

be serious and in some ways quite fundamental, but when it comes to the details of policy, we can and should move together and have discussions with civility to move toward consensus.

We face an imperative to reduce the deficit by keeping spending in check, but without raising taxes and stifling job growth.

We must transform our health care system into one that puts people and their doctors first and puts the doctor-patient relationship in charge.

We do need to confirm judges who justly and independently interpret the law.

We can't move America forward unless we do these things, and we can't do these things unless we do work together. Doing this and improving the environment and the tenor of this body is going to require a lot of hard work. We will need more good ideas devised by Senators ALEXANDER, CARPER, PRYOR, and VOINOVICH.

We should give strong consideration to the proposals my colleague Senator DASCHLE made several months ago such as all-Senate policy forums to discuss the issues of the day, and bipartisan leadership meetings which bring leadership together. These are all great suggestions, fruitful suggestions, and great starting points and productive ideas.

Senator REID and I have already begun to discuss ideas on how to achieve this, again working together to make my ideas and his ideas a reality.

Sensors on both sides of the aisle should know that as we approach these issues, accomplish this, and their ideas we ask them to bring forward.

In closing, the traditions, rules, and customs of the Senate rest on a foundation of civility. That is why we have rules that are in print, a body of rules. Then we have this whole element of tradition and precedent which is so important to this body.

We have essential work ahead of us as we all begin to plan and look at the next Congress. We are stewards of rich Senate traditions and stewards of constitutional principles that simply must not be undone. We are leaders elected by the American people for one simple purpose; that is, to move America forward. Doing it is going to require a lot of work. It will require a lot of consensus building, and above all it will require civility.

I look forward to working with our leadership and working jointly with the Democratic leadership to make that our goal and to implement and incorporate whatever we need to do in this body so we indeed can achieve that goal.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I wanted to ask if we could put an order in place, that Senator ALLARD speak first, then myself, and Senator ALLEN. I would like to protect our places, if that would be possible. I ask unanimous consent that Senator ALLARD be recognized, after which I would be recognized, after which Senator BOND would be recognized, then Senator ALLEN and Senator STEVENS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
The Senator from Colorado.

COMMENDING THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, first of all I would like to recognize the strong leadership that we receive from the majority leader. I think he needs to be complimented for his inclusive leadership. We have accomplished a lot this session because of his efforts.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I take a moment to talk about 4 colleagues whom I have had an opportunity to serve with in the Senate.

First of all, I want to talk about my colleague from the State of Colorado, who is not going to be with us as we go into the waning days of the 108th Congress.

I had an opportunity to get to know BEN CAMPBELL in the Colorado General Assembly. In 1982, he was elected to the State house and I was elected to the State senate. It was not long before the buzz in the Capitol was all about this great Native American whom we had serving in the State house who brought to the Capitol some common sense from western Colorado, an individual who in his own right had already gained some national notoriety.

Senator CAMPBELL came from a family that was somewhat dysfunctional. It was a poor family. He joined the Air Force. While he was serving in the Air Force, he had an opportunity to get his GED. He served in Korea. While serving in the Air Force, he also spent some time in Japan where he received some judo training. He became a member of the first Olympic judo team representing the United States. He had the distinction of carrying the flag representing the whole United States entourage that was there participating in the Olympics.

This individual brought a considerable amount of national notoriety to

the Colorado General Assembly. But he became even more respected because of his firm conviction, his hard work, and his commitment to small business, and to water issues of the western slope in the State house district he represented. In fact, having finished his first term, he was recognized as one of the 10 best legislators in the Colorado General Assembly. He had an opportunity to serve for about three terms and took on an incumbent congressman. He won that particular race and ended up in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986; then got elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992, and reelected in 1998.

During this period of time, I had an opportunity to be able to establish a personal relationship with Senator CAMPBELL in the State legislature. I respect a lot of the values he brought to the legislature. I had an opportunity to work with him for a short period of time in the U.S. House of Representatives. He certainly was a team player and somebody whom I felt I could work with. I looked forward to the opportunity when I could serve with him in the Senate. While serving here in the Senate, we became known as a team representing the interests of Colorado, which has been pretty effective. A lot of the issues that are important to the State of Colorado we were able to accomplish. A lot of it was because he was willing to take on the responsibilities of the Appropriations Committee. Representatives from Colorado ordinarily didn't seek out these committees, but he made a big difference.

