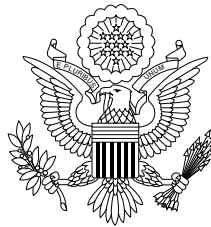


Dean Heller

U.S. SENATOR FROM NEVADA

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



TRIBUTES TO HON. DEAN HELLER



Dean Heller

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Dean Heller
United States Congressman
2007–2011

United States Senator
2011–2019



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

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Biography

The son of an auto mechanic and a school cook, Senator DEAN HELLER grew up in Carson City, Nevada, with five brothers and sisters. He began working in his father's auto shop in middle school and there he learned the importance of hard work, discipline, and commitment—Western values that continue to guide him today.

DEAN was sworn in to the U.S. Senate on May 9, 2011. Prior to his service in the Senate, DEAN was the Representative for Nevada's Second Congressional District and also served as Nevada's secretary of state and in the Nevada State Assembly representing Carson City. He received his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Southern California and worked as a stockbroker and as a broker/trader on the Pacific Stock Exchange before moving back to Carson City, Nevada.

DEAN served on the Committees on Finance; Banking; Veterans' Affairs; and Commerce. These committees allowed him to address the housing crisis, stand up for the more than 300,000 veterans living in Nevada, ensure that Nevada's transportation needs were met, and advance policies that facilitated additional tourism in Nevada to boost the State's economy.

DEAN and his wife Lynne have been married for more than 30 years and currently reside in Smith Valley, Nevada. They have four children, Hilary, Harris, Drew, and Emmy, and they are the proud grandparents of Brielle, Zachary, and Ava. The Hellers enjoy camping, hunting, and horse packing in the Sierras on the Nevada trails.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I rise with gratitude to address my colleagues and members of my staff to reflect on one of my life's greatest honors, and that is serving the people of the great State of Nevada. I begin by thanking them for giving me the profound honor of representing Nevada in the U.S. House for 4 years and then in the U.S. Senate for almost 8 years.

Nevada, thank you for granting me the privilege of working every day for a State I am so proud to call my home.

Of course, I thank my immediate family, especially Lynne, my wife, for being at my side for my nearly 30 years of public service.

To my children Hilary, Harris, Drew, and Emmy and to their spouses Eddie, McKenzie, and Collin, thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your tolerance of this process.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Jack and Janet Heller, my parents, for setting the right example and religious tone in our home while I was growing up.

To Richard Brombach, my father-in-law, and all of my wife's family, thank you for raising such a wonderful daughter, sister, cousin, and aunt.

I have five brothers and sisters, and they all played a vital role in my upbringing. So thank you to Jack, Tamie, Mac, Sara, and Bryan.

All of these individuals whom I have mentioned gave me their steadfast support and made my journey from the Nevada Legislature to the secretary of state's office, to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to the U.S. Senate possible. I could count on them every step of the way.

We all know how important our staffs are, and I am no exception. I have been fortunate to have had two staff members with me during my whole tenure in Congress, and I would like to highlight both of them.

Mac Abrams, my chief of staff, hails from North Carolina. I know more about North Carolina than I thought I ever

would. Mac came to me from Senator Vitter's office. After 12 years, we muse about writing a book together because, together, we have seen and been through a lot. From the great recession's impact on Nevada to the visits from Senator Reid to my House office, to Senator Ensign's resignation, to the Governor's appointment of me to the Senate, to Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, immigration reform, tax reform, and changing the courts—just to name a few—Mac has always been there.

In these Chambers, there are a lot of slings and arrows, and it takes an expert to walk through these minefields. No one does it alone. I have always had Mac Abrams by my side. So I thank him for his service to me but, more important, for his service to the State of Nevada.

Scott Riplinger has also served the office with distinction. Those who know him and who have worked with him know that he is a problem solver. It didn't matter which hat he was asked to wear, he wore it with pride. I will miss his hard work, his work on the Committee on Banking, his loyalty, and his great sense of humor. Every office needs a Scott Riplinger.

I would like to mention two more.

Sarah Paul has become a dear friend of mine. She joined my staff 7½ years ago, and I have leaned on her heavily to help navigate some very complicated issues. From gaming issues, to mining, to technology, no one—I say no one—can grasp an issue like she can. During the last campaign, she served as my chief of staff as others were relegated to the State of Nevada.

Thank you, Sarah, and congratulations.

On Thanksgiving Day, she introduced Liam Milliner Paul to the world. Again, congratulations to Sarah, to Raymond, and to big brother James on the new addition.

Finally, I recognize Ashley Jonkey. Ashley oversees our State operation, and she has been with us since my early days in the U.S. House of Representatives. Whether it is putting together the Tahoe Summit or keeping me up to speed on local issues, Ashley is someone I can always count on. In fact, over the past decade that I have known Ashley, she has become like family to me but, more important, like family to Lynne. She is based in Reno, but we are fortunate to have her here in Washington, DC, today.

I recognize her, along with Mac, Scott, Sarah, and the many members of my staff, who are here today on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

We have a great team. I have had a great team from top to bottom—a team that includes naturalized citizens whose families came to this country to seek better lives, professional social workers, and multiple combat veterans. Every member of my team in Reno, Elko, Las Vegas, and Washington, DC, has worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of Nevadans. My staff's dedication, enthusiasm, and work ethic go unmatched.

I ask unanimous consent to have a list of current and former staff and their names printed in the Record for this legislative day.

