

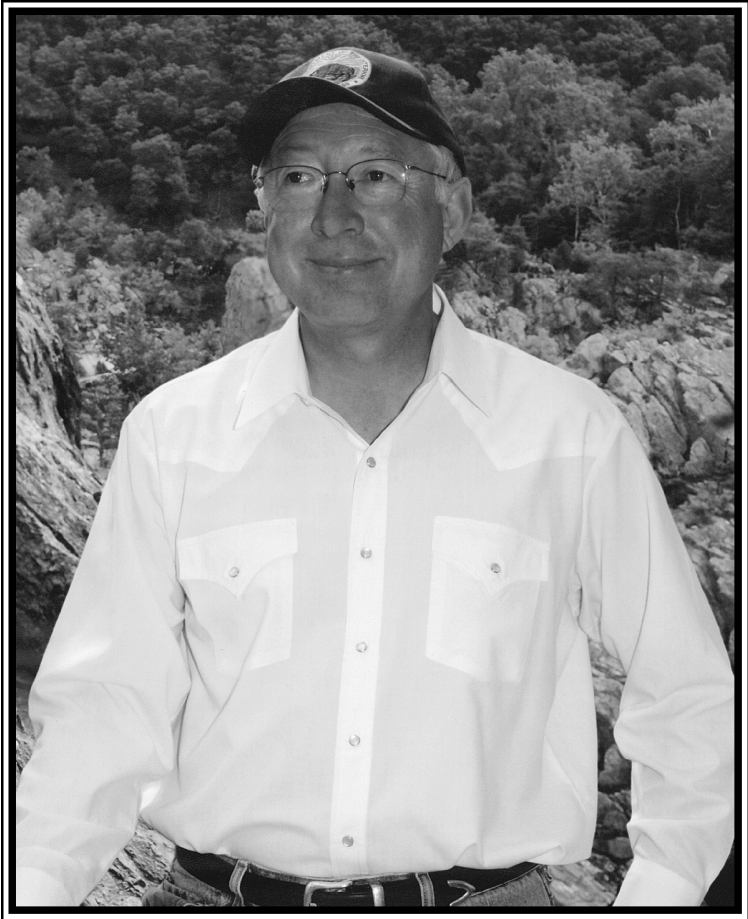
Ken Salazar

U.S. SENATOR FROM COLORADO

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES





Ken Salazar

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Ken Salazar
United States Senator
2005–2009



*Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing*

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BIOGRAPHY

KEN SALAZAR, a fifth-generation Coloradan, served as Colorado's 35th U.S. Senator. He won election in November 2004 and served on the Finance Committee, which oversees the Nation's tax, trade, Social Security, and health care systems. He also served on the Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources, Ethics, Veterans' Affairs, and Aging Committees.

As a U.S. Senator, KEN SALAZAR was a leader in creating and implementing a vision for a renewable-energy economy that is less dependent on foreign oil. He was involved in every major bipartisan legislative effort on energy since 2005, including helping craft the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007. Senator SALAZAR also tackled the challenge of providing affordable health care by fighting to broaden the Children's Health Insurance Program and by working to improve health care for older Americans.

KEN SALAZAR has been a champion for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. He led efforts to pass the 2007 farm bill and to create food and fuel security for America. He worked to help veterans in rural communities get better access to health care by creating the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs and by pressing that agency to open new rural outreach clinics in Colorado.

He also exercised a leadership role in championing a new defense and foreign policy that restores American security and influence around the world and pressed for a change in mission in Iraq to better advance America's national security interests. Senator SALAZAR worked to strengthen our military to ensure that we are able to confront emerging threats.

In his position on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator SALAZAR advocated for the wise stewardship of America's great outdoors. He led the fight to protect the integrity of the National Park Service's management policies and worked to protect signature landscapes in Colorado, including authorizing legislation that designated Rocky Mountain National Park as wilderness and that established the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

From 1999 to 2004, KEN SALAZAR served as Colorado's 36th attorney general. He won statewide elections in 1998 and 2002. He chaired the Conference of Western Attorneys General and received the Profiles in Courage Award from his fellow State attorneys general for his dedication to preserving and promoting the rule of law.

As Colorado's attorney general, KEN SALAZAR led efforts to make communities safer, fight crime, strengthen the State's sex offender laws, address youth and family violence, enhance and enforce Colorado's consumer protection laws, combat fraud against the elderly, and protect Colorado's environment. He established the first-ever Colorado Attorney General Fugitive Prosecutions Unit to apprehend and prosecute fugitive murderers, the first-ever Attorney General Gang Prosecution Unit, and an environmental crimes unit.

From 1987 to 1994 KEN SALAZAR served in the Cabinet of Governor Roy Romer as chief legal counsel and executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, where he crafted reforms for oil, mining, and gas operations to better protect the environment and the public. He fought to uphold Colorado's interstate water compacts, created the Youth in Natural Resources Program to educate thousands of young people about Colorado's natural resources, and authored the Colorado constitutional amendment creating Great Outdoors Colorado. He served as the first chairman of that movement, helping make it one of the most successful land conservation efforts in the United States.

KEN SALAZAR's family settled in the American West before the United States was a country. After settling in New Mexico four centuries ago, his family planted roots in Colorado's San Luis Valley, where they have farmed and ranched the same land for five generations. Raised on a remote ranch without electricity or telephone, KEN SALAZAR learned the values of hard work, family, and faith. Thanks to his parents' lessons, he and his seven brothers and sisters all became first-generation college graduates.

A farmer for more than 30 years, KEN SALAZAR was a partner with his family in El Rancho Salazar. He and his wife have owned and operated small businesses, including a Dairy Queen and radio stations in Pueblo and Denver.

KEN SALAZAR worked for 11 years as a water and environmental lawyer with some of the top firms in the West. During his time in the private sector and as Colorado's attorney general, KEN SALAZAR worked on cases from the trial courts to the Colorado and U.S. Supreme Courts.

