

were doing everything in a very bipartisan way on the oilspill.

Tomorrow we have another briefing with the Coast Guard. We had a briefing yesterday. There is a committee meeting I am supposed to be at right now on some liability issues around the Deepwater and what is going on with offshore. There are meetings all over this place.

I know the Republican leader was not at the meeting, so I am sure he got the information secondhand. But I was. It was not brushed off. I think all of us, I do not care what State we are from—I am from an oil and gas State—believe in the development of oil and gas, but we are all concerned about the problems down in the gulf and the tragedy and the 11 lives that were lost there. So we are 100 percent committed in this body in a bipartisan way.

What I found amazing—and the Senator's point was we can do more than one thing in this body. I believe I can. I know everyone around me and around my caucus believes that. So we are going to work on the oilspill. Absolutely we want to cap it. But that is going on now. They are 16,000 feet down on a second drill, a relief drill. They are about 1,000 feet away. We know that is being worked on.

But the reality is, we have to have a comprehensive energy plan in this country. The fact is, if we want to talk about jobs and job creation in the future, that is a huge potential for us.

This debate, when we get to it—I know some want to make it cap and tax, cap and trade, cap and cap, cap and something. But the reality is, this is about a comprehensive energy plan. This is about creating a plan that gets us more secure for our national security. I say to the Senator, he talked about the amount of money we spend overseas going to countries that do not like us. They spend that money against us. It is in our best interests to develop a comprehensive plan, not using the excuses that have gone around this place for the last 40 years. We need to get busy and do it for the consumer, do it for our national security, do it for our economic security, and do it for the future of job creation in this economy.

So if we want to talk about the oilspill, absolutely. We will work double-time on that. We are doing it from every end of the Capitol and all across this country. As a matter of fact, today another report came out. A multinational effort, a multicountry effort from around the world has come to our assistance in the gulf. But we also need to be dealing with a comprehensive energy plan.

In Alaska, we are doing it. By 2025 we intend to have 50 percent of our energy produced by renewable energy. Even though we are dependent on oil and gas for the economic viability of our State, we recognize the diversity that has to happen: In Kodiak, AK, 10 years ago, zero; today, almost 85 percent renewable energy. The largest Coast Guard station in this country is in Kodiak,

AK, which will be run by renewable energy: biofuels, hydro, wind energy.

We have to be real about this issue. I understand the politics of November is coming. Everyone wants to be for something, against something so they can figure out what constituencies they win or lose in an election. The people who will lose if we do not get a comprehensive energy plan is the public. It does not matter if we are Democrat or Republican, Green Party, Independent. You name it. We are going to be affected because we will continue to import from foreign sources that do not like us. We will continue to put our country at risk from a national security perspective, and we will not recognize that we are now No. 2, No. 3 when it comes to energy technology and China is beating us.

That is unacceptable for this country to be No. 2 or No. 3 on this issue. We should be No. 1. For people to come down wanting to pigeon-hole this and claim we do not have the capacity in the Senate to do more than one thing is unbelievable. We will work double-time on the oilspill. But we must work double-time on developing an energy policy that moves us to better security for our country, our economic security, and to make sure we see the future. The future is a new energy economy that creates new jobs in this country.

So I was not planning to speak, I say to the Senator from Illinois, but he sparked me. I get agitated sometimes when this body—not the Senator, obviously, but the Republican leader—when they want to just do one thing. It is like when a person gets a meal on a plate, and one person just likes to eat the corn first, complete it all, and then they move to the next thing. We have the capacity to do many things in this Senate. We have spent 40 years—from the last major embargo in 1974—twiddling our thumbs and doing small, little, special interest legislation for energy. Now let's do the right legislation for the American people and do it right for our national security.

So I will stop on my rant. My staff is probably sweating bullets right now. They had no idea I was going to be down here doing this. I am off to a committee hearing.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the Senator would yield briefly for a question, 21 years ago, I went up to Prince William Sound to see the Exxon Valdez spill. I say to the Senator, I know he knows, as a native of Alaska, firsthand how terrible these spills can be, the impact they can have in the short and long term. But I commend the Senator for his statement because we can do more than one thing if we are working together. If we are divided and at war politically, we do not accomplish much.

What the President wants us to do is deal with the gulf oilspill but also not ignore the need for a national energy policy that is going to make us stronger, create more jobs, and make us less dependent on foreign oil.