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

SENATOR HELLER'S CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF

Mac Abrams, Sarah Paul (Timoney), Ashley Jonkey, Meron Bayu, Scott Riplinger, Megan Taylor, Gretchen Andersen, Annie Sedgwick, Scarlet Doyle, Andrew Williams, Joe Boddicker, Blair Bjellos, Rachel Green, Lindsey Parobeck, Jazmine Kemp, Adam Miller, Hayley Brower, William Yepez, Meagan Devlin, Elizabeth Lloyd.

Michael Lienhard, Katie Pace, Rocio Meza, Lauren Morris, Eduardo Martinez, Brett Pollak, Mark Sutliff, Donna Bath, Kike De La Paz, Andrew Lingenfelter, Christy Guedry, Devyn Hartmann, Bruno Moya, Ryan Dutiel, Marcie Zajac, Andrew Thomas, Andrew Holbert, Emy Lesofski, Leeann Gibson (Walker), Josh Finestone.

Hayley Douglas, Stewart "Mac" Bybee, Michawn Rich, Pat Garrett, Alli Collier, Tom Ferraro, Stephanie Beverly, Mari St. Martin (Nakashima), Corrine Gianpaolo (Zakzeski), Katie Carr, Alison Gaske, Stephanie Ferguson, Karen Paulson, Paula Carroll, Amber Heinz, Ryan McBride, Victoria Glover, Emily Wilkenson, Jeremy Harell, Kristen Elias.

Kristen Pierce (Casey), Luke Burns, Spencer Armuth, Laura Hutson (Bland), Greg Facchiano, Chandler Smith, Neal Patel, Lauren Ann Rehrauer, Ryan Leavitt, Chana Elgin, Matt Morris, John Knobel, John Blum, Mallory Nersesian, Robert Jackson, Eric Duhon, Erin Collins, Christine Atchian, Daniel Giudici, Britt McManus Chapman.

Veronica Charles, Josh Marin-Mora, Chloe McClintock, Sam Crampton, Glenna Smith, Lucero-Gomez Ochoa, Stephen Sifuentes, Michael Mendenhall, Margot Allen, Terri Fairfield, Leonardo Benavides, Matt Morris, Andres Moses.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I would like to shift gears, for just a moment, to mention several topics that have demanded a lot of my time and a lot of my energy.

When it comes to our legislative successes—tax reform, changes on the courts, banking reform, go down the list—I am most proud of what we have accomplished to help the 300,000 veterans who call Nevada home. I think everybody in this Chamber will agree that while we can never fully repay our debt to our Nation's heroes, we can do everything in our power to show our gratitude for their selflessness and

for their sacrifice. Once these men and women return home after leaving their families to fight for our country, it is our turn to fight for them and to make sure all of Nevada's veterans receive the treatment they need, the services they need, and the skills they need to get the jobs to take care of their families.

I see that responsibility as a duty and a privilege. In fact, I have said this before, and I will say it again: The greatest compliment I ever received in public office was when I overheard one veteran say to another, "If you need help, call Senator HELLER's office."

As a senior member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have had the opportunity to give our veterans a strong voice in Washington, DC. Under Chairman Johnny Isakson's leadership, we have made great strides in bringing greater accountability to the VA and in improving the benefits, the care, and the support our veterans have earned.

For example, earlier this year, we pushed the historic VA MISSION Act over the finish line. This new law directs more than \$50 billion to our VA healthcare system so the VA can hire more high-quality doctors and allow veterans to get the care they need near their homes and on their schedules.

We also expanded the VA Caregivers Program, which provided a stipend to the families of severely disabled veterans who require caregivers in their homes. Previously, only post-9/11 veterans were able to apply. Now veterans from every era are eligible. This was particularly important to many veterans in Nevada who told me how critical it was that we give veterans more access to this program.

These are just a couple of examples to fix a problem that came up during my discussions during my Veterans Advisory Council meetings. I established these groups of veterans in the northern and southern parts of the State in order to speak frequently and directly with them about the challenges they are facing and the problems that need to be fixed.

For instance, just a few years ago, the Reno VA was one of the worst ranked offices in the Nation. This was at a time when veterans were waiting, on average, 400 days for their disability claims to be approved. This was not acceptable, so I teamed up with Senator Bob Casey, from Pennsylvania, to hold the VA's feet to the fire. As a result of the implementation of the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, the backlog has been reduced by nearly 85 percent, and 500,000

of our military heroes around the country are no longer waiting for their health benefits. We also provided accountability through expedited firing authority of bad VA employees and overhauled the VA appeals process so veterans do not have to wait years for a decision. The President signed this bill into law in Reno last year.

Expanding veterans' access to care has been one of my top priorities. For veterans living in northern Nevada, I worked to authorize construction of the Reno VA hospital and delivered \$33.5 million in Federal funding for it so that the veterans of the north don't have to drive 500 miles to Boulder City to access the State Veterans Home.

I walked through the construction site when I was in Sparks last month, and I look forward to the completion of this state-of-the-art facility.

I did the same for veterans in southern Nevada. I worked for 10 years to secure the approval of the new larger clinic in Pahrump. For veterans who face barriers to try to get an education so that they can earn a good living, I introduced a bill that increases the education benefits for Guard Reserve members which ensures that the GI bill is available to veterans for life.

