf and your never-ending desire to see that all Kentuckians, no matter their station, have the tools and opportunities to lead successful and productive lives.

As we've heard you say many times, it's been a good run. And we could not let today pass without letting you know how much it's meant for us to have had the opportunity to work with you, to learn from you, and have you as our favorite Senator.

Sincerely,

YOUR STAFF.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, Kentucky is famous for many things, including its bourbon and the Derby, but what I have come to associate most with the "Bluegrass State" over the past 24 years is Senator WENDELL FORD, who I regret to note is leaving the Senate at the end of the 105th Congress.

Senator FORD is a man with a deep and unwavering commitment to public service. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and continued his military service as a member of the Kentucky National Guard. He has held elect-

ed office at both the State and Federal levels, holding the titles of State senator and Governor before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1974.

Each of us understands that our primary job as Senators is to make the law, but many of us also believe that we should use our offices to help the people of our States. This is a sentiment that Senator FORD and I share, and over the years, my friend from Kentucky has worked tirelessly to help his State develop and prosper. While Kentucky, like South Carolina, is still a largely rural State, thanks in no small part to the efforts of WENDELL FORD, the people of Kentucky are enjoying opportunities and economic growth that has been substantial.

During his time in Washington, Senator FORD has held a number of key positions, both in the Senate and in political organizations. His leadership roles as an assistant leader and a former committee chairman stand as testament to both his abilities and the regard in which he is held by his peers.

I am certain that Senator FORD did not easily come to the decision to retire, but I am certain that he and his lovely wife Jean are looking forward to their new life. I wish both of them health, happiness and success in whatever endeavor they undertake.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, when this Congress adjourns the Senate will lose its distinguished minority whip, the senior Senator from Kentucky, WENDELL H. FORD. WENDELL FORD has earned a reputation as the Senate's leader on aviation matters, and has long been one of the most influential Members of the Senate on energy and election reform issues. He has battled for campaign finance reform legislation and led the fight for the "motor voter" bill which has expanded voter registration across the country.

There is no Member of the Senate more well-liked by his colleagues than WENDELL FORD. However, I have often thought that one of the true measures of a Senator is how she or he relates to staff members, workers and other visitors to our Nation's capital. WENDELL FORD is among the most beloved.

I think back to one particular incident. A member of my staff had brought his 5-year old son to work for the day. The staff member, needing to attend an important meeting, left his son to play with paper, crayons and stapler, under the supervision of several co-workers. He returned to find his son no longer at the desk where he had been left. A quick

search followed. The young boy was found just outside the office in the Senate hallway where he had stopped Senator WENDELL FORD and attempted to sell him a book (artful pages of crayon scribbles, stapled together) for a nickel. Senator FORD was in the act of earnestly requesting two and trying to convince the young man to accept a dime as superior to the requested nickel.

Last March, WENDELL FORD became the longest serving Senator from Kentucky in the history of the U.S. Senate when he surpassed another beloved Kentuckian, Alben Barkley.

WENDELL FORD is unsurpassed in many things: He is unsurpassed in his love of family, love of country and love of the U.S. Senate. He is unsurpassed in his efforts to be helpful to new Members. How many times he has set aside personal needs or took the time to help newcomers to this body to weather the self doubts or maneuver through the complex procedures.

WENDELL FORD is unsurpassed in his commitment to the hard working families whom are the backbone of this Nation and in his passion for the "little guy".

Mr. President, to me, the story I told of the little boy in the Senate hall characterizes WENDELL FORD. WENDELL is a genuine, kind, straight-forward and thoughtful man as well as an effective national leader. All of us in the U.S. Senate and our families will miss the inimitable WENDELL FORD and his wife, Jean.

SATURDAY, *October 10, 1998.*

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I have given accolades to a couple of my colleagues for their service in the Senate, including Senator Bumpers. I see Senator FORD is on the floor. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator FORD for 18 years on the Energy Committee. We worked together on a lot of things. And, in my opinion, some of the most significant legislation that passed Congress, in my tenure, we have worked together on.

One was the Natural Gas Deregulation Act that President Bush signed after about 6 years of negotiations and hard work, but probably one of the most difficult pieces of legislation that we have passed.

And if you go back on the history of natural gas regulation and deregulation, it was a very, very difficult task. It was a

pleasure for me to work with Senator FORD in that respect. We worked together on other issues as well.

I compliment him for his 24 years of service in the Senate. Anyone that spends almost a quarter of a century of service in the Senate, I think, is to be complimented. I compliment him for his leadership and for his representation of the people of Kentucky. Again, it was a pleasure and honor for me to serve with him. I compliment him and wish him every best wish as he returns to his State of Kentucky.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President I rise today to pay tribute to our esteemed colleague from Kentucky, the minority whip, Senator WENDELL H. FORD. I wish him well. All of us know that we have not heard the last from this dedicated and effective public servant.

His retirement from the Senate will end a formal career of public service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States which has lasted over three decades. After first serving in the Kentucky Senate, he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1967 and then Governor of Kentucky in 1971. In 1974, he was elected to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, in the history of this body, few Senators have protected the interests of his or her State as doggedly as WENDELL FORD.

Whether the issue was aviation, tobacco, telecommunications or farm legislation, Senator FORD has always put the people of Kentucky first. And even though we have disagreed on a key issue or two, I know that he is guided by what he believes is best for the people of his State.

As the senior Senator from Kentucky put it himself: "If it ain't good for Kentucky, it ain't good for WENDELL FORD."

And the people of Kentucky have shown their deep appreciation to Senator FORD in return. In 1992, he received the largest number of votes ever recorded by a candidate for elected office in the Commonwealth.

In March of this year, he became the longest serving U.S. Senator from Kentucky in history.

Mr. President, although New Jersey and Kentucky are very different States, Senator FORD and I share many things in common. First of all, our vintage—we were born in the same year. We both fought for our country in World War II. We both ran businesses before we entered public life.

These common experiences helped make WENDELL FORD an instant friend and mentor to me when I arrived in the Senate. His extensive knowledge and public service experi-

ence has made him an invaluable asset to our caucus' leadership.

And he has been quite a leader, now as minority whip, first as chairman and then ranking member of the Rules Committee, and in prior years, the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Mr. President, Senator FORD has left a formidable legacy to the Nation as a whole, in addition to his legendary status in Kentucky. He was the chief sponsor of the National Voter Registration Act, also known as the "motor voter" law.

This law helps ensure that more of our citizens are officially registered to participate in our democracy. He was also instrumental in the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1986, and many other landmark aviation and energy laws.

The senior Senator from Kentucky will be greatly missed here in the U.S. Senate. We will miss his leadership, his experience and also his great wit. But our personal loss will be the Commonwealth of Kentucky's gain.

I wish him, his wife Jean, their children and grandchildren Godspeed as he returns to Owensboro.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, five Senators will move on at the closing of this session of the 105th Congress. And they are Senators that have, with the exception of one, been here ever since I joined this body back in 1989.

Dirk Kempthorne from Idaho was elected after I was. And now after one term he has elected to go back to his home State of Idaho.

It seems like it becomes more and more difficult, as time goes by, to attract men and women to public service, and especially to public service when there are elections.

He brought a certain quality to this Senate. On his work on the Environment and Public Works Committee, he was sensitive to the environment and all the public infrastructure that we enjoy across this country. It just seemed to fit, because he had come here after being the mayor of Boise, ID. And his very first objective was to tackle this business of unfunded mandates. He took that issue on and provided the leadership, and finally we passed a law that unfunded mandates must be adhered to whenever we tell local government, State government that it is going to take some of your money to comply with the laws as passed by the Federal Government.

He, like me, had come out of local government. He knew the stresses and the pains of city councilmen and mayors and county commissioners every time they struggle with their budget in order to provide the services for their people, when it comes to schools and roads and public safety—all the demands that we enjoy down to our neighborhoods.

We shall miss him in this body.

To my friend, John Glenn of Ohio, who has already made his mark in history that shall live forever, he has left his tracks in this body. And not many know—and maybe not even him—but I was a lowly corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps when he was flying in the Marine Corps. So my memory of John Glenn goes back more than 40 years to El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Santa Anna, CA.

As he goes into space again at the end of this month, we wish him Godspeed. He gave this country pride as he lifted off and became the first American to orbit the Earth. And he carried with him all of the wishes of the American people.

To Dan Coats of Indiana, a classmate, we came to this body together in 1989. Our routes were a little different, but yet almost the same—he coming from the House of Representatives and me coming from local government.

He is a living example of a person dedicated to public service. But it never affected his solid core values. He has not changed one iota since I first met him back in 1989.

The other principal is on the floor today. It is WENDELL FORD of Kentucky. I was fortunate to serve on two of the most fascinating and hard-working committees in the U.S. Senate with Senator FORD: the Commerce Committee and the Energy Committee. Those committees, folks, touch every life in America every day.

