

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
AN EVENING WITH DANNY THOMAS, JOHN BLATNIK,
AND THEIR FRIENDS

Duluth, Minnesota

May 4, 1975

I am proud to be here this evening as a friend of Danny Thomas and John Blatnik, in a tribute to the finest Congressman Minnesota has ever known.

No one could be in better company, than to be with these two men who, although they are in different professions, have so much in common.

In their own ways, each has worked to better and to nurture the lives of our fellow citizens.

Danny Thomas is known throughout the world for the laughter and the tears and the joy he has brought to millions.

And for thousands of children, Danny's work on behalf of St. Jude's Childrens Hospital has meant the gift of life.

His entertainment, his compassion, and his charity, make him a very special man, and I'm honored to be here with him tonight.

As a former colleague, as a liberal, as a Minnesotan, I could praise John Blatnik for many things. Principally, I thank him for his friendship. Muriel and I value greatly the hours we've spent with John and his lovely wife Gisela. John's character and strength are well reflected in his family.

I know John Blatnik to be a man of uncommon honor, decency and compassion. I share my respect for him with thousands of Minnesotans and those who worked with him in Washington for over a quarter of a century. His sense of justice and understanding of the practical needs of his constituents served him well throughout his years in public office. His legislative record stands as a monument to the work he did on their behalf.

John was not always so highly regarded. In the post World War II days of 1946, in his first campaign for the Congress, there were those who called him a communist, a radical, and a socialist. They charged that if he were elected he would be a menace to our country and that he would destroy our economic system.

But they were wrong -- dead wrong.

John's long legislative record has clearly shown him to be a chief architect of a strong economy and an enduring democracy.

At the time, he had served a brief five years in the Minnesota State Senate. Yet, he had already begun to legislate a bright future for northeastern Minnesota.

He knew the mainstay of the area's economy, its iron mining industry, was coming to a close. He knew that those who would remain on the iron range were destined to live in poverty -- in despair.

As a member of the state legislature, he had authored the now-famous Minnesota Taconite Tax Law, which was the first basic legislation to stimulate the mining and processing of taconite ore in Minnesota. He understood then that taconite held the key to economic progress in Minnesota.

During the war John Blatnik had spent three and one half years in the Air Corps Intelligence Branch and the Office of Strategic Services. He served for 8 months overseas in Italy and Northern Yugoslavia. For 8 months he was behind enemy lines gathering information and rescuing American airmen forced down behind enemy lines.

Therefore, there could be no question of John's absolute commitment to the principles of democracy, and his critics' charges were reduced to nonsense.

Yes, John made many "radical" speeches for that time. He talked about programs for people -- he clearly saw their needs for housing, for health care, and for economic development.

But he was also a chief fighter for political reform, battling for a strong Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party that would be responsible to the people, and with communist and other selfish interests cleaned out.

And so it was that in 1946 we cleaned up the DFL Party, and John Blatnik became our first representative in Washington in a stunning victory for the state's progressive movement.

This young Congressman had accomplished what had never been done before -- he had taken the paper coalition of two fiercely independent, uniquely Minnesotan political parties, the Democratic Party and the Farmer-Labor Party, and made that coalition work. I followed on that new ground broken by John Blatnik. And I have been privileged to be part of the most successful political party in this state's history.

So ask a friend of John Blatnik what he means to progressive politics in Minnesota -- ask a DFLer.

Some people forget what it was like to be a Democrat and to be in Congress in those early days. I don't. And certainly John Blatnik doesn't.

Many times I've heard him explain the formal procedure for putting the midwest Democratic Congressional Caucus on record in his first years in Washington. And it's fair to say, he was as powerful in that group as he was to be many years later as Chairman of the Public Works Committee. He held the swing vote, in fact, the only vote. John Blatnik could hold those caucuses in a phone booth. He was the only midwest Democrat in the Congress. He was Chairman, Secretary and the membership itself.

