

can pass a law that would say that within 60 days of an election a group of union people, a group of businesspeople, a group of citizens, cannot get together and run an ad to say that JEFF SESSIONS is a no-good skunk and ought not be elected to office, offends me. Why doesn't that go to the heart of freedom in America? Where is our free speech crowd? Where are our law professors and so forth on this issue? It is very troubling to me, and I believe it goes against our fundamental American principles.

I will conclude. I make my brief remarks for the record tonight to say I believe this law is, on balance, not good. I believe its stated goal of dealing with corruption in campaigns is not going to be achieved. I believe it is the case with every politician I know, that votes trump money every time anyway. If you have a group of people in your State you know and respect, you try to help them. Just because they may give you a contribution doesn't mean that is going to be the thing that helps you the most. Most public servants whom I know try to serve the people of the State and try to keep the people happy and do the right things that are best for the future.

I believe this bill is not good, that the elimination of the corrupt aspects we are trying to deal with will not ultimately be achieved. At the same time, I believe we will have taken a historic step backwards, perhaps the most significant retrenchment of free speech and the right to assemble, and free press, that has occurred in my lifetime that I can recall. This is a major bit of legislation that undermines our free speech.

I know we have talked about all the details and all the little things. There are some things in this bill I like. I wish we could make them law. But as a whole, we ought not pass a piece of legislation that would restrict a group of people in America from coming together to raise money and speak out during an election cycle, 60 days, 90 days, 10 days, 5 days, on election day—they ought not be restricted in that effort. In doing so, we would have betrayed and undermined our commitment to free speech and free debate that has made this country so great.

Mr. President, I will proceed to see if I can close us out for the night.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN NORMAN SISISKY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague, Senator

ALLEN. We would like to address the Senate for a period not to exceed 10 minutes.

Mr. President, today, just hours ago, Senator ALLEN and I were informed of the loss of one of our Members of Congress from the State of Virginia, NORMAN SISISKY. It has been my privilege to have served with him in Congress throughout his career. Our particular responsibilities related to the men and women of the Armed Forces—I serving on the Senate Committee on Armed Forces and he on the House National Security Committee.

Our Nation has lost a great patriot in this wonderful man who started his public service career in 1945 as a young sailor in the U.S. Navy. In total, he served some 30 years, including his Naval service, service in the Virginia General Assembly, and in the service of the Congress of the United States.

The men and women of the Armed Forces owe this patriot a great deal, for he carried forth his earliest training in the Navy until the last breath he drew this morning. They were always, next to his family, foremost in his mind.

Throughout his legislative career in the Congress, many pieces of legislation bear his imprint and his wisdom on behalf of the men and women in the Armed Forces.

Mr. President, it is a great loss to the Commonwealth of Virginia, this distinguished public servant. It is a great loss to me of a beloved friend, a dear friend. My heart and my prayers go to his widow—a marriage of some 50 years—and to his family.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I just thank my two colleagues for bringing this information to the Senate. I came into the House of Representatives with NORMAN SISISKY. What a terrific person he was to work with. He had a wonderful sense of humor, was very dedicated, as my friend pointed out, to his country. He was very patriotic, and he was a real fighter for his district.

I want to associate myself with the eloquent words of Senator WARNER and Senator ALLEN.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I echo the words of the senior Senator from Virginia, JOHN WARNER. NORMAN SISISKY was a man who was loved all across Virginia. As the Senator said, he started his career in the Depression and served in the armed services. He also was a very successful businessman in the private sector. While he was a strong advocate for the armed services and the strength of our Nation, he also brought forth commonsense business principles of logistics and efficiency, whether it was in the days he was in the general assembly or in his many years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He clearly was one of the leaders to whom people on both sides of the aisle would look. When there was a need for getting good, bipartisan support, obviously, folks would go to Senator WAR-

NER. On the Democrat side, they looked to NORM SISISKY. NORM SISISKY cared a great deal, as Senator WARNER said, about the men and women who wear the uniform. He wanted to make sure they had the most advanced equipment, the most technologically advanced armaments for their safety when protecting our interests and freedoms abroad.

