

A Tribute

to



Senator

Joseph I. Lieberman

Connecticut

“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”



Senator
Henry 'Scoop' Jackson

"If you believe in the cause of freedom, then proclaim it, live it and protect it, for humanity's future depends on it."



President
John F. Kennedy



President
Harry S. Truman

"A man cannot have character unless he lives within a fundamental system of morals that creates character."



President
Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt

"We face the future with our past and our present as guarantors of our promises; and we are content to stand or to fall by the record which we have made and are making."

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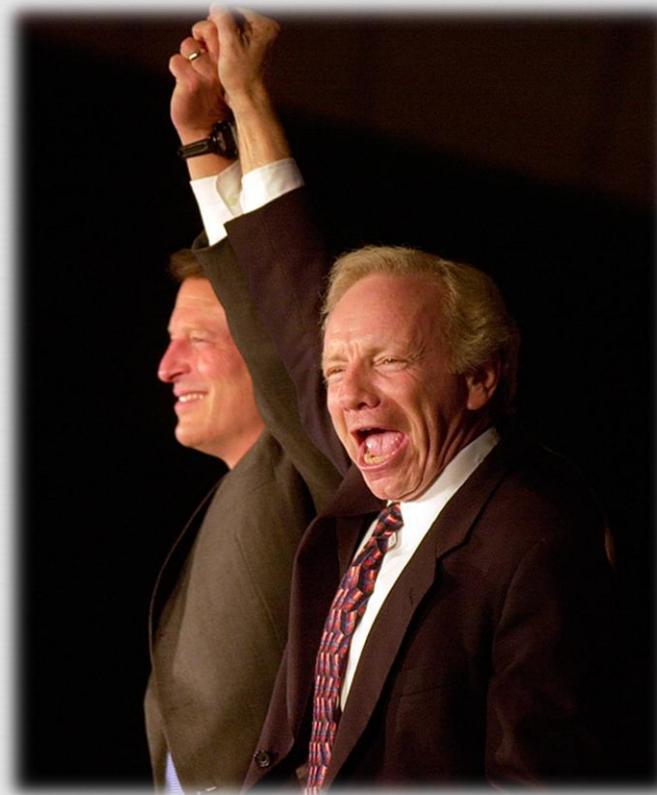
Mike Alexander

Committee Office
2001-2012

“Over these last twelve years I have been honored to work with the Senator on many critically important initiatives that have made the American people safer and more secure. These include historic legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security and reform the nation's intelligence community after the horrific events of 9/11, to build a new FEMA after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and to improve our nation's defenses against cyber attack. Through it all, the Senator has always been focused, serious, effective and perhaps surprisingly to those who might not know him personally, an absolute joy to work with. Through some challenging times on Capitol Hill, I have watched him treat everyone, from his colleagues to his staff, to witnesses before our committee, with the utmost courtesy and respect. He has greeted us each day with a warm, wonderful, genuine smile. And watching the love and devotion he demonstrates towards Hadassah is truly inspiring. He has certainly been a great United States Senator. But he is an even better person. In 2006, when he made me his committee's staff director, I remarked that few African-Americans have been afforded such an opportunity in the United States Senate. But the Senator told me that creating more diversity in the Senate's key positions was just an added bonus. He gave me the opportunity first and foremost because he saw something in me as a person. I've certainly learned a lot about Congress and our government from observing the Senator over these years. But I've learned even more about what kind of human being I should strive to be.”

“It’s hard to single out one specific remembrance with all of the momentous events that happened during my tenure. Wars in Iraq, Monica Lewinsky, video game ratings and the creation of the Silver Sewer Award, 9/11, an anthrax attack, a disputed Presidential election that was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court, and an impeachment of a President are all very memorable.

However, the one event that sticks in my mind is the morning I learned that Senator Lieberman had been selected by Al Gore to be his running mate. After spending the previous day at the Senator's house in New Haven plotting strategy if he was selected, I had heard only about other potential running mates and had pretty much discounted the possibility of a Lieberman Vice-Presidency. So, after seeing my family off on their summer vacation, I went to my gym for a workout. While I was there I happened to look up at the television to see Claire Shipman break into the programming to announce that she had learned that Al Gore had selected Joe Lieberman to be his running mate. I ended my workout rather abruptly and drove home. While on my way I got a call from the Senator on what passed for a cell phone at the time telling me what I had just heard on NBC. The rest of the day was just insane, fielding calls from prominent reporters, Members of Congress, friends of the Senator's and a multitude of others, packing my bags for Nashville, and ending the night there in a staff meeting with Vice-President Gore and his campaign team. Clearly one of the most memorable days of my career in Congress.”



Bill Andresen

Senate Office (DC)
1993-2003



“Lift and Strike Resolution”

My most vivid memory from five years on Senator Lieberman’s staff is his and Senator Dole’s leadership on their "Lift-and-Strike Resolution" to aid the citizens of Bosnia. In 1991, a UN arms embargo intended to reduce the escalation of fighting had the unintended effect of leaving the principal victims of the wars-- the Bosnian Muslims and the new Bosnian Government-- without arms.

The resulting carnage was horrific. While President Clinton had campaigned on the promise to change the Bush Administration's hands-off policy, he deferred to European and UN caution. As the killing, rapes and civilian displacement grew, Senators Lieberman and Dole mounted a multi-year effort on behalf of their "Lift- and- Strike" Resolution-- that is, lift the UN arms embargo and strike by air against Bosnian Serb forces. They faced formidable odds.

The floor debates on the Dole-Lieberman resolution were extraordinary in their intensity. The parallels to World War II, particularly the intentional, genocidal targeting of civilians were obvious. In fact, the first international, Nuremberg-inspired UN war crimes tribunal was established in 1993 to prosecute ongoing crimes.

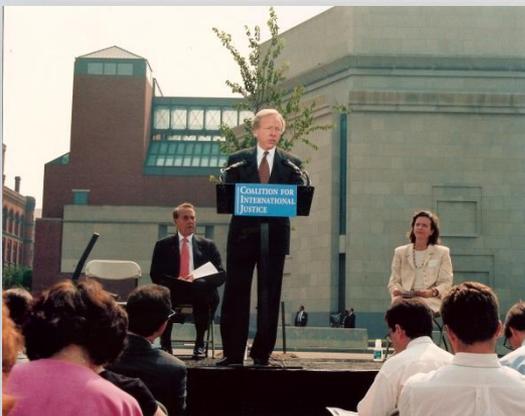
In July 1995, two Bosnian cities which the West had earlier pledged to protect as “safe areas” for civilians, were allowed to fall. In Srebrenica, over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were separated from their families and shot dead, many with hands tied behind their backs. It was the largest mass killing of civilians on European soil since the Holocaust.

Following Srebrenica, Senators Dole and Lieberman pushed their resolution with renewed urgency. The Administration fought back, sending cabinet officials to the Hill to warn that passage would increase civilian casualties, "Americanize" the conflict and create a "humanitarian catastrophe."

When the Dole-Lieberman Resolution finally passed with a bipartisan majority on July 26, 1995, it changed the course of the war. At the time, Bosnian Serb forces had captured 70 percent of the territory, over 100,000 persons were dead or missing and nearly two million people displaced or in exile. The resolution forced the Clinton Administration's hand, as well as the hands of our allies to whom the White House was deferring. Although President Clinton vetoed the resolution on August 11, the votes for an override were there, and US policy began to change. At the end of August, NATO launched a US-led air campaign that ended the worst of the brutality against civilians, leading to negotiations and a peace agreement in December.

I recently looked again at a July 20, 1995 Charlie Rose interview with Senators Lieberman and John Kerry in the midst of the "Lift and Strike Resolution" debate. If anyone has any doubts about how heartfelt and fierce his effort was, how it foreshadowed future events or what he was up against in his effort to help the Bosnians, take a look. <http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/6744>.

Frankly, viewing that 1995 Charlie Rose interview again moved me tears. So does the gratitude of Bosnian and Kosovar Albanian friends who still thank *me* just because I was associated with Senator Lieberman's first term. With these paragraphs, I pass along their gratitude, and add my own.

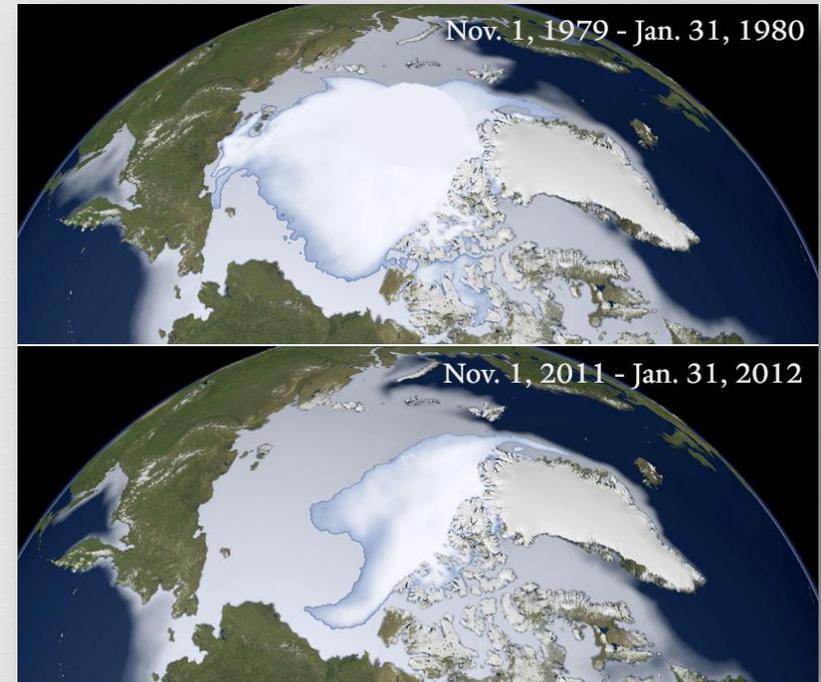


Nina Bang-Jensen

Senate Office (DC)
Committee Office
1991-1996

“I was overjoyed at the opportunity to work for the Senator during the development of the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act. While it was not passed by the Senate, I remain impressed by the way in which it brought stakeholders to the table to engage on key policy issues. Whenever I am troubled by the recent partisanship on climate and energy, I remind myself that it was not that long ago that comprehensive climate and energy legislation was introduced with 5 Democratic and 4 Republican Senators as cosponsors.

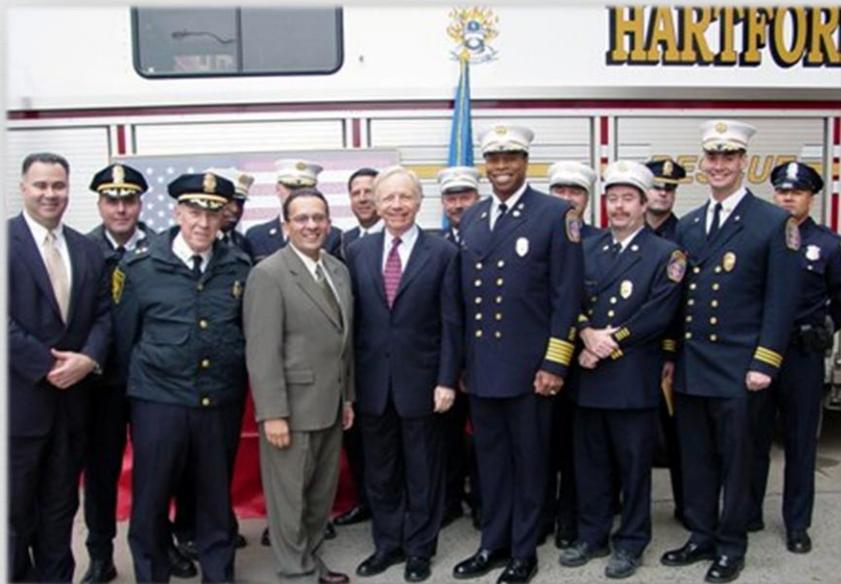
I was one of a long line of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows given the chance to learn just how policy-focused and solution-oriented a Senate office could be and one personal moment stands out as demonstrating the Senator’s leadership, substance, and generosity. As we were in the final floor debate on S.2191, the Senator went to the floor with a chart showing the dramatic change in Arctic sea ice between 2003 and 2007. As we stood in the cloakroom, he surprised me by asking a series of detailed questions about ice dynamics and sea level rise. A few minutes later, he was out on the Senate floor and proceeded to nail all of the key details of this brief conversation while also powerfully articulating the risks from delay in reducing our emissions. He also went out of his way to credit me in the process - an unnecessary gesture, but one that further encouraged me to pursue a role in public service.”



Alex Barron

Fellow
2007-2008





“One of my main responsibilities while working for the Senator on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has been first responder issues. Firefighters, in particular, are a big part of my portfolio, and I regularly meet with firefighters from Connecticut and other parts of the country. What makes these meetings especially enjoyable are the pattern they all follow: Regardless of the issue they initially came to talk about, they inevitably end up in the same place – a discussion about how much Senator Lieberman has helped firefighters over the years and how much they appreciate the hard work he has done for them. From the establishment of the fire grants to his support for the U.S. Fire Administration, the Senator has pushed to make sure that firefighters get the support they need. The affection they express toward him is always genuinely touching, and I’ve been proud of the work I’ve done on Senator Lieberman’s behalf.”



Jason Barnosky

Committee Office
2009-2012

“The Senator pursued Intelligence Reform after 9/11 with determination, insight, and vision. One revealing anecdote stands out. The Senator had requested a briefing on the progress in the Iraq War from the CIA in the late spring of 2004 and I was one of the only staff members with the appropriate clearances so I attended the briefing with him. The two of us were briefed by a senior intelligence officer. At the end of the briefing about the Iraq War the Senator asked what the intelligence officer thought about the speculation that the CIA and the Intelligence Community (IC) should have been able to prevent 9/11 due to the fact that both held many pieces of the 9/11 puzzle before the attack occurred. The officer responded that he did not think that the CIA or the IC could have put those pieces of the puzzle together to complete the “Crossword” puzzle since neither the CIA nor the IC had the picture on the box. Obviously, the officer was stressed, fatigued and he misspoke. But, as we walked back to the Senator’s office we shared knowing glances and then commented that, ‘Well, he meant to say jigsaw puzzle, and Americans have invested billions of dollars in our intelligence agencies to make sure that they can bring the picture on the jigsaw puzzle box into sharper focus in order to protect Americans.’ The Senator was, as always, perceptive, always analyzing carefully, and always focused on getting government to perform in the most effective manner for the American people.”



David Barton

Committee Office
2003-2005

Casework



“I began working in the Senator’s Connecticut office in June 2003 as a Staff Assistant. In 2006, I transitioned to the casework unit as a Congressional Aide and was recently promoted to Constituent Services Director. I have had hundreds of cases come across my desk over the years in the areas of Health Care, Education, Housing, Employment, Social Security Disability (SSD), and Medicare. The majority of them are heart wrenching and some in extreme dire need of assistance. I have been able to resolve cases that involved life threatening insurance claim denials being reversed, provide SSD beneficiaries thousands of dollars in back benefits, and assist homeowners avoid foreclosure.

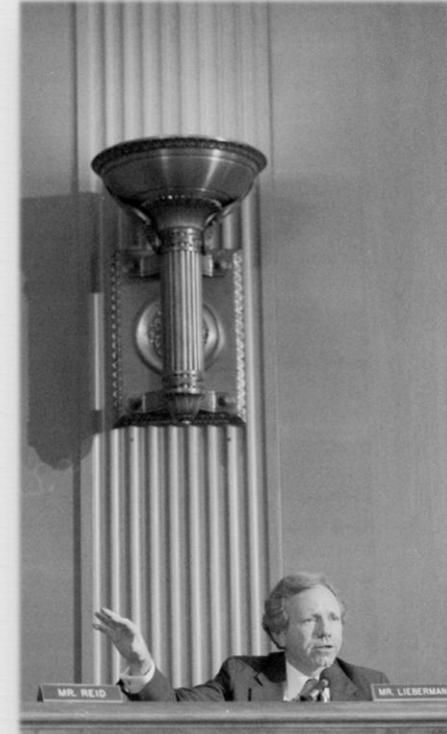
There is one foreclosure case that I will always remember. In March 2009, a constituent who had been working with a HUD approved counseling agency for six months or so regarding a home mortgage loan modification contacted our office. The constituent came to the office late in the afternoon on a Friday and I was in the office until after 8pm looking through the many documents submitted. The short version of the story is, on February 24, 2009, the constituent was readmitted to the hospital. On February 25, 2009, a realtor informed the constituent that the bank owned the home and offered her \$500.00 to vacate the property. It was discovered that the HUD approved counseling agency faxed the signed special forbearance agreement form to an incorrect fax number without the constituent’s knowledge. The agency was not notified of this error until the constituent alerted them of the mistake. She was then informed that she would need to pay \$12,000 immediately in order to prevent foreclosure.

