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TRIBUTES TO HON. PETER G. FITZGERALD

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Peter G. Fitzgerald

U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Peter G. Fitzgerald

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S. Doc. 108-24

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Peter G. Fitzgerald
United States Senator
1999-2005



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

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Biography

PETER G. FITZGERALD was elected to the U.S. Senate on November 3, 1998, at age 38. He was the first Republican in Illinois to win a Senate race in 20 years and was the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat an incumbent Democratic Senator in the 1998 election cycle. For several years he was the youngest Member of the U.S. Senate.

Senator FITZGERALD served on the Commerce; Governmental Affairs; Agriculture; Small Business; and Aging Committees. He chaired the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security; the Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Product Safety; and the Agriculture Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation.

A former commercial banking director and general counsel, Senator FITZGERALD chaired or played a leading role in investigations of Enron and corporate accounting fraud, mutual fund industry abuses, chronic underfunding of employee pensions, the deteriorating condition of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, conflicts of interest in the insurance brokerage industry, high fees in 529 college savings programs, and waste, fraud, and mismanagement in various Federal agencies. He enacted several measures to improve the financial accountability of government agencies and departments by expanding audit requirements and extending the reach of the Chief Financial Officers Act.

In 2004, Senator FITZGERALD proposed comprehensive, bipartisan mutual fund reform legislation to protect the household, college, and retirement savings of the 91 million Americans who invest in mutual funds. Endorsed by consumer groups and termed the “gold standard” of industry reform, FITZGERALD’s legislation helped prompt the Securities and Exchange Commission to undertake a vigorous review of mutual fund oversight and regulation. By the end of 2004, the SEC had promulgated final rules addressing 17 of the provisions laid out in FITZGERALD’s legislation, including provisions on director independence, fund governance, fee and compensation disclosure, and a prohibition of directed brokerage. In its December 2004 issue, *Money Magazine* wrote

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that “individual investors [will] lose one of their feistiest defenders next month with the departure of U.S. Senator PETER G. FITZGERALD.”

Senator FITZGERALD built a reputation as an independent voice for Illinois. He consistently backed efforts to control spending and reduce taxes, but at the same time voted for environmental and consumer protections. In early 2003, he passed legislation temporarily extending Federal unemployment benefits.

Continuing work on issues that occupied his attention as a State senator in Illinois, FITZGERALD vigorously promoted competitive bidding in government contracts and opposed taxpayer giveaways to politically connected interests. In 2000, he sought to impose Federal competitive bidding guidelines on a large government-funded project in his own State. For 2 days, in a Senate speech the *Champaign News-Gazette* called “a wake up call for Illinois taxpayers,” FITZGERALD brought national attention to numerous instances of cronyism and corruption in Illinois State government.

Senator FITZGERALD steadfastly fought political corruption in both political parties. In 2001, with support from President Bush, the Senator succeeded in installing professional U.S. attorneys, in each of the three judicial districts in Illinois, who were completely independent of the State’s politics. His efforts drew bitter opposition from local Democrats and Republicans, but won widespread editorial and public support and were ultimately followed by corruption indictments and trials that rocked Illinois politics. The *Chicago Tribune* said: “[FITZGERALD’s] resolve to attack the influence peddlers, the patronage powers, the well-dressed thieves who rip off taxpaying commoners, has given Illinois something enduring.”

Throughout 2003 and 2004, Senator FITZGERALD aided efforts led by Senator John McCain to save taxpayers an estimated \$5 to \$6 billion by stopping an Air Force plan to lease 100 tanker jets at inflated prices from the Boeing Company. High-ranking Members of Congress, together with Boeing’s large network of lobbyists, tried repeatedly to ram the deal through, but McCain, with FITZGERALD as virtually his only congressional ally, fought back hard and ultimately won when it became apparent that the tanker deal was the product of corrupt negotiations between the Air Force and Boeing.

From his perch on the Commerce Committee, FITZGERALD was active on aviation issues, with efforts to address the Na-

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tion’s air capacity shortage and promote greater competition in the airline industry. FITZGERALD helped lead the effort to build a south suburban Chicago airport, as first recommended by the Federal Aviation Administration in 1984. He stopped legislation which would have impeded the south suburban airport and which would have instead dictated the approval of a cost-inefficient plan to tear up and rebuild O’Hare.

In 2001, FITZGERALD co-authored an amendment which made it difficult and unattractive for air carriers to seek the Federal loan guarantees offered in the airline bailout bill. As a result of Fitzgerald’s language, few airlines applied for the loan guarantees and taxpayers saved billions of dollars.

The Senator also focused on consumer safety issues. In 2000, he led a successful drive to modernize outdated Federal testing and safety standards for child car seats. In 2002, he drafted and President Bush signed into law a follow-up measure, known as Anton’s Law, to upgrade Federal testing and standards for child booster seats and to require auto-makers to improve car safety features.

As the first Illinois Senator since 1986 to serve on the Agriculture Committee, FITZGERALD worked closely with the futures industry in Chicago to modernize the commodity trading laws and to allow the sale of futures on individual stocks. He also worked with Illinois farm groups to open markets for Illinois commodities in the United States and overseas, to promote renewable fuels, and to provide tax relief for family farmers. He enacted legislation to better enable low-income citizens to access their food stamp benefits, as well as legislation to require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make its program benefits available over the Internet. The Senator also called for reform of the Federal farm payment system to ensure Federal aid goes to family farmers who most need assistance, and helped pass legislation to study potential improvements to farm aid programs.

Senator FITZGERALD garnered numerous awards during his Senate tenure. He regularly received top ratings from taxpayer watchdog groups, including the National Tax Limitation Committee, the National Taxpayers Union, and the Concord Coalition. Americans for Tax Reform repeatedly named FITZGERALD a “Hero of the American Taxpayer.” Taxpayers for Common Sense gave FITZGERALD its “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” award for resisting the influence of special interests and working to reduce wasteful government spending. In honor of his dedication to promoting transparent and

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accountable government, the Better Government Association presented Senator FITZGERALD with its 2003 “Civic Achievement Award.”

When FITZGERALD announced on April 15, 2003, that he would not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2004, the headline to a *Daily Herald* column asserted “Illinois will be losing an honest politician in PETER FITZGERALD.” The *Daily Southtown* declared, “FITZGERALD’s choice a loss for Illinois.” The publisher of the *Champaign News-Gazette* opined, “FITZGERALD’s departure a setback for the concept of clean government.” “Illinois will miss Senator FITZGERALD’s independence,” wrote *The Southern Illinoisan*. Citing his “savvy and independence,” the *Bloomington Pantagraph* said, “we need more Senators of the FITZGERALD mold.” A column in the *Chicago Tribune* thanked him for “elevating courage and honesty to new heights” and concluded that “no one person has done more for political reform in Illinois than PETER FITZGERALD.”