He received a political science degree from Colorado College in 1977, and graduated with a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1981. He also received honorary doctorates of law from Colorado College in 1993 and the University of Denver in 1999. KEN SALAZAR and his wife, Hope, have two daughters, Melinda and Andrea, and one granddaughter, Mireya.

Letter of Resignation

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2009.

Hon. JOE BIDEN,
*Vice President of the United States, President of the Senate,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: I hereby resign as United States Senator for the State of Colorado immediately, in order to undertake the responsibilities of United States Secretary of the Interior. Enclosed is a letter to the Governor of Colorado concerning the same.

Sincerely,

KEN SALAZAR,
U.S. Senator.

Farewell to the Senate

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse). I thank my great friend the majority leader, Senator Reid, for his inspiration and for his leadership of this body and his love for this Nation. I think our journey together in many ways has been a similar journey because if you think about a man from Searchlight, NV, raised in the house and under the circumstances in which he was raised, working in the mines and being essentially part of the poorest part of Nevada, and yet today he is serving in the Senate as majority leader, that is a pathway that illustrates the opportunity and promise of America.

For his support and his leadership, I will be forever grateful, and for the support from his family, Landra and Rory and all of his children as well. I admire him and admire them. I appreciate the comments that were so heartfelt from him, and I appreciate the comments as well from Senator McConnell.

I thank my colleagues who are here this morning. I know almost everybody took off last night, so the Chamber is not exactly full this morning, but I see both Democrats and Republicans who came to hear me say the last few words I will say from this desk in the U.S. Senate.

Let me start out first by giving tribute to my family. My wonderful wife Hope, and my daughter Melinda, who is at Stanford, my daughter Andrea and my granddaughter who are in Denver today watching us on the Senate floor truly are the bedrock of my life. Without them I would not be here, and without them I would not have traveled the 64 counties of my great State of Colorado probably 20 times in the last 10 years because they were always there at my side since they were little, holding up balloons and walking parades and doing all the rest of the things it takes to become part of an elected office in such a large geographic area of Colorado. So today I say thank you, and I love you all very much.

I wish to pay tribute as well to my father Henry. As Senator Reid described his history, it is a very true history. He was born into poverty and lived through a lot of sacrifice but always remembered the two most important things in his life, as my brother Congressman Salazar often says, “No. 1, family; and No. 2, love for country.” I think those two values guided him to achieve what he still at the end of his life considered to be his greatest success, and that is that all eight of his children became first-generation college graduates. So I will be forever proud of my father Henry who taught me so many things about life.

Within his family, as well as within my mother’s family, if you look at the genealogy, which I will insert for the *Record*, we started back with Juan de Salazar who was born in 1520 and Juan de Salazar born in 1555, who became one of the original founders of the city of Santa Fe—the city of holy faith—NM, and then José Bernardo de Salazar. It goes on to the point where I am a 12th-generation son of the southwest of New Mexico and Colorado. It is a history of which I am very proud. It is a history that I hope is not forgotten. It is a history that for a long time was essentially shoved beneath the dust and was not given the illumination of its reality. I hope in some small part my role here in the Senate has been to give credence as well as to celebrate that history that makes us such a wonderful and diverse America. So I appreciate everything I received from my father’s side. Yes, he was a proud soldier in World War II. He was a tough master as we grew up. He made us understand the importance of hard work. He had a strong sense of pride, a strong sense of community and giving back, and a strong sense of love for his family.

My mother Emma likewise in so many ways was a strong spiritual person whom I still today call Saint Emma. I call her Saint Emma because nothing can even shake her from her roots. She is who she is. She has a great faith. She is not afraid to live or die. I remember many times in my life, including the death of my oldest brother Leandro, my mother was the one who held the family together after a tragic accident on our ranch back in 1992. To her selfless—completely selfless—love which she has taught the world and has taught my family, I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

I often have asked my mother: “Is there a single person in the world you do not like, or is there a single person in the world you hate?” My mother will think about it for a minute, and she will say, “No.” She says, “I love everybody.” Just as

she loves everybody, everybody loves her. So I thank her for her faith and all that she has taught us.

To my brothers and sisters—there are seven of us still left. My oldest brother Leandro, who passed away, taught us a lot about history and about the culture of our community. I remember his days working with César Chavez and the United Farm Workers and then coming back to the ranch and farming and working with us for so long. He is and always will be my hero. I miss him.

To all the rest of my brothers and to my sisters, they have all been the bedrock also of my successes. Today, here on the floor of the Senate, as I give my farewell address, I have the honor of being joined by Congressman John Salazar, who is a Congressman for the Third Congressional District which covers about 65 percent of the State of Colorado. Congressman Salazar, in his own way, is a personification of many things that my family stands for. If you look at his history and his profile, he is a farmer, he is a soldier and veteran, he is a businessman. He knows issues such as water. He knows and has taught me so much. As he and I have grown up together, being here in Washington with him has been one of the highlights of my entire life.

I wish to also thank all of my colleagues here, and I will say just a few specific words about them in a few minutes.

In early February, the Senate selects a Member to perform its oldest nonlegislative tradition, the reading of George Washington's Farewell Address on the floor of the Senate. In 2006, Senator Harry Reid, the majority leader, gave me the honor of doing that reading. I think Washington's famous words are important for us to remember at this time of transformation in America. In his farewell to public life in 1796, Washington warned us of the dangers of partisanship, of geographic sectionalism, and the politics of division. Washington said:

We are one Nation. With slight shades of differences you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Washington's Farewell Address is a message to be reborn today. In this moment, in this time, with the inauguration next Tuesday, with this body in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, there is a new hope, with a growing sense that we are all in this together, and we are again be-

coming the one Nation the first President of the United States of America imagined.