Within two weeks the office was able to prevent the foreclosure and redirect the constituent to a different HUD approved counseling agency for assistance. I later received a phone call and letter from Doug Hageman at the Republican State Central thanking me and the Senator for all the work that was done on this case. I explained to him that my name means nothing when I contact lenders but when I say ‘I’m calling from Senator Lieberman’s Office’ that usually gets the ball rolling!”

Kathy Bass

Senate Office (CT)
2002-2012

“In Joe's first weeks as a Senator, he and the handful of staff who had been hired were located in very temporary quarters in the basement of the Hart building. I was one of the newly hired staff. The Governmental Affairs Committee, on which Joe sat, was about to begin confirmation hearings -- I believe for the nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I prepared -- on the fly -- some background information and questions for Joe for the hearing and handed them to him moments before the hearing was to begin. Walking over to the hearing together, I explained that I had put questions together for him, with some sense of uncertainty because I had never done anything like it before. The Senator put his arm around me and said ‘Neither have I, so we'll just learn how to do all of this together.’ It was the start of a beautiful friendship.”



Aaron S. Bayer

Senate Office (DC)
1989-1991





“Things changed after college graduation when I walked through the door of 706 Hart Senate Office Building. I secured an intern position beginning the first week of January, 2004. After a few weeks of answering phones and sorting mail, I approached Fred Downey and explained my desire to help on defense projects. He acquiesced and I spent the next few months writing policy briefings, working constituent issues, and staffing Senator Lieberman at Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) hearings. As spring turned into summer I realized that I had found my professional calling.

After years of focusing on academic topics, the notion that I could help impact real events proved to be a rewarding revelation. This hit me one day when I was staffing the senator at a SASC hearing in which then-Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was testifying. JIL asked one of my questions and something about it caused Rumsfeld to sit up in his chair and fire back a sharp response. As he answered, he looked past the senator and glared directly at me. My question clearly didn't please him. In the scheme of things, that's an incredibly inconsequential occurrence. However, for a 24-yr old kid, the fact that something I wrote could directly impact the Secretary of Defense was really eye-opening. I was not just reading about events--I could help contribute to their formation.

The opportunities, perspective, and wisdom the Lieberman office (family) afforded me are things for which I will be forever grateful and all oriented my life compass on a path that is centered and true.”



Douglas A Birkey

Fellow
2004-2005

“I helped Senator Lieberman get the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 passed into law. This was a rare bipartisan legislative accomplishment that took two years of working with the “New Dems,” other Senate and House Democrats and Republicans, and the White House to make happen. Although Senator Lieberman was not on the Senate HELP committee, in acknowledgement of the Senator’s leadership on this issue, Senator Kennedy asked Senator Lieberman to join in preparing the Conference Report. We worked throughout August discussing line by line the Senate and House versions to fashion an agreed upon text for the bill. Although this law has received some criticism since, and can be improved, it is breakthrough legislation which supports standards-based education reform, improves the Nation’s K-through 12 education, and provides accountability for educating all students in reading, mathematics and science regardless of their race or ethnicity. States were responsible for developing standards and assessments and Federal and state governments were supposed to provide adequate resources to improve schools.

Additionally, I successfully persuaded the Senator to be a co-sponsor with Senator Bingaman of the bill to award the Navajo Code Talkers the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor for helping the United States win WWII. Since I am from Arizona, it was especially memorable to attend the Ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda with the elderly Navajo Code talkers, their families, the President and the Marine Commandant. It was an honor to work on the Senator's personal staff and serve our Nation.”



Jennifer Sue Bond

Fellow
2000-2001





Homeland Security Department

“On September 11, 2001, I was serving as the Senator's Legislative Director (a job I started when he started in the Senate). I entered the Hart Senate Building early that day and almost immediately after arrival, news of the attacks spread. I was the senior staffer present; sensing the possibility of an attack spreading to the Congress, I directed everyone in the office out. We knew traffic in the DC area would be hopelessly congested, so suggested those with homes or friends nearby go home, and I went with a group to the offices of the Democratic Leadership Council, then on Penn. Ave. on Capitol Hill, where we spent most of the day, shocked by nightmare pictures on television. The Senator spent the day in the basement of the Senate police headquarters near the Senate office buildings and we were in occasional communication- while the area phone systems went down with the heavy call burden, the internet - designed as an emergency system - kept functioning.

Eventually I went home to my wife and sons, a drive that took many hours on the jammed highways.

A week later, the Senate was hit by an anthrax attack, and the Senate evacuated again. Our offices were only a floor away from one of the anthrax sites, and the whole Hart building was then shut down for months - our staff merged, in jammed quarters in with the Senator's Governmental Affairs Comm. staff in Dirksen. Personal and Committee staffs in Congress often live in tension, but our staffs were always well integrated; moving in together assured that the two increasingly became one. Threat can breed creativity, and in this case, I began thinking with the Senator, with the Committee staff director Joyce Rechtschaffen and with our CoS Bill Andresen about the need for a legislative response. Clearly the nation had been entirely unprepared and the need for a new institutional structure became clearer each day.

We began a legislative drafting project within days of the anthrax attack involving nearly all on both the committee staff and personal legislative staff in a series of issue teams; this became the law that created the Homeland Security Department. I oversaw a number of the elements, cooperating with Joyce; working with a talented Science Fellow from Stanford, Yul Kwon, I personally drafted the title for what became the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department - a key policy element contributed by the Senator to the debate. Overall, this effort was one of the most collaborative and creative legislative efforts I was involved in my long Senate career - I know the others felt the same way. Although the Bush Administration initially strongly opposed the proposed new Department, and tried to stand up a responsive effort within the White House itself, the logic of a Department became apparent to nearly all over time - eventually they changed their position, faced I believe with the concrete example of legislation from the Senator illuminated in his relentless hearings. After the hearings, endless redrafting, and highly creative floor leadership from the Senator, legislation eventually passed creating the new Department. While like any amalgam of different agencies coming together under an entirely new mission, this one took time to work. But I believe it is fair to now say that the country is far safer as a result of the Senator's leadership on this effort as the new Department has gradually assumed coherence.”



William B. Bonvillian

Senate Office (DC)
1989-2006

“In July of 2005 the Senator introduced a bill that had been a focus of my fellowship year and that became colloquially known as the China bill (S1117, 109th) which encouraged the teaching of Chinese and cultural exchange between China the U.S. The bill was co-sponsored by Senator Lamar Alexander. The introduction was to be punctuated by a press conference in the lower levels of the Capitol, below the Rotunda, which turned out to be extremely well attended by the media from China. Several other staff and I walked with the Senator from the office to the press conference. We used the time to brief the Senator about the circumstances surrounding the bill’s creation, most importantly our collaborations with representatives from the Chinese Embassy, whose buy-in we had sought and obtained. At one point the Senator asked: “why am I co-sponsoring this bill with Senator Alexander (R-TN)?” I explained that this was due to strong suggestions thereto by our Chinese collaborators, who insisted that this bill be bi-partisan. I remember the Senator rolling his eyes silently pointing out the irony that this position was taken by a distinctly one-party oriented government. I then went on to offer another suggestion: “perhaps the Chinese feel that you are not moderate enough”. I felt an awkward pause, but found to my relief that the comment was received as intended humor. I would not have mentioned this again if it were not for the fact that less than a year later the Senator chose to run as an Independent: according to the Chinese he now could have introduced the China bill all by himself.”



Paul Brand

Fellow
2004-2005

Adriaen's Landing



Sherry Brown

Senate Office (CT)
1989-2012

“I am the luckiest Lieberman staffer. I have a corner window office that overlooks the CT River. But that’s not why I like it so much! For the past 24 years I have watched the CT Riverbanks on both Hartford and East Hartford come to life. Federal Highway Transportation funds that our office fought for year after year made it possible for the people of the region to be reconnected with their waterfront. With the water in sight, local visionaries in the business and non profit communities developed a place called Adriaen’s Landing, after Adriaen Block, the Dutch trader and explorer who landed on Hartford’s banks in 1614. Where an old gas company eyesore once stood, a sweeping convention center and hotel now occupies a front row seat to the river. Visitors to Hartford can view the daily activities now present on the river from the terrace at the Convention Center. Teams of inner city kids row; Dragon Boats from all over the world compete; and Latin Guitars Under the Stars and a wide array of musical concerts entertain thousands. Finally, the state of the art Science Center of CT has risen next to the Convention Center and Hotel and connects to the Riverfront Plaza. I take pride in knowing that Adriaen’s landing was funded by millions of dollars of federal funding that the Senator and our team made a priority to fight for. Watching the dozens of school buses that pull up daily to the Cesar Pelli designed center is a thrill that can only be felt by one who has been a part of the group that made it possible. Even though it’s a cloudy day today with rain likely, there is constant activity on the Riverfront. Young people are running across the bridge to East Hartford; older folks are strolling to Hartford. The Marines are training on the plaza. We did a good thing.”

In December 1997, UConn Men's Soccer Coach Ray Reid contacted Senator Lieberman's CT District Office for assistance in helping a soccer recruit – Mansour Ndiaye – secure a student visa. Mansour entered the USA on a tourist visa which subsequently expired. Coach Reid wanted Mansour to play for the UCONN men's soccer team but only if he was reinstated into valid visa status. Coach Reid asked for help expediting Mansour's permanent residency interview at the INS New York City District Office. I was successful in expediting the interview but the examiner denied the adjustment application because of documentation problems. Mansour was now in jeopardy of being deported as an illegal alien. An immigration attorney was hired to submit an application to reinstate Mansour into valid student visa status. Senator Lieberman agreed to speak to the INS Vermont Service Center (VSC) Regional Director and advocate for the reinstatement petition's approval. My arguments worked and Mansour went on to graduate from UConn with academic honors and played on the 2000 UConn Men's National Championship Soccer team. Post-graduation, Mansour was employed by UConn and eventually earned a doctorate degree. He married Denise Zamore and I attended the Justice of the Peace wedding at Vernon Town Hall. Mansour and Denise are now parents to an adorable son – Alex – see attached photo. Mansour became a U.S. citizen and works at UConn as an Assistant Professor.

Mansour calls me “mom”, and likewise I call Mansour “son”.



Laura Cahill

Senate Office (CT)
1989-2012



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



"In 1992, Senator Lieberman led the first filibuster of a comprehensive energy bill in order to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We'd worked for months to build a coalition on and off the Hill to support it. In the final weeks he'd been battered by ferocious lobbying--including an op-ed in the Jerusalem Post questioning his devotion to Israel--and the Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee had taken to referring to him only as, "my freshman colleague." I sat next to the Senator on the Senate floor as the final vote was cast. I was keeping count and my fingers were sweating and the ink was smeared. The chamber was packed. When we won, everything went silent. Joe turned to me and said, "this is my best day." Then pandemonium set in.

I loved all of my time working with Senator Lieberman and the gang (on the campaign in 1988 and as Environment Legislative Assistant 1989 -1995). Here is a photo taken of me, the Senator, EPA Administrator Bill Reilly, and the beloved Jimmy O'Connell on our first environmental adventure--a tour of Long Island Sound during which the Senator and Jim Kennedy buzzed Katharine Hepburn's house in a helicopter, and the Senator had an epiphany about the function of wetlands, having now seen them from above. "They're the lungs of the operation," he said. This trip laid the foundation for the legislation that followed to protect Long Island Sound (LIS), creating the LIS EPA office, expanding and creating new fish and wildlife refuges and other protections on the Sound and along the Connecticut River and the Farmington River, and ultimately creating Connecticut's first national park, Weir Farm."

Barbara J. Cairns

Senate Office (DC)
1989-1994

“One of my most memorable experiences was working with Senator Lieberman on the Environment and Public Works Committee. It was the final year of Senator John Chafee's leadership. The dedicated, thoughtful bipartisan spirit of collaboration on the Committee had helped shape some of the nation's most important environmental safeguards. I recall a number of committee meetings where Senators from both sides of the aisle sat around a table to hash out ideas to move forward when an issue was at an impasse. Often, Senator Lieberman's sense of humor helped soften the atmosphere when frustration began to mount. (He and Senator Lautenberg had quite a series of jokes going behind the dais.) Unfortunately, times have changed, and only a few years after Sen. Chafee's passing, deliberations about protecting the commons have become bitterly polarized. I was tremendously proud to work with a leader who brought such fair-minded conviction to his work on clean air, clean water and protecting public health and special places in Connecticut and around the nation. His approach to leadership helped shape policy and elevate the level of civic engagement.”



Alyssondra Campaigne

Senate Office (DC)
1999-2000





“I have been in Washington DC since 1976 and without Senator Lieberman, I never would have experienced politics. In 2006, I became a temporary resident of the Residence Inn in Rocky Hill and helped Senator Lieberman win his Senate race as an Independent.

In April 2011 I was honored to become one of the oldest "interns" on the hill.

In 2012, Hadassah, Senator Lieberman and I join 5,000 people for the Race for a Cure in Israel.

Thank you for this wonderful experience, it has truly changed my life.”



Marie Carr

Senate Office (DC)
2011-2012

“Every morning on the 2000 Vice Presidential campaign I would remind the Senator that ‘**we did not come to play.....**’ and his response would be ‘**no, we came to win.**’ He and I still say that to this day. He has not lost the hunger to win and you see that in his efforts on a daily basis.”



Brendan Carroll

Senate Office (DC)
1996-1999



“My fondest memory of working for Senator Lieberman was in early 2009, during the debate on the American Recovery Investment Act, when I had the privilege to watch from the sidelines as Senator Lieberman's actions made passage a reality. However, what stuck with me most from that time was not the work being done on the Senate floor, but instead, it was the sense of community among the Lieberstaffers and our shared commitment to the Nation. The environmental team had decided on the Friday evening of the debate that we wanted to stay late to see what would happen. Senator Lieberman was surprised to find us still in the office, but we explained that we were there to witness history in the making. I will never forget Senator Lieberman's invitation that we join him in his office to share Shabbat together. This short break in all of the chaos on the floor served as a reminder of the importance of a commitment to public service and a commitment to one's self, two lessons I carry with me to this day.”

Ellen Cohen

Fellow
2008-2009

“In 1992, I applied to a variety of graduate schools and law schools and like other Lieberstaff alums, John Selman and Tor Cowan, I ended up at The Maxwell School at Syracuse University, Michael Lewan’s Alma Matter. I wrote my entrance essay from the heart, in one draft, and as I read it back, it is still significant today. The events described in the essay, including Senator Lieberman’s 1991 ANWR filibuster, still stand today as the driving force and influence behind my interest in having a career in the environmental field. Below is the excerpt from the essay that talks about Senator Lieberman and what a huge influence he had on my life and career: ‘...Upon graduation from college, I sought a position with United States Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT). I was impressed by his pro-environment legislative record and was honored to accept a position as a Receptionist, then Legislative Correspondent, in his Washington office. This unique experience provided me with an invaluable apprenticeship to learn, understand, and appreciate America’s legislative system.

One event which was particularly meaningful to me was the defeat by the Senate in 1992 of the motion to proceed to the Johnston/Wallop Omnibus Energy Bill. For the first time in nine decades, the Senate stood in opposition to increased domestic production of oil in favor of preserving one of the world’s last pristine wilderness areas – the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I tracked the development of this legislation, responded to constituent and industry concerns and briefed the Senator regarding their views on this issue. I also learned to recognize and understand the competing interests of business, environmentalists, and the government that were prevalent during this process. I watched with admiration as my Senator led a successful filibuster against this environmentally unsound proposal and I was proud to have added my contribution to its demise.

My extraordinary experience in Washington, DC confirmed my belief that the means to make improvements in the quality of our environment exists and that dedicated, hard-working individuals can make a difference. A Master’s degree in Environmental Policy from the Maxwell school, combined with the insights I gained on the environment and the legislative process, will enable me to effectively contribute to what I consider to be the critical concern of our time, the cleanup and protection of the environment.”

Thank you, Senator Lieberman, for your guidance, passion and integrity, it made a huge impact on my life. I am forever grateful.”



