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Senate

REMEMBERING BILL RAGGIO

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the life and work of Bill Raggio, a steadfast Nevadan, my mentor, and dedicated public servant who passed away on February 23, 2012. Our State has lost a truly devoted leader and influential icon in Nevada politics. We mourn the passing of a dear friend and celebrate the life of a man who lived and fought for the betterment of our State.

The loss of Bill is something that will be felt all across Nevada. He was truly a giant in every sense of the word. His recordbreaking 38 years in the Nevada State Senate can only be described as selfless. Over the course of 10 terms, Bill was dedicated beyond question. He not only demonstrated a tactful leadership style but also devoted himself to fiscal responsibility. His ability to compromise and his willingness to work across party lines helped him to overcome partisan differences and legislative hurdles to meet the needs of the great State of Nevada. Bill influenced my work, and for that I am

forever thankful.

Never afraid to tackle the difficult problems, Bill pledged his commitment to dutifully protecting the citizens of northern Nevada as the Washoe County district attorney. He was a great man who fought hard for Nevadans and was respected by many. We are fortunate and proud to remember Bill, a second-generation Nevadan and Reno native.

Bill touched the lives of tens of thousands of Nevada families, spanning generations. He served Nevadans with honor and devotion, and we are blessed by Bill's enduring and undeniable passion for public service. I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the life of a great statesman who will always be remembered for his unwavering commitment to Nevada. His passing is a tremendous loss, and his legacy will be cherished for generations to come. I wish to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to Bill's wife Dale and the entire Raggio family.