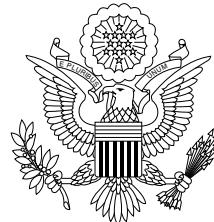


Claire McCaskill

U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



TRIBUTES TO HON. CLAIRE McCASKILL



Claire McCaskill

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator
2007–2019



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of the
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Biography

A DAUGHTER OF RURAL MISSOURI, WITH DEEP ROOTS IN THE SHOW ME STATE 1953–1978

The year that Missouri's Harry Truman left the Presidency, CLAIRE McCASKILL's parents, Bill and Betty Anne, traveled to Rolla, Missouri, for the birth of their daughter. At the time, there was no hospital in their hometown of Houston, Missouri.

Bill worked at the McCaskill Feed Mill. He was a veteran of World War II, a modest man whose family would only find out years after his death that he'd been awarded a Bronze Star for his service. Not long after CLAIRE was born, the family moved to Lebanon, Missouri, where Betty Anne's family ran the corner drugstore. Another move shortly thereafter landed CLAIRE in Columbia, Missouri, where she attended Hickman High School.

CLAIRE's parents encouraged participation in politics from an early age. Bill served as Missouri State Insurance Commissioner, and Betty Anne became the first woman to win a seat on the Columbia City Council. Betty Anne, CLAIRE later recalled, was as likely to call and yell at the Governor as she was to scold the mayor. At Halloween time, she taught CLAIRE and her siblings to say "trick or treat and vote for JFK!" Betty Anne would become a fixture in Missouri Democratic politics, eventually running for a seat in the State legislature against LeRoy Blunt, the father of CLAIRE's eventual friend and colleague, Republican Senator Roy Blunt.

A product of Missouri's public schools, CLAIRE began waiting tables in the Lake of the Ozarks the day after graduating high school—a job she would hold for 6 years in order to help pay her way through college and law school at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

FROM PROSECUTOR TO LEGISLATOR 1978–1999

After law school, CLAIRE started work as an assistant prosecutor in Kansas City. She eventually served as a felony

courtroom prosecutor specializing in sex crimes and arson cases.

In 1982, CLAIRE won a seat in the Missouri State Legislature, where she chaired the general assembly's civil and criminal justice committee, helping shape the State's criminal justice system to better protect Missouri's families and improve safety in their communities.

CLAIRE would also become the first female Missouri State legislator to have a baby while in office, leading her to juggle the responsibilities of lawmaker and mother.

CLAIRE made history in 1992 when she became the first woman to be elected Jackson County prosecutor. As head of the largest prosecutor's office in the State, in a region that includes Kansas City, CLAIRE broke new ground in combating violent crime. She launched one of the Nation's first drug courts, and established a domestic violence unit—a first-of-its-kind initiative for the region, aimed at curbing domestic and sex violence, as well as child abuse.

CLAIRE won reelection and served as Jackson County prosecutor until 1999, when she was sworn in as Missouri State auditor.

ADVOCATE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY
1999–2006

As the State's top government watchdog, CLAIRE revolutionized the Office of State Auditor—expanding her work beyond traditional financial audits, to include “performance audits,” to root out fraud and abuse of power in State agencies and organizations.

CLAIRE's dogged pursuit of accountability included audits of the State's Social Services Foster Care Program and child support enforcement, Child Abuse Hotline, childcare facilities inspections and licensing, as well as domestic violence shelters and puppy mills.

She also conducted reviews of the effectiveness of Missouri's sunshine law, education funding, and the rise in student loan and college tuition rates in the State.

In 2004, CLAIRE took on her own party establishment and became the only person in Missouri history to defeat a sitting Governor in a primary election.

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR MISSOURI
2006–PRESENT

In 2006, CLAIRE became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Missouri, winning the seat once held by Harry Truman.

Making good on a campaign pledge, CLAIRE waged a successful 6-year effort to rein in wasteful wartime contracting practices in Iraq and Afghanistan—modeled on Harry Truman’s famous battle against war profiteering. During the final hours of CLAIRE’s first Senate term, her signature legislation implementing historic wartime contracting reforms was signed into law.

CLAIRE’s efforts led to the creation of a new Senate panel charged with financial and contracting oversight. As chairman, CLAIRE led nearly 40 hearings, and launched an even greater number of investigations at dozens of Federal departments and agencies, resulting in more than 30 instances of misconduct referred to Federal investigators.

CLAIRE drew on her personal commitment to America’s military veterans, helping to pass the 21st century GI bill, and establishing a veterans’ “secret shopper” program to improve healthcare services for Missouri’s veterans. Following reports of neglect, CLAIRE successfully pushed for the removal of Army officials managing Walter Reed Army Medical Center—and shortly after, led the successful effort to reform management of Arlington National Cemetery after disclosures of mismarked gravesites. Later, she passed into law a comprehensive plan fixing the Pentagon’s troubled program to recover American personnel who are prisoners of war and missing in action (POW/MIA).

CLAIRE teamed up with her Republican colleagues to establish a ban on congressional earmarks, and has helped lead efforts to repeal automatic pay raises for Congress. She bucked her party’s leadership, authoring a bill to impose a cap on Federal discretionary spending—legislation which came within one vote of Senate passage.

When dozens of small towns across rural Missouri were threatened with post office closures, CLAIRE waged a successful battle to protect those post offices—which CLAIRE called the “lifeblood of rural Missouri.”

