Mark Kirk

U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Mark Kirk

S. Doc. 114–21

Tributes Delivered in Congress

Mark Kirk

United States Congressman
2001–2010

United States Senator
2010–2017

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2017

Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

CONTENTS

	Page
Biography	v
Farewell Address	vii
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Boozman, John, of Arkansas	18
Cardin, Benjamin L., of Maryland	15
Collins, Susan M., of Maine	12
Cornyn, John, of Texas	9
Durbin, Richard J., of Illinois	3, 7
Enzi, Michael B., of Wyoming	11
Feinstein, Dianne, of California	8
Hatch, Orrin G., of Utah	14
Klobuchar, Amy, of Minnesota	13
Leahy, Patrick J., of Vermont	9
McConnell, Mitch, of Kentucky	5, 14
Peters, Gary C., of Michigan	17
Portman, Rob, of Ohio	18
Reed, Jack, of Rhode Island	8

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Champaign, IL, Senator KIRK graduated from Winnetka's New Trier High School and attended Blackburn College and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México before earning a B.A. (cum laude) in history from Cornell University. Senator KIRK also earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from Georgetown University, and served as an intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve from 1989 until 2013, when he retired with the rank of commander.

Senator KIRK worked as a staff member for Congressman John Porter before moving to work at the World Bank and later the State Department. He practiced law at Baker & McKenzie before serving as a counsel to the House International Relations Committee. In 2000, MARK was elected to the House of Representatives where he served five terms before his election to the U.S. Senate.

In January 2012, Senator KIRK suffered an ischemic stroke and underwent surgeries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital to relieve swelling in his brain. After nearly a year of intensive recovery and rehabilitation, Senator KIRK triumphantly returned to work by climbing the 45 steps of the U.S. Capitol on January 3, 2013. Friends and colleagues from both sides of the aisle cheered as Senator KIRK walked up the Capitol steps. Senator KIRK reflected that his return to the Senate was one of the greatest moments of his life.

Senator KIRK served on four Senate Committees: Appropriations, Banking, HELP (Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions), and Aging. Senator KIRK was chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs as well as the Banking Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to have a prop with me.

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise here in the Chamber to give my last speech in the Senate. I want to describe some experiences I have had that are at the heart of my service in the Congress.

As a staffer, I worked for the House International Relations Committee and for Chairman Benjamin Gilman. He had been asked by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to investigate the plight of Catholics in northern Bosnia. From that assignment, I went to northern Bosnia to meet with Bishop Komanic, who started out the meeting in a very difficult fashion.

He started by saying, "Am I a human? Am I a human? Am I?"

I said, "Yes, you are."

He said, "You foreign delegations always don't do anything for me."

I said to Bishop Komanic, "Please give me one task that I can take on for you."

He said, "If there is one thing I need, it is to get my human rights office head, Father Tomislava Matanovic—who was recently captured by a very notorious criminal, the police chief of Prijedor, Bosnia, who was infamous for starting the first concentration camp in Europe after 1945." It was called the Omarska Camp. The man who ran this place was named Simo Drljaca. He pushed 700 bodies down the shaft of this mine. In this work, he had probably captured the priest I wanted, Tomislava Matanovic.

When I went back to the States, as a reservist, I ransacked the DOD databases. We found from intelligence reports that we suspected this police chief of Prijedor had been the kidnaper of Tomislava Matanovic. I went to the CIA and

asked to meet with this man so I could urge him to give this priest back to me. When Simo Drljaca met with me, he gave me this memento of Serbia. It has the markings of St. George slaying a dragon, with a date of 1994, and various Serbian markings.

After I learned so much about Simo Drljaca, I asked the Clinton administration to make sure they could indict him for war crimes, crimes against humanity, to make sure we could eventually bring him down.

When the Bosnian secret police brought him to me, he gave me this memento, which I have kept under my desk. He gave that to me hoping maybe he would not get picked up. Luckily, the Clinton administration had decided to pick him up. They had a typically obscure DOD acronym to cover the status of this kind of person. They called them PIFWC, persons indicted for war crimes.

Eventually we got an operation together to arrest Simo Drljaca, and the British Special Air Service carried it out. When they waited for Simo, they waited by a riverbank for him to do his Sunday fishing with his son.