In the final days of FITZGERALD’s career, editorial boards and columnists around the State and Nation hailed his service. In an editorial entitled “Going out a winner,” the *Chicago Sun-Times* wrote that “[FITZGERALD] represented Illinois with honesty and dedication.” The *Peoria Journal Star* editorialized that the “Senate will miss FITZGERALD’s intellect and willingness to take on complex and often unpopular causes.” A column in the *Pioneer Press* said “[FITZGERALD’s] been honest, steadfast, accessible, dedicated and independent,” and a piece in the *Wall Street Journal’s Opinion Journal* called the Senator “The Unsung Maverick.”

On his last day in office, January 2, 2005, the *Chicago Tribune* editorial page concluded that it was the “irony of PETER FITZGERALD” that “a Senator acclaimed for his integrity, simply walks away.”

Born on October 20, 1960, PETER FITZGERALD grew up in Inverness, IL, a suburb northwest of Chicago, and has lived there all his life. He went to St. Theresa’s Elementary School in Palatine, IL, and to Portsmouth Abbey, a secondary school in Portsmouth, RI. FITZGERALD attended Dartmouth College, where he majored in Latin and Greek. He graduated from Dartmouth cum laude and with “highest distinction.” In 1982–1983, FITZGERALD studied at the Aristotelian University in Salonica, Greece, as a Rotary Foundation International Graduate Scholar. He earned his J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law. FITZGERALD practiced corporate law for 10 years in Chicago, first in private firms and

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later as general counsel for a publicly traded bank holding company. He has served on the boards of directors of four banks and one bank holding company.

From 1993 until his election to the U.S. Senate in 1998, FITZGERALD was an Illinois State senator, representing the northwest suburbs of Chicago. He chaired the State government operations committee.

In 1987, PETER married Nina (A.B., Smith College; M.Sc., London School of Economics; J.D., Harvard Law School). They have one son, Jake, born in May 1992. Senator FITZGERALD especially enjoys playing catch with Jake, an avid baseball player.

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Farewell

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I rise with some sadness on my last time to speak on the Senate floor. It is a very bittersweet occasion for me because I have loved every minute of the last 6 years, and I will miss this body greatly. I am sure I will think about it every remaining day in my life hence forward. The past 6 years have been amongst the most thrilling in my life, and it has been a privilege and honor to serve here.

I rise really to thank my colleagues for their kindness to me over the years and to thank my staff and my family and the entire Senate staff and everyone who is part of this institution for the wonderful 6 years I have had here.

I was first elected to the Senate from Illinois in 1998. I was sworn in in 1999, and almost immediately thereafter, the first Presidential impeachment trial in 130 years began. For my first 35 days, I think it was, or 38 days, on the Senate floor, I was immersed in the impeachment trial of former President Clinton. Thereafter, we had times of war, war in Kosovo and Afghanistan and now Iraq. We had the events of 9/11. I have served in times of war and peace, in times of great prosperity, as well as in times of recession. I have seen a whole lot.

What I will remember most probably are the wonderful people who are part of the Senate. When I entered the Senate in 1999, I came in as the youngest Member. I was 38 at the time. I am older now, obviously, and have probably less hair and more gray hair. The oldest Member of the Senate at that time was Strom Thurmond. He was 96 years of age. I will never forget Strom Thurmond telling me, when he was 96, about how he used to work out 45 minutes every day, and I was thinking about whether I might be as active as Strom when I am 96, if I make it that long. Even at that age, I remember Strom giving me advice, telling me about how I could help the coal industry in southern Illinois. It was remarkable to meet someone like that.

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There are many who have retired. There are others like Strom who have passed away. There are some giants who are still with us, such as Senator Robert Byrd. One of my first memories of meeting Senator Byrd is going in to talk to him after I first got elected and asking him to sign for me a copy of his book on the history of the Roman Republic. Early on in my term in the Senate, I actually read Senator Byrd's whole book on the history of the Roman Republic. I have to say it is a marvelous book, and any Member of the Senate who has not read that book should please go out and get it because it has bountiful lessons for every Member of the Senate. It traces the decline and fall of the Roman Republic. It traces the decline of the Republic to the Roman Senate giving up more and more of its powers to the executive, finally to the point where the Senate became meaningless and Rome was just governed by Caesars, dictators, and kings. It is an outstanding book.

To meet the man who wrote this book and to realize that book was taken from a series of speeches that he delivered on the Senate floor, without notes, as to the hundreds of thousands of names and dates in that book, is truly astonishing.

Senator Byrd has written a much larger four-volume history of the Senate, which when I retire from this body I hope to have time to tackle. But just to think of someone who could be so productive not only in the Senate for so long but accomplish so much in other areas writing such scholarly books, I will miss people like Senator Byrd and Senator Thurmond and all the others, the leaders with whom I have had the privilege to serve.

Senator Trent Lott was the majority leader when I entered. For a period of time, Tom Daschle was the majority leader. Now Senator Frist is the majority leader, and soon Senator Harry Reid will be the minority leader. Each one of those individuals is remarkable, in my judgment. They have always been gentlemen of the highest order, and they work very hard. They are very good at what they do in representing their perspectives. They are good and honorable people whom our country is lucky to have.

Our whips on the Republican side, Don Nickles and Mitch McConnell—Don Nickles has done such a good job for the taxpayers of this country. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch him fighting excessive spending and confiscatory taxation. I have been pleased to join him over and over again to hold the line on spending and to vote against tax in-

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creases and for tax relief, something that I view as very important.

I am retiring at the same time as Senator Nickles. I will miss him greatly as part of this body, but I hope to see him often in life outside of the Senate.

Other colleagues of mine are so important to me for reasons one might not think of. I did not know what I might have in common with Senator Bunning from Kentucky. He was elected at the same time I was in 1998. Senator Bunning is always so kind in giving me advice, as I advise my own son how to practice his pitching for his Little League games.

The other night, I saw Senator Bunning in his car, and I said: Jim, having been a Hall of Fame baseball pitcher—where else can you get that kind of advice for your son's pitching lessons—I am not going to be able to ask you for advice on how to coach my son on pitching.

He said: You know what. You can still call me afterward. I will always be there.

It is comments like that and the friendships like that, where I have spent so much time with the other 99 Members of this body, so many late nights and long weekends and sometimes retreats together, all of us really have become almost kind of like a family. It is much more like family than I think the media in America recognizes because so often the differences between the parties or the personalities get emphasized by the media. But I will miss them all.

John McCain, the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee on which I have been privileged to serve the last 4 of my 6 years, a man I admire greatly. Most Americans know about his heroism as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam war, where he was in the Hanoi Hilton for 5 years and the enemy forces tortured him, crushed his bones and could never get him to buckle or back down. Few men have the kind of courage that John McCain has. It is not just physical courage but the courage he has had to always fight for what he believes is right. Sometimes I have not agreed with him, but when he believes he is right he is willing to stand up to some very powerful forces that often threaten him politically, but nothing scares this American hero, John McCain. I am so thankful to him for the opportunity he gave me to chair the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee on the Senate Commerce Committee where I have been able to work on child safety and booster seat safety and automobiles and also to play a very critical role in the corporate governance hearings

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that we had a few years back first with Enron, Adelphia, WorldCom and those other corporate scandals.