We flip on our lights at home or in our businesses. We pick up the telephone, listen to our radio, watch our televisions, move ourselves from point A to point B, no matter what the mode—whether it is auto, train or plane. Yes, all of the great scientific advances this country has made, and research and the improvement of everyday life and, yes, even our venture into space comes under the auspices of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and the Energy Committee. Those two committees play such a major role in the everyday workings of America.

WENDELL FORD was one great champion and one of the true principals in formulating policies that we enjoy today. He played a major role in each and every one of them.

Again, it was my good fortune to work with Senator Bumpers on two committees: the Small Business Committee and the Energy Committee. There is no one in this body that has been more true to his deeply held beliefs than Senator Bumpers. Our views did not always mesh—and that is true with Senator FORD. It was their wisdom and the way they dealt with their fellow Senators that we worked our way through difficult issues and hard times with a sense of humor. I always say if you come from Arkansas you have to have a pretty good sense of humor. My roots go back to Missouri; I know we had to develop humor very early. Nonetheless, it was the integrity and the honesty that allowed us to settle our differences, even though we were 180 degrees off plumb.

I think I have taken from them much more than I have given back to them. This body has gained more than it can repay. This Nation is a better Nation for all of them serving in the U.S. Senate.

In our country we don't say goodbye, we just say so long. But we say so long to these Senators from our everyday activities on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I am sure our trails will cross many times in the future. Should they not, I will be the most disappointed of all.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, over the next few days, as the Senate concludes its legislative business, one of the finest individuals it has been my privilege to know will bring to a close yet another chapter in what has been, by any measure, an extraordinary public service career. When that time comes—when the senior Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky walks out of this Chamber for the last time as a U.S. Senator—this institution, and all who serve in it, will feel a great and lasting loss.

When WENDELL FORD came to this body on December 28, 1974, thus becoming the 1,685th individual to have served in the Senate, he did so not as a political neophyte but as an accomplished entrepreneur and a dedicated and seasoned public servant. Following service in World War II, our friend from Kentucky returned to his home State and launched a successful insurance business. But it was the call of public service, the chance to reach out and help all of his fellow Kentuckians, that meant the most to this young executive.

And, so, in 1964, WENDELL FORD began what was to become a successful political career by winning election to the Kentucky State senate. Two years later, in 1966, he successfully ran for the position of Lieutenant Governor, and, in

1970, against all odds, he became Kentucky's Governor, a position from which he served with distinction as the chairman of the National Democratic Governors Caucus.

Mr. President, despite his selfless service within his State, it is, of course, the near quarter-century he has spent here in the U.S. Senate that has earned WENDELL FORD the admiration, the respect, and the undying affection of his colleagues. And, having been elected to four terms in the Senate, it is obvious that the good people of Kentucky also understand and appreciate the skill, the dedication, and the flawless integrity that WENDELL FORD brings to his work. He serves Kentucky and the Nation with a wit and candor that are as timely and as refreshing as a cool Kentucky breeze on a hot summer day.

In fact, in 1992, he began a string of historical achievements when he received the largest number of votes ever recorded by a candidate for elected office in the State of Kentucky. On November 14, 1996, WENDELL FORD broke Alben Barkley's record for the longest consecutive service in the U.S. Senate as a Senator from the Commonwealth, while becoming the overall longest serving Senator from Kentucky in March of this year.

Mr. President, such milestones are not just proud, personal moments, although they are that. Rather, they speak to the immense respect, and the tremendous trust that the citizens of Kentucky have for their distinguished senior Senator. Of course, to those of us who know WENDELL FORD, such respect and trust are not unfounded.

As a Member of this body, Senator FORD has become a recognized leader in such diverse areas as aviation, Federal campaign finance reform, and energy. He has, through dedication and hard work, shaped such important legislation as the National Voter Registration Act, the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Energy Security Act of 1992, and the Energy Security Act of 1977.

The commitment shown by our colleague from Kentucky in working on these and other profound and troubling problems that face this Nation is emblematic of the devoted public servant that WENDELL FORD has shown himself to be. There will be few who will match the accomplishments of our friend; few who will bring to this body a deeper passion; and few who will legislate with greater skill.

Mr. President, as he prepares to leave the Senate, I offer my sincere gratitude to Senator WENDELL FORD for his pro-

fessionalism, for his friendship, for his leadership, for his candor, and for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation. I would also like to express my admiration, and that of my wife, Erma, to WENDELL's gracious and dedicated wife, Jean. Few know, of course, of the tremendous sacrifices made by our spouses. But those of us who serve in this body understand the price paid by these selfless, silent partners. None has done so with greater dignity, or with more grace, than has Jean FORD.

And, so, I say to my friend from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I have treasured the time we have worked together, and I wish him good luck and God's speed. He is coming home.

Weep no more, my lady,  
Oh! weep no more to-day!  
We will sing one song for the Old Kentucky Home,  
For the old Kentucky Home far away.

—"My Old Kentucky Home," Stephen Collins Foster, 1826-1864.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I appreciate you presiding as you do in such a class fashion. I would like to make a few comments here. I have been touched and impressed by the fact of colleagues coming to the floor and paying tribute to those Members who are departing. I have listened because, as one of those Members who are departing, I know personally how much it means to hear those kind comments that are made.

Senator FORD, who just spoke, is leaving after a very illustrious career. I remember when the Republican Party took over the majority 4 years ago and I was new to the position of Presiding Officer, it was not unusual for WENDELL FORD, who knows many of the ropes around here, to come and pull me aside and give me a few of the tips of how I could be effective as a Presiding Officer. I think probably one of the highest tributes you can pay to an individual is the fact that you see their family and the success they have had. I remember when WENDELL FORD's grandson, Clay, was a page here. I think Clay is probably one of the greatest tributes paid to a grandfather.

Dale Bumpers, often mentioned here on the floor about his great sense of humor, is an outstanding gentlemen. He is someone whom I remember before I ever became involved in politics. I watched him as a Governor of Arkansas and thought, there is a man who has great integrity, someone you can look up to. And then to have the opportunity to serve with him has been a great honor.

John Glenn. Whenever any of the astronauts—the original seven—would blast off into space, my mother would get all the boys up so we could watch them. I remember when John Glenn blasted off into space. Again, the idea that somehow a kid would end up here and would serve with John Glenn is just something I never could dream of at the time. In fact, John Glenn became a partner in our efforts to stop unfunded Federal mandates. You could not ask for a better partner.

Speaking of partners, he could not have a better partner than Annie. I had the great joy of traveling with them approximately a year ago when we went to Asia. That is when you get to know these people as couples. I remember that we happened to be flying over an ocean when it was the Marine Corps' birthday. On the airplane we had a cake and brought it out, to the surprise of John Glenn. But you could see the emotion in his eyes. I know the Presiding Officer is a former U.S. Marine, so he knows what we are talking about.

Dan Coats. There is no more genuine a person than Dan—not only in the Senate but on the face of the Earth. He is a man of great sincerity, a man who can articulate his position so extremely well. He is a man who, when you look into his eyes, you know he is listening to you and he is going to do right by you and by the people of his State of Indiana, and he has done right by the people of the United States. He is a man who has great faith, a man to whom I think a number of us have looked for guidance.

When you look at the Senate through the eyes of a camera, you see just one dimension. But on the floor of the Senate we are just people. A lot of times we don't get home to our wives and kids and sometimes to the ball games or back-to-school nights. There are times when some of the issues don't go as we would like, and it gets tough. At these times, we hurt. There are people like Dan Coats to whom you can turn, who has said, "Buddy, I have been there and I am with you now." So, again, he is an outstanding individual.

MONDAY, *October 12, 1998.*

Mr. DORGAN. I did want to say, having listened to the Senator from Kentucky, my expectation is that virtually every Member of this Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, shares my feelings about the Senator from Kentucky. He is tough, he is honest, he gets things done in the Senate, and we are going to miss him a great deal.

I know the Senator from Montana feels that way, as does the Senator from Texas. Some of our other colleagues are not here. But one of the privileges of serving in this body is serving with some of the best men and women I have ever had the opportunity to work with in my life, and I count among that group the Senator from Kentucky, Senator FORD.

I would like to say, as he leaves the Senate, I thank him for his public service to our country. He, because he served in this body, has contributed to the well-being of America. We are going to miss him a great deal. I expect he will not be going far. I know he is going fishing, and I know he is going to be involved in public service in his own way, dealing with educating young people about civic responsibilities and about government. I just want to say he has contributed a substantial amount of service to his country and we are deeply indebted to him for it.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I am sorry our colleague from Kentucky has left the floor. I would like to add my voice to those who thanked him for his service. In an era where there are so many cellophane politicians, when there are so many people in public life who talk like newscasters but you can never quite tell what they are talking about when they get through speaking, I think WENDELL FORD has been a welcome relief from that. He is a politician who has texture. When he speaks you may think he is wrong—which I often do—but you never question the fact that he is sincere, and when he speaks you know what he is talking about. I find the longer I serve in this great Senate, the more respect I have for people who stand for something and who speak up for it and who say what they think.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is with great respect that I rise today to express my gratitude to the distinguished minority whip, Senator WENDELL FORD, for his 22 years of service to the U.S. Senate. I have been here since the beginning of his Senate career and have witnessed his many accomplishments over the years. His tenure has represented a shining example of hard work, honesty, and integrity.