I thank the Senator from Alaska for his comments.

Mr. BEGICH. I thank the Senator for sparking me for the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

While I will be speaking on the subject of Senator BYRD, I, too, want to join my colleague from Illinois in commending our Senator from Alaska on this issue and so many others. The Senator's staff does not have to worry. He speaks fluidly, eloquently, and without flaw. But, second, I think his courage on this issue has helped inspire our caucus to move forward.

We come from different States. For some States it is easier; for some States it is harder to take on this issue. Probably for Alaska it is one of the two or three hardest States to do it, and the Senator has done it with courage, with intelligence, with drive, and I think ultimately with success.

So I thank the Senator.

REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I rise to honor my colleague and friend, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. I look at the simple eloquence of the roses and the black felt on his desk, and, sort of, he rises above that and hovers above us in just about everything we do.

The admiration that all of us in this body have for Senator BYRD is genuine and palpable. We miss him dearly, and I know I speak for the entire Senate when I say our thoughts and prayers are with Senator BYRD's family as they mourn his passing.

Mr. President, no one loved the Senate more than ROBERT BYRD. He devoted his life to this august institution and, in doing so, became an institution himself. He is a legend—a man who embodied the best ideals of this body. It is fitting that on this day we remember Senator BYRD the Senate is undertaking one of its most important constitutionally mandated responsibilities: the confirmation hearings for a Supreme Court Associate Justice.

Senator BYRD would remind us that we are in a process where the first branch of government is giving its advice and consent to a selection from the second branch of government in choosing someone to sit on the highest part of the third branch of government.

He loved the Constitution, he loved the Senate, he loved America, and he came from the bosom of America.

I am struck by the history of this moment. We read about the great Senators who served in this body—the Websters and the Clays, the LaFollettes and the Wagners. Well, I cannot help but feel privileged to have served, in my brief time—certainly compared to the Senators here—with a legend, with a man whose name will go down in history beside those men as

one of the great men in this body and one of the great men in history.

On Thursday, Mr. President, Senator BYRD will make one final visit to this Senate Chamber that he so loved. There could be no more appropriate way for us to say good-bye to him and honor him than to yield the Senate floor to him for one last time.

People asked, why not the Rotunda? It was not that he did not deserve tribute in the Rotunda, and, for sure, tens of thousands would have lined up. But this is the body he loved, and this is the body where his final day here should be.

I would like to share a few brief thoughts and reflect on Senator BYRD's service to the people of West Virginia and the Nation.

The most important thing we should all remember about ROBERT BYRD is his life story, for it embodies America, the best of America. It embodies the American dream. Because of his intelligence, his indefatigable energy, and up-by-the-bootstraps determination, he rose from a childhood marred by abject poverty to being three heartbeats away from the Presidency.

He made mistakes in his earlier career, which he freely admitted later. Who has not? But he just grew and grew and grew. That is what great men do: they grow larger and stronger and better as they go through life. That could certainly be said of Senator BYRD.

Unlike many of the great men who preceded him, Senator BYRD did not grow up as a member of a privileged class. He was an orphan, raised in the Appalachian coal towns of West Virginia. He graduated from high school at 16 as the valedictorian, but like so many Americans of his day, he was too poor and could not afford college.

So as a young Member of Congress, he worked his way through law school, and, at age 46, he earned the diploma—with honors—that had eluded him in his youth.

I remember his love of West Virginia. When I was new in this body, just learning it—and part of the way I learned it was by going to Senator BYRD's class on the rules of the Senate; legendary to each freshman class of his time—but one day I was just seated at my desk, and Senator BYRD rose to speak. It was a Friday afternoon. I believe it was in the springtime. Business was finished and everyone was rushing home. As you know, Mr. President, I usually rush home. I love to be in New York. But as I was getting ready to leave, Senator BYRD rose, and his speech captivated me.

For 45 minutes he gave a speech on the beauty of West Virginia in the springtime. The theme of the speech was to urge visitors from other States to come experience it. It was an amazing speech. It was almost like poetry. I am sure Senator BYRD probably did not have to sit and spend days preparing it. It just flowed off his lips, his love of West Virginia, combined with his elo-

quence. It is one of the speeches I will always remember in the Senate, and I am just lucky and glad I was here for that moment.

Then, speaking of my State of New York, Senator BYRD did not just touch West Virginia, he touched every State. Because he was here for so long, of course, he had such power but cared about each of the Members and their States.

