

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN
West Virginia

Transcript of Video Message for the Reception for the Robert C. Byrd Traveling Exhibit in Charleston, West Virginia. November 16, 2017

Hello, I'm Senator Joe Manchin. In the more than a hundred and fifty years of our state's history, Senator Byrd was one of the greatest advocates for West Virginia. Every day since his passing in 2010, the people of our state have felt the loss of this great man. The Senate also feels the loss because no one knew the Senate's history, traditions, and precedents better than him. He had a sincere passion for the U.S. Constitution and always kept a dog-eared copy in his coat pocket, very close to his heart. Those words guided him every day of the 58 years he spent in Washington as a member of Congress and as a senator. In 2004, he designated September 17 as Constitution Day and introduced the requirement for public schools and governmental offices to provide educational programs to promote a better understanding of our Constitution.

Senator Byrd put significant importance on being a caretaker for our state and its citizens and proudly defended his work to invest federal dollars here at home. He breathed new life into many communities by funding hospitals, highways, universities, scholarships, and so much more.

It is fitting to have had a traveling exhibit for this remarkable man because he impacted our entire state of West Virginia in a profound way. I am proud to join you in honoring this inspirational man who devoted his life to his family and to the public service. I appreciate the members of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, the West Virginia Humanities Council, and the sponsors who made this exhibit possible as well as the communities that hosted the exhibit for all to learn from and enjoy.

Thank you and God bless each and every one of you.