We have also worked on aviation and transportation, the Internet, telecommunications. There is never a dull moment with Senator McCain chairing the committee, and for the seven new Senators who are coming in who are thinking of what committees they might want to serve on, that is one I have always loved.

Susan Collins, the chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee—what a great American, what a hard-working American. We all saw that recently with her hard work on putting together the intelligence bill under very difficult circumstances with a very short time to work. I thank her for giving me the opportunity to chair the Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security Subcommittee of the Governmental Affairs Committee, together with my friend and colleague Danny Akaka, from Hawaii, who has been my ranking member on that subcommittee. Danny is such a gentleman. I tell you, I am going to miss him personally, and I am also going to miss the macadamia nuts that he regularly sent over to me. But I may have time to visit him on a beach in Hawaii, now that I think about it. Maybe that is where I will see him and Senator Inouye next.

But Senator Akaka and I were able to wake up what might normally be thought of as a very sleepy subcommittee of the Governmental Affairs Committee, where we dealt with improving accountability of government financial reporting. We increased audit requirements on Federal agencies, we extended the Chief Financial Officers Act to the Homeland Security Department, and we put it in to apply to the new intelligence directorate. But, also, we have worked very hard in that subcommittee to spotlight some of the great challenges our country confronts.

I think in that regard, with the staff on that committee on both sides of the aisle being so able, we have been able to put together some of the best hearings the Senate has had on issues such as our defined benefit pension problem in this country. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has a massive deficit with no end to increasing deficits on the horizon.

We have had hearings on the government-sponsored entities such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Homeowner Bank Boards and other entities that are privately

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owned but have government charters, and what risk they may or may not pose to the system.

We had a series of hearings on mutual funds and the problem of high fees. Mr. President, I was honored to have your co-sponsorship on a landmark bill to reform the mutual fund industry. While we were not successful in passing that legislation this year, the Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted many of the items in that bill, including requiring independent chairmen of the boards of mutual funds in America.

Just this week we did a hearing on the problems that we have seen in the insurance brokerage industry in which we heard from experts on all sides and got Washington's first perspective on the indictments that have come out of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office in New York. We had a hearing on the issue of the expensing for stock option compensation, which has been so actively debated amongst accountants in our country.

Finally, the Financial Accounting Standards Board is going to require publicly traded corporations to expense stock option compensation on their earnings statements.

On the Agriculture Committee, if I think of the word "gentleman," I would think of Senator Lugar, who was the chairman of the Agriculture Committee when I first came in, and Senator Cochran, from Mississippi, who is the current chairman of the Agriculture Committee. It is regretful I will not be here a second term because I now have enough seniority on the Agriculture Committee to chair it in the second term, believe it or not.

But Senators Lugar and Cochran have been a pleasure to work with. We passed a number of measures to make life better for our Nation's farmers, some very simple but important changes allowing farmers to file all their USDA paperwork on the Internet.

We improved child nutrition and passed legislation to make it easier for people who depend on government assistance for their nutrition and food needs, that those people through the Food Stamp Program can now get their benefits across State lines—somebody who may live in St. Louis and goes back and forth to Illinois, or somebody living in north-west Indiana and goes back and forth to Chicago.

Also, a very important industry in my State, Mr. President, and in your State as well, is the commodity futures industry. In Chicago, we have the Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. We also have the Chicago Board

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Options Exchange. I am told, directly and indirectly, in Chicago we employ some 200,000 people in the futures industry.

The Agriculture Committee has given me the opportunity to work on the rewrite of our commodity trading laws. I was pleased to be an active participant in the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, where we first allowed the trading of futures on individual stocks in this country. That market is now developing. I hope to see it come back.

I want to say some words of thanks to the senior Senator from Illinois, Mr. Dick Durbin. He referred to us as the political odd couple—one conservative Republican, one liberal Democrat, from the land of Lincoln.

More often than not, we probably disagreed from a policy perspective on some of the key issues confronting our Nation, but it never prevented us from working well together. In fact, we jointly held 163 breakfasts, constituent breakfasts together. Every Thursday morning at 8:30 when the Senate was in session, Senator Durbin and I would host a breakfast, allow constituents who were visiting Washington from Illinois to ask us any question that was on their mind, whether it was political or policy related, and we paid for the breakfast. My understanding is, there are not many other examples of bipartisan breakfasts where you have one Republican and one Democrat who have such a weekly gathering for their constituents.

We worked well together on the selection of judges. We almost never had an open vacancy that we couldn't resolve on the district courts in the northern, central, or southern Illinois districts.

Senator Durbin was terrific in supporting me in my effort to clean up corruption in Illinois. One of the most important things I did in that regard was to bring in independent U.S. attorneys to the State of Illinois who were not beholden to the political class in the State. That was something new. When I went to appoint U.S. attorneys, I found everybody and their brother, particularly all the local politicians on both sides of the aisle, trying to influence the selection of my U.S. attorney.

I didn't want to lay awake at night wondering who was trying to influence my U.S. attorney, either to go after someone unjustly or to protect someone wrongly from prosecution. I, ultimately, decided for that reason to do a nationwide search for our U.S. attorneys, which yielded, I think, amongst the best U.S. attorneys anywhere in the country: Patrick Fitzgerald in the Northern District of Illinois, Jan

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Paul Miller in the Central District of Illinois, and Ron Tenpas, in the Southern District of Illinois. They are doing a tremendous job and no one is asking whether they are influenced politically or what their motivation would be. I thank Senator Durbin for supporting that effort to bring independent U.S. attorneys to Illinois.

Senator Durbin is a man whose stamina, hard work, and intelligence I greatly admire. He is very devoted and hard-working. He travels back to his hometown of Springfield every weekend. That is a harder commute than my commute. I travel back to Palatine, IL, which is only about 12 miles northwest of O'Hare. So I had a fairly easy commute; I just had an hour and a half plane flight and then a short drive and I was at my House. But Senator Durbin would go back to O'Hare every weekend and then catch another flight down to Springfield and he does that every weekend. He is constantly back in the State of Illinois.

I think we worked well on just about everything, except aviation. We had a disagreement over O'Hare Airport. I think I am right. He thinks he is right. But aside from that difference of opinion, it has been a pleasure to work with him.

I am sure Senator Durbin will be an effective spokesman for his side of the aisle as the whip for the incoming Democratic caucus in the 109th Congress. I do not necessarily wish Senator Durbin success in that role, but I do wish him well.

Barack Obama, my successor, I wish him well. It was a privilege to have lunch with him yesterday in the Senate dining room. I served with Barack Obama in the State senate for 2 years. He was coming in, in the legislature in Springfield, in my last 2 years of service there. He is an uncommonly bright and talented young man. He is 1 year younger than I. He was the first African American president of the *Harvard Law Review*. He is almost unequaled in his potential and promise. I am confident he will be a credit to the State of Illinois. I think he may surprise the political pundits by voting, crossing party lines at times that you don't expect him to. It may be a challenge for him with Senator Durbin as his whip. But I see Barack Obama as possibly being a fairly moderate voice, more moderate than many people suspect.

