



To Be a Rock and Not to Roll

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Call him “The Rock.”

That’s what John Kennedy, Louisiana’s wittiest U.S. senator, dubbed Mitch McConnell, yesterday.

Why? From the *Wall Street Journal*’s [write-up](#), it must be the Kentucky’s senator’s fortitude and resilience that qualify him as hard and stony. The 84-year-old lame duck solon was rolled into the Capitol after a three-month absence, and it appears that everyone was nice to the wheelchair-bound octogenarian.

“Time to get back to work,” he said.

“His words,” explains the *Journal*, “weren’t clearly enunciated and at times were hard to make out.” Which probably explains why his staff wouldn’t allow reporters to

video-record the senator’s short remarks — less evidence to share on social media, audio alone possessing so much less viral cachet.

“McConnell’s absence, which was unusual but not unprecedented, again prompted questions about whether lawmakers with significant health issues should remain in office or step aside,” we are told.

Sure. We talk about age limits, too. But term limits would generally rein such abuses in. The less time in office, the less likely one is to die in office.

Or suffer a stroke. Or experience a debilitating fall, as in the official story regarding McConnell.

Of course, neither term limits nor age limits *directly* deal with the illness issue. Which may be a good thing. Senator John Fetterman (D.-Penn.) suffered a stroke on the campaign trail, making his election later in 2022 seem . . . imprudent. He has since recovered impressively, going on to become one of the more independent voices in Washington.

Sure, McConnell should step . . . roll . . . aside. Let someone else do the job. But, as it is, he serves as a stark reminder of the gerontocracy.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.