But more importantly, John Blatnik, alone, spoke for the interests and the needs of midwestern progressives, liberals and Democrats, and I want to say with all sincerity, that we were well represented.

During his years in Congress, John Blatnik got his share of headlines and editorials. But he never set out to make a name for himself. Instead, his constituents received his priority attention.

The needs of this vast eighth district always came first. Perhaps that is one of the reasons they returned him to office for 14 consecutive terms by landslide margins.

There is a center for mentally retarded children in Chisholm, and it has served hundreds of people, because John Blatnik cared enough to see that the federal government took a special interest in some very special children.

So ask a friend of John Blatnik what he has done for those in our society with special needs -- ask a parent of a mentally retarded child.

The federal government's water pollution standards, enforcement policies and funding since 1956 have been the work of John Blatnik. The water treatment centers in this district, the laws under which Reserve Mining's dumping of tailings are being challenged, the funds which hopefully will help them construct an on-land site, all grew out of the deep concern and consistent action John Blatnik brought to the Congress on behalf of a cleaner environment.

The national water quality laboratory here in Duluth, exists today because John knew the necessity of hard data and constant experimentation if we were to solve our environmental problems.

So ask a friend of John Blatnik if he cares about clean water and clean air -- ask an environmentalist.

John Blatnik has always been an active man. He likes the outdoors. He enjoys nature. The Voyageurs National Park was established under legislation he authored. The Grand Portage National Monument and the protection of the Boundary Water Canoe Area are Blatnik accomplishments.

So ask a friend of John Blatnik if he cares about the protection of our treasured national parks and forests and waterways -- ask a conservationist.

The year-round open harbor of Duluth, the St. Lawrence Seaway as we know it today, the new highways and the industrial parks -- each represents an effort by John Blatnik to build a strong, viable economy in northeastern Minnesota.

Perhaps one of the most important victories in John's struggle to bring jobs to this region of the country took place in 1964. The Minnesota Legislature had acted to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot -- the taconite amendment -- in order to insure the development of this area's taconite industry.

This was a hard-fought issue within the DFL Party, and one might argue that a Congressman should stay out of this "state" fight -- but not John Blatnik. No, the passage of this amendment was the culmination of the work he began in the 40's.

John campaigned across the length and breadth of this state. He took the message of northeastern Minnesota to the metropolitan areas, the farming communities and the small towns throughout the state.

Although I couldn't campaign side by side with him that year, I did join with him in full support of the amendment. It passed -- and today, new plants are being constructed and thousands of Minnesotans are employed by the growing taconite industry.

So ask a friend of John Blatnik if he understands the importance of jobs and industry and economic growth -- ask any of the thousands of union workers right here in Duluth or on the Range.

John Blatnik served this district so well because he took the time and made it his personal work to stay in touch, to know what the communities needed and what kind of service the people were getting.

A former aide of John's once told me about the night they were leaving a meeting at the Cloquet Labor Temple and had to drive up on the Range for an early morning meeting. As they left the hall, they noticed a sleet storm was beginning. As they got outside of town, the storm got worse, and for a while they were unable to make it up a hill. John got out and pushed, and soon they were on their way.

The aide, who had been on these midwinter trips for many years, asked John what in the world they had done to deserve being caught in the worst sleet storm of the season that year. John simply told his aide that when you're out every night of the year, you are bound to be out on the night of the worst storm.

And that's the way it was for John Blatnik -- without doubt one of the hardest working men I have ever known to serve in the Congress.

His constituents loved him, and he was so well respected in Congress because he is a tough, proud man -- a fierce partisan for what he believes, and a man who does not rest until he has completed his task.

As a young man, John Blatnik was part of a new breed of politicians. He advocated the kind of politics that stand for economic and social justice, genuine concern for the problems of working men and women, farmers, small businessmen, and the opportunity for each individual to pursue his talents to the fullest.

His record is one of tremendous accomplishment. His word has always been good. His talk -- always straight. His politics -- always principled.

The name "Blatnik" has meant confidence and leadership to two generations of Minnesotans.