Shelley Cohen

Senate Office (DC)
1991-1992



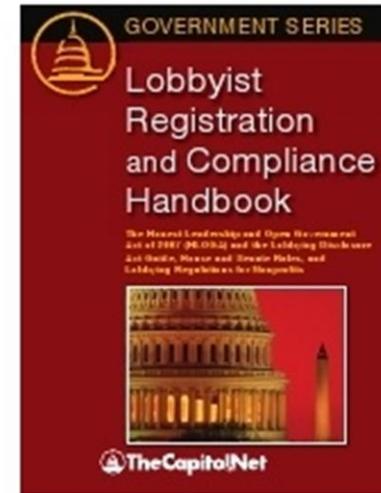


“As a staff assistant, my passion to help the constituents of Connecticut grew even more during my tenure after I fielded a phone call from a desperate senior citizen regarding her health care coverage. She explained that living on a fixed income meant that each month she was challenged with either paying for prescription drugs to remain healthy, or paying her electric bill. My heart was filled with both compassion and empathy after obtaining her contact information to forward to the Legislative Assistant that handled healthcare reform subject matters. I’m proud that I worked for the Senator and was able to assist constituents’ voice their concerns, and help resolve some. I am grateful for my experience on Capitol Hill which has guided my career path in the direction of governmental affairs and public service efforts that include mentoring high school students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and also serving as a female delegate to the Democratic National Convention.”

Lori D. Coombs

Senate Office (DC)
1999-2000

“In 2006, in the wake of Jack Abramoff's lobbying scandal, Senators Lieberman, McCain and Collins began pushing a bill to enact broad reforms to the Lobbying Disclosure Act and Congressional ethics rules. One day I went with Senator Lieberman to a closed-door meeting of a bipartisan group of Senators to discuss the bill. Despite the clear need to reassure the American people that Congress is not a bunch of crooks, the resistance to giving up perks was clear! I remember one Senator saying, "Well, you know, if a lobbyist buys you a meal, it's really not a gift!" Senator Lieberman pushed on. He managed the bill on the floor and got it through the Senate, but the House passed a weak bill and we never went to conference. In 2007, Senator Reid reintroduced the bill as S. 1, and again Senator Lieberman managed the bill through Senate passage. The overwhelming votes in favor of the bill in each Chamber masked the private discomfort that many Members still had with the new ethics restrictions. Senator Lieberman resisted suggestions for weakening the bill in conference and in September 2007 Congress finally got a bill to the President's desk with the most sweeping reforms in over a decade -- including a ban on gifts from lobbyists! (And FYI, meals are definitely gifts!)”



Troy Cribb

Committee Office
2005-2012



Relief for American Detained in Russia

“Sometime around late 2006, early 2007, we got word of a case of an American citizen held under questionable circumstances and terrible conditions in Russian detention about to be considered in a Russian court. The American was in serious medical condition, and his health was deteriorating rapidly. The only hope for the person's recovery was to be released to seek medical treatment outside the prison. I worked with the State Department's Russia desk and the Senator's Hartford constituent office to get the facts of the case together, including information provided by relatives of the detained American. I helped draft a letter from the Senator to a Russian official demanding just, fair, and humane treatment for the American and demanding his immediate release to seek life-saving medical care. As the clock was ticking to the next day's hearing, we faxed the Senator's letter to Russia. The American was released, to his family's great relief, and the Senator's letter played a major role.”



Cherrie Daniels

Fellow
2006-2007

“Senator Lieberman gave a speech after the fall of the Soviet Union that laid out what had happened and what was at stake. We had worked on legislation that was included in both the SEED and FREEDOM Support acts for post-Soviet engagement with Russia and the New Independent States. About a year later, I was talking with colleagues who worked on Russian issues and they were complaining about Congress and how people on the Hill were not informed on foreign policy. Then one of the most dour of the group made a comment that made me smile. He said there was one exception; he heard a speech from Senator Lieberman of Connecticut about the collapse of the Soviet Union and what the United States needed to do going forward. He said he thought it was the best analysis he had come across on this issue. This guy wouldn’t give you sweat in the summertime, but he certainly got it right. That was and is Senator Lieberman. He is his own best advisor, and his considerable intellect is only matched by his integrity. Working for him was one of the best professional experiences I have ever had. He is a mensch.”



Bill Danvers

Senate Office (DC)
1989-1993



“Senator - I write this at a time when my proudest achievement, personally and professionally, is at risk of being nullified by the Supreme Court. Though I wait with baited breath, and know that the odds may not be in our favor, I still have only positive memories of that year we spent working on health care reform. I remember, vividly, the days of the public option, the days AFTER the public option, Saturdays during Snowmageddon where Members were paying house-calls to your office and we were one pair of dry, brown socks short, to the final days of passage, and, ultimately, questions over whether we should have done more, or done some things differently. Though the law you worked so hard to make as great as it could be is in jeopardy, I am proud of that year, proud of the work you allowed me to do for you, your constituents, and the American people. I tell people that working for you, especially on the Affordable Care Act, was too amazing to describe, too stressful to convey, and something I will forever hold close to my heart. Heck, the death threats, phone stalker, and my name and number published on a national blog - it was all worth it. Thank you for that privilege; I hope you remain proud of what you accomplished.”



Shoshana Derrow

Senate Office (DC)
2009-2011

“Despite having served in the congressional office of Senator Joe Lieberman for only 10 months as a Health Fellow, I had too many professional and career-influencing experiences to describe in this limited space. I left with a profound respect for the Senator, his staff, and the US Senate.

It is a specific personal experience, however, that still touches my family and me today. Embarking into a new fellow program designed for pharmacists to gain experience on Capitol Hill, I knew I wanted to be in an office that was progressive on healthcare legislation. At the same time that I was a Fellow, my older brother, a Major in the US Army, was serving a 15-month deployment to Iraq. I knew it would be difficult to work in an office every day that didn't support the mission that my brother was on during his deployment. Because of this, Senator Lieberman's office was a perfect fit professionally and personally. When my brother returned home from Iraq, Senator Lieberman was willing to meet with him. I stood in the corner beaming like any proud younger sister while Senator Lieberman listened thoughtfully as my brother spoke about to his experience leading a Military Transition Team. It was an amazing homecoming gift for my brother and it reinforced his decision to continue to dedicate his career to the military.”



Anna Legreid Dopp

Fellow
2007-2008





Fred Downey

Senate Office (DC)
2000-2008

“During more than twelve years on Senator Lieberman’s staff I had the privilege of working with the Senator on many issues that had an impact on the citizens of Connecticut, and indeed on the security of our nation. We grappled with the most serious question a Senator can confront – whether or not to vote to send our nation to war. We also grappled with less weighty questions, such as whether to continue to build a particular weapon, or support adding money to the defense budget for a new, promising but untried technology. Many of these weapons were proudly made by Connecticut workers, in factories that had a storied history and our success often had a “life or death” undertone. We aggressively supported the Connecticut workers in these matters because Senator Lieberman knew that they provided critical value-added capability to our military, and that every decision impacted the lives of real people in Connecticut. And we were usually successful because of the regard that the Senate held for the Senator’s knowledge and character.

But one issue during that decade impacted both our national security and the people of Connecticut in equal measure. In 2005 the Pentagon proposed to close the Submarine Base New London. An inevitable consequence of that decision would have been the closure of Electric Boat in Groton. In short, the result would have been the permanent loss of the nation’s only submarine base in the northern US, and of the only company capable of designing and building nuclear submarines. This proposal was potentially so damaging to the United States and to Connecticut that it generated an unprecedented unified effort by the Connecticut Congressional delegation, the Governor of Connecticut, and a local citizens group in Groton.

As the senior defense oriented legislator, Senator Lieberman was expected to put together and oversee the plan to save the sub base. And, I might add, he would certainly have received the largest share of the blame for failure. The game plan was to establish a defensive team comprised of experts in Connecticut to scrutinize the government’s case to find the holes, and an offensive team, which I ran on a day to day basis, to put together a winning plan. Senator Lieberman was truly the team captain. His job, which no one else could do, was to ensure we stayed unified and were working the plan. This was no small task. The large consequences and nerves interacted often to require the Senator’s calm, steady hand to keep the team on message and on track. His skill was tested in a team meeting the night before the team was to present its case to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, which would decide our fate. His calmness brought us all through that crisis and instilled a winning attitude that was important for the team presentation the next morning. At that presentation Senator Lieberman gave a truly remarkable closing argument. No one doubted that it was this argument that persuaded the Commission, and that we had won.”

“I staffed the Senator during the debate on President Clinton’s health bill in 1993-94. We worked within the self-named Senate Mainstream Coalition to advance a bipartisan alternative. We started with 5-6 Senators, and grew out from there. Senators and staff spent endless hours in Senator Chafee’s hideaway debating and reaching consensus on the detailed substantive issues in an effort to design a system that would both work and get enough votes. And we engaged Connecticut residents, who were seemingly split equally for single payer, managed competition, and nothing. Vicki drafted answers to thousands of letters; Joan organized meetings. Bill B. and I prepared endless memos. The Senator, always patient, quickly mastered the details. We didn’t succeed, but I think we laid important groundwork for the recent debate and gathered both political and policy lessons. Ours was the last bill standing in 1994; it took 16 more years to get a law. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but Connecticut and the nation can be thankful for the Senator’s support. I will miss the Senator’s resilient and effective championing of pragmatic, progressive policies, bipartisan or not, that make our world a better place.”



Elizabeth Drye

Senate Office (DC)
1993-1995



“I remember planning and staffing the Senator’s visit to the home of second-grade teacher and single mother, Mary Ellen Babik, who would not have been able to purchase her home without the first-time homebuyer tax credit. I was nervous because it was my first time meeting the Senator and he, of course, teased me about yet another ‘K’ name in the Connecticut office. Of all the events I planned, this small visit was my favorite because it celebrated the success of the original homebuyer tax credit and its extension, both of which the Senator was instrumental in passing. As a housing caseworker, I witness firsthand the importance of these programs that allow constituents to purchase their first homes or provide assistance when their homeownership is in jeopardy. It’s been an amazing experience assisting excited, would-be homeowners in understanding what programs can help them afford a home. Even more rewarding (yet challenging), is my work helping struggling homeowners who have fallen on hard times. I’ve heard countless stories about illness or job loss threatening the homes of hard-working families statewide. It has been a privilege to help these individuals as they fight for the homes they grew up in or where they raised their own families. Few things have meant more to me in my career than receiving that first thank you letter from a constituent who was grateful to the Senator for saving her home. It has been an honor to be a part of this team.”



Katie Durand

Senate Office (CT)
2010-2012

Nurse Reinvestment Act

“My tenure in Senator Lieberman's office began on the day that he was selected as Al Gore's running mate. What a way to begin! While he was on the campaign trail the staff spent time documenting his record -- a task that proved to be a great learning tool for me as a new hire. My policy areas were health, welfare, social security and labor issues.

The following year was the September 11th attacks, the anthrax attacks, and Enron. It was a tumultuous time but the staff worked very hard to respond to these events and work on other legislative priorities. In the wake of September 11th and the anthrax attacks, Senator Lieberman spearheaded new programs to fight bioterrorism and to improve emergency responses. These initiatives were included in the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act and the legislation establishing the new federal Department of Homeland Security. In addition to his own staff in DC being exposed to anthrax, Connecticut lost a citizen to the anthrax attacks and the postal facility in Wallingford, CT was found to be contaminated by anthrax. The Governmental Affairs Committee led hearings on the public health response to the anthrax attacks, calling for better local, state and federal coordination.

Other legislative achievements that year included a major initiative to curtail the ongoing nursing shortage. Senator Lieberman contributed key policy provisions to the Nurse Reinvestment Act which was signed into law. Senator Lieberman's provisions provided incentives for nurses to stay on the job and established a scholarship program for nurses working towards a Bachelor's degree in nursing.

Senator Lieberman was involved with the biotechnology, VA and medical communities in CT on a regular basis. He was outspoken when cuts were proposed to the Newington, CT VA hospital and met with the Veterans Administrator Secretary Anthony Principi. He showed leadership on National Institute of Health (NIH) issues. Senator Lieberman was a stalwart when it came to helping working families. He recognized the importance of providing supports like child care and the Earned Income Tax Credit and opportunities like job training to make work a reality for families with children.

During my years working for Sen. Lieberman there were many proud moments, but I was particularly proud of our work with colon cancer prevention and teen pregnancy prevention and the New Democrats welfare reauthorization bill, which included more child care funding, benefits for legal immigrants, reasonable work requirements with job training, and supports for non-custodial parents. I was also very proud of our work on the "Faith based" bill which included a major increase in funding for the Social Services Block Grant and in the 2004 Presidential campaign, which included the first paid family leave proposal by a presidential candidate

It was a pleasure and an honor to work for Senator Lieberman. One of my favorite moments was when I told him I was pregnant with my first child. His response was so lovely. I wish him all the best post-Senate!”

Debbie Forrest

Senate Office (DC)

2000-2003

“As a staffer for Senator Lieberman I held several different jobs, from the front lines – as a Staff Assistant in Washington, to the trenches – as Labor Coordinator for his 2006 re-election campaign. As a Legislative Correspondent, I responded to constituent mail on the Senator’s behalf. And as the Senator’s driver, I had the distinct privilege of witnessing the Senator at work in his mobile office. I navigated the streets of D.C. to deliver the Senator to the Senate floor to fulfill his most important duty – casting his vote.”



Andrew Fraerman

Senate Office-DC
2004-2007



“With a Cheerful Face”



“There is much one comes to admire about Senator Lieberman when working for him, from his work ethic to his intellect to his commitment to his Judaism to his willingness to stand up for his principles. Those traits are well known and often visible to the public.

What especially struck me when working for the Senator, was his genuine affable and friendly nature, one that follows the Ethics of the Fathers recommendation to “receive all men with a cheerful face.” Even in tense and pressured political situations, or when working on tight deadlines to craft the right position paper, perfect a statement, or strike the right note in a speech, it was a pleasure working with Senator Lieberman. And through the years since I’ve left the office, when meeting people who had interacted with the Senator, from former interns, to high-profile columnists, to state troopers, all mention this trait. This is an important example everyone takes away, and a legacy that shouldn’t be forgotten.”



Daniel Freedman

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2009

“As a Science Fellow in the personal office of the Senator, I had the privilege of working on a very broad range of projects. Certainly the highlight of my Fellowship was having the opportunity to apply my extensive background in the semiconductor industry to drafting a key legislative provision on Trusted Defense Systems, in support of the Senator's work on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Providing support on other bills and amendments as well as meeting with constituents were also part of my role.

Additionally, I would like to share an anecdote which illustrates just how varied a day in the office can be.

Although I had a plan for each day, I certainly could not predict what might present itself. I recall with much delight the time I got a call from the front office with a most unusual request. It seems that Gene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon, had unexpectedly arrived at the office and the

Senator was not available to see him. In assessing the situation, the summer intern at the front desk surmised that walking on the moon sounded a lot like science and said, ‘Sherry, can you come out and speak with him?’ Needless to say, the next half hour was one of the most thrilling I had with a constituent, and his concerns were appropriately communicated forward. I was most pleased to be able to support the Senator in this way.”



Sherry J. Gillespie, Ph.D.

Fellow
2008-2009



Graduation for Climate Change



“Having spent a great deal of my career working on air pollution and climate change -- and often, either as a Senate staffer or an advocate, in direct support of Senator Lieberman (e.g., the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the Kyoto Protocol, Chafee-Lieberman, and the McCain-Lieberman and Lieberman-Warner bills), I was especially keen to have climate change legislation graduate from being simply a series of message vehicles to getting on the path to enactment. Late 2007 was our first opportunity to put forward a comprehensive climate bill in the form of Lieberman-Warner, through the regular legislative process, from subcommittee to full committee in anticipation of floor action. Working as Legislative Director with the Senator, David McIntosh and Alex Barron to design a strategy worthy of a truly serious legislator like Senator Lieberman and then execute it by putting together a subcommittee and full committee coalition that included swing members like Senator Max Baucus was especially rewarding because it marked the moment of graduation for climate change as a serious legislative and policy issue, heralding the House's passage of Waxman-Markey in 2009 and the climate policies taken up in other bills and programs.”



Joseph Goffman

Senate Office (DC)
2005-2008

“When I started working on the D.C. portfolio in the committee, I inherited an important issue that Senator Lieberman has long championed – the development of a consolidated headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at St. Elizabeths. Senator Lieberman has continually advocated for this enormous endeavor, through both the National Capital Planning Commission and as Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Due to his tireless work, by the end of 2013 the U.S. Coast Guard will have a new headquarters building and DHS will have installed much of the infrastructure needed to finish developing the consolidated headquarters. When this project is complete, Senator Lieberman will have played an significant role in improving communication, coordination and cooperation among DHS components, furthering his goal of a unified DHS. ”



Elyse Greenwald

Committee Office
2005-2012





“One of the first times that I really understood what a unique opportunity it has been to serve on Senator Lieberman’s staff was on July 23, 2009, when the Senator managed a floor debate in relation to his and Senator Evan Bayh’s dueling amendments on the development of an alternate engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Over the course of the morning, the Senator argued both the merits of the underlying issue, as well as the various offsets that Senator Bayh had proposed to pay for the engine – which would have delayed the procurement of either new helicopters for the U.S. Marine Corps or a special operations forces variant of the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. As the morning wore on, we cajoled letters in support of Senator Lieberman’s position from the Secretary of Defense, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Secretary of the Air Force, Vets for Freedom, Military Families United, Reserve Officers Association, and ultimately enlisted the support of the Senate Special Operations Forces Caucus. As each letter arrived, we’d deliver it to Senator Lieberman, providing further ammunition in his floor fight. Throughout, the Senator gamely called upon his colleagues to join him in refuting the alternate engine’s supporters.