An officer had painstakingly memorized the Serbian's arrest record and indictment so he could read it to Drljaca in his British accent. When he started reading the indictment, Drljaca reached down into his fishing tackle box and shot the British arresting officer. Luckily, the British officer did survive, was wearing body armor. When that shot rang out, the security team across from the river put several rounds into Drljaca's chest. He dropped dead right there at the beach.

After I heard about this, I was so proud to be part of this congressional team and to still be an officer in the U.S. Navy.

I will say that this institution, and the U.S. military that has given rise from the appropriations we have given, is the greatest force for human dignity that has ever been put forward. I was so proud we brought this monster to justice. The guy who put together the first concentration camp in Europe had been stopped, and he could no longer hurt anyone. This memento has been underneath my desk here in the Senate ever since to remind me of the basic human values that we share so dear—that we have here. I would say the United States is now the greatest force for human dignity that we have ever seen. To make sure those values continue has been at the heart of my service here in the Senate and in the Congress.

Let me conclude by thanking some critical people.

I thank Congressman John Porter for hiring me back in 1984, when I started my service here in the Congress; Chairman Ben Gilman of New York for putting me on that international committee; the people of the 10th Congressional District of Illinois who first sent me to the House and the people of Illinois who also sent me to represent their State here; all the family and friends who put me here: Karen Garber and Michael Morgan, especially Dodie McCracken, who was always at my side—people who wanted to make sure we had a person of thoughtful, independent values who could serve here in the Congress.

To conclude, I want to give a message to the people of Illinois. For the people of Illinois, I would say: Take heart, Illinois, that you come from one of the most industrious States in the Union, the fifth largest industrial State.

Especially after the problems we had with Governor Blagojevich, we have been a little down in the dumps.

A lot of times, I will pull out my iPhone and ask people in the State the same question: Who invented the iPhone, the cell phone? The answer is, Martin Cooper from Winnetka, IL. On the top of the iPhone is a transmitter, and I remind us that the first cell phone call in the world was made from the 50 yard line of Soldier Field in Chicago. That trillion-dollar industry started right in the middle of our State. That, we should always remember.

Lots of times when I am giving this speech, I will say: If it weren't for the people of Illinois, a lot of the people you know would be missing teeth, because we invented modern dentistry with GV Black in Jacksonville, and our houses would not be so clean, because we invented the vacuum cleaner.

People on the southwest side of Chicago say: "KIRK, tell them that we invented the zipper"—which they did.

People in Peoria will say, "Hey, remind them that we invented the electric blanket." And they did.

From the electric blanket to the vacuum cleaner and the cell phone, the people of Illinois have been so innovative.

Now we have a unique time in history. I can safely say without contradiction here in the Senate that the Chicago Cubs are now the World Series champions. As I have said so many times, any professional baseball team can have a bad century, but we have finally killed the curse of the goat and all the curses that befell our professional baseball team.

I would say take heart, Illinois. You are so inventive that you produce most of the pumpkins in the country. When we

sit down to Thanksgiving pumpkin pie, that is 80 percent Illinois.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the remainder of my time to the victor of the Illinois Senate race, Senator-elect Tammy Duckworth.

TRIBUTES

TO

MARK KIRK

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 1, 2016*

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on January 3, there will be a new Senate sworn in. Members come down this aisle, to be sworn in over here by the Vice President of the United States, to become Members of the U.S. Senate. It will be the passing of the Senate seat in our State from Senator MARK KIRK to Senator-elect Tammy Duckworth. I would like to say a few words about my colleague MARK KIRK.

For the last 6 years, MARK and I have had a very positive professional relationship. The night he won the election, I was standing with his opponent Alexi Giannoulias when Alexi made the call to MARK KIRK to congratulate him. MARK asked that I take the phone, and I did.

He said, "I want to work with you. I know we just competed against one another in the election, but we now have a responsibility together to represent the State of Illinois," and we started a positive working relationship—a relationship based on mutual respect. One of the things we did was to continue a tradition.