Our next President, Barack Obama, embodies this historic change. He is asking us not to think of ourselves first as Red States and Blue States, but as Americans first, with obligations of service to one another. We can solve our problems, no matter how difficult they are. We can reach the horizon of human possibilities no matter how difficult it might seem, but in order to do that, we must all work together. It is in this spirit of collaboration—of Nation before party, of compromise, of results-driven government—that Americans believe we can get it done this time.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all of you in this Chamber who have guided me in our work over the last several years. I wish to comment specifically just on four or five areas I am very proud of that we have worked on together in the Senate.

The first is about the forgotten America and the work we have done together to make sure the rural part of America that has so often been forgotten is no longer forgotten. When you look at the United States of America, the fact is, there are about 3,000 counties. About 1,700 of those counties are characterized as rural, and in each of those counties, we have significant unemployment. We have income disparities of some \$10,000 per capita between people who live in those rural counties and the people who don't. So it has been important for us to address the issues and needs of rural America. We have done that in some significant ways. The passage of the farm bill, which we ultimately had to pass out of this Senate, I think, on three or four different occasions during the last year, was a culmination of that promise to the forgotten America.

I wish to thank Senator Reid for making sure we kept our feet to the fire to get that bill done. I wish to thank the people who were involved in that legislation, including the chairman of the committee, Senator Tom Harkin; our ranking member, the great Senator from Georgia, Saxby Chambliss; as well as Kent Conrad and others who were involved in that historic effort, including all of the members of the Agriculture Committee.

Second is the creation of a new energy frontier. There were many of us, including some of us who are on the Senate floor this morning, who set about some 4 years ago with a vision that we could set America free; that we could deal with the reality of the inescapable forces of our time of national secu-

urity and economic opportunity at home and environmental security for our planet; and that we could set America free from our addiction to foreign oil. Under the leadership of Senator Bingaman from New Mexico as chairman of the committee, and the work of Senator Pete Domenici and other members of the Senate Energy Committee, I believe we have taken some steps in that direction which are very significant. There is much more we must do, and we are absolutely committed to making sure we take the moonshot to energy independence in the years ahead. Of this I am confident: this time we will not fail. We cannot afford to fail in the energy imperative for our Nation.

Third, I thank all of my colleagues with whom I have worked on the Senate Energy Committee. I also wish to thank every Member of this Chamber who has worked to make sure America's defenses remain strong and that we protect America at home through homeland security efforts and the implementation and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and the efforts we have worked on together in this Chamber to give the United States of America a new direction with respect to the war in Iraq.

It is because of the debates that have taken place in this Chamber that today we are on a new pathway and new plan in Iraq. As divisive as those debates have been, I am confident that the people who worked on that issue had the best interests of the United States of America in mind.

It is in that vein that I enjoyed very much the work I did with many Senate Democrats and Republicans in trying to craft the legislation that implemented the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Sixteen Members of the Senate joined us in that legislation. Because that legislation really created the roadmap for where we are in Iraq today, I am pleased with the work I was able to do in that effort.

I will never forget the fact that Senator Levin, Senator Warner, and Senator Reid were among the first people who took me to that place in the Middle East, places I had never traveled to before, right into Baghdad, to places around that country. It was information I gleaned from those trips that helped me participate in one of the debates of our time that characterizes the last 4 or 5 years in America.

Fourth, I wish to make a quick comment about health care. There are many people who have worked on this issue over time. I do think that what we were able to do with the Children's Health Insurance Program and the passage of that bill last year demonstrates how Republicans and Demo-

crats can come together. When I see an Orrin Hatch and a Max Baucus working together to move forward with legislation that is so enormously important for the children of America, it is the right step for us as we try to deal with this enormous domestic problem that faces all of us. And there have been so many people who have been involved in those efforts.

Fifth, and finally, I have spent a lot of time in this Chamber at this desk and my other desk working on the issue of immigration. It is an issue which, frankly, still continues to call out in a very clarion and clear voice that we must get to a resolution with respect to this issue because it affects so much. It affects our national security, it affects whether we really are a Nation of laws, and it affects the reality of 12 million people who live in the shadows of America today. I am hopeful that with President Obama's leadership, the leadership of the Senate, and the leadership of the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats coming together, this is an issue we will finally resolve in the year ahead.

As I conclude, I want to make one more tribute to Senator Harry Reid. We both are men of faith, and we often share our faith together. He encouraged me, along with Senator Mark Pryor, to be a part of the Wednesday Prayer Breakfast in the Senate. I was proud to chair that breakfast with Mark Pryor over the last several years and with my colleague, Senator Mike Enzi.

I appreciate the fact that among those of us who attended that Prayer Breakfast, I am certain that among the 100 Members of the Senate, there is a great common sense that the possibilities of humanity are somehow achievable to all of us, that it is we as human beings who somehow stand in the way of finding what those human possibilities are for all of humanity.

I think back to a story some of you have heard of my grandmother who lost five of her eight children before those children reached the age of 5 years old. I always ask myself: What is it that kept her going? At the end of the day, my answer to my question has been that what kept her going was the fact that she had a faith in the future, that somehow around the corner, in a future she could not see, the world would be much better for her children and for her grandchildren. For sure she could not have seen that the eight surviving children of her only son would all graduate from high school. I am sure she could not foresee that one would be-

come a U.S. Senator, another a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. What she could see was the world would be better for humanity. It is a common bond for Members of this august, wonderful Chamber of the U.S. Senate.

As I close, I want to share the prayer that I have shared with Senator Reid and many of my colleagues in this Chamber before. It is a prayer that my brother, Leandro, the oldest in the family, learned when he worked with César Chavez, the founder of the United Farm Workers of America. In many ways, I believe this prayer embodies what we do in public service.

The prayer is as follows:

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.
Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.
Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.
Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.
Give me honesty and patience;
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.
Let the Spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.
Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.
Help us love even those who hate us;
So we can change the world.

Mr. President, one thing I forgot to say. The 5 million people of the State of Colorado have given me a great honor to serve as their attorney general and to serve on their behalf. I will submit for the *Record* some of the work we have done in the representation of all of the 5 million people of the State of Colorado. No matter where they were from, no matter what their economic circumstance, they knew we were working on their behalf.