Finally, Senator Bayh’s amendment was defeated in a 59-38 vote – meaning that the first time that almost any member of the Senate voted on the alternate engine, an overwhelming majority voted against it. Although the Pentagon was on our side of the issue, the team in the Secretary of Defense’s office was a bit stunned by the outcome, having apparently figured that the fight was a lost cause in the face of unified support for the program among the chairmen of the congressional defense committees. Although the alternate engine was revived by the appropriators later in the year, that July vote launched a two-year campaign that ultimately resulted in the alternate engine’s termination in March 2011.

As a victory, this one combined the best of both worlds. At the time of its cancellation, the continued development of the alternate engine was costing American taxpayers nearly one million dollars a day and would have cost billions of dollars more over its lifetime. By leading the fight to terminate this unnecessary and wasteful program, Senator Lieberman also secured sole production of thousands of F135 engines over several decades for the workers of Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut. Although victory in this fight would not have been possible without the work of countless individuals – especially the Connecticut workers who demonstrated that they could be entrusted with such an important program – I am confident that we would never have gotten off the ground if Senator Lieberman had not led the fight that one July morning.”

Christopher Griffin

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2012

"I first met Senator Lieberman at a welcome back party in his Senate office in February 2004, after the Senator had dropped out of the Presidential race. As he was circulating and greeting staff (and new fellows such as myself), he asked me what my connection was to Connecticut. I said my mother and her family were from Clinton, CT and that my uncle had worked with the Senator in the Connecticut state house in the 1970s and 1980s.

When he asked me who my uncle was, I said "Tom Wall". Without missing a beat, Senator Lieberman said to me: "He represented New Haven, isn't that right? Was he a Yale?" (both of which I answered affirmatively). Then Senator Lieberman took my hand and said: "I was sorry to learn that your uncle had passed away". My uncle did pass away in 1992 at a young age. To think that Sen. Lieberman who has met thousands of officials in his career, would remember the specifics of my late uncle's legislative career, and to have the decency to offer condolences for someone he hadn't seen in more than 30 years deeply impressed me.

This was my first encounter with Senator Lieberman. I was so touched and thought instantly that this person was so humane and decent.

Senator Lieberman showed that every day for the year I worked for him.

I enjoyed many interesting and challenging projects in my work with the Senator, including the offshore outsourcing white paper, and a competitiveness bill that ultimately became the US Competes Law. But what I will remember most is the Senator's humanity, humility, honesty and decency. Senator Lieberman's presence will be missed in the halls of Congress."

Sara Hagigh

Fellow
2004-2005



Joe Helble

Fellow
2004-2005

“In December 2004, a tsunami struck Indonesia and other parts of South Asia, killing nearly 200,000 people. Bill Bonvillian dropped by afterwards and mentioned that the Senator wanted to know why there had been no warning.

A few days later, in response to a memo outlining what we had learned from the scientific community, the Senator asked what it would cost to build a system of warning buoys whose plans NOAA had been developing. I remember his response to the \$30 million cost estimate clearly, a simple statement that “we should do this” for the developing nations of the Pacific Rim. He asked me to turn the briefing memo into a bill, which I did with a fair amount of help from Bill and Tim Profeta.

Senator Lieberman introduced the bill a few days later and then held a press conference in the Capitol briefing room to announce it. Although the bill didn’t move out of committee, a few months later the president issued an executive order directing NOAA to take the steps outlined in the Senator’s bill.

The Senator didn’t get public credit for this, but as others noted, it was fairly clear that his bill pushed the executive branch to act, and resulted in the development of a system to prevent a recurrence of such a catastrophic loss of life.”

“On January 23, 1989 I rushed down from my dorm room at Catholic University to the Senator’s temporary offices in the former police locker room in Hart to volunteer my services. A bemused Carleen Overstreet, after showing my self-written letter of recommendation to the Senator, directed me to Mike Lewan. Mike (a fan of free labor) welcomed me on board and in the chaotic ensuing weeks assigned me to meet with a diverse group of interest groups welcoming the Senator to Washington ranging from PETA, to a delegation from the Kuwaiti Embassy (who doubted I actually worked for the Senator). Over the next four years I had the pleasure of assisting Connecticut residents with their problems with the bureaucracy, helped research legislation for Bill, Joyce, Sarah, and Aaron, and responded tactfully (with Tor’s help) to the flood of correspondence on everything from the First Iraq War to the Clean Air Act. That experience prepared and inspired me for my next two decades of public service. It also began a relationship that allowed me to witness history up close. From the blistering hot day in Nashville where I wheeled the Senator’s mother onto the War Memorial Plaza to witness Vice President Gore formally announce the Senator as his running mate, to hunting for votes in the snows of New Hampshire in 2004, to election night in 2006, I have always been proud to help an honorable, compassionate, dedicated and effective public leader who has done so much for the Senate and our country. I can’t wait for the next chapter!”



Matt Hennessy

Senate Office (DC)
1989-1993





Sherry Hickey

Senate Office (DC)
1989-2004

“On a TV news program shortly after the November 1988 election, I caught a glimpse of a very happy, newly-elected U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman boarding a plane in Connecticut for Washington, D.C. My attention turned quickly back to my own predicament, that of being suddenly jobless (my boss of 15 years from a Western state had, unfortunately, lost his re-election bid)! Little did I know that I would soon be asked to join Senator Lieberman’s staff, or that I would still be working for him 16 years later! Over the years, the Lieberman office became like a second home to me. From day one, Senator Lieberman set a tone of gentility and kindness that made his office a very pleasant place to work. I have never worked with more wonderful and dedicated people. I have so many fond memories, but one of my favorites is of the day Senator Lieberman called me in to his office to tell me he had seen a letter I had drafted and that he wanted me to do more writing for him. I was thrilled! For many years after that day, I drafted much of the Senator’s personal correspondence for his review. He always seemed to like my writing, which meant a great deal to me! I wanted my letters for the Senator to be as perfect as I could make them! I also served as proofreader of the letters to constituents written by the Senator’s team of legislative correspondents. I had definitely found my “niche” working for a Senator who expected nothing short of accuracy, substance and empathy when it came to responding to his constituents. Thanks for the opportunities you gave me, Senator; I will always be proud that I worked for you!”

“After starting here in 1990, I still proudly serve the Senator, who has earned his rightful place in history (I was excited to first see his name in my son’s history book as the vice presidential nominee in 2000). Clearly, this was not just another job, but instead a place where contributions are valued, great things have been achieved, and the extra step has always been taken to reach out to those whose voices should be heard in Washington.

I supervised a dedicated team of Legislative Correspondents (LCs) and was also responsible for drafting responses for health, environment, and social policy issues. I remember being bombarded with more than 5,000 pieces of correspondence daily during the Clinton Administration health care reform effort (and again during the Obama Administration!). I proudly survived both of those challenging onslaughts.

I fondly remember, as the 2000 presidential campaign came to an end, staff and friends welcomed the Senator back with a party on the last day of his Secret Service protection. My four-year-old daughter, Courtney, was with me and was excited to see the Senator again in person. Courtney “introduced” me to the Senator, saying “This is my mommy,” to which he replied that he knew her mommy and that she works for him. Courtney then placed some chocolates in the Senator’s hands that she wanted to give him. Unfortunately, they had all since melted! The Senator, always gracious, accepted the goopy mess, thanked her, and smiled at her. We still laugh about it – I hope the Senator does, too!

Looking back, I researched, drafted, edited, and proofread tens of thousands of constituent responses; and I take enormous satisfaction knowing that this office has always devoted the time, attention, and detail necessary to thoroughly reply to each and every one of them. I am also pleased to have been part of the strong environmental legacy for which the Senator has long fought. It has been personally rewarding to me to have successfully resolved so many personal issues and concerns on behalf of those who could not as easily have negotiated their way through the often cumbersome maze of government bureaucracy. This includes helping people with health care payment and billing issues, Medicare coverage questions, and concerns about environmental and wildlife protection. Public service is a truly rewarding experience, and it’s particularly meaningful that I could serve in this capacity on behalf of such a respected public official as Senator Lieberman. It has been a fun, endlessly interesting experience, has enlivened my high school reunions, and I only wish the ride could continue!”



Vicki Holleran

Senate Office (DC)
1990-2012



Mystic Aquarium



Nathaniel Hoopes

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2010

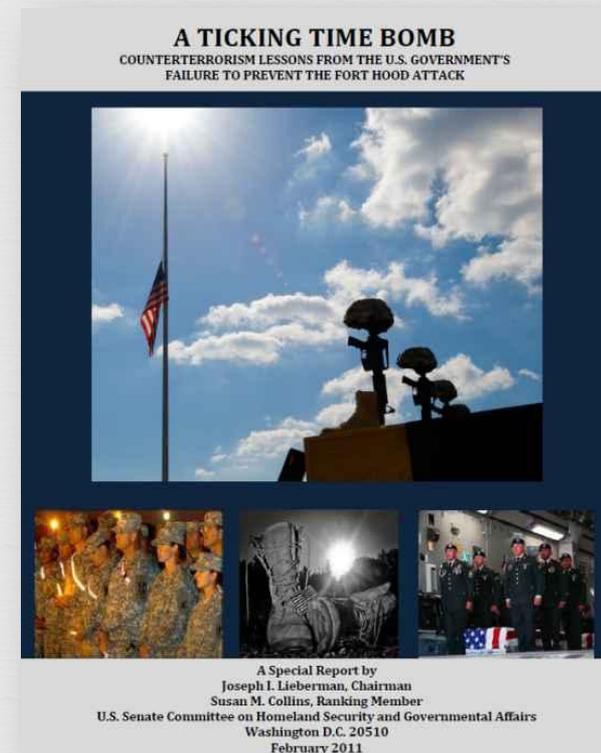
“As a Legislative Assistant working on appropriations, economy and finance issues, I remember very clearly Sen. Lieberman's attention to detail as the financial meltdown reached a crisis point. It was in the late summer and early fall of 2008. The Senator was very hungry for information on the crisis that was gripping Wall Street, the Treasury Department, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. As the Senate considered difficult votes (TARP, ARRA), Senator Lieberman returned my memos on these issues with lots of written comments and questions, always in trademark blue pen. He was focused on what policy was right for the country and never once seemed overly worried about politics or the way it could be spun. Senator Lieberman always seemed quietly determined to put country first. He was that way on the biggest issues and the smallest.

In 2009 I worked behind the scenes to help the Mystic Aquarium - a Connecticut treasure - deal with an outstanding debt problem inherited from previous management.

Another Senator might have advised his staff to simply ignore such a situation, but Senator Lieberman clearly cared about making sure that the Aquarium did not lose its accredited status over a technicality, which could have led to a transfer of the animals or even a shutdown. Sen. Lieberman's leadership on the issue helped avoid a potential immediate disaster, and earned him the gratitude of the people at Mystic.”

“On November 5, 2009, Major Nidal Hasan conducted a homegrown terrorist attack at Fort Hood, Texas killing 13 people and injuring 32 others. Following the attack, Senator Lieberman announced a bipartisan investigation into the attacks. After a year-long investigation, the Committee concluded that the U.S. Government could have prevented the attack. In February 2011, the Committee released a Congressional report entitled, "A Ticking Time Bomb: Counterterrorism Lessons from the U.S. Government's Failure to Prevent the Fort Hood Attack." The report found that although neither Department of Defense (DoD) nor the FBI had specific information concerning the time, place, or nature of the attack, they collectively had sufficient information to have detected Hasan's radicalization to violent extremism but failed both to understand and to act on it. The investigation found specific and systemic failures in the government's handling of the Hasan case. As a result of the Senator's investigation, DoD and FBI implemented a number of the Committee's recommendations to prevent future attacks.

No other public investigation into the attacks was conducted. The facts of the case only saw the light of day because of the Senator's commitment to the truth. There were times when it would have been politically easier to simply let the investigation go but Senator Lieberman stood his ground. The families of the victims now have the only public telling of the events leading up to the attack.”



Seamus Hughes

Committee Office
2006-2011





Framework for Homeland Security

“In fall 2001, I was an all-purpose counsel on what was then the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. Immediately after the September 11 attacks, I was assigned to work on the Committee’s inquiry and response to the attacks – particularly the prescient warning of the Hart-Rudman Commission earlier that year that the United States would face an attack on its own soil and its resulting recommendation to create a Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The months that followed are something of a blur to me now, as we struggled to absorb what had happened and what an appropriate response might be. We quickly held a hearing on the proposal to create a Homeland Security Department, and introduced legislation soon thereafter. The winter and spring were crowded with meetings, revisions, more hearings, negotiations, and strategizing. The Committee ultimately approved legislation to create a Department of Homeland Security in spring 2002, but it seemed destined to fail until President Bush reversed course and backed the idea. Then more blurred months – frantic activity and gridlock interspersed – until legislation creating DHS ultimately passed in the lame duck session.

What is not a blur is Senator Lieberman’s vision and resolve. He quickly determined that the recommendation for a Department of Homeland Security was on target, and was practical, principled and persistent in pursuing that goal. We hit many roadblocks along the way, but Senator Lieberman was patient and optimistic throughout. I am personally convinced that without his leadership and determination on the issue, the Department of Homeland Security would not exist, and his work did not stop there. Senator Lieberman watched over the founding of the Department and has consistently fought to secure the resources and political support to enable it to succeed. He also helped build the intellectual framework for what “homeland security” should be, long before that term had spawned scores of academics or consultants available to opine on the issue. In my past life as a political reporter, I often saw politicians take credit for more than their due. Here, it is hard to overstate Senator Lieberman’s commitment and contribution on this issue.”



Holly Idelson

Committee Office
2001-2012

“Over the years Senator Lieberman has secured millions of dollars for a diverse array of projects in Connecticut from state and municipal infrastructure projects to housing, historic preservation, arts, cultural heritage and social services projects that serve the people of our state. I was a member of the staff team meeting with agencies and organizations, evaluating project requests and preparing recommendations for the Senator. Senator Lieberman was key in securing funding for numerous large, multi-million dollar infrastructure projects that will serve millions of people and contribute to the state economy for many years to come; but his work on behalf of some much smaller scale projects will also pay dividends well into the future, especially his work to enhance educational opportunities for children.

One example of this is the New Haven Reads program, a small book bank and literacy project in New Haven. When they came to us in 2009 they had no previous experience applying for federal funding. The Executive Director had been donating her services full-time for several years, working in a small space donated by Yale University with just a few staff members and 175 volunteers who were matched with 300 New Haven students for one-on-one tutoring, but the program had a long waiting list of students they could not serve. With the Senator’s support, a \$200,000 federal grant was awarded that enabled them to expand their services to include additional students and sites. They are attracting additional private and governmental support and now serve more than 600 students. The program is so popular with area families that they still maintain a substantial waiting list as they continue to grow to meet community needs. They are exceptionally grateful for Senator Lieberman’s interest and support and I am so thankful for the opportunity the Senator has given me to do this very rewarding work.”



Joan Jacobs

Senate Office (CT)
1989-2012





“It was early 1999 and had just started working for the 2000 re-elect out of the DC campaign office when everyone gathered in Hartford for a few days of campaign meetings. The timing happened to coincide with the Duke-UConn basketball game for the 1999 National Championship and the whole staff gathered at Coaches. We all had a lot of fun that night (the highlight was Senator Lieberman leading the whole bar in the U-C-O-N-N chant). Being new to the group I was struck by the closeness of the staff, their commitment to each other and to the work of the Senate office and the campaign. It was the start of many close personal and professional relationships which continue today.”



Ben Josephson

1998-2000, 2003-2006

“I need a book (or two) to capture all that Joe Lieberman meant to me and to the people he served. But here's one brief thought: from riding in a canoe in the polluted Quinnipiac River near the Upjohn plant in North Haven and flying in a Coast Guard helicopter over Long Island Sound, to drawing "a line in the tundra" against drilling in the Arctic Refuge and walking up to the wall of heat surrounding an oil fire in the Kuwaiti desert, it was always a privilege to work with Joe in protecting God's creation, our natural environment, against the crimes and excesses of humankind.”