The most striking moment I had with Senator BYRD occurred in the wake of 9/11. It was the day after that Senator Clinton and I went up to New York, and we saw the devastation. We could smell death in the air, see the anguished looks of people holding signs: Have you seen my husband? Have you seen my wife? The towers were gone, but people did not know who had survived and who had not. Most did not, of course.

Then the next call we got, as we came back, was from Senator BYRD. Senator BYRD said: Please come to my office. We went to his office on the first floor of the Capitol. He came to Senator Clinton and I and said: CHUCK, Hillary, I want you to consider me the third Senator from the great State of New York.

We knew we needed help, and we needed it fast. Even before we went to visit President Bush and asked him for the help that New York needed, Senator BYRD, on his own, invited us over and pledged his help. Like always, he lived up to his word, not just in the next days or weeks or months but years. I would go to him 3, 4 years later and say there is still this part of the promise made to New York that hasn't been fulfilled. There he was, and he did it. Without a doubt, the dear city I love, New York City, would not have been able to recover as quickly or as well without that man from the coal fields of West Virginia, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, helping us. He showed a level of selflessness that is rarely seen, and I think I can speak on behalf of Secretary Clinton and the people of New York in telling Senator BYRD how grateful we are to him.

We all have so many memories of Senator BYRD, so many things. We only served together a little less than 12 years, 11½ years, but he was like a jewel. He had so many different facets that every one of us was touched by him in many ways.

So I relate my last strong memory of Senator BYRD. The Presiding Officer remembers as well because it was at a hearing of the Rules Committee where we are now having a series of hearings under the suggestion of the Presiding Officer and leadership to decide whether we should reform the filibuster rule and what we should do about it. Senator BYRD, frail at that point, about a month ago, came to our hearing room. He sat next to me and then gave one of the best orations I have heard in a committee. He was 92. He turned the pages of his speech himself. That wasn't so easy for him. It was clearly—

knowing the way he thought and his way of speaking—written completely by him. It was an amazing statement. It was impassioned, erudite, balanced, and, as the Presiding Officer remembers, it electrified the room. It was an amazing tour de force. The man cared so much about the Senate. Despite the fact he was ailing, there he was because he loved the Senate. His remarks, if my colleagues read them, were balanced. He understood the problems, but he understood the traditions, and he tried, as usual, to weave the two together.

There are few Senators who could do that, in the more than 200-year history of this body, the way he could. There are also few Senators in this body who fought as hard for their States as Senator BYRD did. I certainly admire the people who are here who become national leaders but never forget where they came from. There is a tendency among some who come to Washington to sort of forget where they came from. Not Senator BYRD. All across West Virginia, men and women are able to realize the American dream because he fought for them. He was unrelenting and unapologetic in his desire to improve the lives of West Virginians by making generous investments in infrastructure and research. He brought that State into the future and afforded generations of West Virginians good-paying jobs, allowing them to provide for their families and have the dignity all Americans deserve.

Some of the more elite parts of the media would make fun of what he did, but I thought our colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER, said it best. I am paraphrasing; I read this in the newspaper. He said Senator BYRD realized that until you get a road and a water system to these isolated towns, you couldn't open the door of the future for them, and he knew that. Senator BYRD relentlessly, in town after town after town, did that. He fought to increase access to health care and ensure the people had the right to vote, and he made sure every child in West Virginia had the right to live up to his God-given potential through a quality education.

Every one of us could go on and on about Senator BYRD's accomplishments, but I think what is even more important than accomplishments is who he was as a person. He was someone who knew where he stood but showed a profound willingness to evolve, and that is a sign of extraordinary character. It is all too easy for an elected official to plug his ears and say: Sorry, that is my position; that is the way it has always been, and that is the way it will always be. Not Senator BYRD. He was unafraid to take new arguments into consideration and expand his world view accordingly.

What also struck me about him was his fundamental humility, the best example of which is probably his relationship with my dear friend and mentor, Ted Kennedy, another legend in

this body who is so sorely missed. Ted somewhat unexpectedly ran against Senator BYRD to be the Democratic whip in 1969. Senator Kennedy won. Two years later there was a rematch and Senator BYRD became the whip. One would think after this kind of animus that the two of them would never come together, but in their lives in the Senate they established a deep meaningful bond, a tribute to both of them.

