

Reid leaves Senate with few regrets

By Gary Martin, Las Vegas Review-Journal

WASHINGTON – Harry Reid didn't start the partisan polarization that has stymied Congress in recent years. But he played a central role in sharpening the tone of discourse on Capitol Hill, dividing lawmakers and eroding the collegiality that once was a hallmark of the U.S. Senate.

In that atmosphere, Reid is stepping down from leadership and leaving the chamber with few regrets – and an armful of legislative victories from three decades of serving the Democratic caucus and his home state of Nevada.

His legacy includes the Affordable Care Act, a major Senate rule change on filibusters and success in blocking nuclear waste shipments to Yucca Mountain – to name just a few accomplishments.

At age 77, Reid remains irascible, unrepentant but humbled.

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