To my staff, many of whom are gathered in the Senate Chamber, I could not have been blessed with a more wonderful staff to have gotten me through the last 6 years. I first

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need to start by thanking former Senator Bob Dole and the current Senator Elizabeth Dole for recommending to me the man who is my chief of staff, Gregory Gross. Greg worked for Senator Bob Dole when he was the leader in the Senate and during his Presidential campaign in 1996. He worked for Mrs. Dole when she was at the American Red Cross. He is extremely bright, as Bob Dole told me when I first called for a reference on Greg Gross.

Bob Dole said to me: Greg is what you call a genius. And I thought, that is the kind of person I want, a genius on my staff. But he is more than just a brilliant and talented and knowledgeable chief of staff.

He is also incredibly devoted and incredibly loyal, and I thank him for that.

For the first 3 years, my chief of staff was Richard Hertling. He is now at the Justice Department. Richard did an outstanding job in getting us up and running. It is very hard when a new Senator is coming in and assembling a new staff, as some of the new Senators are finding out.

I have been blessed to have had an outstanding legislative director, Terry Van Doren from Macoupin County, IL, whose father owns a cattle operation in Macoupin County. Terry started out doing agriculture policy for me. Terry was just what the doctor ordered. He had straight A's from the University of Illinois in agriculture sciences. Then he got a master's in agriculture policy from Colorado State University. He had a 4.0 there. I was called by the dean of the University of Illinois Agriculture School. He told me what an outstanding young man Terry is. Terry has been instrumental in agricultural policy. He has been my legislative director.

Before him, Joe Watson was my legislative director, a brilliant young Harvard Law School graduate whom I plucked out of the Sutter and Hopkins law firm. He is now at the Commerce Department serving under Secretary Evans.

My office manager, Sherri Hupart, has done such an outstanding job; always pleasant and kind and willing to help, and calm under pressure.

Her predecessor, Tina Tyrer, came to me from Senator Fred Thompson's office. She had some 20 years of experience in Washington running Senate offices.

My Chicago chief of staff, Maggie Hickey, is a one-woman army, entirely devoted, very hard-working. I want to thank her.

My staff director for my Financial Management and Budget and International Security Subcommittee, Mike Russell,

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and the team he has put together, which I think enabled us to do the best hearings on some of the key issues confronting our financial markets in this country, I can't thank them enough.

I thank my schedulers and executive assistants, Lanae Denney, Julie Cate, Julie Grisolano, and Doris Gumino. Scheduler has to be the toughest job on Capitol Hill because you know how busy Senators' schedules get and how it is for them to hear when a Senator is tired, or frustrated, or thinks he is overscheduled. Schedulers hear about it. There is no question about that. I thank my schedulers for being there, staying here working late into the evening. They have to be here even when the rest of the staff has gone home.

My campaign manager and first communications director, Mike Cys, is now in the private sector. He is brilliant and energetic and enthusiastic. I thank him for all his support.

I thank my communications, legislative assistants, legislative correspondents, receptionists, front office and back office, duty entry personnel, the interns, the kids we have had serve over the years.

My staff handled 6,000 to 10,000 letters a week for the past 6 years. The first year we came in, we were getting over 10,000 e-mails a day on the impeachment. My State office has handled over 22,000 individual constituent cases. They conducted traveling office hours all over the State, 1,574 traveling office hours in 675 towns. My State staff met individually with 831 mayors and village clerks telling them how to apply for Federal grants for sewer and water.

I thank the staff on the floor of the Senate: Dave Schiappa, the floor staff, Myron Fleming, the chief doorkeeper, the cloakroom staff, the Parliamentarians, leadership and Sergeant at Arms staff, and the pages who come and go every semester. I always look at them. They have to get up at 5 in the morning to do school work before they can come here. But they work so hard. I hope their experience has been as wonderful as we want it to be for them.

And, finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the most important people in my life, my family, my mother and father, who always supported me not only through my 12 years in public service, but through all the years of my life. It was always clear they would have been there to lay their lives down for their son.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I would like to thank him for his kind words and wish him very well. We have served together for 6 years. Every Thurs-

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day morning when we were in session we had free coffee and doughnuts, a tradition that was started by Senator Paul Simon. I believe we were the only two Senators, being Democrat and Republican Senators, offering this opportunity for the visitors who come to Washington to ask a few questions and take a few photographs. But it worked very well. It became a very interesting experience for Illinoisans and others coming to Washington. We did it many times. It reached the point where I would give his answers to the questions and he would give my answers to the questions. We distinguished ourselves as being the only two Senators offering free coffee and doughnuts, which may account for the crowds that showed. But we did that for 6 years. We have worked closely together and effectively and successfully together on the appointment of judges, U.S. attorneys, and many projects that were local to Illinois. We disagreed on some issues but managed to maintain our friendship and warm relationship throughout.

Senator FITZGERALD announced his retirement for the right reasons. He said he wanted to spend more time with his family. That is something which we all admire very much.

I have enjoyed serving with Senator FITZGERALD, and I wish him the very best, whatever the next venture might be, and I hope we will continue to work together.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I thank Senator Durbin for the kind words. I hope to come back to his breakfasts and get some of those free doughnuts myself. I won't have to pay for them anymore. But I will miss it.

I thank Senator Durbin.

Finally, I thank my brothers and sisters—Gerry, my older brother, Jim, Tom, my sister Julie. A lot of people in public office worry that their siblings might embarrass them. I have never had to worry because they are wonderful, upstanding people, all of whom I think are probably worried about what I might do that they might worry about. They are wonderful people.

I thank my wife Nina. We met together in DC, when we were interns back when we were 19 years old, and after college and law school we got married. I moved her, plucked her from her home State of Colorado. She came to Illinois. I want to thank her for her steadfast support through all my years in public office.

Finally, last but not least, I thank my 12-year-old son Jake. Jake missed his father at baseball and basketball

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games. I have been in public office for his entire 12 years. I am going to make it up to Jake now. I am pleased that he is doing so well as a baseball pitcher. I thank Jim Bunning and others for their advice.

And finally, the people of Illinois from one end of the State to the other, from Cairo in the south to Rockford in the north, thank you for your kindness to me. I have loved every minute of it. You gave me your trust, and I worked hard every day to keep it safe.

Thank you all. God bless. I will miss you all.

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TRIBUTES
TO
PETER G. FITZGERALD

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Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *October 11, 2004*

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, at the close of the 108th Congress, we say farewell to Senator PETER G. FITZGERALD who is leaving us after one term.

The former congressional intern, commercial banking attorney, and Illinois State Senator was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998. In fact, he was the first Republican in Illinois to win a Senate seat in 20 years.

It has been a busy 6 years for Senator FITZGERALD. During his brief tenure in this Chamber he served on the Senate Agriculture, Commerce, Government Affairs, Small Business, and Aging Committees. He was active in a number of legislative areas, including mutual fund reform, consumer safety protection, aviation, environmental, and agricultural issues. And he actively pursued the expansion of overseas markets.