Senator Kennedy would tell me stories about Senator BYRD and some of the things he had done, serious and humorous. To me it is so profound that within a year we have lost the two giants among whom I was proud and lucky to serve.

I will never forget when Senator BYRD, sick as he was, was outside the steps of the Capitol to salute Ted Kennedy after he passed earlier this year. It was Senator BYRD who provided the crucial vote to fulfill Ted Kennedy's lifelong passion: Comprehensive health care reform. As every Senator sat at their desk for the final passage vote, the clerk called the roll. When Senator BYRD's name was called, he raised his voice as loud as he could and declared: "Madam President, this is for my friend Ted Kennedy. Aye!"

Those two friends, those two legends today are together again in heaven, and I would love to be able to hear the conversations and reminiscences between them.

ROBERT BYRD will be remembered forever. He will be remembered as a man who loved this institution and guarded its history. He will be remembered as a man who always stood up for his State. He is a man who will be remembered as someone who lived the American dream and fought to make that dream a reality for countless others. Perhaps most of all, he will be remembered as a loving father, grandfather, and husband.

Today the Senate mourns, the people of West Virginia mourn, the Nation mourns.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Senator BYRD, as many of my colleagues have, and make a few comments about an extraordinary individual. Just the sheer numbers are very impressive. He was married for 68 years, elected to 9 terms, had more than 20,000 days of service in the Senate, approaching 19,000 rollcall votes cast, and had a 97-percent attendance record.

Senator BYRD was the majority leader from 1977 to 1981, and again from 1987 to 1989. He was President pro tempore four different times when his party was

in the majority. The Senator from West Virginia was known for his defense of the Constitution and the institutional prerogatives of the Senate. He was the author of five books, and he was an avid fiddler. The first place I ever saw Senator BYRD was playing the fiddle on television. Boy, he could play. It was impressive to see somebody of his stature playing an instrument so brilliantly.

In his biographical statement on his Web site, I found a statement that I want to expand and build off of. It says:

In every corner of West Virginia, the people of the Mountain State know that there is one man on whom they can always depend: U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd. He has always remained true to his faith and his family, while working to build a better future for his state and his country.

His remaining true to his faith and family was at the core of Senator BYRD and his longevity, and at the core of his service.

While he spoke often and wrote well about the institutional prerogatives of the Senate better than anybody in the history of this body, it is that his life centered around his core, remaining true to his faith and his family. He was married for 68 years to his spouse, Erma, who stayed by his side constantly, and of whom he would speak often.

Senator BYRD and I would speak about his faith on the floor frequently. He was a man of deep faith and a man of strong convictions, and that was his centerpiece. He would often speak on this floor about his faith.

I think what you saw in Senator BYRD in that statement about his faith and his family is a cultural requirement for the United States. This is a nation of strong faith, a nation that values family. At the core of this country is that cultural need and necessity, and the leaders of the country need to have at their core a strong bearing within them, and that is a part of their service. That was a big part of Senator BYRD's service. His comments reflected the way he lived. Often people say that the way you live speaks louder than any words you say. That is what I found with Senator BYRD. The way he lived was speaking louder than any words.

It was the Senator's commitment within his family and his willingness to live that and his faith that spoke louder than any of his words. When we would talk about these things, you could see that they were at the depth of his soul and being. Whether we agreed or disagreed on a number of things—and there were many disagreements I had with him on policy issues, no question about that—you could never challenge his core convictions. His faith and commitment to his family were things that were obvious by the way he lived. You could have this sort of gentlemanly debate about topics that would come up, but you could never question or challenge the character and heart and soul of that.

What I found most endearing was Senator BYRD's commitment to faith and family. He will be greatly missed in this body. His treatise on the Senate that he gave to all new Members—and to me as a new Member coming into the Senate—I started it and got through a portion, not all of it, but it was excellently written, well presented, and certainly a good education as to what we should do in preserving the constitutional integrity that the Founders intended for this body to be. He, of course, was the greatest defender of it.

Others have spoken more eloquently about Senator BYRD, but I don't think any eloquence could match the eloquence with which he lived his life—particularly toward his faith and his family. That is what we should recognize the most.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the passing of our colleague, ROBERT BYRD, a mighty oak in the forest of Senate history has fallen. There are flowers on his desk, but there is a tremendous void in our midst.

As we all know, Senator BYRD was the longest serving Senator in the history of this body. But what was most remarkable about ROBERT C. BYRD was not his longevity but his unique stature and accomplishment in the Senate. No individual in our long history has been a more tenacious champion of the traditions, prerogatives, and rules of this body.

