

materials from entering the United States. That is Nunn-Lugar. We must do more than what we have done with the Nunn-Lugar legislation.

We must increase our military. Our legislation calls for an increase by 40,000—30,000 in the Army and 10,000 in the Marines—so that we have enough troops to win the peace in Iraq and fight terrorism around the world without extending tours of duty to the breaking point.

We will create a Guard and Reserve bill of rights to protect and promote the interests of our dedicated citizen soldiers and fight for the families of those who serve to recognize the sacrifices they have made. S. 13 will fulfill our duty to America's veterans. It will ensure that all veterans get the health care and prescription drugs they deserve while also expanding the availability and accessibility of mental health care. We will ensure that no veteran is forced to choose between a retirement and disability check, and launch a 21st century GI bill that tells soldiers of today that we will help them to succeed when they return, just as we did for those great heroes who returned from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

We need to expand opportunities to all Americans, and economic opportunity is going to be extended through S. 14. We, for example, will end tax incentives that encourage companies to ship jobs overseas. We are going to restore overtime rights for 6 million workers who lost that guarantee last year.

S. 15 will help us with education. It must be a cornerstone of equal opportunity. Democrats will keep our promise to our children by increasing support for preschool education, fully funding No Child Left Behind and making sure it is implemented the right way. We will address the shortfall of math, science, and special education teachers by creating tuition incentives for college students to major in these fields, and we will work to make sure every American who wants it can afford 4 years of college with new tuition tax credits and relief from burdensome loans.

There are problems in rural school districts in Kansas, Nevada, Illinois, Nebraska and Utah. I have found, in my travels through rural Nevada, one of the biggest problems the school districts in rural Nevada have is school buses. That might not seem like much in the overall scheme of things, but it is rare for a bus in Nevada rural schools to be new. They buy used, old buses. Most of the buses are worn out before they get them. We could help rural America in lots of different ways, but we could help rural America so much if we provided a way where they could buy new buses. We need to do that. When school districts have these old buses, children have no choice but to ride in outdated, unsafe buses. That is why we will create a Federal program to help rural school districts pur-

chase new buses that will get kids to school in a reliable and safe manner.

S. 16 will make sure health care is more affordable to families and businesses. We know health care costs have spiraled. That is why we will bring down the price of prescription drugs by legalizing safe importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs from industrialized countries. We will also ensure that every child in America has access to health care and that every pregnant woman in America can get the maternity care she needs and deserves. We will reduce health care costs by creating incentives to modernize health care and by offering tax credits to small businesses.

Finally, we want to build a government that meets its responsibilities both to Americans today and in the future. S. 18 will help America's seniors. Medicare should work for seniors, not the HMOs and drug companies. First we will eliminate the provision that actually prohibits Medicare from using the negotiating power of its 41 million beneficiaries to get lower prices. The Medicare bill has a provision in it that says Medicare cannot negotiate for lower prices. They have to go to Rite Aid and other places, just like the rest of us. They cannot compete with the HMOs which can buy their drugs in bulk.

We will eliminate the giveaways like the \$10 billion slush funds for hospitals in the Medicare bill. We will improve the prescription drug benefit by phasing out the current donut hole where seniors pay a premium but get no credit. Seniors across the country were shocked by the record increase in Medicare Part B premiums this year. This must be addressed. We must be a government that honors its responsibilities to future generations. We have had reckless spending these last 4 years. It has turned record surpluses into record deficits and has mortgaged our children's future. It is long past time for Washington to return to the same commonsense budget that families use around the kitchen table every day, and that is why we will call for pay-as-you-go budgeting.

Our final bill, S. 20, will support women in making responsible choices about their health. The United States has the highest rate of unintended pregnancies among all industrialized nations. Half of all pregnancies in this country are unintended and nearly half of those end in abortion. By increasing access to family planning services, Democrats will improve women's health, reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies, and reduce the number of abortions, all while saving scarce public health dollars.