I consider it a great pleasure to be able to serve with him. I consider him family. Not only are we close friends, but my niece married his son. I have the greatest respect for the Campbell family. They are great Americans and I am pleased to be considered part of his family.

DON NICKLES

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I also want to take a moment to talk about another colleague, DON NICKLES, who has had a long and distinguished career as we move into the waning days of the 108th Congress.

He brought to this Congress a perspective from the private sector. I am a small businessman. I grew up in the private sector. In my view, too few of us have had to meet the challenges and meet a payroll. I think it affects how you view rules and regulations and taxes.

Senator NICKLES from Oklahoma became a strong advocate of small business issues and worked hard to hold down the tax burden and regulatory burden.

I had an opportunity to serve with him when he was chairman of the Budget Committee, and I very much appreciated his leadership on that committee.

I also appreciated the opportunity to be able to work with him in holding down and actually eliminating the death tax which has such devastating effects on small business.

During his many years here in the Congress, he has been an individual who maintained integrity in the process.

PETER FITZGERALD

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I want to express my appreciation for the hard work of PETER FITZGERALD. I am disappointed he is only serving one term in the Senate. It is a voluntary decision that he made to step down after one term.

His family has business interests in Colorado. I have enjoyed working with him, particularly when we served on the Agriculture Committee, and I began to respect his values as well as his work ethic.

ZELL MILLER

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to recognize ZELL MILLER, who replaced Paul Coverdell. He is someone I have grown to admire during my service here in the Senate. He is a principled individual and truly represents his great State of Georgia.

With each day of this session, I continue to admire his strength and tenacity and ability to stand up for what he believes is right.

I view these four individuals as four individuals who have distinguished themselves in my mind and four individuals whom I have appreciated having the opportunity to serve with in the Senate and whom I hold in great esteem. I wish them the very best as they pursue life's journey, having served in a distinguished way in the Senate. I wish them the very best and Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise to say goodbye to several of my colleagues, dear friends and colleagues with whom I have had the pleasure to work in the Senate.

DON NICKLES

I start with Senator DON NICKLES. We say goodbye to DON NICKLES of Oklahoma who leaves after spending 24 years in the Senate, but not spending much else. As chairman of the Budget Committee, his philosophy of smaller government and fiscal prudence often reminded this Chamber of our duty to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars. DON did not back down but always held his ground, demonstrating his perseverance and conviction.

He was first chosen by his colleagues for a leadership position in 1988 as the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. He was next elected to the first of three terms as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, and in 1996, 1998, and 2000, he was elected unanimously to be assistant Republican leader.

He was the principal sponsor of the 2003 economic growth package which cut the tax on dividends, reduced the capital gains rate, raised the child tax credit to \$1,000 per child, and reduced the marriage penalty. My friend also

led efforts to reform the Internal Revenue Service. He helped enact the Nation's first balanced budget in three decades and passed laws to make Members of Congress accountable to the same laws as everyone else.

On a personal note, he worked with me on the marriage penalty. I could not have passed my bill to reduce the marriage penalty on married couples in our country without DON NICKLES' strong backing and leadership.

I will never forget the first time I met DON. It was at the Republican National Convention in Dallas, TX. DON was a young man and he had just been elected to the Senate, and everyone was referring to him as Senator. I assumed, because he was so young, that he must be a State senator. As I left, I said to him, you must have a long and great career ahead of you. I am sure you will run for higher office some day, thinking he was a State senator. But, in fact, he was a U.S. Senator already and was the youngest Member at the time.

He is the gold standard for principled conservatives who stand tall for their beliefs and work hard for their constituents.

As a Texan I may say there are times I am not fond of certain Oklahoma college football teams, I have always been proud of Oklahoma's DON NICKLES and honored to call him a neighbor.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is one of the best friends I have in the Senate. I am particularly going to miss him. He commands more attention than a Harley Davidson with straight pipes.

He brought a wealth of experience and perspective to the Senate that enriched all of our deliberations. Let me list, in no particular order, some of these experiences. He was a fruit picker, a deputy sheriff, the captain of the U.S. judo team in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He is a horse trainer, a rancher, a fabulous jewelry artist, and chief of the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

He also has served the people of Colorado as their Senator, both as a Democrat and a Republican. He is a renaissance man in every sense of the word. He can ride a Harley Davidson like a genuine biker because he is the real thing. On his motorcycle or on the Senate floor in his pony tail and sunglasses or in his business suit, he has unashamedly defended the values and interests of Americans of all incomes and backgrounds. This stems from his pride in our great country.