Following CLAIRE’s resounding reelection in 2012, her oversight panel was expanded and tasked with investigating misconduct at every Federal agency. In 2015, CLAIRE was named the top-ranking Democrat on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations—formerly the Truman Committee and the Senate’s leading oversight panel. A recognized tech leader—with a penchant for communicating directly with constituents via Twitter—CLAIRE also chaired the Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection. In her second term, CLAIRE launched investigations into areas in-

cluding fraudulent robocalls, financial management at the U.S. Energy Department, inaccuracies on credit reports, security clearance background checks, pervasive fraud and waste in an Army National Guard recruiting program, and sexual violence on college and university campuses.

As a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services, CLAIRE drew upon her years as a prosecutor in leading the successful effort to reform how the military handles sexual assaults—successfully enacting sweeping changes to protect and empower survivors and hold perpetrators and commanders accountable.

As Missouri’s Senator, CLAIRE earned a reputation as a plain-spoken, independent voice for Missouri’s families and businesses—willing to buck her own party to do what’s right, and fighting to expand opportunities for Missouri’s kids and grandkids.

CLAIRE loves spending time with her 11 grandchildren. She and her husband Joseph have a blended family of seven children, four of whom live in St. Louis.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Claire was a member of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. She was the top-ranking Democrat on the Committee on Finance.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mrs. McCASKILL. Madam President, it is probably no surprise for my colleagues to know that I don't much like the idea of a farewell speech. I haven't spent a great deal of time contemplating it over the years I have been here. I am not a big fan of the concept. But I want to respect the tradition, especially since I have witnessed so many Senate traditions crumble over the last 12 years. So I will do my best to get through this without breaking up.

A traditional farewell speech in the U.S. Senate is full of accomplishments and thanks. I am going to skip half of that. I am extremely proud of my body of work over 34 years of public service, but it is for others to judge, and I won't dwell on it today, other than to say it is a long list and a tangible demonstration of the value of hard work.

The wonderful Barbara Bush said, "Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people—your family, friends, and co-workers, and even strangers you meet along the way."

So rather than talk about what I have done, I want to speak a few moments about my family, and I have three different families I want to talk about today: my actual family, my family I like to call Missouri, or "Missouri"—we argue about it a lot—and my family here in the Senate.

First, my actual family—because they are the most important. In the words of author André Maurois, "without a family, man, alone in the world, trembles with the cold." I have been very warm my whole life. I have not "trembled" in the cold because I have always had my family.

My parents taught me that caring about the community around us was noble and good and that holding public office was an honorable endeavor, even though my parents were largely spectators and supporters and not candidates or officeholders. They just cared, and they wanted me to care, too.

At the risk of going down the road of too many family stories, it may explain a lot that my dad fell in love with my mom when he saw her smoking a cigar and belting out

“Won’t You Come Home, Bill Bailey,” at a party; that my mother said I must say “trick or treat and vote for JFK” when I was 7; and that my father insisted that I not only learn the rules of football but that I also learn to tell a good joke and learn to laugh at myself.

My siblings. My two sisters and my brother have simply been the port in every storm.

My children. We have a large, blended family of many children and grandchildren that is close and loving. I adore them all, but I need to specifically mention my three children—Austin, Maddie, and Lily—because they were there from the beginning—infants in car seats going to political events, toddlers sitting sometimes not so quietly as I gave a speech, and, then, amazing troopers in the almost decade of my career when I was a single working mom, hauling them all over the State on campaigns. They now have forgiven me for the missed recitals and the missed field trips and the fact that I couldn’t be the homeroom mom. Today, they have grown into amazing, strong adults who make me very proud.

And yee howdy, those grandchildren—I have 11, going on 12. I can’t wait until they are all old enough to yell at them what my mom used to say to us when we were dawdling and too slow in getting to the car: “Last one in is a Republican.”

My husband, Joseph—how lucky I am to have him as my best friend. We were married 16 years ago, after I was well into my political career and after he had achieved great success in business. He is proud and supportive of me always, but he certainly didn’t bargain for the incredibly unfair treatment we got at his expense because of his business success. Let the record of the Senate now say what my Republican colleagues did not during my campaigns: Thank you, Joseph, for your integrity, your honesty, your generosity, and your heart, which has always directed you to do good, as you do well.

Then there is my Missouri family. I love my State—all of it, every corner of it, even the parts that aren’t very crazy about me. My honor to work for Missourians has been immense. I am incredibly grateful to them for the opportunity I have had to get up every day and work my heart out in an interesting, challenging career of public service, and so lucky to have made many good friends along the way. I am excited that I will now have more time for them.

David Stier said: “Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten,” and that is how I feel about Missouri. That is why my office has tried very hard to help every individual who

has come to us for help, every veteran who has needed assistance, every senior caught in Social Security redtape—no matter who they were or where they lived or what their politics were.

Then there is my staff family—my staff, here and in Missouri, in this job, in my previous jobs, and in many campaigns

Richard Bach said it best: “The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life.” They have been my rock, my compass, my inspiration, and my coach—the best and the brightest, looking not for money or fame but just to make a difference.

To my Senate staff here today and watching and to all the staff in my offices of the prosecutor’s office, the auditor’s office, the county legislature, and the State legislature, I respect each of you immensely. As you go forth in the world, remember the McCaskill office motto—they could cite it for you right now if I asked them: “If you work hard, you can do well. But if you are having fun, you will do great.”