Jim Kennedy

Senate Office (DC)
1988-1997





“In March 2010, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill and was hosted by Senator Lieberman at a luncheon in the Senator's Capitol hideaway office. My role was to capture the meeting of these two esteemed statesmen, representing two of the world's great democracies, discussing our common values and interests. Photographing this event for history was an exhilarating experience I will never forget.”



Jeremy Kirkpatrick

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2012

“The most momentous single day during my work in the Senate may have been November 15, 2002. On that day two significant bills introduced by Senator Lieberman, which I had staffed throughout the 107th Congress, passed both the House and Senate prior to being signed into law by President Bush. Both bills were a rarity – having been enacted over the initial opposition of both the Administration and the House majority. Yet in other ways the bills were completely different, as were their paths towards enactment. The E-Government Act, introduced early in 2001, was a wonky good-government bill – an important initiative to utilize the Internet and new information technologies to transform the way the federal government did business while establishing greater privacy protections. With little chance the bill could get floor time, the Senator won from a White House witness a commitment to work with us to find common ground. Of course, the tragic attacks on September 11th would consume Congress, and in December of 2001 Senator Lieberman introduced, with Senator McCain, legislation to create what would become known as the 9/11 Commission. The Bush Administration, fearful of an independent inquiry, dug in and opposed the bill despite growing media interest. The day we were able to schedule a vote on the bill as an amendment to homeland security legislation, the President reversed course and supported a commission in theory, although on terms we could not accept. The negotiations and lobbying grew more frenetic as the 2002 session slipped away; at one point the 9/11 family members crashed a meeting Senator Lieberman was hosting, beseeching Administration negotiators to yield. Finally, we negotiated an acceptable compromise with the White House on the key open issues. By sheer coincidence, the two bills that had consumed two years of my life both passed the House in the pre-dawn hours of November 15th, and the Senate later that day. The E-Government Act has become central to the government’s management of its IT resources and the availability of government information and services online. And, as is better known, the dramatic findings of the 9/11 Commission in 2004 led to the restructuring of the intelligence community and the enhancement of our defenses against terrorism – progress that was again secured as a result of Senator Lieberman’s tireless, principled, keenly intelligent, effective, and thoughtful efforts.”



Kevin Landy

Committee Office
1998-2012





Gordon Lederman

Committee Office
2004-2012

“Senator Lieberman has been my role model for being an Orthodox Jew devoted to American public policy, to furthering freedom globally, and to national security in particular. The best word to describe him is one reserved for only a handful of public officials in any generation: statesman. I will always treasure his communications to me congratulating me on my daughter’s birth and expressing his concern and hope when he learned of my illness. There are so many memories to recount, but I will focus on the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) given it is one of the Senator’s many crowning achievements – as he joined with Senator Collins to defeat powerful forces in the Senate, face down the House, and show what true bipartisanship can accomplish. During the debate, a conference call was scheduled for a Sabbath morning. Joyce Rechtschaffen told me that she had a message from the Senator to me that she did not understand – which led to a funny scene of her spelling out a message in Hebrew, which the Senator had transliterated into English, assuaging any concern I might have by telling me it was permissible to work on the Sabbath for security purposes. Another time, Senator Collins and I were hastening to the Senate subway stop in Dirksen, but the doors shut in front of us with Senator Lieberman inside. As the subway whisked away toward the Capitol, Senator Collins pretended to run after the train for a few steps shouting “Joe, Joe!” as Senator Lieberman smiled and staff chuckled. Also, in a display of bipartisan mind-meld, Senators Lieberman and Collins had on their own developed a particular provision in the bill, and then another Senator met with them and coincidentally proposed the same provision. Both he and Senator Collins responded immediately and simultaneously, ‘What a great idea, we’ll definitely add it!’ Finally, Senator Lieberman saved the DNI from being called – as the 9/11 Commission unfortunately proposed – the ‘NID’ (National Intelligence Director) by proposing during the conference that NID be changed to DNI.”

“Normally I would use this occasion to tell a funny story about my relationship with Senator Joe Lieberman. Once in a while he gets the joke too! But this is a serious tribute and so richly deserved that I will restrain myself. At several moments in his career, when he ran with Al Gore, the difficult election of 2006, or the political friendship with John McCain, I found myself being asked by Democratic friends and journalists, *‘what happened to Joe?’* Well the answer is, *‘nothing happened to Joe.’* He is and has been consistent in his political philosophy and moral judgments’ since arriving in the Senate in 1989. One of the most important and interesting projects I worked on in the early days was an interview the Senator gave to the conservative Hoover Institution’s Policy Review journal. Jim Kennedy, our first rate Press Secretary, and I were alone in thinking this a good place for a new Democrat to speak out against party orthodoxy. Even then Joe Lieberman wanted to be a ‘different kind of Democrat’ and Hoover surely paved that road. The Senator talks about a fairer tax system with lower rates and fewer loopholes for business and individuals; reduced capital gains rates so business can grow and prosper adding new jobs and investing in research and development; about a robust foreign policy and a muscular military so that American can defend freedom at home and around the globe; about how preserving and protecting our environment is important for our physical well-being, our economic security and is a moral mandate to leave the world, so richly endowed by our Creator a better place for future generations. The Senator goes on to list his heroes...Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and Senator Henry ‘Scoop’ Jackson. All were models for a strong international presence, a positive but limited role for the federal government, a balanced free enterprise system, a clean environment, affordable and accessible health care and an appreciation that the freedoms afforded us by the Constitution are not free. They come with the obligation to be a careful caretaker, an intelligent patriot and a good citizen. Joe Lieberman has honored his heroes by his selfless service to our nation. Thank you Senator Lieberman for your compassion, courage and counsel. Even in your retirement, I am, *‘STICKING WITH JOE!’*”



Michael Lewan

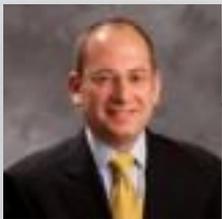
Senate Office (DC)
1989 -1993



“Two CT constituents perish in a small plane crash over the White Mountains during a snow storm. The wreckage was not located until the spring thaw. Family and friends are distraught and confused as to why the aircraft could not be located sooner – possibly saving lives. The Senator pushes legislation, which is enacted into law, to mandate electronic locator transmitters on most general aviation aircraft. A small legislative victory for the Senator ends up being a large personal win for the victims’ families.

Iced tea? No, ISTEA. The Senator understood from the beginning that high speed rail would benefit CT residents, east coast commuters, and the environment. However, existing train tracks along the CT Shoreline were burdened by sharp turns and grade crossings. With the Senator’s unwavering support, and the assistance of many a staff member, the Acela became a reality in 1999. The Senator’s unrelenting advocacy of AMTRAK has improved the lives of millions.

But on a very personal level, there was a time when the Senator made a difference for this Connecticutian. As an intern new to Washington, DC, without a friend or family member in sight, the Senator was good enough to stop-by my desk on a Friday afternoon and invite me to his house for Shabbat dinner. What a thrill. What a way to make me feel welcome. An evening I will never forget is emblematic of the Senator’s good heart and nature.”



Peter Ludgin

Senate Office (DC)
1993-2001

“I joined Senator Lieberman’s staff as an Legislative Assistant in 2001, just before September 11th and the Anthrax attacks in October. Together we fashioned a policy agenda for bioterrorism and infectious disease that led to the enactment of four laws (Public Laws 108-276, 109-148, 109-417, and 110-85). We also fashioned S. 1117, U.S-China Cultural Engagement Act, a far reaching strategy to enable America to deal effectively with China, and S. 1915, the Honest Budget Accounting Act, proposing fundamental budget reform to account for long-term unfunded liabilities.”



Chuck Ludlam

Senate Office (DC)
2001-2005





“When I first joined the Senator's staff I could not have imagined the opportunities that were to come along. The highlight no doubt was the 2000 Gore-Lieberman campaign and the Senator giving me the honor of traveling with him. It was a chance to see our system at work up close and to see the Senator at his best. There are many memories and accomplishments along the way, but nothing compares to having had the chance to work for the Senator. Senator Lieberman epitomizes the ideal public servant. No other public figure I know has served his community, state, and the country better and more selflessly than the Senator. He is what all public servants should aspire to be.”



Nao Matsukata

Senate Office (DC)
1995-2000

“I had the good fortune to join Senator Lieberman’s team in April 2008 as counsel for tax and economic policy. Oil prices were in the midst of their greatest price spike in recorded history, climbing from less than \$53 a barrel in early 2007 to over \$145 a barrel in the summer of 2008. Senator Lieberman rightly suspected there was more behind the skyrocketing prices than simple supply and demand. Through his chairmanship of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, we launched an investigation into the role of excessive speculation in the commodity markets. Two subsequent hearings -- which featured government regulators, market analysts, and key stakeholders - brought to the Nation’s attention in breathtaking fashion the extent to which speculators and passive investors were driving up gas prices.

The oil speculation hearings were just the beginning. In July, Senators Lieberman and Susan Collins introduced the only bipartisan anti-excessive speculation bill ever filed in the Senate. The Commodity Speculation Reform Act included a novel proposition -- the establishment of “aggregate speculative position limits.” Position limits, which have been around for decades, cap the size of any one investor’s holdings in the commodity and commodity derivative markets. Senators Lieberman and Collins proposed to create an aggregate position limit that would cap the overall level of speculative investment in the commodity markets. The two Senators were joined by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Christopher (Kit) Bond (R-MO).

Senator Lieberman’s work on commodity speculation was groundbreaking and paved the road for future policy developments. The aggregate position limits were incorporated in a Democratic Leadership bill that came to the floor, and they were later adopted in modified form in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.”



Ryan McCormick

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2009



Ned McCulloch

Senate Office (DC)
1996-2000

“Family and talent -- lessons from the Senator.

Family--The importance of nurturing your family bonds was demonstrated to staffers every day. On a trip to CT, I observed a Senator who traveled with a mystery novel, briefing papers, and a copy of the Torah in his brief case. His first call off the plane was to his wife, and second to his Mom -- who it turns out was available. So on the way to meet the Chairmen of the Board of GTE, Jimmy was instructed to detour a bit so that a quick visit could be made to Mom. She was gracious to staff, and we got the point. Chairman come and go -- but Moms . . . they stick around.

Talent -- Staffing the Senator was fun, but somewhat superfluous. Whatever we turned out was kindly received, but when pressed the Senator would improvise something that was better. He met with labor constituents without the briefing papers, but did a better summary of the legislation (substantively, politically) than was written up. He gave a speech on Dolly, the first cloned sheep, that was off-the-cuff and had references to the Torah, Bible, and probably the Tao, Te Ching, Qu'ran and a few others. I was so impressed that I stopped eating the continental breakfast (every staffers' right) and sat down to take notes. And goodness, never let him pass the microphone to you when a hard question comes in from seniors at a Center in Waterbury. That's just asking for a whooping.”

“It is axiomatic that the work of a Committee’s professional staff cannot succeed without the support of its chairman. Between 2007 and 2011, I had the privilege of participating in oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) that ultimately prompted DHS to adopt acquisition management reforms. By the summer of 2007, the Department’s signature attempt to improve the nation’s defenses against nuclear terrorism—known as the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal (ASP) monitor program -- was suffering from costly performance failures that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) had traced to overly optimistic assumptions about the readiness of critical technologies. In August of that year, Sen. Lieberman signed a 12-page oversight letter that summarized flaws in DNDO testing practices, and called on DHS to consider a GAO audit of the “validity of DNDO testing procedures” before proceeding with a planned \$1.2 billion investment in ASP monitors. Based on GAO’s findings, Sen. Lieberman later included provisions in a 2008 DHS reauthorization bill (S. 3623) establishing a Director of Operational Testing in the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate to conduct “independent and objective assessments of the adequacy of testing and evaluation activities conducted in support of acquisition programs.” After spending more than \$200 million to develop the ASP monitor, DHS canceled the program. In 2009, the Department adopted the use of independent operational test assessments as the lynchpin of a more disciplined acquisition management process. Today, thanks to Senator Lieberman’s leadership, the DHS Investment Review Board considers those assessments before proceeding with the Department’s largest investments in advanced technologies.”

Jim McGee

Committee Office
2005-2012



Navy Blue Sweater

"In 1994, I worked for the media consulting firm that made JIL's reelection commercials. In late October, we were about to film "the blue sweater" ad - an ad done by nearly every Connecticut pol, where they put on a navy blue sweater, sit in an arm chair next to a fire and ask for your vote. At about 8:30 on the morning of the shoot, JIL called me and said: "Is this the blue sweater ad?"

"Yes.."

"Lori, I hate to say this, but all my sweaters are still in Connecticut."

And I realized I had never told him that he needed to wear a sweater...Sick to my stomach over my mistake I told him not to worry, we would work something out. I then drove to Woodward and Lothrop's in Chevy Chase and bought EVERY SINGLE navy blue pullover sweater they had. Which was sixteen sweaters. We ended up going with a Ralph Lauren sweater that cost \$120. He kept the sweater and after the shoot told me he had never, ever owned a sweater that expensive before. And I loved him for that - for being a true regular Joe that didn't buy designer sweaters and was a little impressed by them. And I loved him for having all his sweaters in Connecticut. And I loved him for being kind to me, even when I made a mistake, even on his closing ad.

And I love his razor sharp wit, his incredible mind, and the fact that he listens to the people he represents and has written laws because of things he had heard in the grocery store. I also love that he actually goes to the grocery store. And I love that he knows that the increasingly early return north by robins is a sign of global warming -- and that, often, he is the only person in the room who knows things like that.

I love that on the night before the VP decision in 2000, Hadassah opened the door to the Connecticut house in jeans and a purple sweater and had aroma therapy candles burning. And I loved watching JIL go from being a junior Senator to a national politician in three days on sheer talent. And I loved listening to the consultants for Al Gore marvel over it! I love him for allowing me the honor of sitting in the same box as his mother, when he accepted the VP nomination, chills running up and down my spine. And I loved being his next door neighbor in the coldest New Hampshire in a hundred years in 2004, mornings and nights huddling to discuss the day. And I loved that the Capitol Police officers, who guarded him, would ask me in the morning: "did you see what so and so said about 'us' today?" He won them over too. And in 2006, I love that he didn't give up. And that he brought Sherry and Dan back for the general election. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of the Lieberman organization. I am so grateful to him for giving me a true seat at the table, and for valuing my opinion. As a researcher, that almost never happens. I thank he and Hadassah for letting me into their lives.

I wish them Godspeed in their next chapter."

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Lori McGrogan

Senate Office (DC)
1993-1994, 1999-2006

“In the fall of 2007, Senator Lieberman's Global Warming Subcommittee, which he chaired, favorably reported his Climate Security Act to the full Environment and Public Works Committee. The full committee then favorably reported the bill to the full Senate. It remains the only time that a Senate committee has approved bipartisan legislation to bring U.S. greenhouse gas emissions down to safe levels. What I most remember from those two markups was the way Chairman Lieberman patiently allowed each Senator to have his or her say, and the way he demonstrated through his comments that he was listening to them. During the first few hours of each markup, I was terrified that his solicitousness of the other Senators would cause us to run out of time. Senator Lieberman knew better, though. As the hours dragged on, the Senators had less and less to say, and they became less and less insistent about receiving votes on their remaining amendments. Both markups ended on-time and successfully. It was a masterful performance by an experienced chairman.”



David McIntosh

Senate Office (DC)
2006-2008





“I’ve handled portions of the Senator’s immigration casework requests in the Connecticut office for nearly seven years. Residents frequently approach the Senator for assistance, requesting guidance on immigration matters. Residents also contact the Senator for help bringing friends and relatives from foreign countries for visits to the United States. Under INA Section 214(b), which requires applicants to show evidence of permanent residence abroad and ties both economic and familial to their homeland, many applicants are found ineligible for the benefit and leave the consular section disappointed. Recently Kennedy Odede contacted Senator Lieberman about the inability of his friend George Sakwa and his sister and brother, Elizabeth and Hillary Odede, to receive tourist visas to attend his graduation from Wesleyan University. Kennedy, a person of great moral fiber and determination, founded Shining Hope for Communities in Nairobi, an organization working to uplift the poverty stricken in Kenya. Kennedy’s dedication to his work, to bettering the lives of his countrymen, inspired the Senator who put great effort into making sure the consular section in Nairobi granted George, Elizabeth and Hillary visas to watch Kennedy achieve a dream. I will never forget the feeling of victory when we heard the visas were granted, the joy in meeting Kennedy’s amazing family and friends and the pride I felt when they fulfilled their promise and returned to Kenya. Of all the cases I have had the pleasure of working with Senator Lieberman on, this one will always stick in my memory as one of the most important as it illustrated the importance of supporting a person with strong ethics, something Senator Lieberman has a great deal of.”



