

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Marks the Passing of Senator Thad Cochran

America Loses a Giant of the United States Senate

In the days since the death of Senator Thad Cochran, there have been numerous tributes and statements of appreciation for his life and legacy. It is fitting that so many have honored one of our most distinguished statesmen.

As a college student in 1972, I was a door-to-door volunteer for his first-ever campaign, viewing him as a hopeful symbol for the future of our state. That began a lifetime of friendship. When I ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, then-Senator Cochran campaigned alongside me, and he served as a role model once I arrived in Washington.

Senator Cochran and I were both born in Pontotoc, and we used to tell a story on the campaign trail about how we were even delivered in the same room of the Rayburn Clinic, he in 1937 and I in 1951. Only later did

we learn that the clinic had moved down the street in the years between and that we had not even been born in the same building. Still, remembering the story made us smile from time to time and was emblematic of our friendship. As a former campaigner and eventually his Senate colleague, I have always been grateful for Thad Cochran.

Though Much is Taken, Much Abides

Senator Cochran shared his keen intellect and servant heart with everyone he met, becoming an Eagle Scout, accomplished pianist, valet, student leader, Congressman, and Senator. His first job was at Gunn's Dairy Bar in Jackson. His last was as the 10th longest-serving senator in U.S. history. To paraphrase Tennyson, though much is taken with this loss, much abides of his enduring legacy.



Perhaps the greatest reason for most of our failures is simple neglect. In the outdoor world it may be that we neglected to check to see if our scope was accurate before we went on our hunt. Or it may be if we had not neglected to retie our spinner bait, that bass would not have broken the line.

Neglect comes in many forms when it comes to hunting and fishing. Just the other day I was reminded of this truth. I had already gone through two anchors this year. Once, while river fishing, my son had lost one. He neglected to make sure it was tied securely. Just a few days later I was forced to cut my anchor cord because I was unable to get the anchor unstuck from where it had planted itself. And now, only three days later, I was back with a new cord and anchor. I thought I had tied it securely. I had even made sure to pay attention to the knot each time I retrieved it from the bottom. And even though I noticed it had not seated itself tightly enough, I thought nothing else about it. A few minutes later, as I tried to pull the anchor back in the boat, I noticed that the cord was weightless. It had become untied. I had neglected to notice it loosening before. I immediately looked to my left to try to mark just where the boat was sitting because I knew the current would take

me quickly downstream. I made my way back to the bank and made plans to put on my best deep-sea diver imitation. At 9:00 a.m., after a few cold and wet dives, I retrieved it from the bottom. I didn't want my neglect to cost me anymore than it already had.

Neglect is costly. Sometimes the price is not exacted until later. This means we may think the consequences of neglect are minimal or even non-existent. So, we continue down a certain path thinking the things in our life will stay as securely fastened as they were the last time we checked. Then something happens and we reach for our anchor and discover it is no longer to be found. Our neglect has caused us to become disconnected from it. It is still there where we left it. It is still in good shape. It is still holding on – firmly attached to a solid foundation, but we have floated past it and are now left to the will of the current. Perhaps today is a good day to mark the place where you were last attached to your anchor. Perhaps today is the day to decide that neglect has already cost you too much and it's time to take the dive to retrieve that which holds your life steady in the midst of troubled waters. Perhaps today is the day to come back to your spiritual foundation.

gary@outdoortruths.org

He was the first Republican elected to statewide office from Mississippi since Reconstruction. He took his commitment to represent and work for all Mississippians seriously, hiring the first African-American congressional staffer from our state in one hundred years.

Farmers know his work to strengthen agricultural communities during his chairmanships of the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees. With his help, our growers took their skills and knowhow to train more than 18,000 of their counterparts from around the world through the Cochran Fellowship Program. He made his educator parents proud by championing higher education programs here at home, including for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and in rural areas like the Mississippi Delta.

He was a strong and effective voice for America's defense infrastructure, including shipbuilding programs for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. He also led the National Missile Defense Act of 1999, which created our current missile defense program.

Senator Cochran cast more than 13,000 votes during his career. But one moment in particular cemented his place in the Magnolia State's history. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the worst

natural disaster our nation has ever seen, he led his colleagues to secure billions of dollars to rebuild. The Gulf Coast has come back today in no small part because of these actions.

'The Quiet Persuader'

Though Senator Cochran

was one of the most powerful people in Washington, he did not seek attention. He was on Meet the Press only twice in his 45 years of public service. He faithfully represented all Mississippians and earned the nickname "the Quiet Persuader."

When he left the Senate, he said, "I am optimistic about the future of our great nation, and in the United States Senate's role in determining that future." I am, too. The example of Thad Cochran should give all Americans reason to be optimistic.

CLASSIFIED ADS

3 CEMETERY PLOTS

in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Lexington, known as Lot No. 606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for transfer of Trust Receipt and warranty deed for Lot 606. \$1500 total.

2-1ftfn

"IF YOU ARE LOOKING

to rent a relatively new brick home, check out this beautiful house located in Cruger, MS just a few miles from Lexington, MS. It has 3 bedrooms, bathroom, utility room with washer and dryer, car porch and storage house. You can contact the owner, Mr. Al Freeman on 703-339-4597 for more information to arrange to see the house."

6-13,20p

USE DD-33 TO CONTROL fleas & ticks on dogs & CATS!!! LEXINGTON FARM SUPPLY. 834-3388 (www.fleabeacon.com)

6-13,20,27p

NOTICE

The Board of Levee Commissioners for the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, Clarksdale, Mississippi is now accepting applications only until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 for the following:

CREWMAN

All applicants must be 21 years of age and possess a valid driver's license as well as a CLASS B Commercial driver's license or be able to obtain a Class B Commercial driver's license within 90 days of employment. The applicant must be physically fit. A list of job duties can be obtained from the Levee Board office. The successful candidate must report to work on time and on a regular basis. The successful candidate must have a positive attitude, follow instructions, and work well with others.

Applicants must provide two (2) previous employers references. All references provided will be contacted. The successful candidate will be required to pass a drug test before being employed. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board does participate in a random drug testing program.

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.

Anyone interested in completing an application can do so by picking up an application at the Levee Board Office at 140 Delta Avenue, P.O. Drawer 610, Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614 or call 662-624-4397.

BRUCE COOK, P.E., P.S.
CHIEF ENGINEER

NOTICE

The Board of Levee Commissioners for the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, Clarksdale, Mississippi is now accepting applications only until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 for the following:

EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

All applicants must be 21 years of age and possess a valid driver's license as well as a CLASS B Commercial driver's license or be able to obtain a Class B Commercial driver's license within 90 days of employment. The applicant must have experience operating a bull dozer and/or excavator in the areas of tree clearing and ditch excavation. The applicant must be physically fit. The position requires other work duties to be carried out in addition to operating heavy equipment. A list of additional job duties can be obtained from the Levee Board office. The successful candidate must report to work on time and on a regular basis. The successful candidate must have a positive attitude, follow instructions, and work well with others.

All applicants will be required to undergo and complete a field test to demonstrate level of experience operating heavy equipment. Applicants must provide two (2) previous employers references. All references provided will be contacted. The successful candidate will be required to pass a drug test before being employed. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board does participate in a random drug testing program.

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.

Anyone interested in completing an application can do so by picking up an application at the Levee Board Office at 140 Delta Avenue, P.O. Drawer 610, Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614 or call 662-624-4397.

BRUCE COOK, P.E., P.S.
CHIEF ENGINEER