We were happy, and it made a difference. George Bernard Shaw said: “A happy family is but an earlier heaven.” Working with my staff was heaven.

Finally, to all my fellow Senators and all of the many people who work here in the Senate, I would be lying if I didn’t say I was worried about this place. It just doesn’t work as well as it used to. The Senate has been so enjoyable for me, but I must admit that it puts the “fun” in dysfunction.

Peter Morgan, an author, said: “No family is complete without an embarrassing uncle.” We have too many embarrassing uncles in the U.S. Senate and lots of embarrassing stuff. The U.S. Senate is no longer the world’s greatest deliberative body, and everybody needs to quit saying it until we recover from this period of polarization and the fear of the political consequences of tough votes. Writing legislation behind closed doors, giant omnibus bills that most don’t know what is in them, K Street lobbyists knowing about the tax bill managers’ package before even Senators—that is today’s Senate—and no amendments.

Solving the toughest problems will not happen without tough votes. We can talk about the toughest problems, we can visit about them, we can argue about them, we can campaign on them, but we are not going to solve them without tough votes. It will not happen. My first year in the Senate was 2007. We voted on 306 amendments in 2007. This year, as of yesterday, we have voted on 36. That is a remarkable

difference. Something is broken, and if we don't have the strength to look in the mirror and fix it, the American people are going to grow more and more cynical, and they might do something crazy like elect a reality-TV-star President. I am not kidding. That is one of the reasons this has happened.

Power has been dangerously centralized in the Senate. We like to say: Oh, we can't change the rules or we would be just like the House. We kind of are like the House, guys. We kind of are. A few people are writing legislation and a few people are making the decisions. We have to throw off the shackles of careful, open the doors of debate, reclaim the power of Members and committees, and, most of all, realize that looking the other way and hoping that everything will work out later is a foolish idea. For gosh sakes, debate and vote on amendments.

But with all the problems I have outlined, know that I love this place and you—almost all of you. You have filled my life with interesting work and unforgettable memories. We have argued, we have sung, we have fought, we have cried, and we have laughed together—just like family. You are family, and I will miss you terribly.

Desmond Tutu, a very wise man, said: "God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion."

Thank you very much.
I yield the floor.
(Applause, Senators rising.)

TRIBUTES

TO

CLAIRE McCASKILL

Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 13, 2018*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, while our colleagues show their affection for Senator McCASKILL, let me talk a little bit about my relationship with her and her service to our State. She chose not to do that, but she has served Missourians at every level of government—as a county legislator, as a State legislator, as an extraordinary prosecutor, and as the State auditor, when her particular talent to find out exactly what was going wrong and point it out was maybe at its best use, and 12 years in the U.S. Senate.

I know that not too long ago CLAIRE and Joe took their family on a vacation to a ranch in the West. I was thinking about that, and thinking about her reminded me of a story I had heard about a wrangler at one of those ranches, who was just perfect on a horse. Somebody who was visiting asked: “How do you get that good riding a horse?”

He said, “Well, first of all, you get on the horse and you put your boot in the stirrup. You put your heel right up against the back of the stirrup. You sit easily in the saddle, and you ride for about 30 years.” You ride for about 30 years.

If you had paid any attention to either the last Senate campaign in Missouri or the one I was involved in before that, you heard a lot about 30 years. In the case of Senator McCASKILL and me, we have our own 30 years. About that long ago, she was starting her second term in the Missouri Legislature—smart, well-prepared, as she always is. I was the first Republican elected secretary of state in 52 years and only a couple years older than her. In fact, we never had much of a fight about who was going to be called a senior Senator because neither wanted to be the particular senior anything at this point, but we began to work together.

CLAIRE was smart, she was quick, she was funny, she was insightful, and she was always well-prepared. She was also, by the way, on the appropriations committee that I had to report to. The questions were always tough and usually I could answer them. Even then, I often wondered how some-

body as smart and well-prepared as CLAIRE could so often wind up on the wrong side of the issue of the day based on my view of the issue of the day. We still have that—the 8 years we were here together.

Let me tell you, on anything that involved Missouri, I think you would have a hard time finding an exception where we didn't get to the same place, where we didn't get there quickly, and where we didn't do everything we both could do to figure out how to reach a conclusion.

In fact, all week I was thinking, is there any way I can get to St. Louis to where the property transfer will be made for the new NGA, the National Geospatial West facility—\$1.3 billion facility—right where Pruitt-Igoe used to be, something new that will be the center of activity and something that was built at the site of a really bad government decision. We worked very hard to get that done. I was thinking, I am going to do that, until I found out it wasn't going to be next Tuesday; it was going to be today when Senator McCASKILL was going to give this speech, and I knew I needed to be here and wanted to be here for that.

I also say that our staff—and her Washington staff is here—our staff in Washington, our staff in Missouri, to the best of my knowledge, have always worked closely on everything. They would even be at meetings where one of them would be explaining why I voted the way I did and the other would be explaining why CLAIRE voted the way she did, and they would often ride together. That was the way we worked together on citizen concerns, on Missouri concerns. That happened here as well.

CLAIRED talked about her family. Joe Shepard, a great friend of mine for—frankly, Joe was helping me before he started helping CLAIRE, but she pretty well totally converted him to her side of the aisle, but we are still good friends.