I remember when he decided it was time for the Capitol Police to buy American and trade in their Japanese-made motorcycles for Harleys. He said in his typical upfront style that the Japanese bikes made the police look like "pizza delivery boys" and they are not fast enough to catch crooks. Needless to say, the Capitol Hill motorcycle police are now equipped with Harleys.

One of BEN's most prominent contributions is now visible on our mall,

the National Museum of the American Indian. He initiated the legislation to found this museum within the Smithsonian, and the beautiful building housing priceless collections of American Indian artifacts and art work is a tremendous legacy of BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL: my friend, my colleague, and biker buddy.

PETER FITZGERALD

It is often an uphill battle for a freshman Senator to make an impact, but Senator PETER FITZGERALD, a former commercial banking attorney, has chaired or led investigations of corporate accounting fraud, mutual fund industry abuses, chronic underfunding of employee pensions and waste, fraud and mismanagement in Federal agencies.

In 2004, he proposed comprehensive, bipartisan mutual fund reform legislation to protect the household, college, and retirement savings of 95 million Americans. This bill, endorsed by consumer groups and reform-minded industry leaders, points the way for future legislation on this subject.

The Senator also focused on consumer safety issues. In 2000 he led a successful drive to modernize outdated Federal testing and safety standards for child car seats. In 2002, he drafted and President Bush signed into law a followup measure known as Anton's Law, to upgrade Federal testing and standards for child booster seats and to require automakers to improve car safety features.

I wish him well in his future endeavors.

TOM DASCHLE

I wish Senator TOM DASCHLE well as he moves on to new challenges. As his party's leader in the Senate he was smart and determined. TOM is an exemplar of the American story. He grew up as the eldest of four brothers and became the first in his family to graduate from college, with a political science degree from South Dakota State University.

He then served 3 years as an intelligence officer for the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command.

He secured a job as an aide to South Dakota Senator James Abourezk. From there, he rose to the highest job in the Senate, Senate majority leader.

TOM DASCHLE married Linda Hall and they are the parents of three children. He is proof that hard-working Americans can make a difference.

FRITZ HOLLINGS

From the day I first arrived in the Senate, until today, Senator HOLLINGS has been a force in the Senate. His institutional memory, his command of the issues, and his speaking style are recognized from both sides of the aisle.

He has been a tireless advocate of his State and his political beliefs, earning him a role as one of the Senate's elder statesmen.

Senator HOLLINGS fought in World War II, won his first election at age 26, served as the youngest Governor of his

State, and was elected to seven terms in the Senate. Incredibly, FRITZ HOLLINGS was in public service since 1948 and somehow managed to be his State's junior Senator until 2 years ago. It must be something in the water in South Carolina.

During his career, Senator HOLLINGS has had an impact on a wide range of legislation, including measures to protect the environment, balance the budget, and update telecommunications law.

I am very appreciative of his initiation of a nationwide effort to combat breast and cervical cancer by utilizing his seat on the Appropriations Committee to secure funding for a pilot screening program. This will be one of the many lasting legacies of FRITZ HOLLINGS.

BOB GRAHAM

Senator BOB GRAHAM, a former two-term Governor of the sunshine State, has compiled a record of achievement in the Senate which included portions of the PATRIOT Act. When it comes to environmental, tax, energy, and education issues, he has been a strong voice in Congress.

One of the greatest legacies of Senator GRAHAM is the Florida Everglades. The rich flora and fauna of the Everglades were threatened by development, but then-Governor GRAHAM pushed through legislation to protect it. Future generations of Americans who visit the Everglades should remember his contribution to saving this national heritage.

JOHN BREAUX

Madam President, Senator JOHN BREAUX is a voice of moderation and bipartisanship. He helped pass landmark welfare reform under a previous administration, and has consistently been able to work with Members of the other side of the aisle whether his party has been in the majority or minority.

His commonsense approach to energy legislation and many other issues will certainly be missed. He helped defeat the Btu tax which was so injurious to the energy industry in both my State of Texas and his State of Louisiana.