His compassion, his sense of duty, and his concern mark an admirable record of assistance to those in our society with special needs.

His early and sustained record as a conservationist and as an environmentalist, mean that future generations will enjoy the scenic splendor of this land he loves.

His untiring efforts to bring a new industry -- taconite -- to northern Minnesota will help assure a prosperous economy.

John Blatnik's work stands as an example for his Party, his state and his nation.

He is a man of uncommon strength and vision. He is a teacher and a politician and a statesman. I have always been proud to stand with him and will continue to regard it as a privilege to call him a friend.

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MAY 4, 1975

I AM PROUD TO BE HERE THIS EVENING AS A FRIEND OF DANNY
THOMAS AND JOHN BLATNIK, IN A TRIBUTE TO THE FINEST
CONGRESSMAN MINNESOTA HAS EVER KNOWN.

NO ONE COULD BE IN BETTER COMPANY, THAN TO BE WITH THESE
TWO MEN WHO, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS, HAVE
SO MUCH IN COMMON.

IN THEIR OWN WAYS, EACH HAS WORKED TO BETTER AND TO
NURTURE THE LIVES OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

DANNY THOMAS IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR THE LAUGHTER
AND THE TEARS AND THE JOY HE HAS BROUGHT TO MILLIONS.

AND FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN, DANNY'S WORK ON BEHALF OF
ST. JUDE'S CHILDRENS HOSPITAL HAS MEANT THE GIFT OF LIFE.

HIS ENTERTAINMENT, HIS COMPASSION, AND HIS CHARITY, MAKE HIM A VERY SPECIAL MAN, AND I'M HONORED TO BE HERE WITH HIM TONIGHT.

AS A FORMER COLLEAGUE, AS A LIBERAL, AS A MINNESOTAN, I COULD PRAISE JOHN BLATNIK FOR MANY THINGS. PRINCIPALLY, I THANK HIM FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP / MURIEL AND I VALUE GREATLY THE HOURS WE'VE SPENT WITH JOHN AND HIS LOVELY WIFE GISELA. JOHN'S CHARACTER AND STRENGTH ARE WELL REFLECTED IN HIS FAMILY.

I KNOW JOHN BLATNIK TO BE A MAN OF UNCOMMON HONOR, DECENCY AND COMPASSION. / I SHARE MY RESPECT FOR HIM WITH THOUSANDS OF MINNESOTANS AND THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

↳ HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRACTICAL
NEEDS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS SERVED HIM WELL THROUGHOUT HIS
YEARS IN PUBLIC OFFICE. ↳ HIS LEGISLATIVE RECORD STANDS
AS A MONUMENT TO THE WORK HE DID ON THEIR BEHALF.

↳ JOHN WAS NOT ALWAYS SO HIGHLY REGARDED. IN THE POST
WORLD WAR II DAYS OF 1946, IN HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR THE
CONGRESS, THERE WERE THOSE WHO CALLED HIM A COMMUNIST, A
RADICAL, AND A SOCIALIST. ↳ THEY CHARGED THAT IF HE WERE
ELECTED HE WOULD BE A MENACE TO OUR COUNTRY AND THAT HE
WOULD DESTROY OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

↳ BUT THEY WERE WRONG -- DEAD WRONG.

JOHN'S LONG LEGISLATIVE RECORD HAS CLEARLY SHOWN HIM TO BE
A CHIEF ARCHITECT OF A STRONG ECONOMY, AND AN ENDURING DEMOCRACY.

{ AT THE TIME, HE HAD SERVED A BRIEF FIVE YEARS IN THE
MINNESOTA STATE SENATE. YET, HE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO LEGIS-
LATE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA.

{ HE KNEW THE MAINSTAY OF THE AREA'S ECONOMY, ITS IRON
MINING INDUSTRY, WAS COMING TO A CLOSE. { HE KNEW THAT THOSE WHO
WOULD REMAIN ON THE IRON RANGE WERE DESTINED TO LIVE IN POVERTY
-- IN DESPAIR.

