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Sen. McClure Shows Common Sense With Voluntary Retirement

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The announcement of his retirement from elected office last week by U.S. Senator James McClure had both political drama and poignancy. But perhaps more important was the demonstration of a thoughtful maturity quite uncommon in long-time public figures.

Most career politicians don't leave office voluntarily. They're having too good a time. They're enjoying the perks of power too much. They know the country can't get along without them in office.

In fact, they usually don't move back to the home state from Washington, D.C.

It looks like Idaho's senior senator is an exception to the rule. Although he took longer to make his decision than perhaps was fair to his constituents -- and those who want to fill his seat -- he said he was going to finish up and come home. He wants to be with his family, and he wants to be able to enjoy Idaho while he still has his health and strength.

And that kind of outlook shows a lot of common sense. Which is probably why the voters kept electing him to office.

John Hecht