During his 6 years in this Chamber, Senator FITZGERALD threw himself into some of the most challenging and complex issues considered by the Senate. In 2000, he attacked waste in government contracting and crafted legislation to improve the process by which contractors are awarded taxpayer moneys. He later worked with me to address the Pentagon's "revolving door"—an egregious practice utilized by government contractors in exerting influence over the contracting process. In 2002, the former commercial banking attorney lashed out at Enron executives who robbed thousands of workers of millions of dollars of their life savings, and he later crafted legislation to reform the mutual fund industry.

Time and again he showed himself to be a Senator who is not intimidated by complexity. He did not simply talk about the issues of the day, he took time to study them, and understand them, and then try to do something about them. Time and again he demonstrated that he was a workhorse, not a show horse. The Senate needs more Members like him, Senators to whom we can look when confronting difficult and complex issues.

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And the Senate needs more Senators like Senator FITZGERALD who, on a number of high-profile issues, including gun control, health care, patients' bill of rights, the environment, and ANWR drilling, put the good of the people of his State, in particular, and the American people, in general, above partisan party interests and ideology.

In attacking political corruption and cronyism, he was bipartisan, not simply in rhetoric, which is easy, but rather in action, which is a good deal more difficult.

I wish Senator FITZGERALD and his wife Nina the best as they begin a new phase of their lives.

TUESDAY, *November 16, 2004*

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator PETER FITZGERALD as he prepares to leave the U.S. Senate.

For the past 6 years, Senator FITZGERALD has done important work as a member of the Agriculture Committee, on which we had the pleasure of serving together. Senator FITZGERALD supported the creation of a commission to investigate changes to the Federal farm payment system. We share the belief that small, family-owned farms should receive adequate assistance from the Federal Government, and the creation of this commission has helped to ensure this goal.

I am also grateful for the support that Senator FITZGERALD has shown for legislation I have introduced related to the tax treatment of leasehold improvements. He and I understand the need to modernize business infrastructure by shortening the cost recovery period for changes that commercial landlords make in space rented to tenants. By reducing the cost recovery period, the expense of making these improvements would fall more into line with the economics of commercial lease transactions, and more building owners would be able to adapt their buildings to fit the needs of today's business tenants. I thank Senator FITZGERALD for his strong support of this important initiative.

Senator FITZGERALD also recognizes the importance of improving the overall health of Americans, and has shown this through the introduction of his Healthy Lifestyles Act. Encouraging physical activity is an essential component in the fight against obesity, and is an important tool in prevention.

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tive health care. I commend Senator FITZGERALD for his work in this area.

More generally, Senator FITZGERALD has proven himself to be a dedicated public servant who has served the State of Illinois and the country with honor. Today, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator FITZGERALD and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

THURSDAY, *November 18, 2004*

Mr. BURNS. * * * I served only one term with John Edwards and PETER FITZGERALD. They, too, will be missed in the Senate. Their contribution was huge. * * *

PETER FITZGERALD comes from Illinois. As to all of these men, I want to say you do form relationships here, and there is a certain bond that attracts us all, as we learn that even though you may be on the same side of the aisle or the opposite side of the aisle, one could always agree or disagree without being disagreeable. That is what makes the Senate a special place.

We will miss all of these men, but I am looking forward to those who take their place as, there again, new relationships will be developed, a new bond dealing with the old challenges of a free society, with those who love the Constitution and love this country who were prepared to die for it and would if asked to do so today. No one doubts the depth of their patriotism nor their service to their country. We welcome them as we say goodbye to old friends, old relationships that will never be forgotten.

Mr. SHELBY. Senator PETER FITZGERALD from Illinois is a very young man, one of the youngest men to come to the Senate. He chose to serve only one term. I think he has been involved in some of the big issues of the day. He is a man of integrity. He is a man who wants to do the right thing. He is always going to be involved in the issues of the day, as he has been.

PETER, we wish you and your family the best as you go back into the private sector where you have excelled and done things so well and for so long. * * *

We are going to miss all these Senators, on both sides of the aisle, because collectively they bring a lot of experience and a lot of wisdom to the Senate. They have served, as I said, with distinction and honor here.

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Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, PETER FITZGERALD has devoted his life to public service.

He first ran for office before the ink on his law degree had dried. And, in the last 6 years, we have come to know PETER as a man of integrity, as a man of honor, and as a friend.

In the Illinois Senate, he was a staunch opponent of corruption. He often had to go it alone. But he still got results.

He continued his mission in the U.S. Senate—where he arrived in 1998 as our youngest Member.

In only 6 years, he has made his mark. He helped uncover the devastating corporate fraud and accounting scandals. And he helped us pass tough new regulations to prevent them from reoccurring.

He has been an ardent advocate for Illinois farmers and businesses, always working to make sure that markets are open and barriers are low.

Whether working to appoint honest Federal prosecutors or taking a hard look at major federally supported projects, he has always stood for doing the right thing.

PETER has made sure that we have tax relief that helps families and creates new jobs. And he has helped protect our children with tough new child safety seat laws.

Our Senate family will miss PETER, Nina, and Jake. They have each enriched our lives, their State, this Senate, and our country. And we wish them all the best in the future.

FRIDAY, *November 19, 2004*

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, obviously, in the brief time here I am not going to be able to say everything that comes to mind about the Senators who are retiring but to summarize a little bit of the information for the benefit of those who might be watching.

When you have long, distinguished careers of Senators and they decide not to run for reelection but leave the body, there is a lot that comes to mind about their service. I think it is good to remind ourselves of just a few of these things because of the service they have provided, both to the people of their own States and to the United States. * * *

Mr. President, my colleague PETER FITZGERALD from Illinois is an extraordinarily smart and focused individual who came to the Senate to represent his State of Illinois and did so with great passion, enthusiasm, and courage, in some cases, when he had to stand against a lot of other Members

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who were attempting to act in ways he felt were inimical to the interests of his State.

PETER FITZGERALD, though here only one term, I think will be remembered as a great Senator from the State of Illinois and certainly a colleague I will miss personally.

These are only four of the colleagues who are going to be leaving us at the end of this session. These are Senators whom I became particularly close to. I wanted to say a word about each one of them, to wish them all the very best, bid them farewell, also to know they have too many friends around here to ignore. And we are going to be staying in touch with every one of them.

We thank them for their service to the people of their States, to the Senate, and to the people of the United States of America.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, like the distinguished Senator from Illinois, I take a couple of minutes this afternoon to come to the floor to express in the most heartfelt way, as he just has, my profound thanks for the opportunity I have had to serve in the Senate.

I congratulate him on his successful career and wish him well in all of his endeavors.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to make some comments about our friends who are departing the Senate. * * *

I have to say a word about Senator FITZGERALD because of some tough environmental votes. There he was standing with me. I remember one time he said, I have to stand with you because my son will never talk to me again. It was good to work with him as well. * * *

Thank you very much.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I want to close by associating myself with the remarks of the Senator from California and her regards and respect to the other retiring Members.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I want to talk about our colleagues who are retiring in a few minutes. There are a lot of good people here on both sides of the aisle.