Since 1985, my mentor and colleague in the House, and my predecessor in the Senate, Paul Simon of Illinois, started a Thursday morning breakfast, inviting people from Illinois who were in Washington and those who wish they were from Illinois, to come in for free coffee and donuts at no taxpayer expense. It was an hour-long public meeting so we could talk about what was happening in the Senate and then answer any questions and pose for pictures if they wanted them. I asked MARK KIRK to continue this, even though we were of opposite political faith, and we did, for a long time. We worked together to make sure the people of Illinois felt welcomed. We often took differing views on issues—that is understandable—but we did it in a civil way. People said they thought it was one of the highlights of their trip to see two Senators from two different parties working together. We did—and not just on those Thursday mornings. We found reasons to do it on the floor.

In the vast majority of cases, when it came to filling Federal judicial vacancies, MARK KIRK and I worked together to agree. Rarely did we disagree on those who needed to be chosen. As a result, we have had a pretty good record of filling vacancies in the State of Illinois.

Then, of course, it was in 2012 that a disaster struck and MARK KIRK suffered a stroke. It was almost a life-ending experience. He is lucky to be alive today. He knows it, and we all know it too. I primarily kept in touch with his staff, and with him, during the course of his rehabilitation after that stroke. It was a calendar year he had to give to rehabilitation, to learn how to walk again and speak again and do the basic things we take for granted. It was an extraordinary show of courage and determination on his part.

Finally, before he could return to the Senate, I visited with him and saw him some 10 months after the stroke and realized the devastation he weathered and how much he had managed to recover because of his sheer determination. The one thing he told me, though, was that he was determined to come back to the U.S. Senate and walk up those steps right into the Senate Chamber. He was working every single day on treadmills and with rehab experts to reach that day when he could get out of a car and walk up those steps. He asked me if I would ask other Senators to join him—especially his close friend Joe Manchin, a Democratic Senator from West Virginia, and we did. That day came and it was an amazing day. He started at the bottom of those steps and worked his way up, all the way into the Senate Chamber, to the applause of his colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—all the way up those steps. We realized what an amazing recovery he had made.

Our colleague Tim Johnson of the State of South Dakota had gone through a similar devastating experience. MARK KIRK said many times, when he was about to give up, he thought, Tim Johnson got back to the Senate. I can get back there if I work hard enough. He did just that.

He was an exceptional colleague of mine in the Senate. There were a lot of things we agreed on. One of them was Lake Michigan. As a Congressman from the 10th Congressional District, which is on the shores of Lake Michigan, he was always committed to that lake.

After the election, when the results didn't come out as he wished, I sat down with him and asked, "MARK, what do you want me to do in memory of your commitment to public service?"

He said, "Do everything you can to protect Lake Michigan." I am going to. I asked his successor Tammy Duckworth to join me in that effort, and we will in his name and in his memory.

I thank him for the service he has given to our State, the service he has given our Nation as an officer in the Navy Reserve, and for the years he put in as a staff member to Congressman John Porter, for the work he did in the House of Representatives representing the 10th Congressional District, and for his term in the U.S. Senate. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with him. Despite our political differences, I count him as a friend, as an ally, and as a true champion for the State of Illinois.

I wish my colleague MARK KIRK the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TUESDAY, *December 6, 2016*

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator MARK KIRK has never been one to be intimidated by a challenge. He is willing to work hard even when the going gets tough. He never shies away from a tough debate, and he always comes prepared. He has been defying the odds for a long time and inspiring others along the way.

Nearly 5 years ago, Senator KIRK suffered a debilitating stroke—one that threatened to end his Senate service nearly as soon as it had begun. In the blink of an eye, MARK KIRK went from juggling constituent meetings and committee hearings to lying in a hospital bed wondering if he would ever walk again or talk again or read again.

If Senator KIRK had decided to just quit the Senate and focus on his recovery, no one would have blamed him. But he didn't do that. He never lost hope. He never gave up. He set his sights on getting back to work for the people of Illinois and the Nation. That is exactly what he did.

We were there to witness his triumph several months later. Cane in hand, a smile on his face, Joe Manchin to one side, Joe Biden to the other, one foot in front of the other, Senator MARK KIRK climbed and climbed and climbed. He ascended each of those 45 Capitol steps to the top of this Chamber as we all cheered him on.

MARK could rest assured no one was going to let him fall that day. Senator Manchin could rest assured that he

wouldn't have to go another day waiting for his buddy to return.

Days after MARK's stroke, Senator Manchin hopped on a flight to Chicago to check on his friend in person. He saw first hand the many challenges KIRK had to overcome in recovery. But he never doubted MARK's will, determination, or desire to get back to work.