I have gotten to know CLAIRE's sisters and appreciate her sisters. They are the best. They are always there for her. Occasionally, they will look just enough like CLAIRE that they could ride in her car in a parade and she could be in a parade somewhere else. CLAIRE's mom: "The last person in the car is a Republican"—I can absolutely hear CLAIRE's mom saying that. In fact, after I was elected to the Senate, I was in the Senate and happened to see Joe and CLAIRE's mom and went over to say hi. CLAIRE's mom said, "Well, I would like to say it is nice to see you here, but based on everything I said in the campaign, I would be two-faced."

That was Betty McCaskill, and I liked her for it. I was at Betty McCaskill's memorial service during CLAIRE's campaign that year for her second election to the Senate. She was at my dad's memorial service during my election campaign to the Senate this time. As CLAIRE and Joe were leaving, CLAIRE said to me, "What a perfect service for Leroy Blunt." Nobody in this body could say that like CLAIRE could say it because she knew my dad. When family got up, we talked about my dad, but CLAIRE knew that was not just a passing comment; it was knowing who we were and knowing who she is and what she knew about that.

Of all the times we voted differently, we have a relationship without pretense, as much as you can possibly have between two Members of the Senate from the same State. The best part of the last 8 years—we have been friendly for 30 years, but in the last 8 years, we really have become good friends. Old friends are hard to make. It takes a long time, say 30 years, to really make old friends.

I look forward to our time together after you leave here. I have benefited from our time together while you were here. Our State has benefited from your service in incredible ways at all levels. Even on the days we didn't disagree, I never doubted your sense that you were doing the right thing. It is an honor to be your friend, and it is an honor to have worked for you. Thanks for all you have done for the State of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, the last thing one does in life is not necessarily the best. I have come to respect CLAIRE McCASKILL over a long period of time. I have watched her walk in a room and watched heads turn. I have listened to her up front, answering questions: no nonsense, direct, truthful, to the very best of her ability. I found in her a great sense of conscience. She has this marvelous exterior. I think the interior is a little different.

There is a sensitivity there that is very special, Senator. I hope you never ever lose it because it is what gives you the ability to do what you do. Now I expect to turn on my TV set and turn on my radio and hear you many times and take a lot of good advice and have a few laughs listening to you.

I want to say thank you. You have represented your State well. You have stood tall. You have spoken out in our caucuses. You have let people know what you feel. You wear your heart on your sleeve, and you are one great woman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I stand here today with a heavy heart, as we pay tribute to our friend and colleague, CLAIRE McCASKILL of Missouri. Senators represent their State and, not surprisingly, they often reflect their State's heritage, traditions, and values.

The people of Missouri rightly prize their reputation as independent, straightforward, and trustworthy—qualities that define my friend, Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL.

To that, I add another quality that defines this accomplished leader from the Show Me State. Like her inspiration in public service, President Harry Truman, Senator McCASKILL is feisty. In her two terms in the Senate, Senator McCASKILL has demonstrated her belief that no one party holds a monopoly on good ideas. It has been such a pleasure to work with her across the aisle on so many issues. She was always the best of partners: strong, strategic, determined, and she got a lot done.

An issue that brought us together as leaders of the Senate Committee on Aging was the extensive bipartisan investigation we launched in 2015 into the extreme spikes in the prices of many prescription drugs. The findings of our investigation were appalling, and the reform legislation we coauthored is producing results in spurring approval of lower cost generic drugs and increasing transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.

Our work together on drug pricing uncovered the gag clauses that industry uses that can prohibit your local pharmacists from telling consumers if their prescription would cost less if they paid for it out of pocket rather than using their insurance. The Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act that Senator McCASKILL and I coauthored and that was signed into law this October ends this egregious practice, saving consumers money and improving healthcare.

We also investigated numerous financial scams that attempted to rob seniors of their hard-earned savings. Once again, working together, we were able to get a new law passed that tackled this serious issue as well. There is nobody in this body who is more talented at questioning individuals who came before our committee and were trying to shape the truth or deceive or distract than CLAIRE McCASKILL. She, as Senator Blunt mentioned, was always well-prepared; she was always insightful; and she was always tough.

I remember one hearing we had where the GAO was testifying before us, and sure enough, CLAIRE had read the entire GAO report—not just the executive summary, the whole report. Thus, her questions were so penetrating that she brought out information that never would have surfaced in that hearing.

As Missouri State auditor, a prosecutor, and a Senator, CLAIRE McCASKILL has always been a champion for accountability, dedicated to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs. She has always been determined to get to the truth and to get to the bottom of an issue. During the damaging shutdown of 2013, she stepped forward as a charter member of our Common Sense Coalition to help restore the faith of the American people and to reopen government.

I have worked so closely with Senator McCASKILL during her entire time in the Senate, and I will miss her so much. She is a tough, no-nonsense leader, a dedicated public servant, and, most of all, a good friend.

CLAIRE, I thank you for your public service, and I wish you, Joseph, and your family all the best in the years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today, as we all are, to recognize a marvelous person in CLAIRE McCASKILL. I am going to go back to 2006, when CLAIRE was running for the U.S. Senate and I was, too. The first time I saw CLAIRE McCASKILL on television was on C-SPAN. She was in a debate. I thought to myself: My, oh my. This lady has skills—because it is something I do, I study people who are good and I try to steal as much as I can from them and there was plenty to steal in her ability to get to the truth.

Then, CLAIRE and Jim Webb and I all won close elections in 2006 and showed up in this body. Those of you who know Webb, Webb was maybe the most intense person I ever have met in my life—an incredible human being in his own right—and I became good friends with Jim.