After Nevada was ranked second among States with the highest rate of veteran suicides and was experiencing a doctors' shortage, I authorized a new law that gives veterans more access to mental healthcare services and treatment.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Tester, Senate leadership, and this administration to enact laws that provide our veterans with the support and benefits they are owed.

While we have made progress, we can and must do even better. It is my hope that the next Congress—Republicans and Democrats—can continue to work together to get things done for our veterans.

Now, on another topic—tax reform—when I delivered my maiden speech on the floor of the Senate, Nevada was struggling after being knocked down by the great recession—a time when Nevada led the Nation in home foreclosures and when we had double-digit unemployment. Today, Nevada is leading the Nation in private sector job growth, the housing market has recovered, and home prices are increasing. Now we are one of the fastest growing States in the Nation.

Nevada is booming. It is because this Congress delivered tax cuts that put more money in America's paychecks, their pocketbooks, and their pensions, and we advanced progrowth

policies that have led to more jobs, higher wages, and more opportunities for Nevadans.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I am proud to have authorized and authored several provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that include, for example, not limiting but doubling the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child. Since the law was enacted, tens of thousands of jobs in the State of Nevada have been created. Recently, Nevada's unemployment rate hit a new 11-year low—the lowest rate since the 2008 economic downturn. As a result of this new law, tens of thousands of Nevadans have benefited from bonuses, raises, and expanded benefits, on top of bigger paychecks and strengthened pensions.

To give you a couple of examples, South Point Hotel and Casino doubled its full-time workers' bonuses. Developers of a stalled project on the Las Vegas Strip committed to creating over 10,000 jobs, and the Prospect Hotel in Ely gave its employees bonuses and raised its starting wages. All of this was a direct result of the tax reform bill.

Nevada's economy is back on track, and I hope this Congress will continue to advance policies to keep us on that path to help Nevada workers and the hard-working families get ahead.

Let me move on. Since coming to Washington, DC, my No. 1 focus has always been the people of Nevada and putting our State's priorities first. For example, I worked with Senator Martin Heinrich from New Mexico to level the playing field for the development of new, alternative energy technologies to support Nevada's energy diversification.

Earlier this year, I was proud to host the bipartisan annual Lake Tahoe Summit, and I worked with Senator Feinstein throughout my career to deliver resources to protect the Tahoe Basin and to fight devastating wildfires.

When Congress came together to approve a 5-year highway bill, I was able to secure my top infrastructure priority, and that was to expand Interstate 11 up to northern Nevada.

Whether it is leading the Republican charge to extend unemployment benefits in 2014, when Nevada's unemployment rate was nearly double what it is now, or breaking with my party to pass the Violence Against Women Act, I have always been willing to work with anyone who has good ideas to help move Nevada's families and Nevada's communities forward.

While I am pleased that I have been able to work with my colleagues to turn these ideas into over 100 pieces of legisla-

tion that are now law, this job is about more than advancing good policies. It is about helping people, and that is what is most important. I work for Nevadans, and when someone comes to me with a problem or calls one of my offices for help, we drop everything we do and all that we do in an effort to help them.

When the VA refused to pay a homeless veteran \$40,000 after he won his appeal, we made sure the veteran got paid so he could get back on his feet.

When a constituent had a liver transplant and was denied coverage and left without insurance, he enrolled into the marketplace exchange. When the time came to reenroll, the exchange denied him and forced him to go without insurance until my office intervened.

Take, for example, a woman who came to us after being charged a Medicare penalty of about 40 percent each month. My staff worked with the local and regional offices to secure reimbursement of \$1,000 and to adjust the monthly premium to save that constituent, potentially, thousands of dollars.

When a constituent spent 9 months trying to get her Social Security retirement benefits, we were able to get her a resolution to properly begin receiving her payment.

Finally, when a Navy veteran was in jeopardy of losing his home while he was temporarily out of work, we contacted the lender of his mortgage on his behalf and ensured that he was able to keep his home.

These are just a few examples of what this job is really all about—making life better for people you work for. I know that I am not alone. I truly believe that this is what drives all Members of Congress, and that is to serve their constituents—no matter your party, no matter your State, no matter what you did before you got here.

Before I got here, I grew up with two parents and five siblings who, like Nevadans, embodied the “battle born” spirit. I would like to pay tribute not only to my family, friends, and mentors who have helped me along the way but to all of my constituents by talking a little bit about what makes Nevada different.

Nevadans are pioneers. They are not afraid to take risks, to dream, to put in hard work, or to start from scratch. We are self-starters, we are builders, and we are trailblazers. We laid down tracks to connect railroads and mined for gold and silver in the north. We shoveled mud, drilled through rocks, and scaled concrete to construct the Hoover Dam, and in the

Mojave Desert we created the Entertainment Capital of the World.

One characteristic outsiders may overlook is this: We are fighters. There is no other event in our history that best serves as an example of that trait than the aftermath of the October 1 [2017] mass shooting in Las Vegas, a tragedy that truly shook our State.

I have spoken before on the Senate floor about the incredible and heroic people who helped to lead concertgoers and, in turn, the whole community, out of that darkness. Whether these individuals wore uniforms or not, they stepped up to help others, and their actions helped us grieve and start to heal together.

This immeasurable pain, suffering, and devastation inflicted by one man elicited a profound, innate, and immediate human response from Nevadans across the State.

Like many Nevadans, I saw first hand the strong sense of family, faith, and strength in the wake of the October 1 shooting. When I leave here, I will carry those extraordinary moments of unity and generosity with me.

