

**REMEMBERING WAYNE STENEHJEM**

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to the late North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, a dedicated public servant, a colleague and a true friend. Attorney General Stenehjem spent four decades serving the people of North Dakota. He was a fierce advocate for the rule of law and the rights of North Dakotans.

His was a tremendous and impactful career that clearly demonstrated his devotion to our state, which he called home for the entirety of his life. Wayne was born in Mohall, North Dakota. He graduated from the University of North Dakota and received his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law. He is survived by his wife, Beth Bakke Stenehjem, and his son, Andrew, along with many other loved ones.

Wayne started his career in public service in the state legislature, where he served for 24 years, first as a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives and then as a member of the North Dakota Senate. He then ran for the position of Attorney General in 2000, the same year I was elected Governor and the first time either of us sought statewide office. I had the benefit of traveling much of the state with Wayne that year, where I came to know him as a solid, reliable individual with a tremendous sense of humor.

Wayne capped off his career in public office as our state's longest-serving Attorney General. Throughout my time as Governor and as a U.S. Senator, I had many opportunities to work with Wayne on keeping our communities safe, supporting our law enforcement officials and protecting the rights of North Dakotans. He worked tirelessly to advance these important goals, and I will always be proud of our shared efforts in these matters. Moreover, I am grateful for our time together, both as colleagues and as friends.

He will be greatly missed and remembered well for the meaningful legacy he has left behind. Mikey and I send our sincerest condolences to Beth, Andrew and the entire Stenehjem family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hoeven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "H".