We are going to miss all of our friends over here, but I am going to miss Don Nickles. I have had a lot of fights with him, but I know he always knew where he wanted to go. I respected that.

PETER FITZGERALD, newer among us, but a gentleman to be noted, and Ben Nighthorse Campbell comes from a State

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I love. I have two grandchildren there. He is a decent fellow. We are going to miss all of them. I will talk about them later.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, while the Senate is holding in abeyance for the final omnibus appropriations bill that the House is getting ready to file sometime tonight, I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to our retiring Senators: Tom Daschle, Fritz Hollings, Don Nickles, John Breaux, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, John Edwards, PETER FITZGERALD, Zell Miller, and Bob Graham.

I wish to make a speech about each one of these Senators who has become a dear friend, in some cases, over the years, such as Fritz and Peatsy Hollings, who took special interest in me as I came to the Senate and made sure I got on his Commerce Committee, which has been just an extraordinary experience with him as chairman, as well as with the present chairman, John McCain. * * *

PETER FITZGERALD is a very active member of our Commerce Committee, who, in the comments by his colleague from Illinois, Senator Durbin, today said it very well, could work so well with Members of both sides. * * *

So for all of these names I have mentioned, in the great poem "Ulysses," he says, "I am a part of all that I have met," and I am a part of all these great Senators. I am much richer for it and for having been their friend.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I talked before about Tom Daschle. I also will discuss the rest of our colleagues who are leaving the Senate.

When the 109th Congress convenes in January, nine of our current colleagues will not be here. I take a few moments to pay tribute to them. Collectively, our colleagues have served in the Senate for 144 years. We will miss them. * * *

Mr. President, I will talk about a couple of my friends on the Republican side. * * *

PETER FITZGERALD, the junior Senator from Illinois, like me, came to the Senate after a good business career. He has been here only for one term but in those 6 years he established a solid reputation as an independent Member, committed to doing what he thinks is right, even if it puts him at odds with other members of his party.

He and I serve on the Governmental Affairs Committee, and I have been impressed by his willingness to hold hearings on scandals and malfeasance in the mutual fund and insurance industries. Perhaps because of his business back-

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ground, he understands the importance of effective oversight by the Federal Government.

I regret he is leaving. He has been a gentleman, and it is too bad that we do not have more like PETER FITZGERALD. He is a wonderful person to work with. He has got a ready smile, and he is a gentleman at all times.

I close my remarks by noting that these men have made remarkable contributions to our society, and all Americans should be grateful. I would tell those who are retiring, I retired 4 years ago, and I did not like it. So here I am. Perhaps there is hope for any of them who want to rejoin. If you want to come back, I am here to tell you it can be done. Just make sure that you get to keep your seniority.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and thank my colleagues for their indulgence while I made my remarks.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say—this is probably the first and only time I have ever said this—I have been listening carefully to my friend from New Jersey, and I agree with everything he said.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share a few remarks about our friend and colleague PETER FITZGERALD. It has been a real honor for me to serve with him. We have had quite different backgrounds.

PETER grew up in suburban Chicago and attended very fine parochial schools. He attended Dartmouth College where he graduated cum laude with highest distinction majoring in Latin and Greek. He got his law degree from the University of Michigan and came from a very prominent family there.

He is a wonderful person, a person I got to know, although our backgrounds are different, I having grown up in south Alabama, the son of a country store owner, going barefoot and swimming in the creeks. We enjoyed talking with one another. He liked Bear Bryant, and we talked about a number of things.

One thing he shared with me on a number of occasions is his belief that there should be in government, in the business of the United States and the State governments, integrity. He talked with me about his recommendation to President Bush about a U.S. attorney appointment in Chicago. He wrestled with it and talked with me over a period of weeks about the fact he believed that even if he chose any of the very fine candidates who had been discussed in Chicago, he would be choosing somebody from that area that people

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would think was not the best, was not independent, that they might be influenced by someone.

He had a growing feeling that he should choose someone from outside the area. It is an usual thing to do, but that is what he did. He searched the country over and chose U.S. Attorney Fitzgerald, a nonrelative, I believe, who tried some of the biggest terrorist cases in New York. That is who he recommended and that is who he put there. Why? Because he wanted the best prosecutor with the best background, with the most integrity, and total independence to do the right thing there. That indicated to me just how serious he was about this issue.

When he ran for the Senate, he was in the banking business, an attorney in the banking business. He promised he would not involve himself and would recuse himself from decisions dealing with banking. People said that was not necessary. Others did not do that. He said he thought it was the appropriate thing to do, and he adhered to that the entire time he was here, recusing himself on a number of such issues.

He chose the higher standard, the road less traveled. He did not like fraud, corruption, and abuse. As a member of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, he took a key role in the investigation of Enron and the abuses that occurred there.

He was a constant and strong opponent of no-bid contracts. He saw a lot of those in Illinois. He did not like it, and he spoke out against it in a very strong way. Particularly, there was a matter involving Springfield and a major construction contract. He feared the good old boys, those with influence and inside word, would be the beneficiaries of those contracts rather than the taxpayers. He thought it should be bid on a professional basis, and he battled very hard for that. He did not like and does not like cronyism, and he spoke out against it.

His commercial banking experience led him to study the behavior of the stock markets and brokerage firms in the Federal thrift plan, which he admired greatly, saying it was the most efficient and best plan for investors that he was aware of because the fees and costs were so low.

He, therefore, was a champion of integrity and full disclosure of fees in the brokerage business and spoke out aggressively in favor of that. Why did he say that? Because he thought insiders were taking too big a piece of the pie and if that money, instead of being paid out in fees, sometimes

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never seen by the investors, had been reinvested in the stocks or mutual funds, that the investor would have ended up with a lot more money over a lifetime, and he had charts to show it.

He spoke out against that special interest group because he believed it was the right thing to do. He believed in representing the consumers, and those are the people who make America go.

He has a wonderful wife Nina who attended Smith College, the London School of Economics, and Harvard Law School. They have one son, Jake. He has chosen to spend more time with them. We can certainly understand his decision to do that.

I also thank him for his service to the people of the United States. He did so in this single term with integrity, courage, decency, and a great spirit of cooperativeness. I have enjoyed serving with him, as did all of us in this body, and I wish him Godspeed.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I know the hour is getting late and others want to be heard, but I briefly want to express some thoughts about our colleagues who are leaving this wonderful body. Today we have heard some very compelling speeches, particularly the one given by my good friend, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, our Democratic leader.

I was pleased to see so many of our colleagues remain on the floor to listen to the departing Democratic leader. The words he expressed about his State, his staff, his colleagues, his feelings about the country, and the future, are instructive. I know it can sound repetitive when people hear us talk about our colleagues this way, but I think it is important for the public to note that while they might hear only about the bickering, the part that you do not often see is the deep respect, affection, and caring that goes on among the Members of this body. This affection comes despite the differences that exist in red States and blue States, or being strongly conservative or strongly liberal.