I am elated that Senator Mark Udall has joined us in the Senate because I am absolutely confident he will become one of the stellar Senators of this body.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the *Record* the genealogy chart of my family and a list of the wonderful DC and Colorado staff.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

DESCENDANTS OF CAPITAN JUAN DE SALAZAR

Juan de Salazar, Conquistador, born 1520, became a Noble in 1543.
Juan de Salazar, Conquistador and founder of Santa Fe, born 1559.

José Bernardo de Salazar, born 1595.
Francisco de Salazar, born 1630.
José Juan de Salazar, born 1670.
Enrique de Salazar, born 1700.
Demetrio de Salazar, born 1750.
Julián de Salazar, born 1780; Maria de las Mercedes de Sandoval.
Francisco Estéban de Salazar y de Sandoval, born 1800; Maria del Carmen Valdez.
Eusebio Salazar, born March 9, 1849; Amade Garcia, born 1859.
Juan Bautista Salazar, born June 24, 1894; Antonia Cantu, born 1884.
Henry S. Salazar, born March 10, 1916; Emma M. Montoya, born April 23, 1922.
Leandro, LeRoy, John, KEN, Elaine, Margaret, Elliott, and June.

DC STAFF

Black, Steve, Leg Counsel; Dunham, Ian, Leg Aide; Ibarra, Beatriz, Leg Counsel; Johnson, Aya, Leg Aide; Koehler, Jim, Leg Asst; Lane, Jeff, Chief of Staff; Leahy, Andrew, Leg Aide; Lee-Ashley, Matt, Communications Dir; Leslie, Grant, Leg Dir; Mitchell, Sam, Leg Asst; Nieters Su, Piper, Leg Counsel; Olsen, Tommy, Deputy Press Sec; Padilla, Joan, Scheduler; Paladino, Emily, Leg Asst; Perko, Mary, Administrative Dir; Phillips, Jeffrey, Spec Asst for Const Ser; Plumb, John, Leg Asst; Reis, Ariane, Leg Aide; Scott, Denise, Spec Asst for Const Ser; Squarrell, Elena, Asst Scheduler; Terry, Anne, Systems Admin; Ulrich, Elaine, Leg Fellow.

COLORADO STAFF

Amodeo, Michael, Press Secretary; Bobicki, Charlotte, Regional Rep/Ala; Brown, Ann, Regional Dir/Dur; Giron, Angela, Regional Rep/CS; Corwin, Meg, Regional Dir/FtC; Fagan, Renny, State Dir; Fetcher, Jay, Regional Rep/GJ; Gardner, Dwight, Regional Dir/PU; Joslyn, Angela, Regional Rep/CS; Kareus, Trudy, Regional Dir/GJ; Kessler, Zane, Community Liaison/Den; Lane, Ken, Senior Counsel; McGraw, Mac, Regional Rep/FtM; See, Randy, Regional Rep/GJ; Milliner, Bennie, Community Liaison/Den; Montoya, Pres, replacemn Regional Rep/FtC; Oatman-Gardner, Annie, Regional Dir/CS; Otero, Jerry, Regional Rep/GJ; Pacheco, Romaine, Statewide Dir/Constit Ser; Schwantes, Lisa, Regional Rep/DU; Serenil, Eva, Community Liaison/Den; Sepulveda, Catherine, Staff Asst/CS; Sweeney, Betty, Community Liaison/Den; Tesky, Jonathan, Staff Asst/Den; Wallick, Velina, Scheduler/Den.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank my wonderful staff, many of whom are here today, some of whom are watching back in Colorado, for having made this possible. Without their great effort, frankly, we would not be able to do what we have done. I thank them.

I thank my good friend, the Presiding Officer. I look forward to our continuing to work together.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

TRIBUTES

TO

KEN SALAZAR

Proceedings in the Senate

FRIDAY, *January 16, 2009*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in a few minutes, Senator SALAZAR will rise to give his final speech on the floor of the Senate. Parting is with such sweet sorrow. I have such great respect for this man we call KEN SALAZAR.

I spoke yesterday regarding Senator Biden, who will become Vice President of the United States next Tuesday. I also spoke about Senator Clinton who, after her confirmation, will become Secretary of State. The accomplishments of Senators Biden and Clinton are well known—two great Americans. The accomplishments and life of KEN SALAZAR are less known but no less remarkable; in fact, in most instances more remarkable.

KENNETH LEE SALAZAR is a 5th-generation Coloradan and a 12th-generation American. His family is a remarkable story about what America is all about. His family settled in New Mexico 400 years ago and moved to Colorado's San Luis Valley in the middle of the 19th century, claiming some of the region's first water rights.

KEN SALAZAR grew up farming and ranching the same Colorado land his ancestors had for hundreds of years. This is real rural America, 300 miles from Denver. The ranch did not have electricity until 1982—no telephone, no television. Senator SALAZAR and his seven brothers and sisters were born to two American patriots. His mom Emma traveled to Washington by herself as a 19-year-old girl to do her thing in World War II. She went to work in the War Department here in Washington, DC, while KEN's father Henry joined the military and became a staff sergeant. He was so proud of that service in the military that he asked, when he passed away, to be buried in his staff sergeant uniform; his family complied with that.

Although Emma and Henry were not educated in the true sense of the word by having gone to colleges and universities, their love of education was so strong that all eight of the Salazar children have college educations, and some such

as KEN, of course, have gone on to graduate from law school and other such things.

KEN SALAZAR farmed for more than 30 years; and he and his lovely wife Hope—who is such a nice, strong person—owned a number of businesses in Colorado. As I recall, I think one of them was a Dairy Queen and I think maybe a couple of radio stations.

I had the good fortune of traveling to South America with Hope and KEN, and it was a remarkable trip—Bolivia, Peru, Machu Picchu. It was a wonderful trip, something I will always remember.