CLAIRE, I can't tell you the first time we met, but I can tell you when we met, it was like we had known one another our whole lives. CLAIRE had this ability to instill—and still has this ability. I want to talk in the future, not in the past. CLAIRE has the ability to welcome you and make you feel as good about yourself as you feel about her.

We got to be fast friends. She and Joseph are Sharla and my best friends in this body. In fact, when I got on the train a few weeks ago—and I probably shouldn't have done this, but it just happened—I happened to get on the train with Senator-elect Hawley. I didn't know him. I never met him. I never looked at the debates this time around when I was campaigning. He introduced himself to me. I will probably owe him an apology for this, but I said, "Yes, you just beat my best friend in the U.S. Senate"—because she has been.

She is one of the reasons I have been able to come to this body and really enjoy it. As everybody said before, she is smart, she is very articulate, and she has a heart. Those three things are qualities that serve one well in the U.S. Senate.

I, for one, am going to miss her presence here and her ability to tell the truth in a way that you have to be hard of hearing not to understand what she says because she has been a great Senator over the last 12 years. She has represented Missouri, and because we all have those two letters in front of our names—"U.S." Senator—she has represented this country in an amazing way. I, for one, will miss her but will make a point to make sure the relationship we have developed in this body continues for the rest of our lives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I just wanted to address the Senator from Missouri to tell her that she has been a wonderful colleague for this Senator.

As someone of more moderation in her politics who comes from a Republican-dominated State, she has negotiated the political winds so well and has always kept her eye on representing her State. This Senator from Florida particularly appreciates that, because being a Democrat in a Republican State is not an easy task, and she has done it with such dignity, looking out for her people, looking out for the people who are voiceless. I just want her to know she has the appreciation of this Senator from Florida.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Sasse). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we recently heard a farewell speech from my colleague and friend, Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL of Missouri. I grew up across the river from St. Louis in the town of East St. Louis, Illinois, and feel a famil-

iarity with Missouri and St. Louis probably more than most residents of my State. We have had many great reminiscences about the city and her life, and I wanted to say a few words on the floor today as she ends her service in the U.S. Senate.

My boyhood hero was Stan Musial—"Stan the Man"—St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer and one of the greatest ball-players who ever lived. He retired in 1963 holding National League career marks for games played, at-bats, and hits. Asked to describe the habits that kept him in baseball for so long, Musial once said, "Get eight hours of sleep regularly. Keep your weight down, run a mile a day. If you must smoke, try light cigars. Then cut down on inhaling."

"One last thing," he added, "Make it a point to bat .300."

CLAIRE McCASKILL has always brought the same sort of natural-born talent and relentless work ethic to public service that Stan Musial—"Stan the Man"—brought to baseball in St. Louis. She has stood for office 24 times—lost twice. That makes her batting average considerably better than .300.

Five years ago, Senator McCASKILL and I teamed up to suggest a name for a beautiful new bridge that spanned the mighty Mississippi River between her State of Missouri and mine of Illinois, near St. Louis. Thanks to CLAIRE's leadership, it is called the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge. Locals all call it the Stan Span for short. It is a well-deserved, fitting tribute to my boyhood hero and a fitting tribute to CLAIRE McCASKILL's tenacity.

In an age of hyperpartisanship, CLAIRE McCASKILL is a bridge builder. She doesn't ask whether ideas come from the left or the right; she asks whether they will work. Like her own political hero, Harry Truman, she is a straight talker, and she can be a bulldog when it comes to demanding accountability for the people who pay for this government and those who rely on it. She has cast historic and heroic votes on the Senate floor. She voted for an economic stimulus package that helped prevent a second Great Depression. She voted to create the Affordable Care Act—one of the most important social and economic justice laws of our lifetime.

One story about CLAIRE McCASKILL seems especially telling. Nearly 2 years ago, she was ready to vote to confirm Neil Gorsuch, a Trump appointee, to the U.S. Supreme Court. In Missouri, a red State, that was a pretty good vote for her politically. But when she met privately with then-Judge Gorsuch, she asked him about a case in which he had

ruled that a trucking company was within its rights when it fired a driver who left his broken-down truck briefly on a sub-zero night to find help.

Senator McCASKILL asked Judge Gorsuch, “Did you ever think about what you would do if you had been that truck-driver?”

The judge said, “No.”

Senator McCASKILL changed her vote to no. It cost her politically, but that is the kind of Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL is. Her idea of governing is to spend money wisely, punish misbehavior, and give people what they need in order to get through their daily lives. She has been a voice for truck-drivers and farmers and factory workers and a lot of ordinary people who work hard and still struggle to pay their bills. She has been a fearless champion of my Dreamers, and for that I will forever be grateful. Her votes to help these young people always were risky politically, but she never ever flinched. I will forever be in her debt for her show of courage on that one issue.

Incidentally, she showed the same courage and compassion when calling for an end to this administration’s cruel policy of separating immigrant families at our border.

This past year, she used her influence as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to investigate the causes of the opioid epidemic devastating America. That investigation showed how pharmaceutical companies knowingly sold dangerous and addictive pain killers in order to maximize profit. She worked diligently on a bipartisan basis to ensure passage of a law that will help combat the opioid epidemic and provide treatment for those who are addicted. She has never ever wavered in her efforts to protect Americans with preexisting medical conditions.

Results, not just rhetoric—that is CLAIRE McCASKILL.