He was a true hero to many Virginians, not just in his district but all across the Commonwealth of Virginia, always bridging the partisan divides, trying to figure out what is the best thing for the people of America and also freedom-loving people around the world.

I will always remember NORM SISISKY as a person. I will always remember that smiling face, and he had that deep voice and that deep laugh, hardy laugh.

He was one who was always exuberant, always passionate, no matter what the effort, what the cause. You could be standing on the corner waiting for the light to change, and NORM would be carrying on with great passion and vigor about whatever the issue was. He would thrive on figuring out: Here is the way we will maneuver through the bureaucracy to get this idea done.

He truly was a wonderful individual. Everyone here speaks of him as a fellow Member of the House of Representatives.

When I was Governor, this man went beyond the call of duty. We were trying to get the department of military affairs to move from Richmond to Fort Pickett to transform that base which had been closed.

NORM SISISKY spent weekends talking with members on the other side of the aisle in the Virginia General Assembly, beyond the call of duty, to make sure we could move the headquarters to Fort Pickett and that the environmental aspects were cleaned up at no expense to the taxpayers, keep the facility open, and transform it to commercial use to benefit the entire Blackstone community.

The people in Southside Virginia will be forever grateful for what NORM SISISKY did in making sure Fort Pickett is there as a military facility for guard units in the Army, as well as private enterprise efforts and helping protect the jobs and people of that community.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. ALLEN. I will yield shortly.

Congressman NORM SISISKY was a great Virginian. He was a great American. I know our thoughts and prayers are there for his wife Rhoda. I know at least two of his sons very well, Mark and Terry, as well as Richard and Stuart.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to them. We tell them: Please realize NORM still lives on in you, in your blood, and also his spirit.

We also share our grief with his very dedicated and loyal staff who shared his passion for the people of Virginia and the people of America.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if I may add to what my distinguished colleague said, we shall work together to

see whether or not an appropriate portion of Fort Pickett—he just loved that base—can appropriately bear his name. It would mean a great deal to the men and women of the armed forces. We will do that.

Mr. ALLEN. That is a great idea.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from Virginia yield?

Mr. ALLEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as with Senator BOXER, I came to the House of Representatives in 1982. One of the freshman House Members was NORM SISISKY. Like Senator ALLEN, I can see that smile. He had an infectious smile. He was a friend. I enjoyed my service with that class of 1982. Part of my memories will always be NORM SISISKY.

I join in the comments made by my friends from Virginia and the Senator from California in recognizing a great public servant in NORM SISISKY.

Mr. WARNER. We thank our colleague for his remarks.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Will the Senator from Virginia yield?

Mr. WARNER. Yes.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I say to the Senators, oh, the gossamer thread of life cut short so quickly for such a great servant of the State of Virginia and of the United States of America with whom I had the privilege of serving in the House. He never met a man he did not like, and he was passionate about Government service. I thank my colleagues for calling this sad news to our attention and for the opportunity to respond.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank our colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, briefly, I do not claim a close relationship with NORM SISISKY, but I have had the great privilege of serving on the Armed Services Committee with Senator WARNER for the last 18 years, and I can remember every year when we would go into conference with the House of Representatives, NORM would be there. He would be championing the positions he felt strongly about and that were important to the people of Virginia. I also mourn his loss and recognize the important loss it is to Virginia and to this Congress.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank our colleague.

TRIBUTE TO PUNCH GREEN

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, the great Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “To live fully is to be engaged in the passions of one’s time.” Few Oregonians—and few Americans—have lived a life as full as Alan “Punch” Green’s. Alan Green was known to us who loved him as “Punch.” I say that few have lived a life as full as Punch’s because few have made such a positive difference in the passions of our time.

Punch passed away last Friday at the age of 75. And as his many friends—myself included—struggle to get used to

the fact that we can no longer call Punch for his straightforward advice, I would like to pay tribute here on the Senate floor to this remarkable Oregonian.

