

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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TRIBUTE TO SENATE MAJORITY LEADER GEORGE MITCHELL

When the 104th Congress convenes next January, it will take a while to get used to the fact that Senator Mitchell will not be standing across the aisle from me.

The past few weeks have provided several occasions for me to express the respect I have for the Majority Leader, but I just wanted to take another minute to thank him again for his friendship and for his commitment to public service.

As I have said many times these past weeks, while the Majority Leader and I may not share a political philosophy or a voting record, one thing we have shared these past six years is a friendship based on complete respect and trust.

For some, politics is a game of secret strategies and attempting to confuse and surprise your opponents.

For George Mitchell, however, politics and public service are not games--they are opportunities to make a difference in the life of our nation and her people.

As we sought to make that difference, George Mitchell never told me anything but the truth. I may have disagreed, but I knew that he would do exactly what he said.

As Senator Mitchell has said, the values he exhibits every day--values of honesty, decency, and civility--are values he learned from his father, an orphan who worked as a laborer, and his mother, a Lebanese immigrant.

Something else that Senator Mitchell's parents instilled in him was the value of an education.

And the great promise of America is that someone from such humble beginnings, through hard work and perseverance, and through an education, could forge a career which included service as a United States Attorney, a United States District Judge, and a United States Senator.

Many organizations wanted to honor the Majority Leader before he left the Senate. It is typical of Senator Mitchell, however, that he asked all effort be concentrated into one dinner, and that all proceeds be used to set up a college scholarship fund for deserving Maine students.

I was proud to attend that dinner Wednesday night. Like all who attended, I was moved by Senator Mitchell's very eloquent remarks, and the tribute he paid to his late parents, and to public service.

And although we won't be meeting nearly every day, as we have these past six years, I know that Senator Mitchell and I will remain friends, and I know he will continue to make a difference in the lives of Americans.

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