As Stan Musial approached the plate for the last time before he retired, legendary sportscaster Harry Caray said, “Take a look, fans. Take a good long look. Remember the swing and the stance. We won’t see his like again.”

As Senator McCASKILL leaves the Senate, take a look. Remember CLAIRE McCASKILL and her personal brand of Missouri courage. May we all try to be bridge builders, as she has been.

I yield the floor.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. . . . Mr. President, I am here to make some brief remarks about two of my favorite colleagues who

are leaving us. They are both good friends of mine, both from the middle of the country, and both extraordinary leaders.

I will start with my friend, Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL. Senator McCASKILL and I were first elected at the same time, so we came in together.

During our years of serving together, I have seen this strong, incredible woman stand up for the people of Missouri and stand up for the people of this country.

We were the only two women in our Senate class when we came in. One of my first memories of CLAIRE, which occurred near the beginning of our time in the Senate, was that we were driving out of the Capitol together to go speak at an event. I looked out the window, and there was my husband John walking across the lawn with a pink box. She sees him, and she looks at me, and she says, "What is John doing, walking across the Capitol lawn with a pink gift-wrapped box?"

I yelled out the car window, and I said, "What are you doing with the pink box?"

He yelled back, "It is the Senate spouse club event. I am going to Jim Webb's wife's baby shower."

CLAIRE looked at my husband and said, in her typical, blunt way: "That is the sexiest thing I have ever seen."

That is CLAIRE.

We were rejoicing together in the car at that moment, as we thought we were witnessing a milestone in Senate spouse history but also in our own histories and in the journey of having more women in the Senate.

CLAIRE is someone who never keeps quiet, who always speaks her mind, and that is so refreshing.

When she found out about the substandard care for our veterans at Walter Reed, she took it on. She was a freshman Senator, but she wasn't quiet, and she took it on.

Her dad was a veteran, and she felt that the veterans of today deserve the same quality care that he got. That is the kind of leadership she has always shown.

She never backs down, especially in the face of corruption. I think a lot of that was because of her work as a prosecutor. We shared that in common.

If there were rights that needed to be respected—great. If there were wrongs that needed to be righted, she was right there. She is never afraid to speak truth to power.

By the way, in her own words, she is now unleashed, and I know that will continue in a big way.

Whether she is at a hearing or writing one of her famous tweets, she does it in a voice that is 100 percent authentic and 100 percent CLAIRE McCASKILL.

I will never forget when she was grilling Wall Street executives at a Senate hearing for their role in the financial crisis, and she said, “You guys have less oversight than a pit boss in Las Vegas.” That is one example.

As Missouri’s former State auditor and as someone who worked her way through school as a waitress, Senator McCASKILL has always rightfully demanded accountability for those in positions of power.

We saw it again when she stood up to opioid manufacturers and distributors, investigating suspicious shipments of these dangerous drugs in communities across the country.

We saw it with her leadership in the fight against sex assault and online sex trafficking, where she worked to take on backpage.

We saw it in her fight to strengthen the role of independent watchdogs at our Federal agencies and to expand protections for whistleblowers.

We saw it every time she stood up for American consumers, highlighting the challenges that consumers often face when they get errors on their credit reports or when they have fraudulent robocalls.

I would always think of how she would challenge the commonsense wisdom of her beloved mom, Betty, who is no longer with us. I had the honor to meet Betty. So whenever I would watch CLAIRE take on these crimes—especially crimes against seniors—and speak out about them, I would always think of her mom and how her mom was such an early, powerful feminist and a woman who stood up and spoke truth to power.

Perhaps most of all, as I mentioned earlier, we saw it in her work with Walter Reed on behalf of our Nation’s veterans. In addition to the work she did in calling out what was happening at Walter Reed, it was CLAIRE who found out that contracting failures had led to thousands of graves at Arlington National Cemetery being unmarked or improperly marked.

It was CLAIRE whose legislation overhauled the IT systems at Arlington and ultimately held the Secretary of the Army accountable.

That was trademark CLAIRE: seeing an injustice, uncovering it, speaking out, and then never giving up until it is fixed. That is what she has done time and again.

What is cool about CLAIRE, despite what I wish had not happened—that she didn’t win her election—is, she is the most resilient person I know, and she will continue to serve and continue to do that work in her way.

After a former political opponent once accused her of being unladylike, she once told an Iowa audience that the traits needed to excel in leadership—to speak out, be strong, take charge, change the world—are traits she sees as very ladylike.

CLAIRE has shown us how to be both strong and ladylike. It has been my privilege to serve with her. I am so honored to call her friend, and I am excited about what is to come for CLAIRE McCASKILL. . . .

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to someone who has spent her entire career making life better for the people of Missouri and the people of this country.

If I had to describe Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL using one word, I think I would choose “fighter.”

I think most Members, on both sides of the aisle, would agree with me.

As the first woman elected Jackson County prosecutor, she fought for crime victims and created some of the first drug courts and domestic violence units in the country.

As State auditor, she fought to ensure that the State of Missouri spent taxpayer dollars wisely.

During her 12 years representing Missouri in the Senate, she has fought every day to keep government accountable, protect consumers, strengthen our national security, and expand access to healthcare.

I have been especially honored to partner with her on this last goal.

We worked together to make sure that pharmacists can tell their patients the lowest price at the pharmacy counter and to protect Americans from junk insurance plans.

We have fought to keep American manufacturers competitive and to end unfair trade practices that hurt our companies and our workers.