"MARK KIRK," he said, "is like the Energizer Bunny. He just keeps going and going and going."

Senator Manchin and Senator KIRK might seem like an unconventional pair. One is a Democrat, the other a Republican. The West Virginian is an outdoorsman, the Illinois Senator is a gamer. Senator Manchin is a mountaineer, and Senator KIRK ascends skyscrapers.

But as the senior Senator from West Virginia put it, they "just clicked from day one" and quickly became the best of friends. Now they go boating together. They meet for lunch nearly every Thursday. They support each other. The support of good friends like Senator Manchin has been critical to Senator KIRK's dramatic recovery.

He has found support in other places, too, including the mailbox. A few weeks after his stroke, Jackson, a 9-year-old fellow stroke survivor from Illinois, wrote Senator KIRK to share his own story and some words of encouragement. "Do not give up on yourself," Jackson wrote. "All the hard work is worth it."

"P.S.," he said, "I think kids should get paid to go to school."

The pair quickly became pen pals and even picked up a new joint sport of tower climbing in their rehabilitation.

Senator KIRK calls Jackson his personal hero. Last year, he invited him to visit Washington and be his guest at the State of the Union. To hear Senator KIRK tell it, he may have never made it back for that address at all without Jackson's support and kind words.

I know the support he received from his fellow home State Senator didn't go unnoticed either. After MARK's stroke, Senator Durbin visited his staff, offering to help out however he could.

Senator KIRK's story reminds us that the Senate can be more than just a place of work, it can actually be a family. In his own words, "The things that divide us in politics are infinitesimal compared with the dignity of our common humanity." It is a powerful message, and I think it is one we can all learn from.

Senator KIRK said that America's men and women in uniform represent "the greatest force for human dignity on Earth." He is right. The work he has done to help us meet the obligation our Nation has to military families and our veterans will endure beyond his term.

MARK KIRK, a veteran himself, understands the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make each day on our behalf. He knows they deserve our full support, not only when they are on Active Duty but also after their tours are complete.

That is why he has worked to help guarantee the quality of health care that our heroes are counting on. It is why he has worked to help eliminate corruption within the VA so that our veterans receive timely care as well.

He has proven himself as a leader on national security issues too. He understands the value of our alliances and worked to strengthen them, especially with Israel.

He has a clear-eyed view of our adversaries too and has never been afraid to speak out or take action, from North Korea to Iran. When it comes to Iran specifically, Senator KIRK was the tip of the spear on this issue, bringing attention to the threat of Iran's aggressive behavior and pushing for legislation to help hold Tehran accountable.

He has long been an advocate for critical Iran sanctions like those extended just this past week, even when the administration pushed back and even when Democratic colleagues pushed back too. He doesn't back down, and thanks to efforts like his, we were able to see the legislation through.

So, yes, Senator KIRK may be leaving the Senate, but he has cast a long shadow here. He is not done yet. We know he will not stop looking out for our country. We know he will not stop advocating for stroke survivors. We know he is not going to stop. He will just keep going and going and going as he always has.

Senator KIRK reminds each of us that it is possible to persevere through even the most difficult of obstacles life presents. So, today, we thank him for the impact he has made on this body, for the inspiration he has been to so many, and for the years he has dedicated to serving the people of Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say at the outset that I took the floor last week and said a few words in tribute and friendship to my colleague, Senator KIRK. I am glad to hear the majority leader's statement this morning. It was

spot on, and it captured his public spirit, as well as his personal strength, that has brought him to this moment in history. I have been honored to serve with him for the last 6 years.

WEDNESDAY, *December 7, 2016*

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor our colleagues who are leaving us at the end of this Congress, six individuals who have done a lot to shape how the Senate operates today.

First I would like to thank my three Republican colleagues who are departing. Thank you not only for your service to our country but your willingness to work with me and other members of my party on a number of issues. . . .

Mr. President, Senator MARK KIRK took a brave stance on gun violence issues, bucking his party by cosponsoring our amendment to close the terrorist loophole. . . .

THURSDAY, *December 8, 2016*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to take an opportunity to salute and thank and commend my colleagues who are departing.

Mr. President, Senator KIRK, my colleague from Illinois, just finished his remarks.