Katy McNulty

Senate Office (CT)
2001-2012

“I was hired as the Senator’s press secretary two weeks before Al Gore tapped him to be his running mate in the 2000 presidential election. There are a lot of things to remember from that time—the tumult of adjusting to life in the U.S. after nearly five years of working in war zones, 9/11, the anthrax scare and last, but certainly not least, hanging chads (ugh).

We won but we lost?

The presidential inauguration in 2001 was a on Saturday and the Senator and Hadassah were committed to attending. This, of course, would mean walking from their synagogue in Georgetown to the Capitol. The Senator asked me to accompany them, which I was honored to do. We were joined by a reporter from the Hartford Courant, Lita Baldor.

That morning was overcast, drizzly, but (mercifully) not too cold. We walked on the sidewalks until we got closer to the Capitol, where the sidewalks were jammed with people corralled behind police barricades. So we walked in the middle of the road. It was the only practical thing to do. One person recognized the Senator and shouted his approval. Then people started clapping. And it continued like a wave, block after block, people shouting and clapping. "Congrats, Joe, you won!" "Look, it's Senator Lieberman!" "Look, it's the real Vice President!" "We love you, Joe!"

It was incredibly moving, but also very strange. There was sort of no way to avoid thinking about what might have been. What would we be doing right now if Gore/Lieberman's victory had been declared a win? Would I have worn different shoes?

It was remarkable to me then, as it is now, that the Senator and Hadassah were so gracious. Whatever their private thoughts about that election, in public they set the standard for leadership and the principle of putting country first in a time of bitter and extreme national polarization. I always viewed their walk to the Capitol that dreary morning as a gesture of forgiveness (even if in the absence of an apology). It is truly one of my most treasured memories that I was able to share that moment with them, and the country.”



Kelly Moore

Senate Office (DC)
2000-2002

Bringing Daniel “Home”

“First, let me say it is a pleasure to write some of my memories of working for Senator Lieberman. How did I end up in his office? In December 1988 I was Washington scheduler for Senator Max Baucus and took a call from Ken Glueck, requesting a meeting. I first thought Senator-elect Lieberman wanted to meet with Senator Baucus, so I started to find a time on his schedule when Ken clarified, saying, “No, he wants to interview *you* for his personal secretary.” I almost said no because Senator Baucus was entering re-election cycle, but thought, “It would be nice to meet a new Senator and at least be able to speak to him in the hallway.” I’m so grateful that God led me to say *yes*, because even during the interview one of my first impressions was how comfortable he seemed--and as a result--I was comfortable in answering when he said, “Tell me about yourself.” I just let it roll and specifically remember telling him I was involved with an inner city Church of Christ in Washington. Shortly thereafter I was re-reading this newly elected Senator's profile--probably in ROLL CALL--and was reminded he was an Orthodox Jew. I just knew I had sealed my fate, but some years later, he told me that my faith was a positive in his decision to hire me and that another staffer John Lilley, hired some years later, also impressed him as a person of faith.

One day in February, 1992, I was eating lunch at my desk in Hart 502 and remember being stopped in my tracks by a call from Rachel Smigiel, a constituent from Norwich. Her 5-year-old son Daniel had been battling cancer for 4 years. Rachel was gentle, yet urgent, in asking if Senator Lieberman could help arrange a private plane to get Daniel, who was in an induced coma, out of ICU at Hartford Hospital and fly him to Iowa City Hospital where his doctor believed he could give Daniel the best care possible.

The only way Daniel could be released from ICU was if a private plane took him to Iowa City. Rachel asked herself, “Who do I know who has a private plane?” After four years of medical expenses, she and her husband Steven had little funds remaining and couldn’t afford to charter a plane. Their church in Groton had paid the \$10 nightly fee at Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City where she and their 2-year-old son Matthew had stayed the previous year, all except for 2-week and 4-week times when they were able to return home to CT with Daniel.

Where to turn? Rachel thought of Senator Lieberman. Some time back, our office had co-hosted an event with the National Marrow Donor Program and invited Rachel and Daniel to Washington. Daniel was on their waiting list for a match. Perhaps Rachel was chosen by the National Marrow Donor Program to come to Senator Lieberman's event because she and her sister had organized a walk-a-thon in Montville and raised \$26,000 in three weeks! It was her experience with our office – a connection prompting Rachel to call us for help in finding a private plane – that allowed Daniel to spend the last two weeks of his life in a happy, familiar place. He loved the nurses and doctors at Iowa City Hospital--they were like family. After all, it had been his “home” for a year, and with the private plane we secured, Daniel was able to get back to Iowa City Hospital before he died.

Rachel and Steven were so grateful to Senator Lieberman’s office. I’ve had the privilege of visiting with them over the years and want to thank Rachel for providing their photo and helping me to reconstruct the details of this time in her life when our office helped with such a heartfelt, urgent need. During our conversation in June, 2012, Rachel said, “When I hear his [Senator Lieberman’s] name or see him, or any mention of him, it brings wonderful memories because he, his office--because of you--were our guardian angel. “I brought Daniel “home.” You enabled Daniel to go “home” to die. I don’t look back saying I could have done this or done that. I cannot tell you how much that meant to us, to my whole family. What you did for Daniel was so monumental for a little boy to feel comfortable enough to be able to go home and be with Jesus.”



Carleen Morris

Senate Office (DC)
1989-2012

“My first day on the job, I remember meeting with Clarine, Chief of Staff, who told me that in my memos to Senator Lieberman, I don't need to write about the politics of the issue. ‘The Senator knows the politics, he's interested in policy.’

The greatest compliment I can pay to the Senator is that he truly puts what is good for his constituents and for America ahead of the political game, and the partisan rhetorical battles. Because the world is complicated, formulating good policy is incredibly difficult. The US Senate and the country have been fortunate to have such a thoughtful steward of good policy.”



Michael Murakami

Fellow
2008





“One of the biggest accomplishments while I served Senator Lieberman, demonstrating the power of the bully-pulpit without enacting a law, was his effort with Senator Kohl to shine a spotlight on violent video games. Although the Senator was originally interested in TV violence, his staff, particularly Bill Andresen, pointed out that there were many Senators already waging that battle, but that no one had yet tackled the emerging new media world of video games. We opened with a post-Thanksgiving recess press conference hosted by Senator Lieberman and Captain Kangaroo (Bob Keeshan). In the pre-Christmas sales rush, timing could not have been better. A week later we held the first hearing, and the two leading video game manufacturers – Sega and Nintendo – were reeling. With follow-up hearings, within a year, the video game industry had agreed to create and was starting to implement an informative rating system -- one which continues to exist today. Along the way, we broke new ground with hearings featuring b-roll from actual games (for which Bill Andresen’s then 10-year old son had to be recruited to play to a high enough level to actually get to the bad stuff), and video game manufacturers pulling out samples of each others’ products to try to demonstrate that the others were worse. With well-timed letters to major retailers (of course also provided to the press), we put pressure on the major chains to drop sales of the most egregious games. The result was not only an enhanced awareness for American parents, grandparents and others who buy gifts for children, but also tools to help them make their choices. This was tremendous fun to help kickoff, could only have been pulled off with the excellent team Michael Lewan and Bill Andresen had assembled. It showcased the Senator's ability, to make common sense points on behalf of consumers -- and to follow it up to get a positive result.”

John Nakahata

Senate Office (DC)
1990-1995

“During the time that I worked with Senator Lieberman, there were many accomplishments that the Senator completed that I was proud to be part of. But, the greatest take away from my time spent working for the Senator is the woman I am now married to, Diana Fassbender. Diana and I met while working for Senator Lieberman on the 2006 Senate reelection and began dating shortly after the campaign. We were married in September 2010. Had it not been for the Senator’s reelection bid, it is very likely I would not be married to the woman I love.”



Josh Nerpel and Diana Fassbender

Senate Office (CT)
2005-2007



Blas Nunez-Neto

Committee Office
2009-2011

“Early in 2011, the Senator told us that immigration reform was “on my bucket list – and not before I die, but before I leave the Senate.”

That was a daunting request, because immigration reform has become a political hot potato that has frustrated advocates for the 12 million undocumented people living in America today. One of the main roadblocks to immigration reform, but certainly not the only one, is the public perception that our border with Mexico is out of control and that violent crime is spilling across the border. We decided to hold a series of hearings in 2011 to fully explore the situation along the border and compare it to years past. During these hearings, which included witnesses from both parties, a consensus emerged that significant gains had been made towards securing the border, but that our methods for measuring those gains in security were inadequate. In turn, our inability to measure gains in security has fueled the public perception that the border is insecure. Many of the witnesses noted that our hearings were the most productive, and least politicized, border hearings that they had participated in. At our last hearing, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced that she had directed the Department to enhance its performance measures and create a new “Border Condition Index” that would combine enforcement metrics with crime statistics and other measures to more accurately gauge security along the border.

The road to immigration reform will be a long and at times frustrating one, but I believe that by shedding some light on the situation along the border and prompting the Department to rethink how it measures progress, these hearings helped us all take a small step forward. We may not achieve the goal the Senator set out at the beginning of his last term, but we advanced the conversation.”

“One of my fondest memories while working for Senator Lieberman in D.C. is when I led a tour of the U.S. Capitol for over twenty police officers from Connecticut in the summer of 2006. They were a lively group that enjoyed my stories, constantly cracked jokes, and asked a lot of questions.

But that all changed when I brought them to the Chestnut-Gibson Memorial Door on the east side of the Capitol. It was at that door eight years earlier that a lone gunman entered the building and Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson were fatally shot in the line of duty. To commemorate their service and sacrifice, an engraved plaque has been placed at the door. On that day in 2006, I told this story while standing next to wreaths and flowers that surrounded the plaque, and for the first and only time, our tour group was completely silent. The officers told me afterwards that they appreciated me taking the time to show them the memorial. My thoughts returned to that day over the coming weeks as the Connecticut Police Union endorsed the Senator during his tough 2006 election. I will always remember that tour, and I was honored to be a part of that moment with our police officers while representing the Senator and the state of Connecticut.

One thing I am particularly proud of while working as a legislative correspondent for Senator Lieberman in D.C. from 2007-2008, is how I increased the Senator’s direct engagement with constituents. Because foreign policy was part of my portfolio, thousands of letters and e-mails came across my desk with inquiries about the United States’ military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the most poignant letters included accounts of family members who were serving overseas, and other times, the author himself would be serving in the armed forces. Because I understood Senator Lieberman’s deep commitment to the men and women who serve our country, I implemented a new protocol to ensure that the Senator’s responses to those letters were handled in the prompt and very personal manner that they deserved.”



Katie O'Connell

Senate Office (DC)
2006-2008



When I joined the full committee in 2007, I specifically asked to continue working on District of Columbia (DC) issues because of Senator Lieberman's leadership on DC voting rights. I was born in the District so this issue was close to my heart. Fighting for DC residents is never a popular or easy endeavor in Congress as members often focus on issues that benefit their own constituents. But, as we all know, Senator Lieberman has always been a national senator in addition to representing the State of Connecticut. He would tell anyone who would listen that this was not a political issue, but one of civil rights. For the next 2 years, I was constantly reminded of how unpopular this issue was in certain parts of the Senate. Even the members that supported the legislation weren't necessarily going to make it a priority or spend any political capital on it. But every time we suffered a set back, the Senator would reaffirm that passing DC voting rights legislation remained one of his top priorities and he wanted to keep on pushing. In 2009, in large part because of the Senator's commitment, perseverance and ability to work across the aisle, DC voting rights legislation passed the Senate for the first time in history. I was only one in a long series of staffers who worked on this issue for Senator Lieberman, but I can't tell you how privileged I felt to be sitting next to him on the floor for the final vote.

Deborah Parkinson

Committee Office
2007-2011

“My first position out of college was a Staff Assistant in Senator Lieberman's office. I was the contact for many constituents during their trips to Washington. I took pride in many of my duties which included making appointments for tours of the landmarks and historical buildings in the city. I can still remember the excitement that people exhibited when they got an appointment for a "hard to get" tour like the White House or when they thanked me for a job well done on a tour of the Capitol. I felt these "little" things meant so much to these families. I am proud that I made their time in Washington something they will remember forever.”



Amit Patel

Senate Office (DC)
2004-2007



National Innovation Initiative Bill



“My time in Senator Lieberman’s office launched my career in innovation policy and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to be a Lieberman staffer. Senator Lieberman saw the importance of science and technology and specifically the value of fostering innovation in this country to maintain our competitive advantage. He worked across the aisle with Senator Ensign and others to write the National Innovation Initiative bill. Although, today, the word innovation is ubiquitous as companies and governments look to develop strategies to drive economic growth, in 2004, this was certainly not the case. His work helped to define what ‘innovation policy’ means today. The work not only laid the foundation for the bill that was passed into law August 2007 – the America COMPETES Act -but it personally defined my career and led me to run a policy group focused on innovation at both the government and institutional levels. Thank you, Senator, for recognizing the value of science and technology investment and the importance of fostering innovation. Your leadership has had profound impact.”

Karin Ezbiansky Pavese

Fellow
2004-2005

“I have many memories of Senator Lieberman’s determined leadership - defying party dictates, urging reluctant colleagues to do the right thing, and providing moral context to political issues.

One particularly vivid memory dates to late summer 2005, when Hurricane Katrina swept ashore. The storm hit New Orleans in the early morning hours of Monday, August 29, and battered the city for most of the day, easing up toward the evening hours. Over the next few days, as search and rescue teams radiated out across the city, and national television cameras arrived at the scene, the horror of the catastrophe hit us.

I remember going to the Senator’s temporary office, in the Dirksen basement, with HSGAC Democratic Staff Director Joyce Rechtschaffen and Chief Counsel Laurie Rubenstein to talk about how the Committee should respond.

The television screen in the Senator’s low-ceilinged office reflected images of a city cut loose from its former self: entire neighborhoods were underwater, survivors wept and pleaded for help, corpses were left unattended, fear and chaos filled the air. It looked like a disaster scene from a third-world country where a corrupt, ineffectual government had left its citizens to fend for themselves just when they needed help most.

Democrats were in the minority in the Senate. The Senator had spoken earlier with the Committee Chairman Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, who was not at the ready to examine why the Bush Administration’s response to the catastrophe was so utterly ineffective.

As we stood around the television set, the Senator shook his head. “We have to investigate,” he said simply.

He saw survivors of the storm enduring conditions that simply did not sync with the American way of life. He recognized the magnitude of the disaster. And he knew he had a responsibility to help figure out why so many people in New Orleans had been seemingly abandoned in their hour of need. Just as he had after September 11, the Senator felt compelled to help the nation understand why the response to the hurricane had gone so horribly wrong so that next time, it would be better.

As Ranking Member, Senator Lieberman didn’t have the power to set the Committee’s agenda. But Joyce, Laurie, and I understood that an investigation would take place.

The Senator persuaded the Chairman, and an investigation went forward.”



Leslie Phillips

Committee Office
2000-2012



“Versatile Legislator”



“As Senator Lieberman's Press Secretary and Communications Director, I had the unique privilege of spending a lot of time with him in and outside the office at events. In this capacity, I saw first hand what an incredibly versatile legislator the Senator is. His ability to turn from education topics to foreign policy to topics of religious context, never ceased to amaze me. However, further than that, it was the Senator's care for each issue and each person he interacted with that I will always remember. I never saw the Senator treat anyone around him with anything but the utmost respect and true kindness, regardless if they were a General, a teacher, a Rabbi, an Ambassador, or even a reporter. This kindness is true reflection of his character and it was my honor to see it in person in so many different capacities.”



Whitney Phillips

Senate Office (DC)
2011-2012





"I am sure that many of these tributes will be about the important legislation Senator Lieberman helped to craft and pass into law; my recollections are more personal in nature. I have so many memories of my years with the Senator, Hadassah, and the entire Freilich and Lieberman families. It was an honor to spend as much time with them as I did. I've laughed so hard my stomach hurt; I've cried tears of joy and sorrow. For me it is impossible to speak about Senator Lieberman without speaking of Hadassah. I was with Hadassah in Dallas, Texas the morning of the September 11th attacks in New York.

And I'll never forget the night Hadassah stepped out to the podium at the Staples Center in California in 2000 to a sea of thousands of signs in the audience that simply said, Hadassah.