Senator FORD and I served on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for many years together and shared a mutual interest in energy policy. He has been a strong advocate of the disposal of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and has stood firm in his commitment to exploring safe, affordable, and environmentally sound alternatives to chemical weapons incineration. He un-

derstands the threats of nuclear proliferation and we have shared a common desire to ensure proper stewardship of nuclear stockpiles across the globe. I have appreciated his valuable contribution to this mission and will miss his presence on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

An accomplished public servant, Senator FORD served his country in World War II, was elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and as a Senator, established himself as a national leader in energy, aviation, and Federal-election reform policy. However, he may be best known for his steadfast commitment to serving the people of his beloved home State, Kentucky. He has diligently sought to create opportunities for the people of America and I am confident that upon his return to Kentucky, he will continue to give as generously of himself as he did during his 22 years of service in Congress.

I believe that I speak on behalf of all Members of the Senate when I say that WENDELL's leadership, talent, and friendship will be sorely missed. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with him and hope that when the time comes for me to leave office, I will be as well respected as Senator WENDELL FORD by my constituency and colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

WENDELL, on behalf of myself and the State of New Mexico, I commend you on a job very well done and wish you and Jean continued health and happiness in your retirement.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on Saturday, I had a chance to talk about our good friend, Dale Bumpers. I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about four other friends who will be leaving us at the end of this Congress.

Shortly after he left the White House, Calvin Coolidge was called on to fill out a standard form. After filling in his name and address, he came to a line marked "occupation." He wrote "retired." When he came to the next line, labeled "remarks," he wrote "Glad of it." I suspect that our colleagues who are retiring at the end of this Congress are also "glad of it"—at least in some small measure. But, in addition to relief, I hope they also feel a sense of pride—both for what they have accomplished here, and the dignity with which they have served.

In a short time here, Dirk Kempthorne has made all of our lives a little better. Thanks in large part to him, the Safe Drinking Water Act is now the law. Senator Kempthorne has also reminded us of the importance of State and local involvement in our decisions. We will all miss him.

I had the good fortune to travel with Senator Kempthorne to the Far East. As most of our colleagues know, as we travel we get to know one another even better. I know him and I admire him and I wish him well in his life after the Senate. I also applaud him for the nature with which he has continued to work with all of us. He has a very conciliatory, very thoughtful, a very civil way with which to deal with colleagues on issues. If we would all follow Dirk Kempthorne's example, in my view, we would be a lot better off in this body. His manner, his leadership, his character, his personality is one that we are going to miss greatly here in the U.S. Senate.

We will also miss Dan Coats. With his thoughtful approach and uncompromising principles, Senator Coats has followed his heart above all else. And, as a result of his support of the Family and Medical Leave Act, millions of Americans are able to follow their hearts, too, and spend more time with their families when they need them most.

When Senator Coats announced his retirement in 1996, he said, "I want to leave (politics) when I am young enough to contribute somewhere else \* \* \* I want to leave when there is still a chance to follow God's leading to something new." Wherever Senator Coats and Senator Kempthorne are led, we wish them both the best. I am confident that they will continue to contribute much to their country and to their fellow citizens.

And we will surely miss our own three departing Senators.

Dale Bumpers, WENDELL FORD and John Glenn are three of the sturdiest pillars in this institution. They have much in common. They came here—all three of them—in 1974. For nearly a quarter-century, they have worked to restore Americans' faith in their government.

Their names have been called with the roll of every important question of our time. And they have answered that call with integrity and dignity.

They are sons of small town America who still believe in the values they learned back in Charlestown, AR; Owensboro, KY; and New Concord, OH. They are also modest men.

Perhaps because they had already accomplished so much before they came to the Senate, they have never worried about grabbing headlines here. Instead, they have been content to work quietly, but diligently—often with colleagues from across the aisle—to solve problems as comprehensively as they can. They have been willing to take on the "nuts and

bolts” work of the Senate—what John Glenn once called “the grunt work” of making the Government run more efficiently.

They were all elected to the Senate by wide margins, and reelected by even wider margins. And they all would have been reelected this year, I have no doubt, had they chosen to run again.

What I will remember most about each of them, though, is not how much they are like each other they are, but how unlike anyone else they are. Each of them is an American original.

As I said, I’ve already shared my thoughts about Dale Bumpers. No Senator has ever had more courage than Dale Bumpers.

And no Senate leader has ever had the benefit of a better teacher than WENDELL FORD.

No leader has ever enjoyed such a loyal partnership as I have. No leader has ever had a better friend and counselor.

For the past 4 years, Senator FORD has been my right hand and much more. He is as skilled a political mind, and as warm a human being, as this Senate has ever known.

Carved inside the drawer of the desk in which WENDELL sits is the name of another Kentucky Senator, “the Great Compromisor,” Henry Clay. It is a fitting match.

Like Henry Clay, WENDELL FORD believes that compromise is honorable and necessary in a democracy. But he also understands that compromise is, as Clay said, “negotiated hurt.”

I suspect that is why he has always preferred to try to work out disagreements behind the scenes. It allows both sides to bend, and still keep their dignity.

In 1991, WENDELL’s quiet, bipartisan style convinced a Senator from across the aisle, Mark Hatfield, to join him in sponsoring the “Motor Voter” bill. Working together, they convinced the Senate to pass that legislation. To this day, it remains the most ambitious effort Congress has made since the Voting Rights Act to open up the voting booth to more Americans.

WENDELL FORD has served the Bluegrass State as a State senator, Lieutenant Governor, Governor and U.S. Senator. His love for his fellow Kentuckians is obvious, and it is reciprocated.

In his 1980 Senate race, WENDELL FORD became the first opposed candidate in Kentucky history to carry all 120 counties. In 1992, he received the highest number of votes ever cast for any candidate in his State.

Throughout his years in the Senate, Senator FORD has also been a tenacious fighter for the people of Kentucky. He has also been a leader on aviation issues, a determined foe of government waste and duplication, a champion of campaign finance reform, and—something we are especially grateful for on this side of the aisle—a tireless leader for the Democratic Party.

He chaired the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee for three Congresses, from 1976 through 1982. And, in 1990, Democratic Senators elected him unanimously to be our party whip, our second-in-command, in the Senate—a position he still holds today.

We will miss his raspy and unmistakable voice, his good humor and wise counsel.

Finally, there is John Glenn. What can one say about John Glenn that has not already been said?

In all these 24 years, as hard as he tried to blend in with the rest of us, as hard as he tried to be just a colleague among colleagues, it never quite worked, did it?

I used to think that maybe I was the only one here who still felt awed in his presence. Two years ago, on a flight from China with John and a handful of other Senators and our spouses, I learned that wasn't so.

During the flight, we were able to persuade John to recollect that incredible mission aboard Friendship 7, when he became the first American to orbit the Earth. He told us about losing all radio communication during re-entry, about having to guide his spacecraft manually during the most critical point in re-entry, about seeing pieces of his fiberglass heat panel bursting into flames and flying off his space capsule, knowing that at any moment, he could be incinerated.

We all huddled around him with our eyes wide open. No one moved. No one said a word.

Listening to him, I felt the same awe I had felt when I was 14 years old, sitting in a classroom in Aberdeen, SD, watching TV accounts of that flight. Then I looked around me, and realized everyone else there was feeling the same thing.

I saw that same sense of awe in other Senators' faces in June, when we had a dinner for John at the National Air and Space Museum. Before dinner, we were invited to have our photographs taken with John in front of the Friendship 7 capsule. I don't think I've ever seen so many Senators waiting so patiently for anything as we did for that one picture.

A lot of people tend to think of two John Glenns: Colonel John Glenn, the astronaut-hero; and Senator John Glenn. The truth is, there is only John Glenn—the patriot.

Love for his country is what sent John into space. It's what brought him to Washington, and compelled him to work so diligently all these years in the Senate.

People who have been there say you see the world differently from space. You see the “big picture.” You see how small and interconnected our planet is.

Perhaps it's because he came to the Senate with that perspective that John has fought so hard against nuclear proliferation and other weapons of mass destruction.

Maybe because he'd had enough glamour and tickertape parades by the time he came here, John chose to immerse himself in some decidedly unglamorous causes.

He immersed himself in the scientific and the technical. He looked at government with the eyes of an engineer, and tried to imagine ways it could work better and more efficiently.

As early as 1978, he called for Congress to live by the same workplace rules it sets for everyone else. More recently, he spearheaded the overhaul of the Federal Government procurement system, enabling the Government to buy products faster, and save money at the same time.

In 1974, the year he was elected to the Senate, John Glenn carried all 88 counties in Ohio. In 1980, he was reelected with the largest margin in his State's history. The last time he ran, in 1992, he became the first Ohio Senator ever to win four terms.