{ AS A MEMBER OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, HE HAD AUTHORED THE
NOW-FAMOUS MINNESOTA TACONITE TAX LAW, WHICH WAS THE FIRST
BASIC LEGISLATION TO STIMULATE THE MINING AND PROCESSING OF
TACONITE ORE IN MINNESOTA.

HE UNDERSTOOD THEN THAT TACONITE HELD THE KEY TO ECONOMIC
PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA.

↳ DURING THE WAR JOHN BLATNIK HAD SPENT THREE AND ONE
HALF YEARS IN THE AIR CORPS INTELLIGENCE BRANCH AND THE OFFICE
OF STRATEGIC SERVICES. HE SERVED FOR 8 MONTHS OVERSEAS IN
ITALY AND NORTHERN YUGOSLAVIA. ↳ FOR 8 MONTHS HE WAS BEHIND
ENEMY LINES GATHERING INFORMATION AND RESCUING AMERICAN
AIRMEN FORCED DOWN BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

↳ THEREFORE, THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF JOHN'S ABSOLUTE
COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND HIS CRITIC'S
CHARGES WERE REDUCED TO NONSENSE.

YES, JOHN MADE MANY "RADICAL" SPEECHES FOR THAT TIME.

HE TALKED ABOUT PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE -- HE CLEARLY SAW THEIR NEEDS FOR HOUSING, FOR HEALTH CARE, AND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

BUT HE WAS ALSO A CHIEF FIGHTER FOR POLITICAL REFORM, BATTLING FOR A STRONG DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY THAT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE, AND WITH COMMUNIST AND OTHER SELFISH INTERESTS CLEANED OUT.

↳ AND SO IT WAS THAT IN 1946 WE CLEANED UP THE DFL PARTY, AND JOHN BLATNIK BECAME OUR FIRST REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON IN A STUNNING VICTORY FOR THE STATE'S PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT.

THIS YOUNG CONGRESSMAN HAD ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HAD NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE -- HE HAD TAKEN THE PAPER COALITION OF TWO FIERCELY INDEPENDENT, UNIQUELY MINNESOTAN POLITICAL PARTIES, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE FARMER-LABOR PARTY, AND MADE THAT COALITION WORK. I FOLLOWED ON THAT NEW GROUND BROKEN BY JOHN BLATNIK. AND I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL PARTY IN THIS STATE'S HISTORY.

SO ASK A FRIEND OF JOHN BLATNIK WHAT HE MEANS TO PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN MINNESOTA -- ASK A DFLER.

SOME PEOPLE FORGET WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A DEMOCRAT AND TO BE IN CONGRESS IN THOSE EARLY DAYS. I DON'T; AND CERTAINLY JOHN BLATNIK DOESN'T.

MANY TIMES I'VE HEARD HIM EXPLAIN THE FORMAL PROCEDURE FOR PUTTING THE MIDWEST DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON RECORD IN HIS FIRST YEARS IN WASHINGTON, AND IT'S FAIR TO SAY, HE WAS AS POWERFUL IN THAT GROUP AS HE WAS TO BE MANY YEARS LATER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, HE HELD THE SWING VOTE, IN FACT, THE ONLY VOTE. JOHN BLATNIK COULD HOLD THOSE CAUCUSES IN A PHONE BOOTH, HE WAS THE ONLY MIDWEST DEMOCRAT IN THE CONGRESS. HE WAS CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND THE MEMBERSHIP ITSELF.

↳ BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, JOHN BLATNIK, ALONE, SPOKE FOR THE INTERESTS AND THE NEEDS OF MIDWESTERN PROGRESSIVES, LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS, AND I WANT TO SAY WITH ALL SINCERITY, THAT WE WERE WELL REPRESENTED.

DURING HIS YEARS IN CONGRESS, JOHN BLATNIK GOT HIS SHARE OF HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS, BUT HE NEVER SET OUT TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF. INSTEAD, HIS CONSTITUENTS RECEIVED HIS PRIORITY ATTENTION.

