



NEWS

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**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS
ON THE PASSING OF FORMER SENATOR TED STEVENS**

“I was shocked and saddened to learn about the plane crash that took the life of Senator Ted Stevens and other passengers in Dillingham, Alaska. Senator Stevens and I enjoyed a friendship of many years, first meeting shortly after I began working in the U.S. Senate in 1970. He and my former boss, Senator Fritz Hollings, enjoyed a wonderfully close and lively friendship through the years, and I will always treasure memories of that relationship. “Colorful” doesn't even begin to describe it.

“After I joined the FCC in 2001, I got to know Senator (and Chairman) Stevens better, and I valued his friendship and counsel immensely. His oversight of the Commission was always fair, he made himself available for discussions, and his legendary candor was always in evidence. I saw him just a few weeks ago and was happy to find him looking so well and feeling so happy and relaxed. We have lost a hero in war, a patriot in the Senate, and someone I was proud to know.”

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