MARK and I had the opportunity and the privilege to work on many things together. He is a Navy commander. He never lets me forget that. He always called me Major; I always called him Commander. He served the State of Illinois with great integrity, great energy, and great spirit, and we thank him for that very much.

Thank you for your service to the Nation in the uniform of the U.S. Navy.

We also have other colleagues departing: Senator Ayotte from New Hampshire; Senator Boxer of California, Senator Coats of Indiana; as I mentioned, Senator KIRK of Illinois; Senator Mikulski of Maryland; Senator Reid of Nevada; and Senator Vitter of Louisiana. Each has brought passion in their work to best serve their constituents, and the institution of the Senate and the Nation are better for this service. I am better for knowing them, working with them, and having the opportunity to share with them, and I want to thank

them for their service. Let me mention a few words with respect to all of these distinguished Senators. . . .

Mr. President, MARK KIRK I have mentioned. I had the privilege, the opportunity, and the pleasure of being able to salute him as he was here. Again, we always greet each other as Major Reed and Commander KIRK, and I see deep symbolism and deep affection in regard to that exchange. I wish him well as he goes forth. . . .

I have been very fortunate. I have had the privilege to serve with these ladies and gentlemen, and I want to thank them for their service.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for nearly 16 years, Senator MARK KIRK has given voice to his Illinois constituents here in Washington. His long record of service includes work as a congressional staffer, a 24-year career as a naval intelligence officer, a U.S. Congressman, and a U.S. Senator.

Dedicated to several matters of national and international importance, Senator KIRK has supported a range of legislative efforts during his Senate tenure and has not shied from opposing his party's position. From supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and efforts to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," from his opposition to defunding Planned Parenthood and the blockade of President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Senator KIRK has emerged as a conservative voice in support of some of the most critical civil rights protections debated today.

When Senator KIRK returned to the Senate following his traumatic stroke in 2012, he showed his commitment to Illinois' voters. As Senator KIRK begins this new chapter, I wish him the very best.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know it is always difficult to come to the floor and talk about the departure of our good friends and valued colleagues. The word I have heard mentioned the most this week is "bittersweet"—people looking forward to the next chapter of their lives but regretting the fact that good friends and valued colleagues are moving on to the next chapter of their lives. Every other December, we find ourselves bidding farewell to some of our most admired and respected Members. Today I wish to speak briefly about four of them, starting with our good friend from New Hampshire, Senator Ayotte. . . .

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to recognize the senior Senator from Illinois, MARK KIRK. If my colleagues have noticed Senator KIRK's interests on the floor, they will notice a

trend. In addition to supporting measures that help the people of Illinois, he is laser-focused on keeping America safe. He provides us a declassified situation map that shows us where the U.S. military is engaged in fighting the war on terror in the Middle East and in Africa.

He is a former member of the U.S. Navy, and so he has worked long and hard to strengthen our military at every turn. He has been a thoughtful and vocal critic of some of our Nation's biggest adversaries, like North Korea and Iran. MARK has never been one to shy away from more sanctions or steeper penalties for those countries if it means the United States will be safer as a result. To put it simply, MARK KIRK is a great patriot.

We all know his personal story of overcoming a stroke and his great perseverance and fortitude. It really has been an inspiration to watch MARK as he has recovered from that devastating stroke and continued to be an enormously productive Senator on behalf of the State of Illinois.

It has been a joy to see him turn that difficult circumstance into a rallying cry to help others get the best care and rehabilitation available today.

So I am personally grateful to Senator KIRK for many things, but in particular I want to mention his strong support of anti-human-trafficking legislation. I joined him in Chicago a few years ago to speak with law enforcement about the connections between organized crime and sex trafficking. MARK has never wavered from his support for important legislation that we passed here this last year called the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. He understood right from the beginning that human trafficking was essentially modern-day slavery, targeting, as it did, vulnerable children—typically a child of 12 to 14 years old who has run away from home, only to find themselves unable to leave because they have become a victim of slavery. So I am thankful to Senator KIRK for standing up for the victims of human trafficking and taking care of and prioritizing our veterans and service men and women.