There is this weaving of a common denominator through each and every one of us, particularly after years of common service in this remarkable institution we call the Senate. There is a deep and abiding respect for those who have come here, those who have served here, those who have tried to make a difference for our country.

It may seem like it is inside discussion, but I hope the public understands how deeply felt these comments are about colleagues who will no longer have the pleasure of

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spending each and every day in this Chamber, but whose friendship and collegiality will continue in the years ahead as we encounter each other in different walks of life. * * *

Mr. President, PETER FITZGERALD is also a good friend. He has represented his State of Illinois and is leaving after only one term.

Again, as Senators from the opposite sides of the aisle, Senator FITZGERALD and I often disagreed. We found some common ground on some issues, including the Patients' Bill of Rights, the gun show loophole, and campaign finance reform. I wish him good luck when he returns to the private sector where he has been an extremely successful attorney in the banking industry. I caution him not to do too well. I am on the Senate committee responsible for overseeing that carefully. I say that, of course, with tongue in cheek.

I certainly wish he, Nina, and Jake all the best in the years to come. * * *

I apologize for taking this extra time. It is important that the public hear Members talk about each other, even those who disagreed on matters, that they understand why this institution works more than 230 years after the Founders created it.

I, as a Senator from Connecticut, take unique pride in the Senate because it was Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, both of Connecticut, who offered at the Constitutional Convention the idea of the Senate representing small and large States. Arguing over a unicameral system, Sherman and Ellsworth said, how about having a second body with equal representation, regardless of the size or the population of the State. As a result, this institution was created. It has been a great place that has served our Nation for so long and I am confident it will in the future.

We have been blessed by the participation of those who are leaving. All of us wish each and every one of them the very best in the years to come.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to the Senator from Illinois.

PETER FITZGERALD came to the Senate 6 years ago already a champion. He was the first Republican to win a Senate seat in Illinois in 20 years. He was the only Republican challenger to defeat an incumbent nationwide that year. And upon his arrival 6 years ago, he was the youngest Member of the U.S. Senate. So expectations for this new Senator were high.

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Senator FITZGERALD exceeded those expectations. From the beginning, he fought to cut wasteful government spending, fraud at the public till, and mismanagement of the people's money. He led the fight against the recent corporate scandals that damaged our economy.

Senator FITZGERALD has been a leader in bringing government into cyberspace by sponsoring successful bills to allow farmers to work with the Agriculture Department online. He has also been a champion for improving child nutrition, by making it possible for consumers to use food stamps to make purchases online. He has focused on consumer safety by requiring stricter standards for child car seats and car safety features.

Illinois, where Senator FITZGERALD was born and raised, is the State that sent Abraham Lincoln to the White House. Abraham Lincoln was one of America's greatest Presidents, and the first President of the Republican Party. The great State of Illinois is known as "The Land of Lincoln."

But I am a little jealous of the claim Illinois has on this great American. Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Hodgenville, KY, my home State, and we Kentuckians like to think of him as one of our own.

I have welcomed Senator FITZGERALD to my home State before, and he is welcome again in the Bluegrass State anytime, especially Hodgenville.

Senator FITZGERALD had a long career of public service even before joining this body, and I have no doubt he will continue to serve the people of Illinois when he returns to the Prairie State. Most of all, he will enjoy the company of his wife, Nina, and their young son, Jake.

Because Senator FITZGERALD is a passionate Chicago Cubs fan, I suspect Jake will be going to a lot more games. The Senate's loss is Jake's gain, and a gain for the Fitzgerald family and the people of Illinois. I thank the Senator from Illinois for his service to his State, the Land of Lincoln, and to the Nation.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, It truly has been a privilege to serve in the Senate with my good friend PETER FITZGERALD. As many Illinois newspapers wrote when PETER announced he would not seek reelection, his decision to retire from the U.S. Senate is a true loss for the people of Illinois. I could not agree more.

In the 1998 race for his Senate seat, PETER proved himself to be an exceptional campaigner, defeating a well-known incumbent in a State that had not elected a Republican in 20

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years. And in that year, he was the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat an incumbent Democratic Senator. But PETER's vision, message and leadership resonated with Illinoisans, and they elected him by a 6-point margin.

Arriving in Washington as the youngest Member of the Senate, PETER hit the ground running as a strong voice for Illinois. He has been a steadfast advocate for taxpayers, consistently backing efforts to cut wasteful spending and reduce taxes. And he has been a proponent for consumer safety issues, focusing on areas such as improving car safety and child booster seats.

I have the utmost respect for PETER. His courage and determination, even when faced with a daunting challenge, are remarkable. He has gone up against unscrupulous corporations and political corruption. He has had significant roles in investigating corporate accounting fraud, and PETER also has fought political corruption across party lines, leading the *Chicago Tribune* to conclude that "no one person has done more for political reform in Illinois than PETER FITZGERALD."

I have been privileged to serve alongside PETER on the Senate Agriculture Committee, working together on issues important to our strong agriculture States. As an advocate for increasing hunger awareness myself, I admire his work to make food stamp benefits for low-income families more easily accessible, including making program benefits available over the Internet.

PETER and I share many similar views, but what is not widely known is that we look for the same qualities in our extraordinary staff members. In fact, managing the FITZGERALD office is chief of staff Greg Gross. Greg is a very talented member of his team, and I can attest to this because Greg also did such good work with me at the American Red Cross. I thank Greg for all his counsel during my first 2 years in the Senate.

It is widely known that PETER FITZGERALD is a principled and independent leader. He has time after time proven that he will go against the flow, go against what is popular, because he is loyal to his own ideals and doing what he believes is right for the people and families he represents. PETER is a refreshing elected official; a devoted family man to his wife Nina and son Jake; and a diligent public servant. It goes without saying, people in Washington and people in Illinois will sorely miss Senator PETER FITZGERALD.

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Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I take a moment to recognize the contributions that Senator PETER FITZGERALD has made to this Senate, to the State of Illinois, and to the Nation.

As a fellow Midwesterner, I have always appreciated Senator FITZGERALD's honest and fair-minded approach to the issues. From the moment he arrived here in the Senate, it was clear that he would keep his own counsel, doing what he thought was best for the people of Illinois without regard to powerful interests on either side of the aisle.

Above all else, I appreciate Senator FITZGERALD's unfailing commitment to reforming our campaign finance system. He was among that steadfast group of Republican Senators who stood firm in their support of the McCain-Feingold bill, despite enormous pressure to do otherwise. His support of our bill took a great deal of personal and political courage, and it is something that I truly admire, and for which I will always be grateful.

As he moves on from the Senate, Senator FITZGERALD can be assured that his friends and colleagues here will long remember the contributions he made, and the dignity with which he served. I wish him all the best as he moves on to a new phase of his career.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor our departing colleagues who are leaving the Senate. In almost each new Congress a different group of 100 men and women comes together from different backgrounds and political philosophies, representing different interests and constituencies, but through all our differences, we develop respect and admiration for each other. Many times we step across the aisle and work together on legislation and oftentimes genuine friendships are created. As I pay tribute to these departing Senators, whether they have been here one term or seven, they are a remarkable group and we thank them for their honorable service.