As I said, I'm sure he would have been reelected had he chosen to run again. But, as we all know, he has other plans.

For 36 years, John Glenn has wanted to go back into space. On October 29, he will finally get his chance. At 77 years old, he will become the oldest human being ever to orbit the Earth—by 16 years.

Many of us will be in Houston to see John and his Discovery crew mates blast off. If history is any indication, I suspect we will be wide-eyed once again.

In closing, let me say, Godspeed, John Glenn and Dale Bumpers, WENDELL FORD, Dirk Kempthorne and Dan Coats.

You have served this Senate well. You are all “Senators’ Senators,” and we will miss you dearly.

WEDNESDAY, *October 14, 1998.*

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, since taking my oath of office in January 1963, I have had the high privilege of serving with 323 Senators. Among them were some of the giants we read about in history books, Richard Russell of Georgia, Everett Dirksen of Illinois, Mike Mansfield of Montana, and John Stennis of Mississippi.

I have served with men and women of great moral strength and high intellect, but, of the 323 Senators, I shall always look upon one person as my “best friend”—Senator WENDELL FORD.

How does one become a best friend of a stranger? I had some knowledge of WENDELL before he was elected, because I was then a member of the Senate Campaign Committee and serving as the Secretary of the Democratic Caucus. I knew that he was a former State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, and the 49th Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky before he was elected to the Senate. I also knew that he was one of the most popular presidents of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

When I first met WENDELL in early 1974, I immediately liked what I saw.

I could see that he was “truth in packaging” personified. There were no fancy frills, or bells, or ribbons around him. He was down to earth. He obviously loved his constituents and without question, understood them. Immediately, I concluded that he was a “man of the people.” Soon, I found myself serving with him on two important committees—the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Whenever he stood and raised his voice to defend, advocate, oppose, or support a measure, you knew that it related to people.

Therefore, I was not surprised when he became the prime mover of the National Voter Registration Act which would ensure that every American who was of age, qualified and wanted to vote was given the opportunity to do so. He took away all of the obstacles that stood in their path.

He also made certain that when a worker’s spouse was ill at home, he or she was given the right to be with their loved

ones in their time of great need. He knew what it was to be a husband and a father. And he knew what it meant to comfort wives and children in time of need. When WENDELL became the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, first and foremost on his agenda was passenger safety.

He was always ready to carry the banner for the working man and woman. And during the recent tobacco legislation debates, WENDELL's voice was one of the very few that spoke out for the tobacco farmer. His concern was not for the wealthy chief executive officers. His concern was for the poor farmer who had to struggle, day in and day out, to eke out a livelihood.

WENDELL also spoke out for the miners who worked in the deep coal mines, and for those who had been discriminated against in employment because of their age. He was a "workhorse," never a "showhorse." When others would give eloquent speeches on cutting the cost of government, he did something about it. He led the movement to adopt a 2-year budget, thereby saving millions of dollars by streamlining our budgetary process.

He introduced the measure that is responsible now for using recycled printing paper by the Federal Government, thus saving millions of dollars. After all, the paperwork of the Federal Government today, with all the technological advances, still uses more than 480,000 tons of paper annually. However, before WENDELL FORD got into the act, it was nearly double that amount.

As a politician, he wanted to make certain that campaigns were carried out without corruption and without impediments. He streamlined voter registration procedures, and did everything to increase voter participation in Federal elections.

WENDELL FORD's departure from the Senate will leave a huge void in the committee rooms and in the Senate Chamber. It is difficult for me to imagine that next year we will not hear his voice rising to defend the working man and woman.

We will not hear his voice to insist upon safety for our traveling public. And we will not hear his voice for good and clean government. I hope that the people of Kentucky will someday come to the realization that they and the people of this Nation were blessed with the service of WENDELL FORD.

Winston Churchill just prior to his retirement from active government service said, "Service to the community is the

rent we pay for living on this Earth." WENDELL FORD has been paying his rent throughout his life.

It will be difficult for me to say goodbye to my good friend. It will be difficult no matter how good a person his successor may be, to fill his "huge boots."

But most importantly, I agree with my wife, Maggie, that what makes WENDELL a good husband, a good father, and decent human being is the fact that he had the good sense to marry his beloved Jean. Without Jean, Kentucky and our Nation would have been denied the great service of WENDELL H. FORD.

WENDELL and Jean, you have my best wishes for continued happiness and fulfillment in the bright years ahead. We shall miss you immensely.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join others to comment on the service provided to America and to Kentucky by WENDELL FORD. While we were members of different political parties, I often had the opportunity to hear him speak on this floor and to observe him represent his party as a Democratic leader. He is strong, experienced, filled with good humor and a tough advocate for his State and for his beliefs. I was honored to be the presiding officer for the Senate on the day in which WENDELL FORD eclipsed the service record of a host of outstanding Kentucky Senators and became the longest serving Senator from that great State.

While he loves government, politics and the debate that goes with this office, he is a family man at heart. He has the sense of a southerner. He remembers his friends and he loves his State.

He is also independent. I recall one late night that we were debating whether to limit the high attorneys' fees in the tobacco cases. Senator FORD came on the floor and I noticed him looking my way during the debate. As we concluded, he asked if I would yield for a question. I answered his inquiry as best I could and he firmly nodded. Even though his party was strongly against my amendment, and no one could doubt that WENDELL FORD is a good Democrat, he voted for the amendment and it passed by one vote.

Those are the things that you remember and are a good example for all of us. While we want to be loyal, we are also independent.

Mr. President, we are losing one of our more notable Members. We will miss the richness of his experience, the sharp debate, and the good humor. While our association has been

a short one, I have enjoyed and benefited from it, and expect that it will continue.

WEDNESDAY, *October 21, 1998.*

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in this last day of the 105th Congress, I think it is appropriate that we take a little more time to express our appreciation and our admiration for our retiring Senators. I look down the list: Senator Bumpers of Arkansas; Senator Coats of Indiana; Senator FORD, the Democratic whip, of Kentucky; Senator Glenn, who will soon be taking another historic flight into space; and Senator Kempthorne, who I believe is also going to be taking flight into a new position of leadership and honor. This is a distinguished group of men who have been outstanding Senators, who have left their mark on this institution. I believe you could say in each case they have left the Senate a better place than it was when they came.

Have we had our disagreements along the way? Sure, within parties and across party aisles. I have to take a moment to express my appreciation to each of these Senators. I especially want to thank Senator FORD for his cooperation in his position as whip. We worked together for a year and a half as the whip on our respective side of the aisle and we always had a very good relationship. Of course, I have already expressed my very close relationship for Senator Coats and for Senator Kempthorne.

To all of these Senators, I want to extend my fondest farewell.

As majority leader, I feel a responsibility to speak for all of us in bidding an official farewell to our five colleagues who are retiring this year.

It was 1974 when Dale Bumpers left the Governorship of Arkansas to take the Senate seat that had long been held by Senator Fulbright. There are several Senators in this Chamber today who, in 1974, were still in high school.

Four terms in the Senate of the United States can be a very long time—but that span of nearly a quarter-century has not in the least diminished Senator Bumpers' enthusiasm for his issues and energy in advancing them.

He has been a formidable debater, fighting for his causes with a tenacity and vigor that deserves the title of Razorback.

It is a memorable experience to be on the receiving end of his opposition—whether the subject was the space station or, year after year, mining on public lands.

Arkansas and Mississippi are neighbors, sharing many of the same problems. From personal experience, I know how Senator Bumpers has been an assiduous and effective advocate for his State and region.

No one expects retirement from the Senate to mean inactivity for Senator Bumpers, whose convictions run too deep to be set aside with his formal legislative duties.

All of us who know the sacrifices an entire family makes when a spouse or parent is in the Congress can rejoice for him, for Betty, and for their family, in the prospect of more time together in a well earned future.

Senator Dan Coats and I have a bond in common which most Members of the Senate do not share. We both began our careers on Capitol Hill, not as Members, but as staffers.

I worked for the venerable William Colmer of Mississippi, chairman of the House Rules Committee, who left office in 1972 at the age of 82. Senator Coats worked for Dan Quayle, who came to Congress at the age of 27.

Despite the differences in our situations back then, we both learned the congressional ropes from the bottom up.

Which may be why we both have such respect for the twists and turns of the legislative process, not to mention an attentive ear to the views and concerns of our constituents.

Now and then, a Senator becomes nationally known for his leadership on a major issue. Senator Coats has had several such issues.

One was the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. Another was New Jersey's garbage, and whether it would be dumped along the banks of the Wabash.

The garbage issue is still unresolved, but on other matters, his success has been the Nation's profit.

He has championed the American family, improved Head Start, kept child care free of government control, and helped prevent a Federal takeover of health care.

His crusade to give low-income families school choice has made him the most important education reformer since Horace Mann. His passionate defense of children before birth has been, to use an overworked phrase, a profile in courage.