↳ THE NEEDS OF THIS VAST EIGHTH DISTRICT ALWAYS CAME FIRST.

PERHAPS THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY RETURNED HIM TO OFFICE FOR 14 CONSECUTIVE TERMS BY LANDSLIDE MARGINS.

↳ THERE IS A CENTER FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN

CHISHOLM, AND IT HAS SERVED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, BECAUSE JOHN BLATNIK CARED ENOUGH TO SEE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK A SPECIAL INTEREST IN SOME VERY SPECIAL CHILDREN.

SO ASK A FRIEND OF JOHN BLATNIK WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THOSE
IN OUR SOCIETY WITH SPECIAL NEEDS -- ASK A PARENT OF A MENTALLY
RETARDED CHILD.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS,
ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND FUNDING SINCE 1956 HAVE BEEN THE
WORK OF JOHN BLATNIK. THE WATER TREATMENT CENTERS IN THIS
DISTRICT, THE LAWS UNDER WHICH RESERVE MINING'S DUMPING OF
TAILINGS ARE BEING CHALLENGED, THE FUNDS WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL
HELP THEM CONSTRUCT AN ON-LAND SITE, ALL GREW OUT OF THE DEEP
CONCERN AND CONSISTENT ACTION JOHN BLATNIK BROUGHT TO THE
CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.

↳ THE NATIONAL WATER QUALITY LABORATORY HERE IN DULUTH,

EXISTS TODAY BECAUSE JOHN KNEW THE NECESSITY OF HARD DATA AND
CONSTANT EXPERIMENTATION IF WE WERE TO SOLVE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS.

↳ SO ASK A FRIEND OF JOHN BLATNIK IF HE CARES ABOUT CLEAN

WATER AND CLEAN AIR -- ASK AN ENVIRONMENTALIST.

↳ JOHN BLATNIK HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ACTIVE MAN. HE LIKES THE
OUTDOORS. HE ENJOYS NATURE. THE VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK WAS

ESTABLISHED UNDER LEGISLATION HE AUTHORED ↳ THE GRAND PORTAGE

NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF THE BOUNDARY WATER

CANOE AREA ARE BLATNIK ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

SO ASK A FRIEND OF JOHN BLATNIK IF HE CARES ABOUT THE
PROTECTION OF OUR TREASURED NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS AND
WATERWAYS -- ASK A CONSERVATIONIST.

↳ THE YEAR-ROUND OPEN HARBOR OF DULUTH, THE ST. LAWRENCE
SEAWAY AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, THE NEW HIGHWAYS AND THE
INDUSTRIAL PARKS -- EACH REPRESENTS AN EFFORT BY JOHN
BLATNIK TO BUILD A STRONG, VIABLE ECONOMY IN NORTHEASTERN
MINNESOTA.

↳ PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN JOHN'S
STRUGGLE TO BRING JOBS TO THIS REGION OF THE COUNTRY TOOK
PLACE IN 1964.

THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE HAD ACTED TO PLACE A CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT -- THE TACONITE AMENDMENT -- IN ORDER
TO INSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AREA'S TACONITE INDUSTRY.

↳ THIS WAS A HARD-FOUGHT ISSUE WITHIN THE DFL PARTY, AND
ONE MIGHT ARGUE THAT A CONGRESSMAN SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS

"STATE"^{FIGHT} -- BUT NOT JOHN BLATNIK. ↳ NO, THE PASSAGE OF THIS

AMENDMENT WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE WORK HE BEGAN IN THE 40'S.

↳ JOHN CAMPAIGNED ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THIS

STATE. ↳ HE TOOK THE MESSAGE OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA TO THE

METROPOLITAN AREAS, THE FARMING COMMUNITIES AND THE SMALL

TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T CAMPAIGN SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIM THAT YEAR, I DID JOIN WITH HIM IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT.

IT PASSED -- AND TODAY, NEW PLANTS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED AND THOUSANDS OF MINNESOTANS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE GROWING TACONITE INDUSTRY.