Senator Lieberman has done so many notable things during his career in Washington and Connecticut it is impossible to measure their breadth and reach. I do know that the lives of the people of Connecticut are the richer for it. And for that, I think we all say a collective thank you. People can read in the newspaper, or listen to the news about what he has done. I had the privilege to watch how hard he has worked in person. When Submarine Base New London was put on the BRAC list, I was enormously impressed with the voracity and single-mindedness by which he pursued the commissioners. Persistently calling them, and ultimately convincing them, to save our base.

I loved watching while he won the funniest person in DC contest, because he is funny! I loved going to UCONN games with him as Husky fans came by and high five-ed him. I loved Baba and planning her 80th birthday party with her which she insisted is a pizza and beer party!

I love that he could sit and have a cup o' joe with an average "Joe" and then turn around and seamlessly run for Vice President of the United States.

Ultimately, I just love how Senator Lieberman treats people. He lives life with a purposeful joy that is infectious to those around him. I am blessed to have worked for him and wish my senatore buona fortuna per il futuro!"

Heather Picazio

Senate Office (CT)
2004-2008

“Two hundred and fifty words to capture the feeling of pride I experienced representing the Senator seems unfair. Many accomplishments and adventures occurred – climate legislation that changed the debate, stiff resistance to attacks on the Clean Air Act, legislative brinkmanship to ensure the people of New York City understood the air pollution threats post-9/11 – but the one moment that most crystallized a single successful effort was the ride back from the Senate floor after our successful 2002 filibuster of Arctic drilling. Sharing the ride with Senators Kerry and Wellstone, we reflected on a 18 month effort to resist President Bush’s forceful push for drilling. Senator Lieberman had immediately taken the lead after President Bush’s arrival in the White House, and we had slogged through Dear Colleague after Dear Colleague, stakeholder presser after stakeholder presser to build a successful coalition against the drilling proposal. The occasion was best captured by Senator Wellstone, God rest his soul, who chanted to his audience of five – ‘They had the oil companies, they had the power companies, they had the media, but we beat them all!’”



Tim Profeta

Senate Office (DC)
2000-2005





“Senator Lieberman always empowered his staff to identify policy problems that we could help solve. In particular, I spent much of my tenure in the office on military mental health issues with some superb colleagues. The Senator and senior staff encouraged us to travel and speak to military personnel and their families, work with a broad range of bipartisan offices, and engage directly with the Department of Defense to find ways to improve the access to, and quality of, care and support for these individuals and their families. I truly felt that I was able to make a difference - because of the conditions and expectations set by Senator Lieberman. Thank you for the amazing opportunities and experiences that hopefully resulted in a better life for our service members.”

Purva Rawal

Senate Office (DC)
2006-2008

“I will never forget talking to Senator Lieberman on the night of September 11, 2001. The Committee on Governmental Affairs (as it was then called) had a long-scheduled hearing planned for the morning of September 12 on the vulnerability of the nation’s critical infrastructure. Senator Lieberman, who was the chair of the Committee, gave me clear instructions that night: call the witnesses and tell them we are going forward; the work of the government will not be stopped. He also said that the Committee will not pause until we have done everything possible to reorganize our government so that another 9-11 type attack will never happen again.

All the witnesses showed up at the hearing the morning of September 12, 2001. And during the next four years, the Committee’s work put in place entirely new structures for defending our homeland and analyzing intelligence. As a result of Senator Lieberman’s work, every person in the United States is safer today.”



Joyce Rechtschaffen

Senate Office (DC)
Committee Office
1989-2006

Consequential Figure

“Senator Lieberman’s numerous accomplishments for the state and the country (and abroad) will fill many tomes. He will forever be known as the “Moral Conscience of the Senate”. And, he will always be remembered for having a special 6th sense that innately tapped into the concerns and aspirations of everyday citizens and for elevating any conversation or dialogue to the best of our better angels. But when the history books are finally written, I strongly believe that his record will reveal that he is one of the most “consequential figures” of this century. Consequential in the sense that in the overwhelming number of public policy debates or matters in the Senate over the past 24 years, history will show that he played a uniquely strategic and pivotal role, sometimes advocating an independent and courageous position that was only later adopted by others. Whether it was the first Gulf war, Bosnia, the Clean Air Act, ANWR, climate change, health care reform I or II, the impeachment of President Clinton, 9-11, homeland security, the BRAC process and the Submarine base, intelligence reform, national security, video and media violence, foreign affairs, No Child Left Behind and other education reforms including DC vouchers, DC votes, Congressional ethics reform, repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, postal reform, or cyber security, the Senator was in the middle of those debates leading the reform, bringing Senators to the table, and influencing the direction of the ultimate legislative action.

And, the Senator was consequential in his personal approach as a public servant and leader, always choosing to engage in problem-solving as opposed to finger pointing and knowing that to secure a successful solution he needed to work and develop trust with his colleagues across the aisle. He pushed new “third ways” to look at issues and work on them, whether as a strong leader of the Democratic Leadership Conference, Chair or Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) or SASC or EPW Subcommittees, the Senate Centrist Coalition, or the Bipartisan Members Group. In May of 2005, he played a critical role in the bipartisan “Gang of 14” by helping craft an understanding for the Senate related to acting on judicial nominations, without need for the “nuclear option” to change the Senate rules.

And, to be effective behind the scenes, the Senator set the culture for his staffs in his DC and CT offices of very high quality public policy work, thoughtful and informative responses to constituent correspondence, exemplary service to constituents and others visiting or meeting in the DC or CT offices, and dedicated and responsive constituent casework. That culture which also placed a high premium on working together as a Congressional delegation greatly benefited the State of Connecticut through the years. And that culture that focused on keeping our “eyes on the ball” in resolving any matter and not getting distracted by side issues greatly benefited the country, too.

For all of that and much more, Senator Lieberman is a “Giant” to all of us who have been a part of the LieberStaff Team. Thank you Senator and thank you Hadassah for all you have done and for being so supportive of the entire LieberStaff through the years.”



Clarine Nardi Riddle

Senate Office (DC)
2003-2012

“A lot of my work was to help Rayanne Bostick, the Senator’s Executive Assistant, make sure that all the ‘trains were on time’. The Senator's scheduling office was always busy ensuring that the Senator balanced all of the demands on his time. Between his Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, votes, time in Connecticut, abroad, and personal time with his family, he certainly kept us busy. While I can think of so many examples of how the Senator went above and beyond for not only his Connecticut constituents, but our country, what stands out the most is the time he always took for members of the armed services, and children in Connecticut interested in public service.



As we all know, Senator Lieberman’s days are always full. As staff we all know the value in every minute of his day, but the importance he placed on finding time to visit personally with members of our military and school groups from Connecticut always stood out as something that was so important to him. Even though at the end of the day these visits and photo ops may just be small parts of his larger schedule, I know that each person, school group, and family that spent time with him really enjoyed the special attention.



To me, those types of visits are the behind the scenes parts of the Senator’s time that very few see. The photo ops with military families, the personal notes he writes to his constituents. The conversations with school children who are in Washington, DC for the first time. But they are also so indicative of the passion that the Senator puts into each part of his day, even the small things in his schedule. I am very proud to have worked for such a great example of what public service should be.”

Katelyn Roberts

Senate Office (DC)
2009-2010



“The Senator wanted to introduce the first bipartisan bill to re-write and improve No Child Left Behind. We succeeded in doing so. For the first time, we brought together a coalition that included Senators from both sides of the aisle, urban and minority student advocates, heads of the DC and NY school systems, the Aspen Institute Commission on NCLB, and the disability community to address significant reforms as part of the All Students Can Achieve Act. While the Senate itself has been unable to repeat such a broad coalition, the ideas introduced by the Senator have found their way into many of the NCLB reforms undertaken by the current Administration. Throughout the process, I was impressed that the Senator always told us “to do the right thing for children” when we were making difficult choices in the draft legislation.”

Craig Robinson

Fellow
2008

“In 1994 I came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to work as a legislative fellow as the staffer on education issues and helping with work on health reform legislation through a working group made up of the personal staff of Senators from both sides of the aisle called the “Mainstream Coalition”. Although unsuccessful, the effort showed that at least it was possible to work together in a bipartisan manner for the betterment of the country. Whether the legislation we worked on then was flawed or not, the way we worked together is what governance and leadership is all about and I would like to think an excellent reflection of what the Senator has tried to accomplish during his tenure in the Senate.”



Charles J. Rothwell (Charlie)

Fellow
1994-1995



“Joining Lieberworld in 2001, I had already worked with many Lieberstaffers during my dozen, or so, years with then Congressman Sam Gejdenson. I didn’t truly understand the camaraderie and team spirit I would enjoy ever since. We shared many challenges and successes. I recall a picture in the New London Day standing with Ken Dagliere awaiting the jubilant announcement in 1995 that the Submarine base has been saved. Thanks to “Team Connecticut” in which Senator Lieberman’s leadership played a significant part, it was again saved in 2005. The single trait that has struck me most from our boss is his compassion. None of us ever dreamed the horror we would experience on September 11, 2001. After scanning the newspapers for stories of each and every victim of 9/11 Senator Lieberman reached out to their families and offered his personal support. He worked with relatives such as Mary Fetchet, Beverly Eckert, and Monica Gabrielle as they fought beyond their anguish to form groups such as the “Skyscraper Safety Campaign” and “Voices of September 11th”. He met with them often, offered his sincere understanding and ensured that their voices were heard and concerns were incorporated in the many legislative proposals and policies. Their friendship endures. As we lost more and more servicemen and women in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, he again personally reached out to the families and offered his support. Calling, writing, or attending funerals, he made sure that each family knew he truly cherished their service and sacrifice on behalf of a cause greater than themselves. They knew that he was ready to support them in any way he could. I was exceptionally proud of how Senator Lieberman balanced this against their need for privacy.”



Frank Rowe

Senate Office (CT)
2001-2012

“I have so many incredible memories of my fourteen-plus years working for Senator Lieberman that it is impossible to choose just one. I have narrowed it down to two, both of which show the amazing and rare way in which the Senator throughout his career has combined a keen intellect and amazing political instincts with a true desire to reach the right solution to challenging problems. Shortly after I arrived in Senator Lieberman’s office in the Fall of 1996, the then-titled Governmental Affairs Committee began what turned into an all-consuming, year-long investigation into campaign finance abuses during the 1996 elections. It would be an understatement to say that the political stakes were high, and partisan tensions and pressures were everywhere. Somehow, Senator Lieberman was able to navigate the year without compromising himself, either morally or politically. He faulted his own party when it deserved it, and thus had great credibility when he criticized Republicans for their actions.

These same qualities were on full display a couple of years later during the impeachment trial of President Clinton. It was a surreal experience – from the subterranean Capitol rooms where Senators huddled with their staffs to watch videos of Monica Lewinsky detailing her relationship with the President, to the specter of all 100 Senators joining the Chief Justice for days of trial on the Senate floor. Yet throughout it all, the Senator’s focus was not primarily on the politics or prurience of it all, but rather on trying to figure out how to deal with the situation in a manner that showed the best, not the worst, of our political system. I recall in particular one Shabbat, when the Senator and Hadassah checked into a Capitol Hill hotel, spending hours discussing the Framers’ views on impeachment and what they really meant by the term ‘high crimes and misdemeanors.’ The Senate was truly a better place for the presence of Senator Lieberman.”



Laurie Rubenstein

Committee Office
1996-2011

Media Challenges

“From the beginning, the media was very interested in Senator Lieberman, who honestly observed the Sabbath and had strong convictions and powerful opinions on the challenges and hot topics of the day that he addressed in the U.S. Senate. John Tower’s nomination for Secretary of Defense, the Exxon Valdez oil spill, giving EPA cabinet-level status, the Gulf War, Zoe Baird and “nannygate”, being the first non-Southern Democrat to support Bill Clinton for President and one of the first to speak on the floor calling for his censure on Labor day weekend in 1998, the Kyoto protocol, elections in Bosnia, carjacking, gangster rap and video game violence were just a few of the issues which made my job very interesting and often challenging when it never failed that something big would be up for a vote on the Sabbath or one of the many Jewish holidays in the autumn! And the media often tried to portray Senator Lieberman as a fence sitter, waiting until the vote went one way or the other before casting his vote so he wouldn’t be a tie-breaker or out on a limb, never mentioning that he missed the first roll call round because he was delayed by the very media wanting to write something negative about the vote or his part in how the vote played out.

From the very beginning, I knew Senator Lieberman was different; not afraid to admit something other Senators would never utter; like his comments of admiration to Carole King when she came to lobby him about something in the music industry (way before music lyrics were on the agenda!) or asking Jim Kennedy, “wow, she knows Ted Danson?” when we ran into him (literally) rushing to a satellite interview with Connecticut television in the Capitol and instead of saying, “excuse me,” all I could think of was, “Oh, Hi Ted, how are you?” What I will never forget are the opportunities I had because I worked for Senator Lieberman; sitting in the Senate gallery during the Gulf War vote, sitting on the stage at the 1996 convention in Chicago as he addressed convention delegates, meeting incredible people like Lech Walesa, Mother Teresa, Boris Yeltsin and Joan Rivers. But one of the most interesting moments was when Yasser Arafat met with a small group of Jewish Senators in the basement of the U.S. Capitol. No media. Very few handlers. Even security was minimal when Senator Lieberman and his colleagues, Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) met with someone who no one would fault if they called him evil. I always had a camera with me and this is I believe one of the few, if not the only photo from this incredible moment in time. Three floors above us, the reporters and producers in the Senate press galleries were unaware this was happening. Around Washington, those who came to protest Arafat’s very presence in the U.S. had no idea where he was or who he was meeting. It’s the many unexpected but poignant moments throughout Senator Lieberman’s Senate career that made my life as a broadcast spin director never dull and very rewarding.”



Kathie Scarrah

Senate Office (DC)
1989-2000

“Hurricane Katrina ripped through Louisiana and Mississippi in August 2005. In the aftermath of the severe devastation, Senator Lieberman poured his heart and soul into fixing the wrongs caused by the catastrophic storm. He immediately used all of his oversight powers to work to improve the ongoing response and aggressively called for a wide-ranging investigation. The Committee's investigation produced an 800-page report detailing the reasons for the many failures and recommendations to help ensure our nation’s disaster response never failed so dismally again. After the report was finished, Senator Lieberman did not relax but instead immediately plunged into the hard work of getting a bill passed to implement the Committee’s recommendations.

In drafting the bill with Senator Collins he fought hard to secure the additional remedies in the bill for future disaster victims to apply to survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Although she would not agree, he continued to fight, offering an amendment at markup to make the bill retroactive to Hurricane Katrina survivors. The amendment unfortunately lost on a party-line vote. The bill eventually passed Congress and the President signed it into law. Since then, Senator Lieberman has conducted aggressive oversight to ensure effective implementation of the bill.

He has also been very engaged in helping individuals and communities recover from Hurricane Katrina and future disasters. In fact, he established a Senate subcommittee to focus specifically on disaster recovery.

Since Hurricane Katrina, our nation has made significant improvements in our preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities, and much credit must go to Senator Lieberman’s tireless efforts in this area.”



Mary Beth Schultz

Committee Office
2004-2012



Lion King



“I held various clerical positions from 1993 -1995 while completing my BA at GWU. My favorite memory was holding the beeper and driving the Senator and Hadassah to the world premier of the Lion King at the Uptown Theater. I told the Senator I'd be in the designated car lot and would find him were there a vote. He instructed me that if I had the macher (Yiddish for gumption) that I should try to get into the theater. 10 minutes later I was at his side to tell him I'd be in the balcony. Meantime the house lights dimmed and Hadassah instructed me to sit. Vice President Gore was just behind me as I listened to his signature laugh throughout the movie. The Lieberman's were so generous to all the staff. Humility and kindness sum up their treatment of all and is a lifelong gift for the guy plugging actual mail before email. Good luck Senator and Hadassah. There are thousand of Mitzvahs you've performed and your future couldn't be brighter.”

Todd Sherbacow

Senate Office (DC)
1993-1995

“In the fiscal year (FY) 2008 defense authorization bill, I had the privilege of working on provisions contained in the legislation concerning the treatment of TBI (traumatic brain injury) and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) for military service members. With the Senator's strong and unwavering support, we traveled to several military bases throughout the year, gathering information and anecdotes to support our contention that the military needed to improve TBI and PTSD treatment for those who have served in our military. When we needed help - the kind of help that only a Senator can give - Senator Lieberman always stepped in and forcefully explained why this issue was so important. At various times, we were joined in several efforts by Senators Collins (R-ME), Boxer (D-CA), Byrd (D-WV), and Clinton (D-NY). In the end, the Wounded Warrior legislation that became part of the FY 2008 defense authorization bill was stronger because of Senator Lieberman's dedication to these important issues. A Center of Excellence for PTSD and TBI was established, more uniform evaluations for disability were required, evidence based research was mandated, and a study focused on female service members and PTSD was ordered (which resulted directly from our trips to military bases across the country).”