Senator Coats does have a secret vice. He is a baseball addict. On their honeymoon, he took Marcia to a Cubs game. And when he was a Member of the House, he missed the

vote on flag-burning to keep a promise to his son to see the Cubs in the playoffs.

To Dan, a commitment is a commitment. That is why he is national president of Big Brothers. And why, a few years ago, he kept a very important audience waiting for his arrival at a meeting here on the Hill.

He had, en route, come across a homeless man, and spent a half-hour urging him to come with him to the Gospel Rescue Mission.

Here in the Congress, we must always be in a hurry. But Senator Coats and his wife, Marcia, have known what is worth waiting for.

They have been a blessing to our Senate family, and they will always remain a part of it.

Senator WENDELL FORD stands twelfth in seniority in the Senate, with the resignation of his predecessor, Senator Marlow Cook, giving him a 6-day advantage over his departing colleague, Senator Bumpers.

He came to Washington with a full decade of hands-on governmental experience in his native Kentucky. He had been a State senator, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. With that background, he needed little time to make his mark in the Senate.

In that regard, he reminds me of another Kentuckian who made a lasting mark on the Senate.

Last month, I traveled to Ashland, the home of Henry Clay, to receive a medallion named after the man once known as Harry of the West. Senator FORD was a prior recipient of that award, and appropriately so.

Henry Clay was a shrewd legislator, a tough bargainer, who did not suffer fools lightly. That description sounds familiar to anyone who has worked with Senator FORD.

He can be a remarkably effective partisan. I can attest to that. There is a good reason why he has long been his party's second-in-command in the Senate.

At the same time, he has maintained a personal autonomy that is the mark of a true Senator. He has been outspoken about his wish that his party follow the more moderate path to which he has long adhered.

Senator FORD's influence has been enormous in areas like energy policy and commerce. Contemporary politics may be dependent upon quotable sound-bites and telegenic posturing, but he has held to an older and, in my opinion, a higher standard.

One of the least sought-after responsibilities in the Senate is service on the Rules Committee.

It can be a real headache. But it is crucial to the stature of the Senate. We all owe Senator FORD our personal gratitude for his long years of work on that Committee.

His decisions there would not always have been my decisions; that is the nature of our system. But his work there has set a standard for meticulousness and gravity.

All of us who treasure the traditions, the decorum, and the comity of the Senate will miss him.

We wish him and Jean the happiness of finally being able to set their own hours, enjoy their grandchildren, and never again missing dinner at home because of a late-night session on the Senate floor.

There are many ways to depart the Senate. Our colleague from Ohio, Senator John Glenn, will be leaving us in a unique fashion, renewing the mission to space which he helped to begin in 1962.

In the weeks ahead, he will probably be the focus of more publicity, here and around the world, than the entire Senate has been all year long.

It will be well deserved attention, and I know he accepts it, not for himself, but for America's space program.

For decades now, he has been, not only its champion, but in a way, its embodiment.

That is understandable, but to a certain extent, unfair. For his astronaut image tends to overshadow the accomplishments of a long legislative career.

In particular, his work on the Armed Services Committee, the Commerce Committee, and our Special Committee on Aging has been a more far-reaching achievement than orbiting the Earth.

With the proper support and training, others might have done that, but Senator Glenn's accomplishments here in the Senate are not so easily replicated.

This year's hit film, "Saving Private Ryan," has had a tremendous impact on young audiences by bringing home to them the sacrifice and the suffering of those who fought America's wars.

I think Senator Glenn has another lesson to teach them. For the man who will soon blast off from Cape Canaveral, as part of America's peaceful conquest of space—is the same Marine who, more than a half century ago, saw combat in World War II, and again in Korea.

His mission may have changed, but courage and idealism endure.

In a few days, along with Annie and the rest of his family, we will be cheering him again, as he again makes us proud of our country, proud of our space program, and proud to call him our friend and colleague.

Senator Dirk Kempthorne came to us from Idaho only 6 years ago. He now returns amid the nearly universal expectation that he will be his State's next Governor. It will be a wise choice.

None of us are surprised by his enormous popularity back home. We have come to know him, not just as a consummate politician, but as a thoughtful, decent, and caring man.

This is a man who took the time to learn the names of the men and women who work here in the Capitol and in the Senate office buildings.

In fact, his staff allots extra time for him to get to the Senate floor to vote because they know he will stop and talk to people on the way.

During the memorial ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda for our two officers who lost their lives protecting this building, Senator Kempthorne noticed that the son of one of the officers, overwhelmed by emotion, suddenly left the room.

Dirk followed him, and spent a half-hour alone with him, away from the cameras. The public doesn't see those things, but that's the kind of concern we expect from him.

His willingness to share credit gave us our Unfunded Mandates Act and reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Law. And his eye for detail and pride in his own home State led to the transformation of that long, sterile corridor between the Capitol and the Dirksen and Hart office buildings.

Now, as tourists ride the space-age mechanized subway, they enjoy the display of State flags and seals that form a patriotic parade. It delights the eye and lifts the spirit.

If you've ever visited Idaho, known its people, and seen its scenic wonders, you don't have to wonder why he's leaving us early.

You wonder, instead, why he ever left.

Years ago, he explained his future this way: That he would know when it was time to leave the Senate when he stopped asking "why" and started saying "because."

We're going to miss him and Patricia, and no one needs to ask "why." Even so, we know the Governor will be forceful spokesman on the Hill for all the Governors.

They could not have a better representative. The Senate could not have a better exemplar. We could not have a better friend.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to bid a fond farewell to one of our most senior Senators, Senator WENDELL FORD, who, despite my objections, is leaving the Senate this year. I think that all Members will agree that his departure will be a loss for the Senate and Nation, as we are losing one of our most respected and well-liked Senators.

Senator FORD and I began our careers in the U.S. Senate together—24 years ago. It seems like just yesterday we were the new kids on the block, trying to get the hang of the Senate. A lot has changed from those early days, as Senator FORD has proudly served the people of Kentucky while serving on the Committees on Rules and Administration (where he is ranking member), Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Energy and Natural Resources, and the Joint Committee on Printing (where he was formerly chairman).

Hailing from Thurston, KY, Senator FORD has brought to the Senate a long and distinguished career as well as the down-home common sense for which he is known. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, WENDELL went on to serve in the U.S. Army in 1944–1946 and in the Kentucky Army National Guard for 13 years. Senator FORD has long been associated with public service, as he served as a Kentucky State senator, Lieutenant Governor and as Kentucky's 49th Governor.

Senator FORD has come a long way from being a new kid on the U.S. Senate block in 1974 to becoming the longest serving Senator from Kentucky today. And, I might add, he is now one of the most senior Members of the entire Senate and one who follows the old traditions of the Senate as one who always keeps his word.

Throughout his tenure in the U.S. Senate, WENDELL has been recognized as a national leader in campaign-finance reform, energy issues, and, of course, looking out for our Nation's tobacco farmers. That has never been as much an issue as it has this past year, with Congress' attempts at passing tobacco legislation.

A friend to the environment, Senator FORD was the first to introduce and pass a program instructing the Federal Government to be a model for the country and use recycled printed paper. This program is now the rule rather than the

exception in the Federal Government, as well as schools and businesses throughout the United States.

It is with much regret that I say goodbye to Senator FORD. He has been a great friend all of these years in the Senate, and I will miss him greatly. I hope that retirement brings him plenty of time to spend with his wife, Jean, and their five grandchildren. Knowing WENDELL, however, I have no doubt that retirement will be neither quiet nor slow him down.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words before the close of the 105th Congress about my friend and colleague, WENDELL FORD, the very distinguished senior Senator from the great State of Kentucky. His retirement from the Senate this year leaves this body of government missing a cornerstone that I am not sure we can replace any-time soon.

From the heartland of these United States, he is a strong, resonant voice for the working people of this Nation. This Senate Chamber will sound a bit hollow without that gruff, but friendly voice crying out for "order" in these Chambers.

I have served for 6 years now with Senator FORD. During our time together I have known him as a stalwart ally in our party and a valuable friend. As an indefatigable champion for Kentucky, he never betrayed that trust that the people who elected him four times to the U.S. Senate bestowed upon him. That he has been able to keep his feet firmly grounded in Kentucky's interests while extending his helping hand to Senators from every region of this Nation is a testament to his skill, temperament and wisdom.

I cannot speak of Senator FORD without expressing my admiration for his leadership on the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, particularly his service as chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Aviation. No issue is small to Senator FORD if it is a big issue to his colleague. I remember early in my tenure here that he worked with me on an issue that I have struggled with every since I came to House of Representatives and later as a Senator. We needed the Federal Aviation Administration to work with other Federal agencies and cleanup an abandoned radar site on Mt. Tamalpais in my home county of Marin.

I had been here only a year or so before Senator FORD sliced through the bureaucratic tangle and resolved this local problem at long last in the 1994 FAA Reauthorization bill.