I have been inspired by her work to end sexual violence, particularly in our military, and to ensure that families affected by the opioid crisis get the help they need to recover.

I will always remember the trip we took together to the Middle East.

In Jordan, we saw first hand the challenge of responding to the Syrian refugee crisis and spoke with refugees themselves.

That is classic CLAIRE: ensuring that the government is doing its job while also watching out for the most vulnerable.

Perhaps that skill has been on display best during oversight hearings, when CLAIRE has made great use of her skills as a former prosecutor.

I know that I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of her questioning.

I am going to miss working with her. However, I am glad we haven't heard the last of CLAIRE.

Just follow her Twitter account, and you will see what I mean.

Senator McCASKILL: Thank you for keeping government honest, protecting the most vulnerable, and always putting the people of Missouri first.

Most of all, thank you for always being a fighter.

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.

WEDNESDAY, *December 19, 2018*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I return to the floor to conclude saying good-bye to Members of our caucus who will not be returning to this Chamber next year. Last, but certainly not least, to me and to so many of us, is my dear friend, the Senator from Missouri—as she says it—CLAIRE McCASKILL.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that the Senator from Missouri found her way into politics. She got her start early. Growing up in a family that was actively involved in government and politics, CLAIRE was not given the option to avoid subjects of national debate. When CLAIRE was 7 years old, she was sent door to door on Halloween, saying, “Trick or treat; vote for JFK.”

Soon, politics wasn't just a passion passed down but a passion of her own. In high school, CLAIRE launched a stealth

campaign to become homecoming queen. In the tradition of her school, the football team picked the winner. So CLAIRE befriended all the linemen—doing small favors, arranging dates—knowing there would be more of them than any other position. Guess what. She won, not because she skated by on popularity—although she was always popular—but because she put in the work. She was tenacious and tactical, qualities she would take from high school politics into the politics of the wider and older world.

That is how, as a Democrat in a State already becoming more conservative during her youth, CLAIRE would go on to represent Missouri at nearly every level of government. As a prosecutor, in the State house, as State auditor, and, eventually, for 12 amazingly wonderful and productive years as Senator.

I was chair of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee in 2005. CLAIRE was just coming off a difficult loss in the Governor's race, after which she "drank a lot of red wine and ate too many cookies," by her own typical frank admission. I had heard so much about her that I flew to London to meet with CLAIRE and her dear husband Joe about a possible Senate race. Almost immediately, I was struck by the force of her personality.

She is a whirlwind. As CLAIRE's mother, Betty Anne, said of her, "Integrity, independence, and guts—that's what CLAIRE McCASKILL is made of." Everyone who meets CLAIRE can see that from the get-go. By the end of dinner, I was so eager for CLAIRE to run that I did something I almost never do. I paid for dinner. I have never been more glad that I did because CLAIRE became an exceptional Senator and one of my closest friends, not just here in the Senate but in life. A moderate at heart, CLAIRE had a knack for finding compromise between our two parties—a theme among many of our departing Members.

She worked across the aisle with Senator Collins to protect seniors from financial scams. She worked to fight for victims of opioid addiction, working with Republicans on taking on the big pharmaceutical companies that were funneling money to organizations to promote their own dangerous products.

In the tradition of her political idol, Harry Truman, she took a seat on the Committee on Armed Services and fought fiercely for our veterans and our military.

Her hearings on the waste, fraud, and abuse of military contractors ushered in long-overdue reforms to military contracting, increasing transparency and accountability.

Almost every issue that CLAIRE got her teeth into, she never let go and always succeeded. She was amazing as a Senator.

Of course, CLAIRE wasn't just pragmatic. One of the reasons we love her is that she is both pragmatic and principled and combines those two in a unique way.

I will never forget the vote on the Dreamers. CLAIRE was seated in a seat back there. She was a more junior Member. She knew that voting to bring the Dreamers home—a pathway to citizenship and living here in America—could mean the end of her election. She said that to me. But she said, "I cannot vote against them." We walked down the aisle together, tears streaming down her cheeks, and, of course, she voted yes.

The Senate has its fair share of dealmakers. It has its fair share of principled fighters as well. But rarely is a Senator so adept at both. That is our CLAIRE McCASKILL.

We will miss far more, of course, than CLAIRE the Senator. So many of us will miss CLAIRE the person. When she has something to say to you, she does not hold back. Believe me—I know. I have been called just about every name in the book by CLAIRE McCASKILL, and each time, it rang true, but I didn't mind it because I know it was done with both affection and a desire to make me better and do a better job. I can say this—Whatever job I am doing here as leader is in significant part because of CLAIRE McCASKILL's loving but pointed criticisms. I will miss them so much.

She is amazing. I am not the only one she criticized, and I am not the only one she criticized using the words that came right to her mouth. They say they used to keep a swear jar on her desk in the Missouri Legislature. I would be surprised if they didn't keep a few lined up along the whole desk.

But as much as CLAIRE can sometimes criticize you in a pointed way, she can also make you laugh. She said her father insisted on two things: that she learn the rules of football and how to tell a good joke. That, she did. More than that, she can tell a good joke at her own expense. That is just one of many reasons she was so well-liked in this Chamber by Democrats and Republicans.

It is rare you can find someone who speaks her mind so directly and yet be so loved. That is one of the many unique

traits of this wonderful lady, CLAIRE McCASKILL. I am not the only one who felt that way. After a farewell address in this Chamber, the line of Senators to say a few words about CLAIRE was long, and it wasn't just on our side of the aisle.