Senator BREAUX was the youngest Member of the House of Representatives when he was elected, at age 28, in 1972. He served in the House for 14 years before being elected to fill the legendary Senator Russell Long seat in 1986. You would think Washington would change someone after all that time, but John is still a Cajun through and through and sees the world with a sense of humor that keeps everything in perspective.

I will miss JOHN BREAUX. He was often an ally on transportation, energy, and telecommunications issues. Even when we were on opposite sides in a debate, he brought wisdom, experience, and a willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion to the Senate.

And no, JOHN, Louisiana cannot annex Texas.

JOHN EDWARDS

Madam President, we must also say farewell to a freshman Senator who is now a household name in the United States. No one who has met JOHN EDWARDS can fail to like him and respect him.

Senator EDWARDS rose from humble beginnings to come close to being elected Vice President of the United States. The first member of his family to gain a college education, he went on to earn a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He built a hugely successful law practice before he entered public service.

Senator EDWARDS was a chief sponsor of the bipartisan Patient Protection Act, strong and far-reaching patient protection legislation that passed the Senate in 2001. He has a long career ahead of him and will do well on whatever path he takes.

Finally, I want to let Senator EDWARDS know that he and his wife Elizabeth are in my prayers every day.

ZELL MILLER

Madam President, it is hard to say how much I appreciate ZELL MILLER, a proud Democrat and a great American. Senator MILLER's early life was not easy. He grew up in the hills of Georgia where people may not have had much but they worked hard and had strong families and solid values. He pulled a stint in the U.S. Marines, which he said put him on the right path in life. His colorful career in Georgia politics included two terms as Governor. When U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell, my great friend, died unexpectedly, ZELL MILLER was appointed until a special election could be held, which he won handily.

After he arrived in Washington, Senator MILLER was one of the few who not only talked the talk of bipartisanship but walked the walk. During the war on terror, he advised bipartisan action on the Homeland Security bill. He called for bipartisan support for traditional American values, a lower tax burden, and a strong American defense.

I think the verdict on Senator MILLER's stand for old-time Democratic values has been vindicated, first in the 2002 elections and lastly in the 2004 elections. Someone who is being friendly tells you things you want to hear, but a true friend is one who tells you things he thinks you should hear. ZELL MILLER is that kind of friend to both Democrats and Republicans. He will be missed in this August body, as one of those who told it like it is, straight from the heart.

Madam President, I will miss all of my colleagues. As we take the opportunity to go forward in a new Congress, we will make new friends, but we will never forget the old ones.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I begin today on a happy note to say, after a

lot of hard work in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, we have brought forth an excellent product. Thanks to the leadership of Senator GREGG and Senator KENNEDY, we have produced a solid, bipartisan conference report which protects the educational rights of children with special needs while at the same time making the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act more workable for parents, teachers, school administrators, and school districts.

While IDEA, as the bill is known, has helped to open the doors to many children with special needs since it was enacted in 1975, there is no question about problems existing.

Over the last half dozen years, I have traveled around the State of Missouri and met, in over 50 different communities, with teachers, school principals, school board members, and parents to find out what the challenges are in education. No surprise that you would come to hear that it is not just that they want more Federal money, they want sense in the Federal regulations. They told me horror stories about the regulatory hurdles they had to overcome to administer some of the Federal programs, especially IDEA. The IDEA was more focused on complex rules than on producing the results that children with disabilities and their families deserve.

I have heard story after story about frustrated special education teachers just throwing up their hands and saying: I can't take it anymore. I came to serve special needs children, not a bureaucracy, and not to be involved in litigation all the time. I have heard about crushing paperwork burdens, children misidentified for special education, that the Federal Government is not paying its fair share of the cost.

The conference report we adopted yesterday is a very important step to address these concerns, to strengthen and improve IDEA for both children and the educational system. We believe it will strengthen the accountability and results for children with disabilities, reduce IDEA paperwork burdens, provide greater flexibility for school districts, reduce the number of children wrongly placed in special education classes, reduce litigation, and restore trust between parents and school districts.

I am particularly pleased to tell you that many of the ideas contained in this legislation were developed in Missouri. When I heard the complaints of Missouri educators, I met and talked with the Missouri School Board Association, which put together a multimonth planning conference with representatives of the teachers, of the special needs community, and others to come up with specific ideas and reforms. The Missouri School Board Association's Special Education Advocacy Council and the Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education came forward with proposals that I took to the committee, and the committee was able to include most, if not