Security, opportunity, and responsibility—these are more than just three words or three values. They are the foundation on which America's promise is built. Senate Democrats open the 109th Congress steadfastly committed to keeping this promise alive, so that all Americans who work hard can build

a stronger and brighter future for their families. While these 10 bills do not represent all the goals of the 109th Congress, they represent the start and the core of our mission.

No doubt we will tackle many other important issues before Congress closes, but we will never lose sight of the values for which we fight and the promises we must keep.

For instance, when it comes to strengthening Social Security, Democrats will keep America's promise. The program is our bargain that says those who work hard and pay their taxes have earned a secure retirement. Our values compel us to keep the promise of security to our seniors, and Senate Democrats will do this. We will not irresponsibly cut benefits or jeopardize the opportunity of future generations with \$2 trillion in new debt. This is keeping America's promise, and that is what Senate Democrats will do.

In closing, I would like to say a few words to my colleagues across the aisle. We hope and believe many Republicans share our view that we must not allow partisanship to stand in the way of America's promise, or let politics get in the way of keeping alive the American dream. That is our pledge. We will work with the majority in meeting the demands of America.

I recognize the first 30 minutes of morning business time was that of the majority. How much time did I use?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator used 14½ minutes.

Mr. REID. I apologize to my friends on the other side of the aisle. Ten minutes of that will be leader time. The rest Senator DURBIN will use for whatever he feels appropriate when our time comes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Illinois.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are two or three Senators on the floor who would like to pay tribute to Mr. Liebengood, as Senator FRIST did. I will ask unanimous consent they be recognized, if we can get an idea how much time they will use, and then if we could return to the scheduled morning business with the remaining time on the Democrat side and then the balance on the Republican side.

Mr. HAGEL. I will require no more than 3 minutes.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I think I can do mine in 5 minutes, maybe less.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Less than 5 minutes.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I had requested 10 minutes to introduce a bill at the conclusion of the tributes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize. I didn't know people were here to speak. If I had, I would certainly have withheld. There is more than ample time. There is 30 minutes in morning business. They will have whatever time they need. There is lots of time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would be happy to renew my request to give, let's say, 15 minutes for tributes to Mr. Liebengood at this point.

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

The Senator from Nebraska, the distinguished champion of the Plains, is now recognized.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD LIEBENGOOD

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise, as was noted, to recognize and pay tribute to and remember our dear friend Howard Liebengood. I thought the majority leader's comments concerning Howard Liebengood could have been recited by any and all who knew him. My friendship with Howard Liebengood goes back almost 30 years. When I first became acquainted with Howard and his wife Dee, we would bet on the Kansas State-Nebraska football game every year. I know the Presiding Officer has a passing interest in that game. Howard, each year, would come back for more. These were the days when Kansas State had not defeated Nebraska for many years. But one of the extraordinary parts of this extraordinary man was an optimism, not only about Kansas State football but about life. All that he touched, all he represented, and all who knew him were uplifted by this gentleman, this man who always put his friends first.

I recall when Howard and Dee's children were young, I would occasionally go to their home in Vienna for a little chili cookoff. It was not a big group; it was just us. Howard always had the remarkable ability to reach beyond his professional capacity. After all, we are all judged and will be judged by that dynamic at the end of our lives. It will not be for whatever professional accomplishments we have but it will be for what we have done for others and how we are remembered by others, as was noted by the majority leader in his remarks.

So, today, as I and others rise on behalf of Howard Liebengood, we celebrate his life and his family and all the light that he brought to so many of us for so long. This dear, dear man, we will miss greatly. But he does leave the world better than he found it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have to say that Howard Liebengood was one of my dear friends and I think he was a dear friend to virtually everybody in the Senate on both sides of the aisle. What a good man.

What can I say about Howard Liebengood? That he was a loving, caring family man who placed his lovely wife, Deanna, and their wonderful children, Howie, John, and Ann, above all else? That he was the consummate Capitol insider, who managed to retain humility and kindness while rising to the pinnacle of Washington's power

structure? That he was an accomplished lawyer, businessman, and military hero who never forgot his small-town roots in this often heartless big town? That he was a man of faith, whose church was a source of strength in the hardest of times?