Punch was a member of what has been termed “The Greatest Generation.” Like so many others of that generation, Punch willingly risked his life for our country, as he served with distinction in the Pacific theater during World War II. And when he returned to Oregon following the war, Punch dedicated much of his life to making Oregon and America a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

He founded and ran a number of businesses, where he earned a reputation as a caring and fair manager. He became active in the Republican Party, serving as chair of campaigns for Presidents Ford, Reagan, and Bush, and serving as a trusted mentor to countless other candidates, myself included. Indeed, when I began my campaign for the Senate, one of the first people I sought out for advice and support was Punch Green, and I could not have asked for a more loyal friend.

Punch loved his home city, the city of Portland, OR, and he understood the importance of ensuring that Portland remained true to its name. As a commissioner and as President of the Port of Portland, Punch skillfully guided the port through an era of major growth and expansion. Punch’s leadership on these issues came to the attention of President Reagan, who chose Punch to serve as chair of the Federal Maritime Commission, a post he filled with great skill for 4 years.

Punch was nearing what many consider “retirement age” in the 1980s, and he certainly had earned the right to take it easy and spend time with his family. But Punch was always willing to answer the call of his country, and former President Bush was calling. In 1989, Punch packed his bags and accepted President Bush’s request to serve as United States Ambassador to Romania.

Punch arrived at the embassy in Bucharest just 2 weeks before the fall of the Ceausescu dictatorship. As tensions mounted in that country and explosions could be heard in the distance, Punch evacuated women and children from the embassy, and slept on his office couch for 10 days. Punch would later tell me that one of the highlights of his life was waving an American flag from the embassy window to the thunderous applause and cheers of thousands of Romanian citizens who were celebrating the end of Ceausescu’s bloody reign. Punch’s leadership in Romania at this critical time was recognized in 1992, when he received the State Department’s Distinguished Honor Award.

When his assignment in Romania came to its conclusion, Punch returned to Portland, where he continued to provide his inimitable leadership to a variety of worthy causes. One which was especially close to his heart was that of the Oregon Humane Society, which

now has a beautiful new facility in Portland, thanks, in no small part, to Punch’s vision and generosity.

My thoughts today are with Punch’s wife, Joan, his three daughters, and eight grandchildren. The Greek poet Sophocles once wrote that “One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been.” Although Punch left us much too early, it is my prayer that those who loved him will take solace in the fact that as he neared the evening of his time here on Earth, Punch could look back at a life rich with family, rich with friends, and rich with making a difference in the passions of our time, and he could say that the day has indeed been splendid.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH—RECOGNIZING PROMINENT WOMEN OF ARKANSAS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, as we celebrate the remaining days of National Women’s History Month, I want to call attention to several extraordinary women from my home state of Arkansas who have devoted their lives to improving our communities and lending a hand to those in need.

But before I talk about them individually, I first want to say a few words about a woman who is special not only to many generations of Arkansans but to the members of this body. That woman is Hattie Caraway.

In 1932, Hattie Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman ever elected to the United States Senate after winning a special election to fill the remaining months of her husband’s term. Arkansans elected Hattie Caraway to the Senate two more times, and she served in the U.S. Senate until January, 1945.

Senator Caraway became the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first woman to take up the gavel on the Senate floor as the Senate’s presiding officer. And when she finished her term, her Senate colleagues honored her for her service with a standing ovation on the Senate floor. Quite a feat for a woman back in 1945 especially since women had just won the right to vote only 25 years earlier!

There is no doubt that Hattie Caraway’s service in the Senate paved the way for women seeking elective office. Thirty-one women have followed Hattie Caraway to the Senate, and today, a record high of 13 women are serving in the Senate at the same time. Combined with the 59 women in the U.S. House of Representatives, a record total of 72 women serve in the U.S. Congress today.

Another woman who is paving the way for women in politics in Arkansas is County Judge LaVerne Grayson. Judge Grayson last November became the first female county judge to serve Boone County, Arkansas.

Before attaining her judgeship, Judge Grayson was a nurse and Public Health Investigator Supervisor at the Arkansas Department of Health who helped