Later, I practiced water and environmental law to protect the health of Coloradans and the beauty of that State—and anyone who has ever been to Colorado knows it is one of the great national treasures we have in our country. It is a beautiful State. But I think what I have learned about the Salazars, and KEN especially, is that if you look at their family, you learn a lot about them. They are a great American family.

When KEN decided to run for the Colorado State attorney general's office, his father Henry was with him all the time. In fact, he had a pickup truck, and he traveled the State with his son. They visited all 64 counties in Colorado. Senator SALAZAR did not do that just once, he has done it many times.

Henry Salazar was not alive long enough to see KEN elected to the Senate, but I can say with certainty that as proud as he was of his son already, his pride would overflow for the Senator who is going to become now a member of President Obama's Cabinet.

That election in 2004 was dramatic. All over the country, we Democrats were hoping to pick up seats. We lost just about everything, except Illinois and Colorado. Two great Senators, two great Americans were elected that year as Democrats: Barack Obama and KEN SALAZAR.

KEN's mother Emma, who is now almost 88 years old, is surely just as proud as her husband Henry was of her son, who will now serve this country as a Cabinet secretary.

Senator SALAZAR's election, as I have indicated, was one of the few bright spots of 2004, a year that saw us defeated in the Presidential election and all the close congressional races.

Expectations were high for the new Senator from Colorado, and KEN SALAZAR met and exceeded every one of the expectations. While in the Senate, Senator SALAZAR has been a

champion for a new defense and foreign policy that keeps us safe, restores our authority in the world, and honors the courageous service of our men and women in uniform. He has helped lead the fight for affordable health care, and to help broaden the State Children's Health Insurance Program. He serves on the Senate Energy Committee, Finance Committee, and Agriculture Committee, and these are tremendous assignments that he received as a young Senator.

He has done so well as a Senator in so many different capacities: as an advocate for clean, affordable, and renewable energy and for protecting our environment and natural resources.

Coloradans have rightly come to love KEN SALAZAR. He is now going to bring this remarkable experience and wisdom, as he leaves the Senate, upon confirmation, to begin a new adventure as President Obama's Secretary of the Interior.

All of us feel his time in the Senate is far too short, but I know his upcoming service to our Nation will in no way take away from the legacy he has left in the Senate. After having served as a Cabinet officer, it will be enhanced. His new role will enhance that.

Senator SALAZAR has a keen understanding of life and of the environmental concerns and needs of Western States such as Colorado and Nevada. He will be a great advocate for the people of both our States and the whole West and our country.

Barack Obama's Cabinet selections have been one of his most approved adventures in government in a long time: Republicans, Democrats, Independents. I think his appointments to the Cabinet have been so significant. None has been more significant than KEN SALAZAR. To take this great Senator and convince him to be a Cabinet officer says it all. It shows how remarkable both Barack Obama and KEN SALAZAR are; classmates who came here together in 2004.

The most important attribute I have found about KEN SALAZAR, this relatively new Senator, was his ability to be a peacemaker, to reach out and bring us together. He was new here when we were going through the battle dealing with the nuclear option. But he stepped right in, understood what our Constitution was all about, why it was so important that matter be settled, and he was one of the leading advocates of working that out, which he did.

Immigration is a difficult issue. Who, of course, was the leader on that? KEN SALAZAR. Because he wanted a program that was comprehensive and fair to all sides.

As everyone knows, we had a situation with Senator Lieberman that was unique, and it needed to be resolved. Who did that? KEN SALAZAR. KEN SALAZAR wrote in hand the resolution. He is the one who talked to Democrats and Republicans, recognizing we were headed in the right direction.

So he is a peacemaker, not bound by labels but only by his own integrity. Much of that integrity and moral grounding comes from his faith, which I have heard him discuss in personal conversations with me, downstairs every Wednesday with our Prayer Breakfast, and other places.

I have seen tears well up in his eyes as he talks about the beautiful mountains that surround his home in southern Colorado.

KEN tells the story of those mountains being named by a young priest who was dying. He wakes up delirious, with death close at hand, and looks out at those beautiful mountains, 14,000 foot mountain peaks, to see the Sun coming through those mountains. To the priest, they looked like the blood of Christ, and they were named "Sangre de Cristo," the Blood of Christ, Mountains.

Senator SALAZAR, your abiding faith, your moral grounding, your lifelong love of our country, and your family are treasures that I will never forget, and that will serve you well in years to come. Your colleagues are proud of you, proud of your accomplishments, grateful for your service, and excited for the problems you will solve and the progress you will make for all Americans.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wanted to come out and join my good friend, the majority leader, in congratulating the Senator from Colorado upon his selection as Secretary of the Interior, but I must say I am kind of sorry to see it.

The first thing I said to Senator SALAZAR is, "Say it isn't so." I hated to see him leave the Senate. Even though he has been here a relatively short time, he has made an enormous number of friends, I think an incredible contribution to the institution and, of course, to his State as well. I think his passion for the issues the Interior Department deals with overcame what I would have hoped he would have concluded in the end was the right decision, which was to say no to the new President and stay in the Senate.

We hate to see him leave. We think he has been an extraordinarily outstanding and fine Member of this body. I wanted to join with the majority leader and say how much we appreciate his service and how much all of us look forward to continuing to work with him in the coming years in his new and important responsibility as Secretary of the Interior.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise simply to say a few words of personal tribute to our dear friend, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, who has just spoken so beautifully.

We are going to miss this man. He has only been here 4 years, but he has made an extraordinary contribution to the Senate and to our country. I first got to know KEN SALAZAR in 2000 when I had the honor to be the Vice Presidential candidate for the Democratic Party and went to Colorado. I could see at the first meeting at which I met him—I had an instantaneous reaction to him—that this was a person of strength, of warmth, of character, of purpose. Every day I have known Senator SALAZAR since then has only deepened those feelings about him. You can feel all his strength and all of his purpose and all of his faith and all of his passion and all of his humility as you listen to this final statement he just made on the Senate floor.