Senator PETER FITZGERALD is retiring from the Senate after 6 years of service to his home State of Illinois.

Prior to joining the Senate, Senator FITZGERALD was a commercial banking attorney and in this position played a significant role in investigations of corporate accounting fraud, mutual fund industry abuses, chronic underfunding of employee pensions, and waste, fraud and mismanagement in various Federal agencies. In 1993, he embarked upon his public service work when he began serving as an Illinois

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State Senator until his election to the U.S. Senate in 1998 at the young age of 38.

PETER was the first Republican in Illinois to win a Senate race in 20 years. Even though his time here was brief, he has been able to establish himself as a fiscally responsible Senator. He has consistently backed efforts to control spending and reduce taxes. Through these actions, Senator FITZGERALD has received many awards from taxpayer watchdog groups such as the Americans for Tax Reform, who has repeatedly named him a “Hero of the American Taxpayer.”

While serving as chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Product Safety, PETER has also led a successful fight to improve outdated consumer safety regulations. These regulations brought about higher testing and safety standards for child car seats and improved car safety features that benefit all Americans.

Senator FITZGERALD will be missed, though I’m sure he is now looking forward to spending more time with his wife Nina and their son Jake. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

SATURDAY, *November 20, 2004*

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I take a moment to talk about four colleagues whom I have had an opportunity to serve with in the Senate. * * *

Madam President, I want to express my appreciation for the hard work of PETER FITZGERALD. I am disappointed he is only serving one term in the Senate. It is a voluntary decision that he made to step down after one term.

His family has business interests in Colorado. I have enjoyed working with him, particularly when we served on the Agriculture Committee, and I began to respect his values as well as his work ethic.

These four individuals have distinguished themselves in my mind. I have appreciated having the opportunity to serve with them in the Senate, and I hold them in great esteem. I wish them the very best as they pursue life’s journey, having served in a distinguished way in the Senate. I wish them the very best and Godspeed.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise to say good-bye to several of my colleagues, dear friends and colleagues

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with whom I have had the pleasure to work in the Senate. * * *

It is often an uphill battle for a freshman Senator to make an impact, but Senator PETER FITZGERALD, a former commercial banking attorney, has chaired or led investigations of corporate accounting fraud, mutual fund industry abuses, chronic underfunding of employee pensions and waste, fraud and mismanagement in Federal agencies.

In 2004, he proposed comprehensive, bipartisan mutual fund reform legislation to protect the household, college, and retirement savings of 95 million Americans. This bill, endorsed by consumer groups and reform-minded industry leaders, points the way for future legislation on this subject.

The Senator also focused on consumer safety issues. In 2000 he led a successful drive to modernize outdated Federal testing and safety standards for child car seats. In 2002, he drafted and President Bush signed into law a followup measure known as Anton's Law, to upgrade Federal testing and standards for child booster seats and to require automakers to improve car safety features.

I wish him well in his future endeavors.

Madam President, I will miss all of my colleagues. As we take the opportunity to go forward in a new Congress, we will make new friends, but we will never forget the old ones.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I want to share my views, as did Senator Hutchison and others, about our colleagues who are leaving for new adventures in life. * * *

I want to speak about four others, though, including PETER FITZGERALD, whom I will miss. He will always be known for two ideas and principles of life—honesty and integrity. He has certainly fought hard for what he believed was right, and you can always trust his word. * * *

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment of the Senate's time, as we near completion of our duties for the 108th Congress, to honor the work and contribution to the Republican Party, the Senate, and the Nation of my friend, the Senator from Illinois, Senator PETER FITZGERALD. Senator FITZGERALD has chosen to take his youth and talents and serve in other areas outside of the Senate. Our loss will be, no doubt, the gain of others.

Senator FITZGERALD provided a good, youthful, and modern face to the Republican Party. Our party will only stay strong if we maintain within it our own diversity of perspec-

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tives, and I am grateful for the contribution of Senator FITZGERALD.

Elected to the Senate in 1998 at the very young age of 38, the Senator immediately added his vigor, intelligence, and experience in financial markets to address many of the complicated issues faced by our government and society as the Nation turned into the 21st century.

When corporate scandals erupted early in this century, threatening to undermine confidence in markets, the Senate was, indeed, fortunate to be able to turn to Senator FITZGERALD for his thoughtful and informed guidance. As a former commercial banking attorney, he used his expertise in his positions on the Commerce and Governmental Affairs Committees, particularly his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget and International Security, to chair or support numerous hearings to illuminate the problems and necessary legislation we needed to return probity to financial dealings and confidence in our markets. The modern capitalist system is what provides growth and wealth to all the societies of the world, and the American markets are the most dynamic in the world. They are also the most diversified, and the vast majority of our citizens depend on them for employment, security and retirement. We owe a great deal of appreciation to Senator FITZGERALD for his work on corporate fraud issues, and I would like to thank him, once again.

Senator FITZGERALD is a reformer, through and through. It is his dedication to our system of government and economy that drove him to find ways to improve it. He applied his drive to reform to consumer issues, government affairs, financial management, and the complicated mesh of revenue collection that is the current tax system of this country. And he quite deservedly received numerous acclamations from groups advocating for consumer and tax reform.

Through this all, he never lost his focus on his home State. He didn't work for Illinois to get reelected, he worked for Illinois because of his dedication to his State and his high standards of public service. A column in the *Chicago Tribune*, a good paper not known for being ragingly Republican, commended him for "elevating courage and honesty to new heights." That sounds right to me.

I will miss the presence of Senator FITZGERALD, his thoughtful floor statements before this body, and the impeccable manners of a gentleman that are so naturally his. His State can be proud of the Republican they sent to serve too

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briefly in this body. We will miss his intelligence and dedication, and I will miss a good Senator and friend. I expect that, with his relative youth, we will hear much more of PETER G. FITZGERALD.

Mr. DASCHLE. Today, I would like to say a few words about eight additional Senators with whom I have served these last historic 6 years, all of whom will be leaving when this Congress ends.

Senator Nickles, Senator Campbell, Senator FITZGERALD, and Senator Miller, it has been a privilege to work with each of you. You have each sacrificed much to serve our Nation and I am sure you will continue to serve America well in the years to come. * * *

I have to be honest, Mr. President, it was not my wish to depart with these fine Senators. But it has been my honor and a joy to serve with them, and one that I will remember all the days of my life.

Mr. McCONNELL. We cannot conclude the 108th Congress without a sense of sadness. There are many—in fact there are too many—great Senators who are leaving this institution. I have already had an opportunity to express my goodbyes to Senator Nickles, Senator Campbell, and Senator FITZGERALD.

I also wish a happy and healthy future to our colleagues across the aisle, Senator Daschle, Senator Breaux, Senator Hollings, Senator Bob Graham, Senator John Edwards, and Senator Zell Miller. Each of these men has made a lasting contribution to this marvelous institution.

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