Let me close by saying thank you again to our friends Senator KIRK, Senator Vitter, Senator Coats, and Senator Ayotte for the indelible mark and contributions they made to the Senate and my sincere appreciation for how they have faithfully served our country. I am grateful for their friendship and wish them and their families well as they tackle new ventures ahead.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, when the current Congress is brought to a close with the banging of the gavel, several Members will be departing our Senate community. Whatever they will be doing after closing this chapter of their lives, we wish them well and share with them our great appreciation for their willingness to serve and make a difference over the years.

MARK KIRK, one of our current Senators from Illinois, has left a mark on the Congress that will not soon be forgotten. He has served with great distinction, and he has made a difference in the Senate.

MARK's time in Washington began when the people of Illinois voted to send him to the House of Representatives. He represented their interests in that Chamber from 2001 to 2010. In 2010, MARK ran for and won an open Senate seat. When he was sworn in, he brought with him what had earned him the trust and support of the people back home throughout his years in the House—an independent streak and an open mind to everything that drew his interest and captured his attention.

The statistics of the past 6 years bear that out. Whatever came before the Senate gave MARK reason to review each issue considering the best interests of the people of his State. He wasn't always found exclusively on one side of the aisle or the other when it came time to vote.

During his years of service in the Senate, two issues that particularly drew his attention were Iran and the treatment of our Nation's veterans. MARK has been focused on Iran and what our Nation should be doing to ensure that Iran's threat to the Middle East and other nations is minimized. He has been tireless in keeping watch over their potential nuclear program. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, MARK has focused on ensuring that those veterans who retired from duty with medical issues have received the care they needed to recover and live better, more healthful lives. This was an interest that stemmed from his service in the Navy Reserve from 1989 to 2013 and is yet another way for MARK to make a difference in the lives of those who had served our Nation.

Before I close, I must recognize the challenge MARK overcame by recovering from a stroke during his Senate service. It was a long and difficult road back to the Senate so he could again represent the people of his home State, but MARK persevered. All told, it took him a year before he was

strong enough to return to Washington on a permanent basis.

One moment I will always remember is the day he came back to the Senate, walking the steps with Vice President Joe Biden and West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin. The courage, determination, and step-by-step success MARK made in achieving another difficult goal could not have been more clear to those of us who watched him climb the stairs.

The stroke that affected him physically also had an impact on his personal outlook on life. When he was able, he wrote of his experience, "I was once a pessimist. I'm not that man anymore. And that change, brought about by misfortune, is the best thing that ever happened to me."

I have enjoyed the opportunity to come to know MARK over his Washington years, and I wish he were going to stay with us so we could continue to follow his life as he works on his goals, dreams, ambitions, and efforts to keep us safe.

MARK, Diana joins me in sending our best wishes and our appreciation for your willingness to serve. You have a record of which you should be very proud—just as proud as we are of you. You leave having made a difference far beyond your years of service.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on January 3, 2013, Senator MARK KIRK climbed the 45 steps to the U.S. Capitol, triumphantly returning to work after a year of intensive recovery from a stroke. To the cheers of colleagues and friends, he called it one of the greatest moments of his life.

It was a moment of courage and determination that defined a life dedicated to serving the people of Illinois and of our Nation. From his service in the Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer, to the World Bank, the State Department, the House International Relations Committee, and five terms representing the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, Senator KIRK brought to this Chamber a wealth of experience, wisdom, and commitment.

I had the pleasure of working alongside Senator KIRK on the Appropriations, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Aging Committees. His approach to legislating has been in the highest traditions of the Senate: Informed, passionate, and always civil. He looked at the issues before the Senate not through the lens of a political partisan, but rather through the lens of a pragmatic problem solver and consensus builder.

Senator KIRK has been a valued ally on many fronts. We introduced the REGROW Act to accelerate the development

of new therapies for patients living with such diseases as Alzheimer's disease and diabetes and to achieve breakthroughs in stroke recovery. I was proud to be named with him to serve on the Women's and Family Global Health Task Force so that the United States will continue to be a leader in preventing maternal and childhood deaths from treatable causes. We joined together on vital legislation to keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists and in addressing our Nation's opioid addiction crisis. He has always had a deep commitment to good government and was a strong voice for accountability through independent, effective inspectors general.

As chairman and former ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Senator KIRK has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who serve our country. Following in the tradition of Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen, who helped pass the Civil Rights Act a half century ago, Senator KIRK has been a leader in ensuring the rights of America's LGBT community.