He was also there for the State of California when we were trying to get the California Cruise Ship Industry Revitaliza-

tion Act accepted in conference. He stood in the door of that conference—refusing to call it complete—until our provision was accepted. This provision has provided enormous benefits for our ports in California, and we are grateful for his untiring assistance.

While helping on these local and State issues, he has been the strongest advocate for our airports, particularly in using the Airport trust fund for what it was intended modernizing and upgrading airports across the country to keep them safe and competitive. I was proud to see that we named the FAA reauthorization bill this year, the Wendell H. Ford National Air Transportation System Improvement Act. The truth is I feel like every time we have voted for the FAA reauthorization bill it has had his stamp upon it.

I wish the Senator from Kentucky a fond farewell—but not goodbye. He will always be in my thoughts and in my heart. And I know his voice will still echo throughout these hallowed halls—and in the halls of our memories, we will forever remember WENDELL FORD's decency, compassion, and plain old common sense.



#### FAREWELL ADDRESS OF SENATOR WENDELL H. FORD

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I want to make a few brief remarks, share a few thoughts, and express my heart felt thanks to a number of individuals who have made my life in the Senate a little bit easier and a little bit more enjoyable than it otherwise would have been.

I have been privileged to serve in this body since December 28, 1974. As I look back, it is amazing how much progress we have made as a country during that period. The average life expectancy in this country has increased by 4 years. The average per capita income after adjusting for inflation, has risen 40 percent during this time period. The portion of adults with at least a high school diploma has risen from about two-thirds of adults to more than four-fifths. The percentage of adults with at least a bachelor's degree has risen from 14 percent to 25 percent.

So we are living longer and healthier lives, we are wealthier, and we are better educated.

And the quality of life has improved in many other ways as well. We have an almost unlimited ability to communicate. The developments with computers in recent years have been almost breathtaking. Children understand computers at an early age—often before they even start school.

The percentage of homes with computers keeps rising. We have cell phones and laptops and cable TV and satellite dishes and fax machines. Our access to information is better and faster than ever.

We have opportunities to travel more, live in bigger homes, and eat more nutritious meals. We spend more on entertainment than ever.

But Mr. President, our challenges are probably greater than ever.

I entered the Senate at the beginning of a period of deep cynicism and distrust of government, having just come through the Vietnam war and Watergate. We have always had a very healthy distrust of government in this country, but 1974 was an especially troublesome time. And I have witnessed a fascinating national debate on the role of government during the period since. The cynicism from Watergate evolved into a crisis of confidence in our country, and a growing feeling by some through the 1980's that government was the major source of many problems in our society, not the solution.

But the debate of the role of government has continued to evolve. I think we are at the point today where there is a fairly broad consensus among Americans about certain aspects of government.

There is a consensus about certain things that Americans want from their government—a strong defense, the best educational system in the world, managing the economy in an efficient way, including balanced budgets, low inflation, low interest rates, low unemployment, and the least amount of taxation and regulation possible. Americans want fair rules in the workplace and the marketplace, from family leave to fair trade to basic consumer protection. They want an adequate infrastructure to sustain a successful and growing economy. And they expect minimal safety and health protections, from law enforcement to food and drug safety to providing health care for the elderly and the poor.

I have found that almost all of my colleagues want these things as well. We often differ on the best approach, or the best philosophy, for meeting these goals and providing what our constituents want, but we are all basically after the same things.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of aisle still use the rhetoric from the 1980's about being for lower taxes and smaller government. Who could be against that? But most of these same colleagues are also for all of the things I just

mentioned. They would agree with me that these are all things that our constituents demand and expect us to address. We all want the smallest government possible, but we want government to deliver on all of these things. So it is a challenge for all of us.

And the future challenges for the next Congress and beyond will be even more complex. I mentioned earlier that we are living longer. The standard retirement age has not gone up since I came to the Senate. In fact, the average private sector retirement age has gone down. But we live longer. The percentage of the population age 65 and older is up to about 13 percent today, and is projected to continue to grow. During my tenure in the Senate, I have seen Federal spending on Social Security grow from \$64 to \$380 billion. I have seen Medicare spending increase from \$13 to \$220 billion. And roughly half of Medicaid spending, which has gone from \$7 to \$100 billion in the budget, is attributable to nursing home care. These three areas alone—Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—have gone from about 25 percent of the total budget to roughly 42 percent of the total budget. Without question, the major budget issue in the next few years is how we deal with the costs associated with the elderly.

And it is a quality issue as well. Many of the same trends which are currently affecting managed care in the private sector will certainly affect the quality of medical care received by the elderly. I wish we had made more progress in these areas before my time in the Senate expired. I wish my colleagues well in addressing these issues and urge them to do so earlier rather than later. I know many colleagues share my sentiments.

The other area I would urge my colleagues to address is the financing and operation of campaigns. Here is an area that has changed dramatically during my 24 years. When I announced my retirement from the Senate, I mentioned the two “M’s,”—Money and Meanness—as major reasons why I chose not to run again. Now that we are in the midst of the current campaign season, I believe even stronger about this issue. As reported in the newspaper yesterday, PACs have collected almost \$360 million in the last 18 months. We all like to say that the money does not influence how we vote and how we think, but, truthfully, it is a matter of degree. There needs to be a stronger ethic of avoiding even the appearance of a conflict of interest. We need more of that in politics—much more of it. Senators who solicit campaign contributions and then within a very short period of time are

casting votes and making decisions on matters which greatly affect both the contributors and the Senator's constituents place themselves in very difficult situations. It goes to the heart of our system of Democracy, and whether it works or will continue to work. There has got to be a better way. There are also a lot of ideas around here on how to make a better way. I can only hope some of these ideas are translated into law in the very near future.

So, Mr. President, I wish my colleagues well. I will miss the institution dearly. I will miss the daily interaction with my colleagues, many of whom have become such dear friends to me. Let me thank you for your friendship. And last, let me thank staff. My personal office staff, both here and in the State offices, have been like family to me. I have tried to treat them that way, and it has been mutual. The committee staff and floor staff I have been privileged to work with over the years have all been great to me as well—they make this place run and make us all look good from time to time. I thank them all for their support and service to our country. This country would not be nearly what it is without office, committee and floor staff. As I leave the Senate, please know that I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers, and wish all of you good luck and happiness in the years to come.

Mr. President, for perhaps the last time, I yield the floor.



#### ORDER FOR PRINTING OF INDIVIDUAL SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as individual Senate documents a compilation of materials from the Congressional Record in tribute to Senators Dan Coats of Indiana, Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, WENDELL FORD of Kentucky, and John Glenn of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Craig). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. These clearly are five great Senators who have served their States and their country so well. And I am sure they will continue to do so, albeit in a different arena. Of course, I have said here, Dan Coats has been one of my closest friends for the past 20 years. I will miss him here but I will be with him in other areas.

And, of course, John Glenn makes history once again flying off into space. And many Senators and their spouses will be there to see that event.

## **ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS**



[From Roll Call, January 26, 1998]

SENIORITY BITES

MEMBERS WITH COLLECTIVE 437 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARE LEAVING POLITICAL OFFICE, TAKING WITH THEM SOME COLORFUL MEMORIES, MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS, AND POLITICAL LESSONS

(By Francesca Contiguglia)

When Representative Lee Hamilton (D-IN) first came to Congress in 1965, septuagenarian House Speaker John McCormack (D-MA) had trouble remembering the freshman's name.

All that changed on the eve of a Caucus vote for Speaker, when McCormack called for Hamilton's vote. Hamilton said he would not be supporting the Speaker.

"From that day on, McCormack remembered my name," said Hamilton.

That's just one of the dozens of lessons learned over the years by Hamilton and the 17 other Members retiring at the end of this year. But even after a collective 390 years of service, 437 including resigning Members, some of these Members have regrets about not mastering those lessons sooner.

"I only wish I had known in 1975 what I know now," said Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR), who is retiring after four terms in the Senate. "I would have been a more effective Senator."

"You must live through the battles and develop an institutional memory," said Bumpers. He counsels newcomers to remember that "you only have so many battles in you," so pick them carefully.

Bumpers has picked plenty of battles, having been known as an unabashed liberal who is an adamant supporter of arms control. He once accused Reagan of not wanting "to spend money on anything that does not explode." Bumpers, who is also known as a passionate orator, tells newcomers to remember that the life of a legislator can be frustrating.

"My goal from the time I was 12 years old was to come to Congress," he said.

"But it's not long till you realize you're just one of the hundred," a sobering realization, he said.

Other Senate retirees include Glenn and Senators WENDELL FORD (D-KY) and Dan Coats (R-IN). "There's never been three finer men serve in the U.S. Senate than those three," said Bumpers.

Although Glenn is a national hero, he has had his share of disappointments.

He dropped out of the 1984 presidential race after a surprisingly weak showing.

He later was dragged through the mud during the Keating Five affair, even though the Senate Ethics Committee cleared him of any wrongdoing.