During the 1989 inaugural address, Former President George H.W. Bush once said:

We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right. We know how to secure a more just and prosperous life for man on Earth: through free markets, free speech, free elections, and the exercise of free will unhampered by the state.

Regardless of what party affiliation you have, I still think we can all agree with those words. We can all agree that we are fortunate to live in a great country defended by men and women who stand guard to defend our way of life. We can all agree we are fortunate to live in a great country in which every aspiration or dream is possible to achieve. We can all agree that this is because freedom works, and that freedom is right.

No, not everything comes easy, and I would be lying if I said others didn't have to fight harder than some. But that job you want to get, that school you want to get into, that business you want to start, or that idea that you would like to see come to life is possible in America. This is a country where the son of an auto mechanic and a school cook had the opportunity to deliver the newspaper to then-Governor Michael O'Callaghan, go to Sunday school with then-Lieutenant Governor Harry Reid's sons, get his education at the same public high school as the late Senator Paul Laxalt, play basketball with Governor Brian Sandoval, and a place where

that same kid can grow up and serve Nevada in the U.S. Senate.

My goal always has been making Nevada a better place today than it was yesterday. It is a better place to raise a family—not only one where you can find a job but a place where you can have a long-term career.

I would like to end with this. My daughter Hilary and her husband adopted a young child from China. She was abandoned as an infant at a bus station. Her name is Ava. She was raised in an orphanage for the first 2 years of her life.

When my daughter and her family first met Ava, she did not cry when she was hungry. She did not cry when she was tired. She did not cry when she needed to be changed, and she did not cry when she was hurt. Why? Because it didn't matter; she was always on someone else's time. But she did cry when they took her shoes off to put her to bed. You see, in an orphanage, kids sleep with their shoes on so they don't get lost. Ava, at 2 years of age, had never slept without her shoes on.

Now, she did cry the first time when they bathed her in a tub of water. In an orphanage, you take cloth baths. So Ava had never been in a bathtub. Today, when Ava falls, someone is there to pick her up. Today, when she cries, someone is there to wipe away the tears. Today, when she is hungry, someone is there to feed her. Today, when she is tired, there is always someone there to tuck her into bed.

When Ava grows up in this country, there will be plenty of doors that she can open that would otherwise have been closed. I will never forget seeing my newest granddaughter in the arms of the Vice President, knowing that her life had changed forever.

This is the job at hand, to uphold this country's long-standing reputation as the land of opportunity.

I am an optimist, and I will remain one after leaving this great Chamber because I have seen remarkable moments here in Washington. This body has come a long way from its early days when Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John Calhoun were navigating a divided nation and fighting to save our young democracy. I believe that our Nation's future is bright, and that Nevada's future is bright. My heart has been and always will be in Nevada, a State that I love and a place that I am so proud to call home.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for you.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES
TO
DEAN HELLER

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *November 29, 2018*

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, on an entirely different matter, I am sorry to say it is time to begin offering thanks and farewells to Members whose Senate service will conclude at the end of the 115th Congress.

Today, I would like to begin with our friend, the senior Senator from Nevada. It doesn't feel like much of an exaggeration to say that DEAN HELLER may have been destined for public service. I don't just mean his eagerness to serve or his outgoing personality. There were other signs. For example, one of the stops on his childhood paper route in Carson City was the Governor's mansion itself. Talk about early civic involvement.

At every step of the way, from successful businessman to his local and statewide races, all the way here to the Capitol, DEAN earned the respect of his neighbors and constituents by following the hard-working example set by his parents. His mother worked as a cook in a school cafeteria. His father was an auto mechanic who raced stock cars on the side. Their son grew up to be the only sitting Senator I would trust to replace my transmission.

When most politicians use phrases like "rolling up their sleeves" and "getting their hands dirty," they are usually referring to things like late-night negotiating or taking tough votes—in other words, more talking. Not DEAN HELLER, he means it literally. As DEAN likes to say, here in Washington, during the week, he works for the people of Nevada, but at home, on the weekends, there he works for his wife Lynne on the ranch they keep up together.

But let it not be said that even in the midst of hard labor, DEAN isn't capable of multitasking. After all, sometimes official duties just can't wait. I have it on good authority that on one occasion DEAN had to field a surprise phone call from President Obama on his cell while standing right in the middle of a ditch. Another time, he took a call from President Trump and talked business right there in the aisle of a home

improvement store. Something about this image seems just right—not talking, not posturing, doing. That is DEAN HELLER; isn't it?

He didn't come to Washington to court praise for lofty rhetoric or to become a TV star. He came here to do. In just 7 years, DEAN has authored or helped to introduce 100 pieces of legislation that are now law.

Perhaps first and foremost, he has built a reputation as one of the Senate's chief advocates for our veterans. DEAN shares his home State with more than 200,000 men and women who have served our Nation, including one he calls "Dad."

Keeping the promise of top-notch VA services across Nevada's widespread rural communities is no small task. The facilities in Reno, in particular, weren't always up to the job, but day-in and day-out, DEAN has made it his mission to right the ship. As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he has fought to expand access to care, contributing key provisions to the VA MISSION Act and spearheading the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act. It is a legacy that is already making a difference for our veterans.