SO ASK A FRIEND OF JOHN BLATNIK IF HE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF JOBS AND INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH -- ASK ANY OF THE THOUSANDS OF UNION WORKERS RIGHT HERE IN DULUTH OR ON THE RANGE.

JOHN BLATNIK SERVED THIS DISTRICT SO WELL BECAUSE HE TOOK THE TIME AND MADE IT HIS PERSONAL WORK TO STAY IN TOUCH, TO KNOW WHAT THE COMMUNITIES ^{NEEDED} AND WHAT KIND OF SERVICE THE PEOPLE WERE GETTING.

A FORMER AIDE OF JOHN'S ONCE TOLD ME ABOUT THE NIGHT THEY WERE LEAVING A MEETING AT THE CLOQUET LABOR TEMPLE AND HAD TO DRIVE UP ON THE RANGE FOR AN EARLY MORNING MEETING. AS THEY LEFT THE HALL, THEY NOTICED A SLEET STORM WAS BEGINNING. AS THEY GOT OUTSIDE OF TOWN, THE STORM GOT WORSE, AND FOR A WHILE THEY WERE UNABLE TO MAKE IT UP A HILL. JOHN GOT OUT AND PUSHED, AND SOON THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY.

THE AIDE, WHO HAD BEEN ON THESE MIDWINTER TRIPS FOR MANY YEARS, ASKED JOHN WHAT IN THE WORLD THEY HAD DONE TO DESERVE BEING CAUGHT IN THE WORST SLEET STORM OF THE SEASON EACH THAT YEAR. JOHN SIMPLY TOLD HIS AIDE THAT WHEN YOU'RE OUT EVERY NIGHT OF THE YEAR, YOU ARE BOUND TO BE OUT ON THE NIGHT OF THE WORST STORM.

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS FOR JOHN BLATNIK -- WITHOUT
DOUBT ONE OF THE HARDEST WORKING MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN TO
SERVE IN THE CONGRESS.

HIS CONSTITUENTS LOVED HIM, AND HE WAS SO WELL RESPECTED
IN CONGRESS BECAUSE HE IS A TOUGH, PROUD MAN -- A FIERCE
PARTISAN FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES, AND A MAN WHO DOES NOT REST
UNTIL HE HAS COMPLETED HIS TASK.

AS A YOUNG MAN, JOHN BLATNIK WAS PART OF A NEW BREED OF
POLITICIANS. HE ADVOCATED THE KIND OF POLITICS THAT STAND
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE
PROBLEMS OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESS-
MEN, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL TO PURSUE HIS
TALENTS TO THE FULLEST.

HIS RECORD IS ONE OF TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT, HIS WORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOOD, HIS TALK -- ALWAYS STRAIGHT, HIS POLITICS -- ALWAYS PRINCIPLED.

THE NAME "BLATNIK" HAS MEANT CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP TO TWO GENERATIONS OF MINNESOTANS.

HIS COMPASSION, HIS SENSE OF DUTY, AND HIS CONCERN MARK AN ADMIRABLE RECORD OF ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN OUR SOCIETY WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

HIS EARLY AND SUSTAINED RECORD AS A CONSERVATIONIST AND AS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST, MEAN THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL ENJOY THE SCENIC SPLENDOR OF THIS LAND HE LOVES.

HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS TO BRING A NEW INDUSTRY -- TACONITE --
TO NORTHERN MINNESOTA WILL HELP ASSURE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY.

JOHN BLATNIK'S WORK STANDS AS AN EXAMPLE FOR HIS PARTY,
HIS STATE AND HIS NATION.

HE IS A MAN OF UNCOMMON STRENGTH AND VISION. HE IS A
TEACHER AND A POLITICIAN AND A STATESMAN. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
PROUD TO STAND WITH HIM AND WILL CONTINUE TO REGARD IT AS
A PRIVILEGE TO CALL HIM A FRIEND.

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