



ARGUS OBSERVER
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459 Editorial comment Rest deserved

The announcement that U.S. Sen. James A McClure, Idaho's senior senator, will retire at the end of his current term was not a real surprise to many of his friends and colleagues, but there are few who will say he will not be missed.

Senator McClure, a good lawyer, carried his skills with him when he went to Washington, using them in drafting legislation and in revising proposed legislation to get what he felt was best for Idaho and the nation.

Sometimes termed 'stubborn,' he was always the gentleman, not resorting to some of the tactics other, less polished colleagues have resorted to.

We hesitate to call him a politician in the modern sense of the word. He more aptly can be referred to as a statesman.

McClure had a sense of what was right — and how to achieve that 'right' through proper legislation. He knew how laws were made and how they should be formulated, and he willingly gave the time it took to do that.

The Treasure Valley is proud to claim McClure as a native son who attended Payette schools and was graduated by the University of Idaho College of Law. He joined his father's law firm and served as Payette city attorney and Payette County prosecuting attorney.

He was active in community life, and it was only natural the personable young lawyer should enter state politics. Elected to the Idaho Senate for three terms, he served as assistant majority leader in 1965 and 1966.

A Navy veteran, McClure joined the American Legion. He is a member of the Masons and of Phi Alpha Delta (legal honorary), served as president of the Payette Chamber of Commerce, is a past president of the Payette Kiwanis Club, and is active in the Methodist Church.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966, he served there three terms before moving up to the Senate where he is in his fourth term.

The nation and Idaho will miss his services, but we recognize his desire to have some time to do what he wants. We join his many friends in a heartfelt 'thanks' for the many years of service, and we wish him well in the future, adding that we find it most rewarding to the West that this statesman is returning to Idaho to make his home.