But these are hardly the only victories DEAN won for Nevada and for our Nation. He came to the Senate in 2011, representing a State that had been hit hard by the great recession and was trying hard to regain its footing. Nevada communities faced ballooning foreclosure rates and persistent unemployment. Fortunately, their new Senator was intent on hooking up the economic jumper cables and getting things humming once more.

DEAN has seized opportunities to champion an economic agenda that puts workers and job creators back in the driver's seat. He was a driving force behind the once-in-a-generation tax reform passed last December to put more money in the pockets of working families. It is pouring a new 21st century foundation for American businesses to compete, win, and create more jobs right here at home.

Today, Nevada is doing better, our Nation is flourishing, and DEAN HELLER was there every step of the way. He was especially instrumental in making sure that tax reform increased the child tax credit. DEAN knew that working parents need that money more than the IRS does.

Nevada veterans, Nevada workers, Nevada families—DEAN never lost sight of the reason he came here to Washington. He has been a happy warrior here in the trenches,

with a ready grin and an iron determination to do right by his friends and his neighbors.

I also have it on good authority that seeing DEAN in action back home in his natural habitat is truly a sight to behold. His joy at every conversation and every handshake around Carson City are palpable. Nevadans are DEAN's people. They always have been, and he has always been theirs, too.

According to some of the staff who travel around the State with him, it is practically impossible to make any brief stops anywhere. At a fast-food restaurant, or a sporting goods store, or even a gas station, DEAN would inevitably run into friends and set about swapping stories or Carson City inside jokes. On the rare occasions when DEAN didn't know the proprietor or fellow customers—no trouble, no trouble—he would have a room full of new friends in about 3 minutes flat.

I am told it never got old for the people around DEAN to witness the energy he drew from his friends, neighbors, and constituents. He was delighted to be one of them and honored to be their employee—"a man of the people"—not a cliché, in this case, a reality.

You don't need to take my word for it. I hear there is objective evidence out there, photographs from the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City. Suffice it to say it takes a certain kind of person to steal the show, riding horseback, dressed head to toe in full Western regalia, something like John Wayne. It is no wonder his grandkids—Brielle, Zachary, and Ava—know him as "Duke."

Now, his boss, Lynne, might very well have put him up to it. I hear she rides right there alongside him. But DEAN is no newcomer to the parade. In fact, it is the very same parade he marched in as a Scout years ago.

If you read that story in a book, you would think it was almost too earnest and too all-American to be true, but that is DEAN HELLER. He is the paperboy who started out delivering the headlines and wound up making the headlines, the Senator who still saddles up for the same parade from his childhood memories, one of Nevada's favorite sons and a dedicated servant of the entire Silver State.

DEAN's colleagues are really sorry to see him go. For a leader with this much heart and this much talent, any departure would feel premature. This one certainly does, but I doubt DEAN will have trouble finding good uses for a little more spare time. I know he and Lynne must be looking forward to saddling up their horses and setting out for the Sier-

ras a little more often than they have been able to lately, and I hear he could use a little bit of rehearsal time before he leads the Heller family band through its repertoire of Christmas carols this year—lead trombone. Lead trombone is no laughing matter. Maybe he will even find time to get back in the driver's seat for a race or two.

So whatever it is that DEAN does next—whatever it is—he should take with him great pride in all he has accomplished here in a policy legacy that will continue lifting up our Nation's veterans, workers, and middle-class families literally for years to come, and the sincere best wishes of the friends he has made here in this Chamber for health, happiness, and every future success for himself, for Lynne, and for their entire lovely family.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as a Congress ends, it is a tradition for the Senate to pause for a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of Senators who will not be returning for the next Congress. Today, I would like to pause in appreciation of the service of my friend and colleague Senator DEAN HELLER.

DEAN will be leaving the Senate after 30 years of dedicated public service at both the State and Federal level. During his time in Congress, he always demonstrated a willingness to consider all viewpoints, while remaining true to the principles that guided his career in public service. It is safe to say that DEAN's commitment to Nevada is as strong as ever, and his unique perspective in areas critical to his State will surely be missed in the next Congress.

Growing up in Carson City, Nevada, DEAN earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Southern California in 1985. After working as a stockbroker in California, DEAN moved back to Nevada and brought the skills he gained in the business realm to the public sector when he became the deputy State treasurer for Nevada.

Learning about DEAN's time as a Nevada assemblyman was something I appreciated because of my time in the Wyoming Legislature. DEAN's hard work led him to become Nevada's secretary of state for 11 years, then to the House of Representatives in 2007, and finally he joined the Senate in 2011.

His background in both the financial sector and public service was invaluable as a colleague on the Senate Committee on Finance. As a former small business owner, I appreciated his expertise and business acumen as the committee considered complex and important issues like tax re-

form. DEAN's insightful perspectives and willingness to work with people on different sides on key issues will surely be missed by the committee moving forward.

It was a pleasure to work with a Senator representing a State that shares so much with Wyoming. From the prominence of public lands, to welcoming visitors year-round to world class destinations, Nevada and Wyoming's similarities afforded us the opportunity to collaborate on key issues important to the people of both States.

DEAN's dedication to Nevada ensured he was a strong voice for the people who lived there. I am sure he will continue to use that voice to help others.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes and appreciation to DEAN, his wife Lynne, and his four children for his dedication to this country and the State of Nevada. His effect on the Senate was profound, and he certainly made a difference. We will always appreciate his service to the Senate and wish him the very best in whatever the future holds.