"One of the greatest miscarriages of justice was Glenn being brought into the Keating Five hearings," said Bumpers. "You couldn't hold a gun on me and make me think John had done anything wrong, ever in his whole life." Glenn's clean-cut image was also scarred a bit by his role as ranking member in the Senate Governmental Affairs campaign finance investigation last year.

Republicans accused Glenn of being a defense attorney for the Clinton administration and said he muffed a golden opportunity to make a bipartisan case for reform on the eve of his retirement—a charge that Glenn vociferously denied.

FORD, who came to the Senate in 1974 along with Bumpers and Glenn, has distinguished himself as a fierce defender of the institution both as chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee and as Democratic Whip for 7 years.

Known as a plain-spoken man from Kentucky, FORD has looked out for one of his State's top industries: tobacco. With an ever-present cigarette in his mouth—either during congressional hearings or in the hallways of power—FORD has made sure that Senate rules allow individuals to smoke on his side of the Capitol.

Now 73, FORD is not slowing down. He gave a speech in September 1996 for a departing colleague, Senator James Exon (D-NE), and said, "I hope you live to be 105 and I'm one of your pallbearers." Coats has spent less time in the Senate than his retiring colleagues, but he has made his mark for being upbeat and humorous, making his staff "more like a family," according to his press secretary of 9 years, Tim Goeglein.

Goeglein recalled Coats's first day in the Senate. The staff was unpacking the office when a squirrel snuck in through an open window and ran about wreaking havoc. Coats ran off a list of puns and jokes about having a small rodent running around a Senate office.

One of Coats's larger causes was the line-item veto, which passed in the 104th Congress. But he has also been devoted to family causes. Among other things, he supported the Family Leave Act and sponsored a law allowing parents to block dial-a-porn numbers.

Outside of politics, Coats is an enormous Chicago Cubs fan and has said if he weren't a Senator, he'd want to be the shortstop for the team. His wish almost came true on his 50th birthday, when he was called from the stands at Wrigley Field to throw out the first pitch, a surprise arranged by his staff.



[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, March 11, 1997]

FORD HELPED SHAPE N. KY.

'HE GOT THINGS \* \* \* WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN NO OTHER WAY'

(By Gregory A. Hall)

In a political career that spanned generations, Sen. WENDELL FORD became the godfather of the Democratic Party in Kentucky.

In those 30-plus years, the Owensboro insurance salesman went from the State Senate and the Governor's mansion to the second-most-powerful Democratic position in the U.S. Senate. Mr. FORD—the longest-serving Senator in Kentucky history—said Monday he will not seek re-election in 1998 for a fifth term.

The power he attained and maintained in both Frankfort and Washington helped secure money for Northern Kentucky projects, including the Cincinnati—Northern Kentucky International Airport at Hebron and the Federal courthouse to be built in Covington.

As the announcement was made in Frankfort, Democrats and Republicans alike expressed appreciation for Mr. FORD's ability to accomplish feats no one else could. "I think he was one of the finest statesmen certainly that this State has ever seen," said State Representative Jim Callahan, D-Wilder.

Mr. FORD cut his teeth in Kentucky politics as State president of the Jaycees and grew up in the bitter factional wars that characterized Democratic politics. Mr. FORD even turned his back on his former boss and defeated former Governor Bert Combs in 1971 when he won office as Governor.

When Republican Louie Nunn defeated Henry Ward for Governor in 1970, Mr. FORD, as Lieutenant Governor, became the Democratic Party's titular leader and won nomination and election as Governor in 1971.

He took a look at higher office even as Governor, unseating incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Marlow Cook in 1974.

Although the Senator's decision on a fifth term has been a source of speculation for months, the announcement Monday came somewhat as a surprise.

On Friday, Mr. FORD canceled a Washington meeting scheduled for Monday with representatives from the Hebron airport who are there for an airports association convention.

"All of the conjecture up here was probably that he had gone back to Owensboro because the flooding had moved down there," said Kenton County Judge-executive Clyde Middleton, who appoints the airport board.

When the Democrats were the majority party in the Senate, Mr. FORD headed the Aviation Subcommittee. In helping to get money for runway rebuilding and expansion projects, he played a role in the airport's growth into a major cog in the regional economy.

"That was an extremely influential position from Northern Kentucky's standpoint and Greater Cincinnati's standpoint," Mr. Middleton said.

Said airport spokesman Ted Bushelman, "He got things for our airport that we would have gotten no other way."

One of those is the program to buy or soundproof homes that are in the line of flights.

Mr. FORD spent much of Monday morning calling friends and informing them of his decision. One of those was Covington lawyer Phil Taliaferro. But he expected that the call would announce another run for office.

"He said that he wanted to go home and spend time with his grandchildren and fish with them," Mr. Taliaferro said, recalling his 10-minute conversation with the Senator. "And he promised me he'd take me and my boy fishing."

Mr. Taliaferro's association with the former Governor goes back to the late 1960's. The lawyer said he was picked by Mr. FORD to be one of the first youth members on the Democratic State Central Executive Committee. That was followed by work on the 1971 gubernatorial campaign and an appointment to the State Personnel Board.

Mr. Taliaferro also was a FORD fund-raiser for years, he said. Most recently, they worked together on the Federal courthouse planned for Fifth Street in Covington.

"It's hard to find a man who's been in public life with all that power, all that long who's still got his feet on the ground," Mr. Taliaferro said. "I think \* \* \* because he has kept his head on his shoulders, maybe we don't really \* \* \* understand what we're losing. Kentucky is losing its greatest modern-day Senator."

One of the keys to his success, Mr. Taliaferro said, was the Senator's ability not to lose touch with his constituents.

An example was President Clinton's election-eve visit to the University of Kentucky. Mr. FORD devoted his time at the microphone not to praising a President, but to thanking UK men's basketball coach Rick Pitino for saving the Wildcats' program.

Several people cited Mr. FORD's propensity for stump speaking. When introducing the Senator a few years ago at a Boy Scouts function, Mr. Taliaferro quoted Shakespeare.

The Senator countered with another Shakespearean line: "Let's kill all the lawyers." The crowd roared.

"He loved getting his chain pulled, and pulling your chain," Mr. Taliaferro said.

#### FORD'S CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Here are the major milestones in the life and career of U.S. Senator WENDELL FORD:

September 8, 1924, born, Daviess County, KY.  
1959-61, chief assistant to Governor Bert Combs.  
1965, elected to State Senate.  
1967, elected Lieutenant Governor.  
1971, elected Governor.  
1974, defeated incumbent Marlow Cook for U.S. Senate.  
December 28, 1974, took office in U.S. Senate.  
November 1980, defeated Mary Louise Foust for second term.  
November 1986, defeated Jackson M. Andrews for third term.  
1990, elected Democratic whip in U.S. Senate.  
November 1992, defeated State Senator David Williams for fourth term.



[From the Washington Post, March 11, 1997]

#### SENATOR FORD ANNOUNCES HE WILL RETIRE; FOURTH-TERM KENTUCKY DEMOCRAT VOICES DISTASTE FOR FUND-RAISING PROCESS

(By Helen Dewar)

Assistant Senate Minority Leader WENDELL H. FORD (D-KY), a crusty congressional insider whose causes have ranged from defending tobacco to promoting easier voter registration rules, announced yesterday that he will not seek a fifth term next year.

FORD, 72, is the second veteran Democratic Senator to decide against running again, raising Republicans' hopes of expanding on gains they made in the last two elections. Senator John Glenn (D-OH) announced last month that he will retire after four terms.

Republicans, who hold a 55 to 45 edge in the Senate, are poised to make strong bids in Kentucky and Ohio. If four-term Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR) decides against running again, Republicans would have a good crack at a third seat. But Democrats expect former Indiana Governor Evan Bayh (D) to be a strong candidate for the seat of Senator Dan Coats (IN), the only Republican who has so far announced his impending retirement. FORD's decision also raised the possibility of a scramble among Democrats for their No. 2 leadership post in the Senate. Speculation centered yesterday on Senators John B. Breaux (LA), Barbara A. Mikulski (MD) and Harry M. Reid (NV).

In an emotional statement to supporters and family members gathered at the State Capitol in Frankfort, KY, where FORD served as Governor in the early 1970's, he was characteristically blunt as his 32-year political career draws to a close.

Noting that the average cost of a Senate race has risen from less than \$450,000 to \$4.5 million since he was elected to the Senate in 1974, FORD said “the job of being a U.S. Senator today has unfortunately become a job of raising money to be reelected instead of a job [of] doing the people’s business.”

In a swipe at President Clinton’s use of the Lincoln Bedroom to reward big Democratic givers, FORD said he would have had to start raising \$100,000 a week if he ran again and “Mrs. Ford won’t let me bring anyone home to sleep in our spare bedroom.”

While many other Senators have alluded to their distaste for fundraising in their retirement statements, few have done so with more force. “I do not relish, in fact I detest, the idea of having to raise \$5 million for a job that pays \$133,000 a year,” FORD said. “Because of the political money chase, Washington, DC, is fast becoming the center of our lives, not our people back home.