Colleen Shogan

Senate Office (DC)
2006-2008



The Legacy

“As the archivist in the office, I have had the unique opportunity to see the Senator’s career as a whole. The records; the marked up bills, the videos clips, press releases, reply letters to constituents, and thousands of memos, all tell the story of where the Senator places his heart and dedication: his family, his God, his state, his country. He may have only recently been officially labeled, ‘independent,’ but the records show, without a doubt, that Senator Joe Lieberman has always fought for, has always voted for, has always supported what he felt was right for this country and its citizens, regardless of party lines and affiliation. I am grateful for the opportunity that I was given to work in this office and trusted with the responsibility to organize and preserve, not only the career of the Senator, but also this American story over the last 24 years.”



Katie Smith

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2012

“One of the things I found most satisfying during my tenure in the Senate was working with Senator Lieberman to save the Opportunity Scholarship Program. This program offers poor kids in failing schools in our Nation’s capital the opportunity for a better education by awarding them scholarships to attend private schools in the District. Despite this being a very small program relative to the entire federal budget, Senator Lieberman demonstrated an unwavering commitment to keep it alive in the face of determined opposition from, in some years, nearly the entire Democratic Party buoyed on by the teachers unions. When the Republicans took over the House, the task became much easier, as Speaker Boehner always shared Senator Lieberman’s commitment to and passion for this program, and was finally in a position to wield a heavy hammer and insist on the reauthorization of the program. In the intermittent years when the Democrats prevailed in Congress and the White House, I do feel this program would have been terminated were it not for Senator Lieberman’s leadership and strong support of my efforts keeping the torch burning. The Opportunity Scholarship Program has clearly, without a shadow of doubt, made an enormous and life-saving difference in the lives of thousands of poor children. I have worked on many pieces of legislation, but rarely can I say, with such certainty, that our efforts made a real and palpable difference in lives of underserved children.”



Rachel Sotsky

Senate Office (DC)
2003-2012



Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal



“My greatest memory of working for Senator Lieberman, and there were many, many great memories, was the afternoon of December 9, 2010. The Senate had just defeated a motion to proceed to the Defense Bill and the language repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was in that bill. But instead of accepting defeat, Senator Lieberman and Senator Collins marched straight to the Senate Press Gallery where they announced that they would introduce a stand-alone bill. That bill – the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010” – was signed into law 13 days later because Senator Lieberman refused to accept defeat. That perseverance, which was trademark Senator Lieberman, was instrumental to the passage of landmark legislation that has made equality more of a reality for gay and lesbian Americans who are willing to fight and die for their country. It is important to point out that the events of December 9, 2010 were not an isolated event. Senator Lieberman’s unwavering commitment to what he believed in was instrumental to so many of his successes in the U.S. Senate – protecting ANWR, saving the Submarine base in New London, winning re-election in 2006 or fighting for the surge in Iraq, just to name a few.”



Todd Stein

Senate Office (DC)
2005-2011

“February 2011 was a chilly one but no different than any other Washington winter.

News started coming in right after lunch that some winter weather was imminent. During this time the weather system that had suddenly developed over northern Virginia had developed into a severe ice storm. Apparently everyone else on the Hill heard the same news and by the time we got on the road it was already backed up.

After four hours in the car (4.89 miles), we finally arrived at the Senator’s home. The Senator invited me in and asked me to stay to let the traffic die down. I noticed that it was 33 degrees outside and I was thinking it was best for me to get back on the road before it hit freezing. I wished the Senator and Mrs. Lieberman a good evening and headed outside. Driving out of the neighborhood, I noticed the power went out in the neighborhood. At this point my car went into a slide and rested not so gently in a snow bank on the median. Right then Mrs. Lieberman called me and informed about the power, and I informed her that my car was stuck and it looked like I was not going anywhere. She said that I should come back to the house.

Once there, Senator and Mrs. Lieberman and I had dinner with the power out. We had salmon by candlelight and I believe the comment was made that this is how our founding fathers would have dinner during the time of our nation’s birth. With the storm still raging outside it was clear that I was not going anywhere

I was on the phone with Rayanne Bostick, executive assistant, trying to coordinate the morning’s schedule, holding a flashlight watching one of the most powerful Senators in the history of the Senate and his wife making my bed in their home. It was a truly surreal moment, Mrs. Lieberman got me a brand new tooth brush and the Senator brought me his U.S. Airways sweatpants and a Secret Service sweatshirt to sleep in. I stayed up for several hours noting to myself what a special moment this was and how a lot of people would never have such an experience as the one I was currently experiencing.

While I will never forget the night I spent at the Lieberman’s home, I will also never forget their gracious hospitality and genuine care for all staff that they showed to us all, ice storm or not. Both the Senator and Mrs. Lieberman serve as the model for what all public servants should embody and should ascribe to be. While this story is just one of the many that demonstrates their compassion and loyalty to staff, it is one that means the world to me and is one example that stands out in my mind as to why Senator Lieberman is one of the greatest people I have had the pleasure of getting to know.”

Josh Stokes

Senate Office (DC)
2010-2011



“Senator Lieberman demonstrates leadership in a variety of ways, both in the public view as well as in his office with the staff. Although as a senior Senator, he interacts routinely with people in positions of great power as his colleagues, he has always taken time to interact with the newest staff in the office that are the interns who arrive four times a year, most of them for the first time on Capitol Hill. Having completed three internships during college in the House and NGO's before I became an intern in his office in August 2011, I understood the impact of his interactions with me and valued them greatly. Later in November when I became the Intern Coordinator, not just his positive attitude toward my interns, but also the vast knowledge and commitment to good government he communicated easily made their experience memorable. He understood that interns would take away from their experience a unique understanding of the federal government. Senator Lieberman has been especially patient when the formal individual photos with the interns take place at the end of their experience. It usually takes them a while to feel comfortable in front of the camera and his graciousness makes this possible! The "little" things are the mark of a leader and Senator Lieberman has been and will always be that to me. His commitment to good government is a value he has passed on to me and the interns who have worked in his office.



Rebecca Tulloch

Senate Office (DC)
2011-2012

“It has been an enormous privilege to work for such a highly respected member of Congress. I was first hired to temporarily assist with the massive volume of correspondence we received during the health care reform debate, and eventually became a fulltime Legislative Aide.

It has been a great honor to have had the opportunity to serve the constituents of my home state; from making sure constituents received timely responses to inquiries about legislation, getting casework requests to the right staffer, writing responses to children and veterans from all over the country, or meeting with constituents and interest groups to discuss legislation, no task has been too small.

One of the biggest highlights of my time in the office was sitting in the Senate Gallery to watch the debate and vote on the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and getting to shake Senator Lieberman's hand after he came off the Senate floor. “



James Vastola

Senate Office (DC)
2010-2012





“Drafting the American Power Act with Senator Lieberman was the greatest professional experience of my life, and a time I reflect on with deep gratitude and abundant fondness. It was a privilege and a great honor to help you build both the bill and the robust coalition of supporters that might have flanked you at the Rose Garden, if not for preclusive political circumstances. Your characteristic statesmanship, intellect, good humor and clear commitment to the issue combined to elevate the process from standard-fare to standard setting. I will never forget watching as you explained to one group after another – 187 times, to be exact – why prompt action was critical, and how your proposed solution would achieve the environmental result we needed while creating an unparalleled economic opportunity for America. Needless to say, it didn’t go our way and it’s hard to see a political path forward for the issue, regardless of the dire need for prompt action. Of course, I wish the result had been different and that we could have overcome the many political obstacles preventing progress, but I will forever be grateful to you for allowing me to participate in devising a solution to what we agree is the greatest challenge facing our planet. I only wish we could have finished the job, but the fact is, you forever changed the nature of the conversation – a tremendous feat unto itself. Thanks for letting me sit in the front row as you made history.”



Danielle Vogel

Senate Office (DC)
2008-2011

“It was wonderful to be part of the U.S. Senate Lieberman team from the very start. Although we complained at the time, it was a great experience to work together in the former Capitol Hill police locker room. It was a chance to really get to know each other and an environment that set the future tone for the office, one that the Senator always encouraged, of free-flowing discussion and debate. It was always an office full of people with strong opinions who were comfortable expressing them; something I later learned that made it a unique place among Senate offices. The most memorable moment from the projects

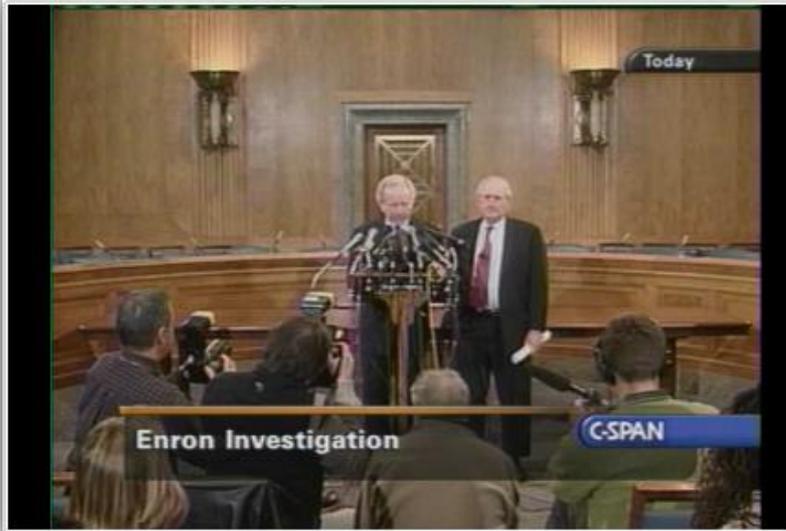
I worked on with the Senator in those early years was our exploration of the safety of lawn care chemicals. In preparation for a hearing on Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) monitoring and testing of lawn care chemicals, we sent an intern out to purchase a wide variety of products and reviewed all the labels. We then provided the Senator with a variety of products to discuss during the hearing, leading to the wonderful moment when the Senator read aloud the label that said ‘Keep away from pregnant dogs’ and asked the speechless

EPA official, whether we shouldn’t perhaps be concerned about protecting pregnant women! A great line, a humorous moment, but most important was the groundbreaking work the office did on the subject of the safety of lawn care chemicals, raising awareness about the need to ensure we protected adults, children, and our groundwater.”



Sarah Walzer

Senate Office (DC)
1989-1993



"In September 2001, I was selected for a one year Congressional Fellowship assignment with the Senate Committee on Government Affairs. My first day in the committee's office just happened to be the same day the anthrax letters also arrived, so my welcome aboard check-in was probably one of the more unusual ones on Capitol Hill - a 60 day supply of Cipro! During my time with the committee, I had the privilege of being involved in several truly significant investigations and hearings. The first involved the other anthrax letters sent to various offices around the country and the government's response. The second involved the collapse of Enron and how the credit agencies failed investors. Finally, the last involved the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. I was honored when Joyce Rechtschaffen asked me to prepare language for the bill that not only created the DHS Inspector General, but also gave full law enforcement authorities and powers to other agency Inspector General offices. I will always remember my time with the committee and the dedication and commitment of the staff. Senator Lieberman, I wish you and your family all the best. You deserve it!"

John N. Wanat

Fellow
2001-2002

“Senator Lieberman met Luis G Moreno, (Pol/Mil in Baghdad, and foreign service officer for almost 30 Years) and Luis briefed the Senator in Baghdad and many times as Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in Tel Aviv. The Senator’s DC office received an urgent request October of 2010 from Luis concerning his young daughter Sabrina, always healthy, who was shockingly diagnosed with a brain tumor in an extremely delicate area of the brain. It was discovered that Sabrina had been dropped from Luis's State Department insurance, leaving her uninsured and vulnerable regarding urgent health care. Sabrina was in Florida and Luis was in Baghdad and the Florida hospital was saying she needed to be transported out of state immediately for her survival. The case was assigned to Elaine Werner in the CT office--after nearly 12 hours of communication with various Federal agencies, (8 different Federal employees, including calls to Luis as he hurriedly traveled back to the US via several countries in the Middle East), Elaine heard from the staffers at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that Luis was allowed to enroll Sabrina in temporary continuation coverage for Federal employees retroactively and she was able to receive her treatment that same day in the hospital--and--miraculously survived beautifully! Were it not for Senator Lieberman's memorable relationship with Luis, we would not have had the opportunity to literally save a life! Additional thanks to DC National Finance Center Chief Financial Officer and some pretty terrific interns! Of many, this was one of my most memorable moments in Senator Lieberman's CT office--thank you Senator for making a HUGE difference--Luis and his family are eternally grateful!!”



Elaine C. Werner

Senate Office (CT)
2006-2012

Success for Our Troops in Iraq



“I was very proud to serve on the staff of Senator Lieberman as he stood courageously for the success of our troops in Iraq. Along with Senators McCain and Graham, Senator Lieberman strongly supported the troop surge which prevented a defeat that would have been disastrous for the national security interests of the United States. Senator Lieberman stood like a rock supporting our brave troops and their mission while others wavered and sounded the call for retreat. Very few Senators are willing to risk their seat for a principle, and I have been fortunate and honored to work for one who was.”



Marshall Wittmann

Senate Office (DC)
2006-2012

“There are undoubtedly hundreds of reasons any of his current or former staff could stand up and say, ‘I’m proud to work for Senator Lieberman.’ For me, though, the event that will always stand out occurred in March 2006. In February that year the Dubai Ports World (DPW) controversy landed on the front page of every newspaper and website in the U.S. when DPW, a port management company owned by the United Arab Emirates government, planned to buy a British company that operated facilities in more than 20 U.S. ports, including New York. Senators and Congressmen on both sides of the aisle ratcheted up the rhetoric, frequently overshadowing legitimate process and security concerns with the deal. It would have been easy to stand against the deal. But as is his style, Senator Lieberman focused on gathering the facts first. Then, on March 13, 2006, he demonstrated why he is such a remarkable man, and why civil service is a noble endeavor. On the Senate floor he rose and spoke, ‘I was not among those who called for the deal to be prohibited before a thorough investigation was conducted. ...Because of the initial public outcry, [DPW was] condemned before they were allowed to stand trial, and I believed that violated this nation’s commitment to the rule of law. ...And that is not how we do things in America. We do not judge people in our democracy by their race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age. We judge people on their merits.’”



Jason Yanussi

Committee Office
2000-2011





“With democratic revolutions beginning to sweep into power, Senator Lieberman’s team led the effort to ensure the U.S. Senate supported brave advocates for democracy in places like Lebanon, Ukraine, and Georgia. Senator Lieberman’s foreign policy team worked with bipartisan Senate partners to introduce the Advancing Democracy Act. Epitomizing Senator Lieberman’s commitment to long-range thinking, this Act was in place to encourage Middle East democracy advocates such as during the 2011 “Arab Spring”. There were many highlights of my year working for Senator Lieberman, including helping to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations, addressing security challenges of the Iraq war, working with Burmese refugees on the Thai-Burma border, planning Congressional participation in the Munich Security Conference, and briefing interest groups on the Senator’s foreign policy priorities.”



Andrew Young

Fellow
2004-2005

In Memory
of
Jimmy O'Connell

(1948-2001)



blessed memories

“Yesterday [at the funeral] was a terrible day, yet it was a magnificent send off for Jimmy.

He would have loved every minute. What better than a roomful of police, priests and politicians! Joe did a wonderful job with Jimmy's eulogy. How he kept his composure! I cried the whole time he spoke and the nephew...wow! I couldn't help but recall when my father passed away.

The wake for my father was on a Friday night and the funeral early Saturday morning. Jimmy came to the wake in Brooklyn and told me he was representing the Lieberman family. That made sense and was very nice. As you can imagine, Jimmy stayed the entire time, schmoozing my family and friends. We said goodbye and he went home to Connecticut after 10pm. The next morning, much to my surprise Jimmy was at the Church in full police dress uniform, gloves and all. He stood alone saluting the coffin as it was taken from the hearse into the church. He told me that since my dad was a retired fireman, he deserved a proper and respectful funeral. Jimmy spent the entire day at the church and the cemetery. He didn't have to do that for the Liebermans'; he certainly didn't have to do it for me. And he never met my father. Jimmy just did the right things all the time for so many people, the powerful and the plain. Joe's right, 'keep the lights on for Jimmy' We still need him to show us the way.”

By Michael Lewan
December 5, 2001

Thank you
Senator Lieberman



1989-2013