I love the fact that one of the last items Senator SALAZAR asked was unanimous consent to print in the *Record* his family genealogy because it speaks not only to his extraordinary history and greatness but to the greatness of our country.

It is, obviously, a fact that the Hispanic-American population has grown and is growing significantly in our country. I have been with KEN on a few occasions, I say to Senator Reid, when people have said, “You are Mexican-American. When did your family come to this country?” And they are expecting to hear 20 years ago, 50 years ago, maybe 90 years ago. And KEN will say with that quiet strength: “My family came here in the 16th century.” The 16th century, before the Pilgrims came. It reminds us of a history which, as Senator SALAZAR said, was for a long time suppressed. But the Hispanic, Mexican-American contribution to America is long, it is deep, it is proud, it is strong, and it will continue to grow.

Senator SALAZAR was raised in a tradition, like so many of us, where we were told by our parents that to be a good American, you don’t have to assimilate or homogenize. You contribute to our country by being who you are and what you

are. In the diversity of this great country, we gain more strength. That has certainly been true of the Mexican-American community, and it is particularly true of this great American.

Senator SALAZAR talked about his faith, about his family, about the love of country he learned from his parents. This man is, in so many ways, the quintessential American. He brings this unique cultural heritage of his roots, family roots, way back in Mexico, but he combines those with the values we associate with the American West, the love of the land, individualism, a sense of honor, a sense of confidence that has become so much a part of the American character. And he added to that, which is where it all begins, as he believes and I believe and most of us believe, with faith, that we are here for a purpose, that our existence here is not an accident, and that we have a series of values that come from our faith which are expressed in the founding American documents and lead us forward.

Senator SALAZAR served our Nation brilliantly in the 4 years he has been in the Senate. What a thrill to have met KEN in 2000 and to have played some small part in having him come here and then to have him as a colleague—as Senator Reid said so well, to watch the role he has played. He is a doer. He did not come to make speeches. He makes a very good speech, as we just heard. He came to get things done for the people of Colorado and for the people of America, and he has done that over and over again.

In the so-called nuclear option, I always viewed it as the integrity of the Supreme Court selection process. Senator Reid referred to my own recent situation. Senator SALAZAR came forward, a dear friend, incredible across the entire Senate—in this case, the Senate Democratic caucus—and just on my behalf and on behalf of what he thought was right, created a path forward that made me feel great—I can say that personally—but I hope also and I believe facilitated a path forward and reconciliation within the Democratic caucus. Obviously, it would not have happened without Senator Reid. That was extremely constructive.

It was a tough decision for Senator SALAZAR to leave the Senate. It is a tough one for us to see him go because he is unique here. But he has responded to the call to serve our country. He will play an extraordinarily important role as a true American environmentalist, a lover of the land, in preserving all that the Interior Department oversees that is America's great natural gift from God—the land. He will

also, in a very thoughtful way, play a central role in one of the most significant transformations American Government has made in a long time, which is to turn us toward energy independence and a cleaner, more reliable source of American energy.

I wish him well. The only comfort in seeing him leave the Senate is that he is only going down the street a bit. We know he will be here to work with us.

I cannot think of a better way to end this simple tribute to a dear friend and a great American than to say that over the years we have come to know each other, both greeted each other and at moments of challenge said a particular two words to one another and then said goodbye to each other with these two words in which we have joined our respective ethnic heritages. And the two words that I say to you, dear friend, fellow colleague, as you leave the Senate to serve our country as Secretary of the Interior, and with my confidence that will not be the end of your service to our country but will go on, in my opinion, higher and higher, those two words bringing our two ethnic heritages together are *Viva chutzpah*. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I, too, rise to commend and thank the Senator from Colorado for his extraordinary service to the Senate, to the people of Colorado, and to the United States of America. He is a consummate gentleman. He brought to this Chamber great judgment and great passion to provide opportunity for all our citizens. He also brought the distinctive values of his State of Colorado—a rough sense of individuality, coupled with a commitment to building community; not just an isolated group of people but a community of citizens—and these values have been extraordinarily important to us. His friendship and his leadership have been extraordinarily important to all of us.

I see the Presiding Officer (Mr. Whitehouse) is my colleague and friend from Rhode Island, and as he pointed out a few days ago, they were both attorneys general together: Senator Whitehouse of Rhode Island, of course, and Senator SALAZAR for the State of Colorado. But we were all together in Rhode Island, and I was reflecting, KEN, I don't know what the Department of the Interior has to do with Rhode

Island. OK, the Outer Continental Shelf. There is a reason for my tribute.

But we were there together at an event, and Senator Pell, our dear colleague, came. He was frail and ailing, but immediately Senator SALAZAR rushed over to him to say, "Thank you, Senator Pell." Because as he told us, the fact is he and his brother, now in the Congress, and other family members were able to go to college because of the Pell grant. That spirit of opportunity, of giving Americans a chance, and then standing back and letting them do remarkable things, embodied the Pell grant and so many other programs. That is what not only prepared you for the Senate but gave you the vision to do all you have done to help your constituents and the people of this country to see the opportunity which is America.

You and your family have been in Colorado for five generations. I feel like a recent arrival. My folks got here from Ireland in 1850. So from a new American to an old established family: Thank you for your service; thank you for your friendship. Good luck, Mr. Secretary.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I didn't intend to say anything about our friend, KEN SALAZAR, today, but in listening to his remarks and knowing the contribution he has made around here in 4 short years, I couldn't resist. I am sure the Presiding Officer, if he wasn't presiding, would come down and do the same thing.

I first met Senator SALAZAR before he was a Senator; in fact, as we were getting sworn in as attorneys general together, probably in December 1998, if I remember correctly. We both had been elected to our offices of attorney general in November 1998, and we went to a National Association of Attorneys General meeting. We immediately bonded. It was very clear and very evident to everyone there that he had the right stuff to be a great attorney general. It turned out he was a great attorney general for the State of Colorado.

I encouraged him to come to the Senate when Senator Campbell announced his retirement, and I think it was probably the best thing I have done since I have been in the Senate was to try to get KEN SALAZAR to come here.