“Democracy as we know it will be lost if we continue to allow government to become one bought by the highest bidder, for the highest bidder,” he added. “Candidates will simply become bit players and pawns in a campaign managed and manipulated by paid consultants and hired guns.”

While FORD is one of the Senate’s top leaders, serving since 1991 as Democratic whip, he has operated largely out of the limelight, preferring the role of insider and defender of Kentucky interests, including tobacco, bourbon, and coal. Most recently, he fought efforts to end the Federal tobacco support program and opposed Clinton’s plan to help the Administration’s ambitious health care plan by increasing cigarette taxes.

FORD was also instrumental in passage of “motor-voter” legislation allowing people to register to vote when they apply for drivers’ licenses, and he spoke proudly yesterday of his cosponsorship of legislation to assure that women are not released prematurely from hospitals after childbirth or mastectomies.

FORD was chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee for 8 years and is its ranking Democrat.

He has been a fierce partisan but also lined up with those who tried to push the Democratic Party toward a more centrist position. FORD said yesterday that he spent “a good part of my Senate career and political life working to nudge, and occasionally shove, our party back toward the center of the political road.”



[From the Courier-Journal, March 16, 1997]

PRAGMATISM, PERSONAL SKILLS BOOSTED FORD

(By Robert T. Garrett)

When U.S. Senator WENDELL FORD announced Monday that he would pack it in and head home for good next year, the State Reception Room in the State Capitol was bathed in nostalgia and awash in unabashed sentimentality.

Visible in gilded mirrors, which share the walls with tapestries of water scenes, were dimly familiar faces.

Here was former U.S. Senator Walter “Dee” Huddleston, the old radio broadcaster from Elizabethtown who’d leagued with FORD when the two served in the State Senate in the mid-1960’s. There was State Representative Eddie Ballard, the bowling-alley operator and FORD contact man in

Madisonville. Yonder were the two survivors of the original trio of top FORD advisers—elfin Bill Wester, the token liberal; and cherry-cheeked Tommy Preston, the PR man. It was a gathering of the Kentucky Democratic Party, past.

And while it is still not common to see grown men crying in public, and while FORD has not been the sort of politician who bared his soul, but rather, tended to come off as a sort of wisecracking tough guy who never let anyone see him sweat, on Monday, both he and his long-time backers tuned up and flowed with tears and emotion during his announcement—especially when the old warrior apologized to his two adult children, Shirley and Steve, for absenteeism as a father.

They may have been as influential as anyone in nudging FORD to climb off the mountain, under his own volition, while he's still sound of mind.

Also a big factor, according to FORD intimates, were the exits last year of three of his Senate buddies, Jim Exon of Nebraska, Howell Heflin of Alabama, and Alan Simpson of Wyoming, all of the Class of 1978; and the recent retirement announcement of Ohio Senator John Glenn, who, with FORD, is one of four Senate Democrats left who were first elected in 1974.

FORD denied that he had any fear of going to bat next year against the big righthander, 4th District GOP Representative Jim Bunning. "He's so far right, out at the fringes, that he'd be easy to run against," FORD taunted. Implicit in the retirement announcement, however, was FORD's respect for, and wariness of, the mountain of greenbacks that Bunning, as a member of the House tax-writing committee, would be able to raise for a Senate bid.

As he rambled on about floods (brought out the Kentucky spirit) and Hazard's airport runway (2,000 feet short of the length needed to land a 727) and a museum in Owensboro (where he may conduct a "school of politics" for young people), FORD clearly didn't want to let go of the rostrum. Or the limelight. But his lapses into the prosaic allowed time to think. Where does this guy fit into history?

FORD is best understood as a tenacious survivor amid the crumbling ruins of the Democratic Party. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Democrats alienated much of their middle-class and blue-collar political base with amazing feats of tone-deafness.

Perhaps the best single account of this fiasco was published last year. In *The Inheritance: How Three Families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond*, Samuel G. Freedman, a former reporter for *The New York Times*, shows how Democrats won and then lost the votes of three Catholic immigrant families. How'd the Dems blow it? By letting the working class fight the Vietnam War. Denying the welfare State's nexus to the breakdown of families and civic life. Ignoring crime. Condemning the skilled-trades unions as racist, when there was union autonomy, not just race, at stake. Letting the environmental movement be taken over by elitists. On and on it went.

WENDELL FORD never lost the rank-and-file Democrats. True, in Kentucky, he was lucky. He exploited Republican Governor Louie B. Nunn's raising of the sales tax, which was, for FORD, manna from heaven. He used the issue to reconnect the Democratic Party with union members and voters with modest incomes. FORD won election as Governor in 1971 primarily on his pledge to take the sales tax off groceries. He made good on the pledge before heading to the Senate.

On cultural and social issues, FORD pulled off a remarkable balancing act. On the one hand, he endorsed the death penalty, opposed busing, opposed abortion (though he was already in the Senate by the time it became a

mega-issue). He didn't condemn supporters for having a "Rally for Calley" during Lieutenant William Calley's court-martial on murder charges stemming from the 1968 My Lai massacre.

At the same time, remarkably, the small-town Jaycee politician vacuumed up liberal women activists in Louisville—Blanche Mahoney, Lois Cronholm, Eva Spaid, Nancy Bell, and Marie Abrams. He did so by delivering early ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and by keeping in touch. Despite many disagreements over the years, Mahoney says, "you always felt like he was listening" and "every one of (us) still backs FORD to the hilt."

By keeping his ear to the ground, but assuaging the party's liberal flank now and then, FORD staved off the GOP Revolution. His hallmarks were pragmatism and strong personal skills. He'll be missed.



[From the Courier-Journal, July 19, 1998]

DEMOCRATS PAY TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FORD; VICE PRESIDENT JOINS  
THOUSANDS TO OFFER PRAISE

(By Al Cross)

One of the largest crowds of Kentucky Democrats in many years gathered with Vice President Al Gore last night to pay tribute to the pillar of the party in the last third of this century—retiring U.S. Senator WENDELL FORD.

"It makes me feel maybe for a moment we could recapture those days when people got involved in politics," Governor Paul Patton said as he began his speech to more than 2,000 people at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"This is sort of the end of an era," former State party Chairman Howard "Sonny" Hunt said as he mingled outside before the event. He was one of several Democrats who couldn't recall when a State party event had drawn such a crowd. "We've got Democrats, but they won't come out for anybody except WENDELL," said Maxine Glenn of Kenton County, one of the many longtime party activists who earned their spurs in FORD's campaigns for Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and Senator in the 1960's and 1970's.

Gore said FORD's impact in 24 years in the Senate—a record for a Kentuckian—has gone far beyond those who worked for him politically.

"WENDELL FORD has done more good things for more people than probably any other Kentuckian in the 20th century," Gore said.

"The legend of WENDELL FORD is written more in the stories that you don't hear than the stories that you do. The student who needs help with a loan, the veteran who needs help with medical benefits, the widow who needs a Social Security check \* \* \*. Making their lives better has been his life's work."

FORD's closest friend in the Senate, Democrat Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, said FORD is the one Senator who stands out among the 323 Inouye has served with since 1963. "There's nothing phony about him," Inouye said, recalling when FORD came to the Senate in 1974. "There were no ribbons, no frills, no bells. What you saw, you got."

The audience, which came from the far reaches of the State, applauded knowingly. It came to honor FORD, not to learn about him—though it did hear some rarely heard tales about his prowess at handling mules, shotguns and other politicians.

Patton led the way with the honors, announcing that the State party headquarters FORD built while Governor was being named for him, and that

he had signed an executive order renaming Kentucky's longest parkway the WENDELL H. FORD Western Kentucky Parkway—much as the Mountain Parkway was named for Bert T. Combs, the Eastern Kentucky Governor FORD served as an aide but defeated in the 1971 Democratic primary for Governor.

Patton told the crowd that FORD, who is from Owensboro, asked during the applause when the parkway, which is rough in spots, would be repaved. "The check's in the mail," Patton said.

FORD kept it up when it came his turn to speak, saying he was going to call "first thing in the morning and see if the bids are out."

His response to the adulation was largely to return tribute to those who helped elect him, including some Republicans who were in the crowd. He said the turnout showed "why I consider myself one of the luckiest men alive."

He asked, "How good am I? Only as good as the people who helped."

FORD said that after he retires January 3, "I hope to get the next generation of Kentuckians interested in government and the political process \* \* \* and teach them the pure joy—the pure joy!—that comes from helping others and maybe, just maybe, I'll be able to give back a small fraction of what you have been able to give to me."

FORD arrived at the park at midafternoon and quickly got his white shirt smeared with makeup as he hugged, shook hands with, and posed for pictures with many people he hadn't seen in years.

"By God, the old-timers are here, aren't they?" FORD exulted as he greeted longtime Democratic activist John Crimmins, 86, of Louisville, who said he first met FORD in 1947.

"He was the friendliest, easiest person to talk to of all the people I have ever met," Crimmins said.