THURSDAY, *December 13, 2018*

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I can say with great confidence that Nevada and the Senate and the country are better for DEAN HELLER's service to our Nation. We know DEAN is a smart guy. He is so smart that when I was chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee in 2010 and was trying to get him to run for the U.S. Senate, he declined to do so, only to then run in 2012 and, obviously, he succeeded.

I know there are many others who would like to speak and pay tribute to DEAN, and I won't take but a moment.

Of course, one of the things I remember most about Senator HELLER is his optimism. I also particularly appreciate his comment about things he has done to help ordinary Nevadans that do not involve major pieces of legislation. He certainly played a part in major legislation like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, but DEAN's efforts to also pass legislation like the SAFER Act, which helps our law enforcement agencies reduce the rape kit backlog—DEAN's efforts on the Federal level, coupled with State level reforms, played a role in making it possible for nearly 8,000 untested sexual assault kits in Nevada to be sent to labs for testing.

DEAN's commitment to our veterans led to his bill, the Veterans Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act.

I appreciate his reminding us that sometimes the most important work we do is what we call casework. When veterans come to us and say, "I am not getting access to the healthcare that I have earned by virtue of my military service" or when a senior says, "I am not getting my Social Security benefits" or sometimes when people contact us and say, "I have relatives who can't enter the country because they can't get a visa"—these are the kinds of things that people will never forget. They are the sort of acts of individual kindness and generosity that, with a true attitude of public service, people will never forget. Sometimes these efforts amount to some of the most meaningful work that we can do and that our staff can do.

So I have every confidence that we will see and hear a lot more from DEAN and Lynne, no matter what they do. It is clear to me that DEAN has his priorities right: family first, faith, and then service to our country.

DEAN, we are going to miss you, but we look forward to staying in touch with you and Lynne, as friends do, and we wish you all the luck. Given your talent for working on cars, which is one of the things I think is particularly noteworthy, you will be my first call if I need my transmission fixed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for the last 4 years I have had the privilege of working with DEAN HELLER from Nevada.

In his opening remarks in his farewell speech, he spoke about his compassion for veterans. I have seen it up close and personal. His value as a member of that committee to me is invaluable. I could not have had a better member.

We had a lot of tough votes that had to be taken. A lot of times I had to count noses, and I knew I could count on him when it got to committee. This is a guy you could count on 100 percent of the time, every day.

He cares about what he is doing. He knows what he is doing. He is an affable person who is fun to be with, even if you disagree on things. DEAN is one of a kind, in my opinion, and someone I am very proud to have served with on the committee. I wish he were going to be there for my last 2 years as chairman so that I could count on him a little bit more.

DEAN is the real deal. He is the guy you can put money in the bank on. He has helped a lot.

I wish him the very best. His service to the country is invaluable. I served with him in the House and in the Senate. For the whole 12 years he has been here, I have been here too. I have seen him in countless tough votes. Whether it is Part D of Medicare or whatever it might be, he has always been there to be counted on.

He has stood up for the State of Nevada, whether the issue was nuclear energy, nuclear storage, nuclear waste, or nuclear bombs.

Nevada is a great State. This is a great Senate, and we have a great country. One of the reasons we do is we have great individuals like DEAN HELLER.

God bless you, and I wish you the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of my colleague from Georgia, Senator Isakson, who chairs the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I have the privilege of chairing the Senate Committee on Commerce. Senator HELLER has been a very active and important voice on our committee on countless issues. Our committee has a very broad, wide jurisdiction. We heard him speak about his passion for veterans, and everybody knows that and how hard he has worked to make life better for veterans in the State of Nevada. But I would say, also, on issues like rural broadband and transportation, many of which, as I said, fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Commerce, I can't think of anybody who has been more passionate, more representative of his State and his people, more conscientious, more hard working, and, frankly, just rock solid when it comes to the way he stands up for and represents the State of Nevada here in the U.S. Senate.

So I, too, am going to miss him and his voice and his excellent work and that of his staff on the Senate Committee on Commerce. As those who have spoken before me have said, we know that his contributions not only to the people of Nevada but also to the people of this country will continue because he is someone who not only has great talent but also tremendous character.

As I think about the future that he and Lynne are going to enjoy, hopefully it will include a little more time together

and more time with those grandkids, which we talk about all the time.

The other thing I appreciate about DEAN HELLER is that no matter how tough the going was, he always had a smile on his face. People talk about his optimism. That is a virtue that, to me, really matters around here. We deal with weighty and serious issues. It is important that we see the lighter side and that we appreciate the humor in what we do, too; that we approach it with a sense of purpose but also a sense of optimism. That is always evident whenever you encounter DEAN HELLER in any circumstance. The thing I think I will miss the most about him is that whenever I see him, I see that smile, and I appreciate that.

I wish him and Lynne and his family the best in the days ahead. I thank him for his great work here, and I thank his family for the sacrifice they have made to enable him to be here to represent Nevadans in the U.S. Senate.

So, Senator HELLER, God bless you and your family in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, like my colleagues, I, too, want to honor and express my gratitude to my friend and colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER.

Most people don't know that he has spent 30 years serving the great State of Nevada. I have heard everyone talk about how DEAN loves Nevada. There is no doubt that if you just have an initial conversation with DEAN HELLER, you will learn about Nevada and his love for Nevada and why it is a wonderful place to live.