You know, when I think back about our Founding Fathers and how they designed the Senate and how I think they en-

visioned the Senate should work, they had in mind a person such as KEN SALAZAR to be in this body. They probably couldn't even imagine that Colorado would become a State. I mean, they probably couldn't even fathom the way this country would grow and change over the decades and centuries. But I think when they set up the Senate, they wanted people with intelligence, work ethic, character, and people who could put their personal views aside for the greater good. That is what we have in KEN SALAZAR. He is all those things.

He has been a Senator's Senator for the last 4 years he has been in Washington. I know his brother John is here. I know John is very proud of him, and I know the State of Colorado is very proud of the work he has done. And they should be because there is a lot to be proud about with Senator KEN SALAZAR.

I know all 100 of us couldn't be here today. We have some committee hearings going on, and we also have the inauguration coming Tuesday, so people are kind of bracing themselves and preparing for all of that. But if all 100 were here, I think you would have 99 people stand up and basically say what some of us have already said; that he has been an extraordinary Senator, an extraordinary person, and he has had a great impact in his short time in the Senate.

One last thing, on a personal note. One of the things I love about KEN SALAZAR as a person is his deep and very serious faith. I asked him to come in and chair the Senate Prayer Breakfast, which he took to new heights. He expanded the number of people who were coming to that. He was great. He chaired the National Prayer Breakfast for a year, and I think they probably set a record that year for attendance and in the quality of the speakers they had that year. So he has had not just a political and governmental influence but an even broader and deeper influence.

Senator SALAZAR, we are going to miss you very much. We all love you, and we all know you are going to do great things at Interior. We know there are a lot of challenges America is facing right now, but we know you are part of the solution. God has called you to be where you are going right now. So thank you for your service, and we are going to dearly miss you in this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Pryor). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I, first, thank you for your courtesy in volunteering to take over the duties of Presiding Officer for a moment so I could be relieved of those duties and come to my desk and have the chance to say something about a very dear friend whom we will miss enormously. I know we have something very important happening in a few minutes, so I will speak very briefly, but I don't want to let this opportunity pass.

We had an energetic group of freshmen Senators come in 2 years ago, and we found KEN was feeling kind of lonely because his class had been sort of a bit smaller than ours. So we sort of adopted him into our group. He has been kind of a big brother to all of us. I have had the privilege of knowing him as an attorney general, and I will not belabor the point, but what people have said about him as a peacemaker, about him as a friend, and about him as somebody who cares deeply about the duty of public service, I can attest to first hand from many years of experience.

So I will only say we will miss you very deeply. We are enormously confident in you. The Department of the Interior is lucky to have you, President-elect Obama is fortunate to have you join his Cabinet, and we wish you Godspeed, my friend.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am so honored to be here with my friend, KEN SALAZAR. When I think about KEN SALAZAR, I think about KEN SALAZAR in Colorado in his beautiful mountains, and I think of the idea of him going to be the head of the Department of the Interior is something that is a gift to this country.

I wish to tell one story about KEN. He and I were in Colorado together, out there for Barack Obama, and they had a big RV with the President-elect's picture on it. KEN SALAZAR is the only Senator who would insist on driving the RV on his own. He did it in style, with his big cowboy hat on. There we were, in the middle of the mountains on this winding road, when all of a sudden we see flashing lights behind us. Sure enough, we were being pulled over. There were 20 people in this RV and a caravan of media behind us. KEN was as calm as he could be. He pulled over to the side of the road, the deputy comes up—with his big cowboy hat on—and KEN rolls down the window and says, "Can I help you?"

Of course, we think he is getting a ticket for speeding, and he was ready to accept whatever this was. But the deputy says, "Sir, your license tabs are in the wrong corner."

And so KEN said, "Oh, so sorry." And he gets out with this deputy looking on and with the caravan of media behind with all the cameras, and a press guy yelling, "This is off the record."

So KEN's picture is there in the *Denver Post* trying to change his license tabs around the corners.

But it was KEN SALAZAR who wanted to have that moment and that freedom of driving through the mountains of Colorado at whatever the cost, and he will be a true tribute to his home State and to this country.

I am taking over the Prayer Breakfast from KEN, and I have seen first hand his great faith in God but also the faith he has in his family, whom I see here, and the people of this country. We are all very lucky to have him, though we will miss him as a mentor and friend in the Senate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to strongly support my friend and colleague, Senator KEN SALAZAR, as President-elect Obama's choice to lead the Department of the Interior.

For reasons I will explain shortly, I believe this man—a fifth-generation son of the West whose ancestors settled Santa Fe before America gained independence—is uniquely qualified and experienced to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I am very proud to have served the State of Colorado with him. He is an outstanding public servant and he will make an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

Our colleagues in the Senate are well aware of Senator SALAZAR's excellent record of leadership here—he has worked across the aisle and with diverse stakeholders on many issues ranging from health care to national security.

As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, KEN has worked to extend critical renewable energy tax credits, protect our natural resources and encourage environmentally responsible development of domestic energy sources. I've been proud to work with him on a wide range of issues, including protection of our public lands and water resources in Colorado. I'm especially proud of our work together to pass legislation that allowed a lovely older woman, Betty Dick, to pass her final days in peace on land she treasured at the Rocky Mountain National Park.

KEN, I think Betty would be proud of you today too.

Even before his time in the Senate, KEN had been a recognized leader in the West. As a farmer and rancher, KEN has always had a close relationship with the land and with rural communities. He has spoken eloquently about what he calls “the forgotten America” and he has been a steadfast champion of the land, water, and people of the West.

As the executive director of Colorado’s Department of Natural Resources, KEN used his unique background and experience to protect the environment and Colorado’s communities, educate youth about our natural resources, and defend Colorado’s water.

He helped create Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, and led it to become one of the most successful land conservation programs in the country.