Senator BYRD was very fond of noting how many Presidents he had served under. He always answered, "None." As he explained it, he had never served under any President but he had served with 11 Presidents as a proud member of a separate and coequal branch of government.

Likewise, no individual has had greater reverence for the Constitution and for our Founders' vision for an assertive, independent legislative branch. As the "Almanac of American Politics" says in its profile of Senator BYRD:

He may come closer to the kind of Senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other.

For so many years, if anyone on the Senate floor needed to look up something in the Constitution, we knew where to turn. Senator BYRD always carried a copy in his left breast pocket, directly over his heart.

It was Senator BYRD's reverence for the Constitution that led to what I consider to be arguably his finest hour in the Senate—his outspoken opposition to the rush to war in Iraq in 2002

and his fierce warning to his fellow Senators that we would regret surrendering our power on this war to the President. Senator BYRD's speeches at that time opposing the invasion became a sensation around this country and on the Internet. A white-haired Senator, well into his eighties, became an icon and a folk hero to young people in universities all across America. Why? Because when President Bush was at the peak of his popularity and power, Senator BYRD dared to say that the emperor—any President—has no clothes when it comes to declaring war. Senator BYRD said the reason given for the invasion—Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction—was trumped up, and he predicted the war would be a colossal mistake.

I remember those impassioned speeches he gave at that time. If only we had taken the advice of the wise Senator from West Virginia, how many young American lives—over 3,000—would not have been lost, perhaps 10 times that many injured, carrying the wounds and scars of that war for the remainder of their lives, not to mention the nearly \$1 trillion spent out of our Treasury for that war in Iraq.

Later, in his outstanding book, "Losing America"—I recommend this book to every young person. I see our pages sitting here. Pick up that book by ROBERT C. BYRD. It is called "Losing America." He just wrote it about 5 or 6 years ago. It became an instant bestseller. It is a great book. In that book, "Losing America," Senator BYRD decried the Senate's willingness to cave in to the President. He did not care about whether the President was a Democrat or Republican. He said cave in to any President—it is readiness, as he put it, "to salute the emperor." He referred back to his earlier book he had written on the Roman Senate, noting that it was "the progressive decline of the already supine [Roman] Senate" that led to the decline of the Roman Republic, and he warned that the same could happen in America.

I have always had a special affinity for Senator BYRD because we were both the sons of coal miners, both raised in humble circumstances. I will miss seeing ROBERT BYRD at his desk or in the well and going up to express my best wishes and converse with him. He would always grab my hand; he would look at me and say: We have coal miners' blood running in our veins. We were the only two sons of coal miners to serve in the Senate, at least at this time. He always said that to me. I am going to miss that.

In reading about the Senator's early years—lifting himself out of poverty before running for the West Virginia Legislature in 1946—I was reminded of Thomas Edison's remark that "opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." In his early days, ROBERT BYRD was dressed in overalls, and he worked. But he made his opportunities. He made his own opportunities with

that relentless work, his self-education, and striving always.

I will always appreciate the way he tutored me in the ways of the Senate when I arrived in this body in 1985. I was assigned to the Appropriations Committee, one of the few freshman Senators to ever get that assignment. I will not go into how all that happened, but I can remember going to visit Senator BYRD—who then, of course, was the ranking minority member, when I first came to the Senate, on the Appropriations Committee—to ask for his guidance and his willingness to work with me and to instruct me on how to be a good member of the Appropriations Committee. For the next 25 years, he was either the chair of the committee or the ranking member. So I was privileged to learn at the elbow of a master appropriator and legislator.

During his more than 58 years in Congress, Senator BYRD witnessed astonishing changes, when you think about it. Our population during his service grew by more than 125 million. He served for 25 percent of the time we have been a republic. There has been an explosion of new technologies. America grew more prosperous, more diverse, more powerful. But across those nearly six decades of rapid change, there was one constant: Senator BYRD's tireless service to his country; his passion for bringing new opportunities to the people of West Virginia; his dedication to this branch of government, the U.S. Congress, and to this House of Congress, the U.S. Senate.

ROBERT BYRD was a person of many accomplishments with a rich legacy. In my brief time today, I wish to speak of one area of his advocacy which I have had ample opportunity to observe in my capacity both as the longtime chair or ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee for education and as a longtime member and now chair of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

During all these years, Senator BYRD was passionately committed to improving public education in the United States and expanding access to higher education, especially for those of modest means.