I can say all of these things—and more.

I have been proud and humbled to call Howard Liebengood a friend. He was a trusted adviser to me and so many other Senators. He was my neighbor in Virginia, and we often drove to work together. When I had my Achilles' tendon rupture—completely severed my tendon—Howard and I rode together every day. Those were some of the most wonderful times I've had.

We shared some wonderful times; I always looked forward to his keen observations and his wry good wit and very strong intelligence.

I knew what many in this body knew about Howard, that we could always count on him to listen, and care, and act—not in his own self-interest, but for the greater good.

Howard was so successful in our world, yet he was never driven by money, fame or desire.

His many accomplishments—the Bronze Star, his work in the Senate on the Watergate Committee, as our Sergeant at Arms, as Chief of Staff to two of our greatest Senators—tell volumes about Howard, but they do not reveal the inner peace and calm that made him such a wonderful, wonderful part of this institution, a tribute to all that is good in public service.

What more can you ask in a man?

Nothing.

Howard did it all.

Howard had it all.

His loss is so great. Our loss is so great. This body will mourn his loss for so many years to come.

I know all here today join in sending both our deepest sympathies to the Liebengood family, and our profound admiration for Howard S. Liebengood—husband, father and trusted public servant. I knew him personally very well. He was kind. He was considerate. He was helpful. He was always down the middle. He was someone to rely on.

Let us celebrate his life today and all that was so good in this man, even as we mourn Howard S. Liebengood's tragic passing at too early a time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, last week Howard Liebengood's best friend, former Senator Fred Thompson, spoke eloquently about his life with Howard over the last 30 years since their time at Vanderbilt Law School. Marty Gold, whom all of us know, spoke about Howard Liebengood in a little different way. The majority leader spoke about him today in still a different way from the experience he had with him in the last few years and especially the last 2 as

his chief of staff. Senator HAGEL and Senator HATCH had something to say, and many others will. So the question might be, What could I add to these eloquent words? What I can add today are some of Howard's own words.

Howard spent the last 2 years doing something that is very special in the Senate. He and my chief of staff Tom Ingram had lunch every week, and their stated objective, among all the other things, was to make sure the Frist staff and the Alexander staff didn't compete with each other but worked together to serve the people of Tennessee.

That may sound to people outside the Senate like the way it always is, but that is not always easy to do. But I think it is fair to say—and a lot of this credit goes to the majority leader because of his attitude and his generous spirit and his unselfishness—our staff worked beautifully together for 2 years. We haven't competed with each other. That is because of the spirit of Howard Liebengood.

As a result, we invited him last September to our staff retreat. We wanted many of the staff members—some of whom are the age of his children or even younger—to hear from him how he views this Senate which was his home really for 30 years, why he loves it so much, and why he conducted himself the way he did in a world that is supposed to be cynical or cutthroat and competitive, where you take yours and the other guy gets his. That wasn't Howard Liebengood at all.

I have a copy of the notes Howard used for that evening. He went on for about an hour, and the staff members told me they wished he had gone on for 2 or 3 hours. He told stories about law school. He told stories about Fred Thompson, the Intelligence Committee, and about Howard Baker—many of the incidents which Senator FRIST talked about. But when he came to the end of his remarks, he said this. I believe perhaps the most important thing I can contribute to this discussion honoring our friend Howard is his own words about why he came and why he stayed in the Senate. He concluded his remarks to our staff last October saying this: "I came for a year."

This is when BILL FRIST asked him to come back.

"And I stayed two."

He said, "It is hard for me to leave the labor of love that is for me the U.S. Senate, the institution herself, in every way. From the people to the protocol and the opportunity to serve the people of Tennessee, I have relished every moment. How blessed I have been," Howard Liebengood told these young staff members, "throughout my life to have these exciting assignments, these remarkable colleagues, spectacular leaders, and challenging work—never a dull moment. I am forever grateful to Fred Thompson for bringing me here and to Howard Baker for keeping me here and being my personal inspiration, to the incomparable BILL