While serving as Colorado’s attorney general, KEN worked to make our communities safer and address gang violence. He also led efforts to preserve open space during his two terms as attorney general, where he was well known as a champion of the natural environment.

KEN will bring his rural values—hard work, honesty, and integrity—to the Department of Interior and help address the many challenges facing this Department. From addressing Interior’s ethical lapses to tackling our country’s lack of transmission infrastructure, KEN will work hard to put the Department of the Interior back on the right track.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Senator SALAZAR’s family and, in particular, his mother, Emma. Like her sons, she is a remarkable Coloradan. I had the opportunity to visit her at the Salazar ranch, Los Rincones, last year.

If her son, KEN, demonstrates the same indomitable spirit, strength of character, and wisdom of his mother—and I believe he will, he should be an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Senator SALAZAR as the Secretary of the Interior.

I yield the floor.

WEDNESDAY, *January 21, 2009*

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in thanking KEN SALAZAR for his outstanding service to the people of Colorado over the last 4 years. It has been a pleasure to work with him on a number of issues; he is extremely easy to work with, both someone of integrity and great per-

sonal decency. In particular, he has been one of the Senate's leaders when it comes to protecting the rights and freedoms of the American people as we work to strengthen our national security. I was proud to work with him and a bipartisan coalition of Senators on the SAFE Act to change flawed provisions of the PATRIOT Act. I also appreciated his critical support of the NSL Reform Act, to address the serious misuse of the FBI's national security letter authorities. I also know Senator SALAZAR's deep commitment to public lands and energy resources issues, and I think he will be an excellent Secretary of the Interior. Again, I thank him for his service in this body, and I look forward to continuing to work with him as he assumes the leadership of the Interior Department.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to say a word of good wishes to the senior Senator, albeit very briefly, from Colorado, KEN SALAZAR, as he leaves the Senate to become Secretary of the Interior.

As the son of 12th-generation immigrants, from a family that farmed Colorado's San Luis Valley for a century and a half, no one has a deeper, more powerful connection to what opportunity means in this country than KEN SALAZAR.

I can remember one of the first times I met Senator SALAZAR. After we had exchanged greetings, I said to him, "My family came to America in the 1800s. When did your family come here?"

He replied, "Oh, about 400 years ago."

Indeed, it is remarkable to think that the descendant of a family that settled in the American West almost half a millennium ago will soon be a member of the Cabinet of the first African-American President of the United States.

Only in America.

Indeed, though his parents, who served their country in World War II, were not college-educated themselves, they made sure that KEN, his brother, John, and their six brothers and sisters all graduated from college.

To be sure, Senator SALAZAR is a son of Colorado—a small businessman who owned ice cream stores and radio stations. He was a farmer for more than 30 years. Indeed, he practiced water and environmental law. Our colleague's affection for the pristine, majestic beauty of the Silver State and its people is embedded in his DNA.

Senator SALAZAR also made a mark instantly on this institution. In 4 years, he developed a reputation for bringing people together in common purpose—whether it was advanc-

ing renewable energy policy, confirming judges, standing up to abuses at the Justice Department, or championing the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

I would add that as we work to expand that latter program today, his leadership will be missed.

His time in this institution was short, but he has made those moments count. As Senator SALAZAR seeks to find a balance between renewables and fossil fuels in the administration's energy choices, protect our public lands, and restore integrity to what has been a deeply troubled department, I am confident that as Interior Secretary he will bring the same temperament to the job that he has brought to his responsibilities in the Senate, never forgetting those who came before us—whose sweat and heart remain at the very foundation of this great country of ours.

And so, today, we thank Senator SALAZAR for his service and wish him well. As he has throughout his life, I have no doubt he will do a remarkable job for our Nation.

THURSDAY, *January 22, 2009*

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the resignation of the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, in order to undertake the duties and responsibilities of Secretary of the Interior, has left us with a sense of pride and loss. We are very pleased the Department of the Interior will have the benefit of his leadership, but we regret that he will not be able to continue his excellent record of distinguished service in this body.

It has been a personal pleasure to serve with my friend from Colorado. His warm personality and his seriousness of purpose as a Senator have enabled him to serve as a very successful U.S. Senator.

I wish my friend well as he undertakes his new duties. I am sure we will see him often in the Senate working with us as we support him and the Department in carrying out their important responsibilities.

TUESDAY, *January 27, 2009*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I stand before the Senate today to voice my great respect and hope in the Senator from Colorado, the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, who has recently left

this Chamber in order to serve as Secretary of the Interior under the Obama administration. It is with sorrow that I say goodbye to my good friend who has served with honor and dedication since 2005. Although KEN only served for a few years in the Senate, he has left his mark on us all and will be remembered for his dedication and service not only to his country but to Utah's neighbor the great State of Colorado.

KEN SALAZAR's personal history is a testament to his character and accomplishments. His family first settled in America just over 400 years ago, 12 generations back. KEN's parents knew the value of teaching their eight children about hard work and dedication, and from them he learned the worth of industry on his family's ranch growing up. Those early years on the ranch taught KEN about the importance of hard work, integrity, and dedication. It is also from these early experiences that KEN grew to love the beauty of the natural resources our Nation has to offer.

I am confident that the years of experience Mr. SALAZAR has worked on environmental policy in the West will serve him well in his new position as Secretary of the Interior. He has a deep-rooted passion for clean, renewable, and affordable energy as well as protecting our country's precious natural resources. I believe he will take quite naturally to his new role as our Nation's top public lands manager, and we will be well served by his sensitivity to those natural treasures we value the most.

In short, KEN SALAZAR has the experience and the passion required for the role he has taken on as Secretary. I thank him for his excellent service in the Senate and look forward to seeing good things from him in the coming years.

WEDNESDAY, *December 8, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to retiring Members of the 111th Congress, and that Members have until Thursday, December 16, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WEDNESDAY, *December 15, 2010*

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the printing of tributes be modified to provide that Members have until sine die of the 111th Congress, 2d session, to submit tributes and that the order for printing remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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