As we all know, as I said, he was raised in the hardscrabble coalfields of southern West Virginia. His family was poor, but they were rich in faith and values. His adoptive parents nurtured in ROBERT BYRD a lifelong passion for education and learning. He was valedictorian of his high school class but too poor, too underprivileged to go to college right away. Again, keep in mind, those were the days before Pell grants and guaranteed loans or even Byrd scholarships. He worked as a shipyard welder, later as a butcher in a coal company town. It took him 12 years to save up enough money to start college. As we all know, he was a U.S. Senator when he earned his law degree. No other Member before or since has ever started and finished law school while a Member of Congress.

But degrees do not begin to tell the story of the education of ROBERT C. BYRD. He was the ultimate lifetime learner. As I told him once, it was as though he had been enrolled during the last seven decades in the ROBERT C. BYRD school of continuing education. That always brought a smile on that one. I guarantee no one could ever get a better, more thorough education at any one of our universities.

Senator BYRD's erudition bore fruit in no less than nine books that he wrote and published over the last two decades. We know he wrote the book on the Senate, a masterful, four-volume history of this institution that has become a classic. What my colleagues may not know is he also authored a highly respected history of the Roman Senate.

There are some who joked—and I am sure he would not mind me saying this because we said it to him many times in the past—there are some who think ROBERT C. BYRD served in the Roman Senate. I can tell you, that part of the Byrd legacy and legend just is not so. We always said that. It always brought a smile, and he always chuckled when we talked about that. He was an expert on the Roman Senate. He knew it, and he knew who served in the Roman Senate and how it worked to bring down the Roman Empire.

I have talked at length about Senator BYRD's education because this explains why he was so passionate about ensuring every American has access to a quality public education, both K-12 and higher education. Coming from a poor background, Senator BYRD believed that a cardinal responsibility of government is to provide a ladder of opportunity so that everyone, no matter how humble a background, has a shot at the American dream. Obviously, the most important rungs on that ladder of opportunity involve education, beginning with quality public schools, including access to college and other forms of higher education.

During my quarter century now in this body, no one has fought harder for public education than Senator ROBERT BYRD. As long-time chairman, ranking member and, most recently, the senior member of the Appropriations Committee, he was the champion of education at every turn—fighting to reduce class sizes, improve teacher training, bringing new technologies into the classroom, boosting access to higher education.

In 1985, my first year here in the Senate, he created the only national merit-based college scholarship program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Congress later named it in his honor. The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholars Program is a federally funded, State-administered scholarship program that rewards high school seniors who have exhibited exceptional academic excellence. Currently, there are more than 25,000 Byrd Scholars across the United States eligible for a \$6,000 grant during 4 years in college.

I can remember speaking with him about this and the funding of it, and he reminisced more than once with me about how he was valedictorian of his class, and that he so wanted to go on to higher education but, because of his economic circumstances and where he lived, it wasn't available. So he wanted to make sure that young men and women today who exhibit that great excellence in academic performance were not denied the opportunity to go to college simply because of the circumstances of their birth.

Senator BYRD has something in common with Winston Churchill. Both were prolific writers, and both were major players in the events they chronicled in their writings.

Senator BYRD was also a great student of literature, and he loved to recite long poems from memory. I could never understand how he could remember all of the poetry he would recite here on the floor, in a committee meeting, or sometimes in a meeting when a subject would come up and he would remember a poem that perfectly fit the temper of what people were talking about.

I am sure Senator BYRD knew "The Canterbury Tales," a lot of it probably by heart. In "The Canterbury Tales," describing the Clerk of Oxford, Chaucer might just as well have been describing ROBERT C. BYRD. Chaucer wrote:

Filled with moral virtue was his speech;
And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.