He has advocated for the people of Carson City as a member of our Nevada State Assembly. He served as Nevada's secretary of state, where he made Nevada the first State in the Nation to adopt paper records for electronic voting machines.

In Congress, DEAN has fought tirelessly on behalf of our Nation's veterans, as we have heard, first as a Representative for Nevada's Second Congressional District and then as a U.S. Senator. I have watched DEAN and have had the honor to work with him now across the aisle.

When I first came to the Senate as a junior Senator, he warmly welcomed me. We had a conversation about how we could work together—although we don't see eye to eye on everything, but how we could work together for the best inter-

ests of the State of Nevada. He made a commitment then, and he followed through on that commitment.

So together we have worked to do so many things on behalf of the great people of the State of Nevada. We worked on critical infrastructure. He has worked to support our local law enforcement and fund programs, as you have heard, for veterans and seniors and low-income families.

We also found common ground, just as Nevadans expected us to do, and introduced bipartisan legislation to protect our public lands in eastern Nevada while also prioritizing long-term economic growth in our rural communities. I have also worked with him and watched DEAN as he worked on domestic violence prevention and human trafficking prevention in the State of Nevada.

We have had the opportunity, not just here in Washington but in our home State, to work side-by-side to stop any attempts to revive Yucca Mountain. We introduced bipartisan legislation requiring the Secretary of Energy to obtain the written consent of the Governor and impacted local Tribal communities before building a nuclear waste repository.

As you have heard, DEAN and I also shared an unfortunate, horrific incident on October 1—the deadly shooting in Las Vegas. He and I were on the ground, along with our entire delegation, to do everything we could in our community, and DEAN was everywhere. He was talking to so many people, thanking the first responders, stopping by the hospitals, talking with the families. It truly was his commitment to his home State to do everything he could to help that community heal, and he continues to do so today.

The one thing I do know as a Nevadan born and raised, just like DEAN, is that when it comes to our beloved State, it is about putting that State first, the people there, and uniting and coming together to make sure that we are working together. No matter the climate, no matter the partisanship that we see here in Washington, it is about what we can do every single day to work together, and I thank him for that commitment. I thank him for his willingness to bring this junior Senator in and have conversations about how we can work together to the benefit of our community.

I want to thank Senator HELLER for everything he has done over the years on behalf of the State of Nevada, for his decades of service, and for his friendship. I wish you and Lynne and your beautiful children and grandchildren the best in this chapter of your life. I know you are not done. We are all excited to see what is next.

So I thank you, my friend, and I look forward to working with you in the future as well. Thank you for your commitment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, before I speak on the topic that I came to the floor to speak about, which is the resolution currently before the Senate, I wanted to just echo the commentary made about our colleague Senator HELLER. I have enjoyed our time working together.

I spent 6 years of my childhood growing up in Las Vegas, so we have a lot of mutual friends. He knows a lot of the people I grew up with and is a part of our family. He will be sorely missed here. I am sure he will be warmly welcomed back home to the community and to his family. We all look forward to seeing the future endeavors lying ahead for him. I know he still has much to offer the Nation and the State of Nevada. ...

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 115th Congress, and that Members have until Friday, December 21, to submit such tributes.

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

TUESDAY, December 18, 2018

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, among the colleagues of ours who is not going to be rejoining us in January is DEAN HELLER. Senator HELLER hails from Nevada. He is a good friend. He is also a valued Member of this body, and we are going to miss him.

DEAN is a classic servant leader who has dedicated himself to public service. He has served in all kinds of roles in his community, his State, his country, and he has always done it with class and humility.

He grew up in Carson City, Nevada, with his five brothers and sisters. He says he started working at his dad's auto shop in middle school. Do you know what? I think he brought some of the skills he learned in middle school on the

shop floor to the U.S. Senate. Like every good mechanic, he is optimistic. Every mechanic thinks they can fix whatever problem you have. That is DEAN HELLER. He rolls up his sleeves, he gets to work, and he has the determination to make things better. That is as true as when he is working on a car as when he is working on legislative solutions in the U.S. Congress.

He has been devoted to helping his community for a long time. He served for two terms in the Nevada Assembly, representing Carson City, and then he served for three terms as Nevada secretary of state before being elected to represent the State's Second Congressional District in the House of Representatives, across the way there.

Later, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate, and then he won his election to the U.S. Senate in 2012. I have had the privilege of working with DEAN HELLER on a lot on issues. We both serve on the Senate Committee on Finance. We have jurisdiction over a lot of things, including tax reform.

During the tax reform process over the last year, we worked hard together, and I saw the hard work and determination he first developed working at his dad's auto body shop. I saw someone who was solutions-driven, someone who wanted to create a better future for the people he represents.

He was effective in a number of ways, with regard to helping others, helping with opportunity. One that he worked with the Presiding Officer [Mr. Rubio] on is doubling the child tax credit. It is a provision in the new tax law that puts more money back in the pockets of hard-working families in America.

He also served on the Senate Committee on Banking, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce. He has been involved in a lot of the issues this body takes up. In fact, more than 100 of his bills have become law during his time in the U.S. Senate. That means he has reached across the aisle to help his fellow Nevadans.

His presence is going to be missed, but I know he will keep trying to make things better. I know he will stay busy back home, too, doing some of the things he loves: bailing hay on his ranch, repairing his stock cars—he grew up racing—horse packing, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his great family.