I could go on about Senator McCASKILL for quite a while, but I am sure she is already telling me that I am getting long-winded. So let me close with this: When CLAIRE was 9 years old, her father took her to the annual Jackson Day dinner in Springfield, Missouri, to hear the big political speeches on offer that year. After all, this was a famous venue that had hosted the giants of American politics—William Jennings Bryan, Harry Truman, JFK.

Well, guess who delivered the closing address at the Jackson Day dinner this year. CLAIRE McCASKILL, whose impact on her State and her country, as well as on the Senate and on so many of us, belongs in the same category as those distinguished names and will live on just as long.

CLAIRE, we are going to miss you so. I will, the Senate will, Missouri will, and America will. I wish you and Joe and your wonderful family all the happiness in your next endeavors.

I yield the floor.

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. . . .

I want to turn my attention to three Members I had the privilege to work with and serve with on the Committee on Armed Services

I have also been extremely proud to serve alongside CLAIRE McCASKILL on the Committee on Armed Services. CLAIRE has been a leader of the Senate effort to prevent and respond to sexual assault in our military. She was a principal cosponsor of the Victims Protection Act, a bipartisan

package of reforms that represent a substantial leap forward in preventing and responding to sexual assaults in the military. It is a testament to CLAIRE's determination and hard work that these laws are in place, but, also, she was the first to recognize that our work is not done. She was continually involved in ensuring that whatever legislative initiatives we passed were actually implemented. That work is ongoing, and CLAIRE's efforts have given us a strong foundation to continue those efforts.

In addition to the Victims Protection Act, CLAIRE led the effort to reform management of Arlington National Cemetery to address significant problems with the burials of service-members and helped to establish a single agency responsible for POW-MIA recovery and accounting efforts.

CLAIRE has also worked tirelessly to end wasteful wartime contracting practices, following in the footsteps of another Missouri Senator and one of her political heroes, President Harry S. Truman. CLAIRE has been a steadfast advocate for oversight throughout her career, and her work to root out waste and strengthen accountability has made a difference in how effectively the government works for the American people.

Again, I wish her well in the future and know it will be a future that is also committed to service to others. . . .

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.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, CLAIRE McCASKILL. CLAIRE and I came to the Senate together in January 2007, and she has served the people of Missouri and the United States with distinction for the past 12 years.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once remarked: "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." When I consider CLAIRE's service and her work on both the Special Committee on Aging and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I am reminded of Justice Brandeis' words. Senator McCASKILL was tireless in her efforts to shed light on policies and practices that hurt seniors, veterans, and the vulnerable in our Nation.

For example, Senator McCASKILL has been a strong advocate of empowering veterans, giving them a voice, and holding the VA accountable through the Veterans' Customer Satisfaction Program she designed. This program allows vet-

erans to provide anonymous feedback on their healthcare treatment at VA facilities across the country.

Senator McCASKILL has also been a champion for seniors. She used her position on the Special Committee on Aging to investigate fraudulent Medicare bills and an IRS-impersonation scheme to ensure seniors have access to quality healthcare and a financially stable retirement. I had the honor of succeeding her as ranking member of the Committee on Aging and have worked to continue her focus on protecting seniors from scam artists.

Finally, Senator McCASKILL's work on the Victims Protection Act of 2014 is a shining example of her commitment to protecting the well-being of our servicemembers who have endured the horror of sexual assault in the military. When many in power choose to stand down, CLAIRE stands up for survivors.

The Senate, and especially the class of 2006, will miss Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL in this Chamber, but I have no doubt that she will find a way to use her extraordinary skills to help those who are powerless.

Thank you, CLAIRE, for your years of public service.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2018*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Senator McCASKILL has left an indelible mark on the Senate. A former prosecutor in Missouri, she brought the fight to protect the most vulnerable in her State and across the country to her work here in the U.S. Senate.

Her work to preserve the Affordable Care Act and protect victims of sexual harassment and violence speak to the depth of her convictions. She has also shown great talent safeguarding our Nation and holding our government accountable as a former chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and as a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Senator McCASKILL has fought hard to protect college students from sexual harassment and assault on campus. Senator McCASKILL has even spoken of the sexual harassment that she herself faced as a young woman in the Missouri State Legislature. Long before the Nation began talking openly about the extent of sexual harassment and assault across all sectors of our society brought into the open by the #MeToo movement, Senator McCASKILL prepared a report on

the extent of sexual harassment and assault on college campuses. But Senator McCASKILL has never been a woman content with report-writing; she introduced a bill to help address the issue. When the Senate didn't move on that bill, she worked directly with colleges, holding public roundtables to call attention to the issue.

That is a just a glimpse of the determination that Senator McCASKILL brings to all of her work on behalf of her constituents. She is a straight shooter. In the face of misinformation campaigns about the Affordable Care Act, Senator McCASKILL has always stepped up to promote the truth. I have always admired her commitment to preserving that law that helps so many of her rural constituents.

As a former chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator McCASKILL has dedicated much of her Senate service to keeping our country safe. I greatly appreciated her support for my National Guard Empowerment Act, which finally gave our National Guard the tools it needs to protect our Nation and take care of its members.

I will miss Senator McCASKILL's tenacity, and I am sure that Missouri and the Nation will too. Missouri is losing a champion in the Senate. Marcelle and I wish her, her husband, Joe, and her family the very best in this new chapter.

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 bittersweet 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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