"Filled with moral virtue was his speech; And gladly would he learn and gladly teach." Senator BYRD's speeches were a wonder to behold, full of eloquence and erudition and moral virtue. Senator BYRD never stopped learning and he never stopped teaching. Americans for generations to come will continue to learn from his writings and his example.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD was a great Senator, a great American, a loving and wonderful family man. He has both written our Nation's history and has left his mark on it. The United States of America has lost a patriotic son. We have lost a wonderful friend and a mentor. Tomorrow, here in the hallowed Chamber of the U.S. Senate, which he so loved and served for so many years, ROBERT C. BYRD will lie in state. We would do well to honor his memory by making a renewed commitment to making the U.S. Senate work and to work for all of the people of this country. May he rest in peace with his beloved Erma, and may the Senate always remember and honor his lifetime of service.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after I speak, Senator FEINSTEIN be permitted to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURRIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCIENCE EDUCATION IN DELAWARE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I spoke about Senator BYRD yesterday. One of the ways you measure anyone is by their friends. The manner in which Senator HARKIN just spoke about Senator BYRD shows what a great man Senator BYRD was, to have a friend as thoughtful and as caring as Senator HARKIN. They are both a credit to the Senate.

As we continue another school year, I wanted to take an opportunity to commend the excellent science instruction taking place in my State of Delaware. The science educators and leaders in the State have been working for 15 years to create a world-class science program encompassing standards and curriculum, professional development, and science material kits. I am honored to say that I believe world class is exactly the way to describe the science instruction Delaware students receive.

This is not something that happened overnight. It is a process that began in 1995, when a statewide survey was sent out to gather data on the status of science teaching and learning in Delaware. The results, unfortunately, showed that not much science was taught or being learned in Delaware schools. Consequently, several school districts banded together to form the Delaware Science Coalition. The coalition received extraordinary support from the DuPont Company in the form of time, money, and volunteer services. The group wrote and received a National Science Foundation grant, which allowed the districts to have an out-of-classroom science specialist provide science professional development for all teachers, assemble science materials, develop assessments, and meet as a group. Within 3 years, all school districts except one had joined the Delaware Science Coalition.

Today, the science coalition has come a long way. They have a statewide kindergarten through grade 11 science curriculum in place and have plans for a grade 12 curriculum. They have professional development for all science teachers in grades K through 11. They have cost-effective, kit-based science materials. They have assessments that are modeled after international science tests. They also have a systematic and comprehensive approach to reform that includes leadership from the State, district, and classroom, as well as corporate, community, and university-based partners.

Beyond all these coordinated measures, perhaps the most impressive example of how far the coalition has come is seen in the warehouse at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Dover. It is truly impressive. To get an idea of what it looks like, you have to think about what it is like to be inside a Home Depot or a Lowes—a warehouse with rows and rows of supplies and forklifts running about. This is what the science materials center looks like at the Collette Center, ex-

cept the industrial shelving and forklifts are transporting boxes filled with science materials to use in classrooms across the State. Science curricula and materials kits for grades K through 8 include resources developed by the National Science Resource Center, University of California-Berkeley, and homegrown and hybrid units developed with the aid of Delaware's very own teachers. These units are coordinated to introduce life, physical, and Earth science concepts each year and gradually increase in complexity from one level to the next.

All districts share materials, and kits rotate through two or three teachers per year. In order to obtain the materials, a teacher must attend professional development coordinated by the Collette Center. Then the warehouse sends out the kit, teachers and students use it, it is picked up weeks later, it is refurbished, and then sent out to another teacher. By sharing materials, costs are kept to an absolute minimum.

The Collette Center is a remarkable resource for the teachers and students in Delaware. It is unique in that it is the only science program in the country that provides a curriculum aligned to standards, an intensive professional development effort, and a materials support service for public school districts and charter schools throughout the entire State. To create this all-encompassing system, the Science Coalition has at times worked closely with the National Science Resource Center or NSRC. The NSRC is a joint operation of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies. I think Sally Goetz Shuler, the executive director of the NSRC, summed up Delaware's accomplishments best when she said:

During the past decade, the NSRC has showcased Delaware as a model to dozens of other U.S. States, countries, and national organizations, including the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy. Hundreds of leaders have visited the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, as well as many of [Delaware's] classrooms. While small, your State has been and will continue to be instrumental in catalyzing other states and countries to transform their science programs.

That is from Sally Goetz Shuler, the executive director of the NSRC. That is a powerful statement, and one with which I wholeheartedly agree.

By the way, my colleague, Senator CARPER, who has just come on the floor, has also visited the Collette Resource Center in Dover.

Delaware's science program is very impressive and the work is paying off for Delaware's students. When the new science standards and assessments were first implemented in 2001, only 42 percent of eighth grade students met or exceeded the standards. By 2009, 60 percent of the eighth graders met or exceeded the standards. Similar achievement gains have been illustrated at the