He and his wife, Lynne, have been married for more than 30 years, have four kids and three grandkids. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with them this holiday season. In fact, he told me for one of his holiday tradi-

tions he gets out his trombone, and his kids and their spouses all grab instruments and they play music. The Heller band performs some famous well-known Christmas holiday songs. I would love to see that. I am not sure I would like to hear it, but I would love to see it—DEAN with his trombone.

Let me say, it has been an honor to serve with DEAN HELLER. He is a great guy. It is a privilege to work with him. I know he has a bright future outside of this place. I look forward to continuing to stay in touch. We will miss him. Knowing his work is not done, we hope to continue to work with him.

I yield back my time.

WEDNESDAY, *December 19, 2018*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to salute my colleagues who are departing the Senate at the conclusion of the 115th Congress: Bob Corker of Tennessee, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Orrin Hatch of Utah, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, DEAN HELLER of Nevada, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Bill Nelson of Florida, and Jon Kyl of Arizona. All of these Members have dedicated themselves to serving their constituents, their States, and our country. The institution of the Senate and the Nation as a whole are stronger because of their service and commitment.

I have been privileged to serve with each and every one of them and want to spend a few moments thanking each of them for the wisdom and experience they brought to their work and for their friendship. . . .

DEAN HELLER and I worked together with a great deal of energy and commitment when both of our States and our Nation were in deep crisis in the aftermath of the Great Recession. Nevada and Rhode Island took turns having the sad distinction of the highest unemployment levels in the country. We worked to ensure extensions of emergency unemployment assistance in order to provide relief to Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Our work together was of great importance, and I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors. . . .

To all my colleagues, I give them my greatest respect and admiration for their service to their States, to the Senate, and to the United States of America.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I have already given speeches in this Chamber about my four friends, departing Democratic colleagues, Senators Heitkamp, McCaskill, Nelson, and Donnelly. Now I rise to recognize my Republican colleagues who are leaving the Senate. . . .

Finally, I want to recognize my friend and colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER of Nevada.

DEAN has dedicated so much of his life to public service on behalf of his State—in Nevada’s Legislature, as secretary of state, in Congress, and in the U.S. Senate.

His family moved to Nevada when he was only 9 months old. As the son of an auto mechanic and a school cook, he has often said that he is likely one of the only Senators who can change your oil and fix your transmission.

Nevada is obviously a State with no shortage of tourism, and DEAN has worked with me as cochair of the Tourism Caucus to promote tourism across our entire country. He understands that when we increase tourism, we not only create jobs and strengthen our economy, we also strengthen our alliances and export our values.

It is that same philosophy that is behind his efforts, along with Senator Flake who is here in this Chamber, to normalize relations with Cuba. DEAN and I traveled to Cuba, along with Senator Flake, with President Obama, and I deeply appreciated his commitment, as well as Senator Flake’s and others, to improving the relationship between our countries and opening up new opportunities for American businesses.

I have valued our time together on the Committee on Commerce, where we led bills that passed and were signed into law regarding more women getting into science, technology, engineering, and math at NASA. We are proud that both bills were signed into law.

I have enjoyed serving with DEAN HELLER in the U.S. Senate, and I thank him for his service.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about my colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year after more than a decade of combined service in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

During this time, DEAN HELLER has worked to guarantee that our veterans have what they need when they return home. As a member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,

Senator HELLER worked to increase access to care for veterans and fought to guarantee that the Veterans Administration provides high-quality services across Nevada's widespread rural communities. I worked with Senator HELLER to reduce the VA disability claims backlog and improve accountability at the Veterans Administration.

We thank Senator HELLER for his service in the Senate and know he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Nevada.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2018*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Senator DEAN HELLER may have been a freshman Senator when he came to this body in 2011, but he was not short on experience. First elected as a Nevada assemblyman in 1990, Senator HELLER has served in government ever since.

During his Senate tenure, Senator HELLER has shown a great interest in protecting American's data privacy, and he was an important partner in our efforts to pass the USA FREEDOM Act. He was a staunch advocate of that bill, even when many in the Senate were pushing for expanded surveillance powers over Americans. Both of us recognized that though the bill may not have included every provision we wanted, the best way to offer privacy protections was through compromise.

While his tenure here was brief, I have appreciated getting to know Senator HELLER and working with him on issues of great importance. I wish Senator HELLER, his wonderful wife, Lynne, and their four children the very best in this next chapter of their lives.

FRIDAY, *December 21, 2018*

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, December should be the happiest month of the year, as we await Christmas and the New Year, but in the even numbered years, it is bitter-sweet as we say good-bye to colleagues who will not be returning in the next Congress. While the body often seems to be polarized and contentious to the public that knows us only from media appearances, the fact is that partnership and alliances across the aisle are part of the fabric of the body, and friendships of unlikely allies abound. This is not

to say that we don't disagree on issues; we very much do. But we strive for these disagreements never to erode our collegiality.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those with whom I have been proud to serve: Mr. Hatch, our President pro tempore, Mr. Corker, Mr. Flake, and Mr. HELLER on my side of the aisle for their distinguished service. To my friend, Mr. Kyl, it has been a pleasure to serve with you again. On the Democrat side of the aisle, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. McCaskill, Mr. Nelson, and especially my dear friend, Ms. Heitkamp, the Senator from North Dakota. Each of these individuals cares deeply for the Nation, for the States they have represented so ably, and for the Senate.

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