

EDITORIAL

McConnell best choice

Mitch McConnell's status in the U.S. Senate and his reputation as a smart, highly skilled politician on the Republican side reflects well on Kentucky, the same way Wendell Ford's rise to a Democratic Party leadership position in the Senate was good for Kentucky.

But that's just part of the reason we think he should be returned to Washington.

McConnell's presence on the national stage and his reputation as one of the few people who actually call the shots on a day-to-day basis in the Senate, and thereby the federal government, brings positive recognition to

Kentucky. He's right when he speaks of his ability to advocate strongly on Kentucky's behalf, and that certainly includes Owensboro and the surrounding area. It's not something to be underestimated or quickly dismissed without considering the real consequences.

It is impossible to ignore what McConnell has done for Owensboro and Daviess County capital projects. He secured \$3 million to build the new H.L. Neblett Community Center, \$1 million to integrate the city-county 911 system and \$50 million for riverfront development. By McConnell's

accounting, he brought \$500 million to Kentucky just in the last year.

Give this much to Bruce Lunsford, McConnell's Democratic opponent: He's a hard charger with proven business and entrepreneurial skills. His personal drive to succeed can hardly be questioned. He has a track record of success and has displayed the ability to overcome huge setbacks.

If Lunsford were elected to the United States Senate, we suspect he would have more of an impact than the typical freshman senator based solely on his varied life

for U.S. Senate

experiences and basic business sense.

Goodness knows more Main Street business principles needs to be instilled into the psyche of Washington, where deficit spending never goes out of style for long and partisan wrangling trumps problem solving.

But are Lunsford's business successes and driven personality reasons enough to send him to Washington in place of McConnell, a 24-year Senate veteran who has risen to the position of minority leader and, because of that position, is a person who has gained national stature?

We just don't think so.

We also believe that whatever happens on Nov. 4, the country will need experienced, steady leaders come January. It is hoped that two or three months from now the national economic crisis that is gripping the United States today will have turned for the better, but even if it has, the new year will bring formidable challenges on a host of fronts. McConnell has the knowledge to take a measured approach to the great issues of this extraordinary time. That's what the country needs and McConnell, if he will dedicate himself to it, can be one of the ones to do it.