

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

GREETINGS FROM SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

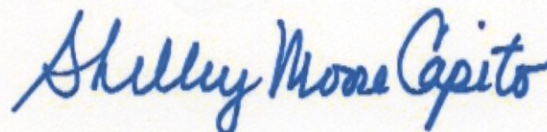
Thank you for inviting me to join you today to celebrate the Robert C. Byrd Traveling Exhibit Finale and the 100th birthday of West Virginia's political icon, U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd. I regret that my Senate schedule prevents me from joining you in person for this momentous event wrapping up the traveling exhibit of Senator Robert C. Byrd.

There is no mistake that Senator Byrd is and will be one of West Virginia's true icons for many years to come. I have great respect for Senator Byrd because he continually improved himself. He was a prolific reader and achieving his education was a priority. Although he was elected to Congress without a college degree, he went to law school at night and received his doctor of Juris Prudence from American University, later receiving his undergraduate degree from Marshall University. He became an expert in Parliamentary Procedure and was skilled at its application to outmaneuver his Republican colleagues. He was also an authority on the Constitution and had great and valid concern over the balance of power between the President and Congress. He rose to the seat of Chairman of the Appropriations Committee wielding him much power and authority. He also served as President pro tempore when his party was in power 4 times. At the time of his death in 2010, he was third in the line of presidential succession, behind Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

I believe there are many lessons to be learned from the grit and determination of Senator Byrd who truly raised himself by his bootstraps, overcoming many obstacles to become one of the most powerful men in America. Although we were never politically allied, we had one thing in common – the well-being of the citizens of our beloved State of West Virginia. We both served in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate with the same intention - representing the people of West Virginia to the best of our abilities and providing the best opportunities possible for her citizens.

I would like to commend the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, the West Virginia Humanities Council, First Energy Foundation, Piper Jaffray, and Comcast for supporting this exhibit. As a result of your effort, this display has traveled throughout the state and the halls of Congress, educating West Virginians and the world about the history of our great state through the life and service of Senator Robert C. Byrd. It is an honor to serve you in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator
November 14, 2017