The past election brought disappointment, but it also revealed character. Senator KIRK ran a vigorous but honorable campaign and never compromised his principles. When the decision went against him, he conceded graciously, reminding Americans that what unites us is far stronger than what divides us.

It has been an honor to serve with Senator KIRK in the U.S. Senate. It has been a joy to develop our friendship, one I will cherish always. I wish him all the best in the years to come, and I know that he will meet any challenges that lie ahead with the strength and fortitude he brought to those 45 steps of the U.S. Capitol.

FRIDAY, *December 9, 2016*

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. . . . Madam President, I will close my remarks by turning to some of our retiring Senators and speaking briefly on each one of them. . . .

There are many other Senators whom we wish well to. There is Senator KIRK and the work he has done on the Great Lakes priorities. We have worked on that together, as well as all of his leadership in the area of international relations.

Mr. MCCONNELL. . . . It goes without saying that keeping the Capitol running is a vast undertaking. It requires a passion for service, round-the-clock work, and great sacrifice by everyone employed. The legislative process simply wouldn't be possible without the dedicated work of so many. On behalf of the Senate, I would like to acknowledge their efforts and say thank you to the following:

To my leadership team for their wise counsel; to our committee chairs and ranking members for so much great work over the past 2 years; to the many colleagues in both parties for working so hard to make this Senate a success; and, to those we are saying farewell to—Senators Coats, Boxer, Mikulski, Reid, Vitter, KIRK, and Ayotte—for your service to our country, I say thank you. . . .

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the junior Senator from Illinois, my good friend MARK KIRK. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing gratitude of his service on behalf of our Nation. When he leaves us in January, we will miss him dearly.

Senator KIRK was born in Champaign, IL, in 1959 and attended Cornell University, where he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history. He would later earn a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. His academic background in law and history prepared him for a life in public service.

Senator KIRK first came to Capitol Hill as a staffer, working for Congressman John Porter of Illinois. He quickly rose through the staff ranks to become Congressman Porter's chief of staff before leaving to take a post at the World Bank and, later, at the State Department.

While still working on Capitol Hill, MARK also pursued military service, joining the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1989 as an intelligence officer. He was an active member of the Navy Reserve for the next 24 years, retiring from the military with the rank of commander. As a Navy officer, MARK's duties took him to conflict zones across the world—from the forests of former Yugoslavia to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. For more than a decade, MARK continued military service while simultaneously working as a Congressman in the House of Representatives.

While in the House of Representatives, MARK distinguished himself as a prudent member of the Appropriations Committee and an expert on foreign policy issues. In 2010, he was elected to the Senate and quickly set to work the fol-

lowing year championing infrastructure reform that was critical to his home State of Illinois. In 2012, MARK faced perhaps his most significant challenge yet when he unexpectedly suffered a stroke that nearly took his life and left the left side of his body severely impaired. Rather than be defeated, MARK channeled all of his energies in working toward recovery, spending countless hours working with physical therapists to regain his ability to walk.

What motivated MARK most during this difficult period was the desire to continue serving the people of Illinois. Thanks to MARK's unrelenting efforts and the heartfelt prayers of family and friends—including all of his colleagues in the Senate—MARK miraculously recovered and was able to return to his work in the Senate, where he has served out the remainder of his term with the utmost honor and distinction. Senator KIRK offers all of us an unparalleled example of courage amid hardship and grace amid suffering.

Through his decades of dedicated service to our Nation, both here in Congress and in the military, Senator KIRK represents the very best this Nation has to offer. His integrity, determination, and fortitude in the face of adversity embody the very pinnacle of American virtue. Today I would like to thank him for his courage, his commitment, and his sacrifice. I wish MARK and his family all the best, and I hope that he will continue his service to our Nation in the years to come.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, much of the time here in the Senate, we are engaged in pretty fierce partisan battles. I would like to take a break from that for a moment and talk about the four Republican Senators who will not be back when the 115th Congress convenes next month. While we may have different political philosophies and policy prescriptions, I respect and admire each of them, and I will miss working with all of them. . . .

Mr. President, John Kennedy wrote "Profiles in Courage" nearly 50 years ago. But for the last 6 years, we have had yet another profile in courage here in the Senate: the junior Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK. In 2012, he suffered a devastating ischemic stroke. He had to relearn how to do basic things, like walking. It took a year of intensive physical therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago—physical therapy that has been likened to boot camp. When he returned on January 3, 2013, and climbed the 45 steps of the Capitol Building to reenter the Senate, it was a truly inspirational moment none of us will forget.

Senator KIRK is an Illinois native, from Champaign. He received his B.A. in history from Cornell University, graduating cum laude. He went on to earn a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from Georgetown University. While he practiced law at the law firm of Baker & McKenzie, most of his adult life has been spent in public service.

Senator KIRK joined the U.S. Navy Reserve as a direct commission officer in the intelligence career field in 1989. He was recalled to Active Duty for the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia; participated in Operation Northern Watch in Iraq, which enforced the no-fly zone, in 2000; and later served three reserve deployments in Afghanistan. He retired from the Navy Reserve with the rank of commander.

Senator KIRK worked for Representative John Porter and at the World Bank and the State Department. He came back to the Hill to serve as a counsel to the House International Relations Committee, as it was known at the time. When Representative Porter retired, he successfully ran for the seat of his former boss and went on to win reelection four times. I had the pleasure of serving with both Representative Porter and then-Representative KIRK while I was in the House. Then he was elected to the Senate in 2010, to the seat President Obama previously held.

During Senator KIRK's 16-year congressional career, he has demonstrated that he puts country above party, most notably by supporting the commonsense assault weapon ban. More recently, he was the first Republican Senator to meet with President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. He was the first Republican Senator to call for hearings and a vote on this superbly qualified individual, a position applauded by Crain's Chicago Business journal.

Senator KIRK is a staunch supporter of Israel and has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that a robust sanctions regime remains in place against Iran if it fails to comply with the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA. I have been pleased to work with Senator KIRK on S. 1882, the Nepal Recovery Act. That bill is on the legislative calendar; it would be a fitting tribute to Senator KIRK if the Senate can pass it before the end of the 114th Congress.

I know that Senator KIRK is justifiably proud of chairing the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. Under his stewardship, Congress is poised to pass record health care funding

for our veterans. He serves as the cochair of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, which promotes the economic vitality and environmental health of the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to 40 million Americans and Canadians. He authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative authorization bill and helped to secure $300 million in funding to implement it.

During the 112th and 113th Congresses, Senator KIRK had an awesome responsibility all Senators appreciate: his desk on the Senate floor—Desk No. 95—was the "candy desk." He kept the desk stocked with sweets made in Illinois such as Mars, Milky Way, Jelly Belly, and Snickers, helping to support an industry that employs over 3,000 people in his home State.

Senator KIRK suffered a life-threatening stroke. It temporarily slowed him down, but he returned to the Senate where his courage, grace, dignity, collegiality, and resolve will continue to inspire all of us long after he departs next month for his next great endeavor. I wish him well.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, as this eventful 114th Congress draws to a close, today I wish to honor a number of our colleagues who will be ending their service in the Senate. I was a newcomer to the Senate at the beginning of this Congress and the only Democrat in the freshman Senate class of 2014. I am eternally grateful for the guidance and wisdom of my fellow Senators, particularly those with decades of experience fighting for the American people. Constituents, colleagues, and historians will recount their accomplishments for years to come, but I will take a few minutes now to convey some brief words of praise and gratitude. . . .

Mr. President, another colleague from the Midwest, Senator MARK KIRK, has served with distinction in the Senate. Like me, Senator KIRK also served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. We have collaborated on efforts to help veterans suffering from PTSD, protect wildlife habitats and improve water quality in the Great Lakes, extend Medicare coverage for Americans at risk for diabetes, and even establish the Senate Albanian Caucus. I admire the strength and resolve Senator KIRK has exhibited throughout his Senate term and wish him continued success.

It has been a privilege to work with such talented and committed colleagues. I wish them all the best in this next chapter of their lives and thank them for their work. Thank you.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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 114th Congress, and an additional Senate document a compilation of materials from the Congressional Record in tribute to the President of the Senate, Joe Biden, and that Members have until Tuesday, December 20, to submit such tributes.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any tributes submitted by December 20, 2016, as authorized by the order of December 10, 2016, be printed in the January 3, 2017, Congressional Record of the 114th Congress.

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

○