

# RETIREMENT OF JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to convey my deep gratitude and everlasting appreciation to my Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff director, Joyce A. Rechtschaffen, who is leaving the Senate after 10 years of service in my personal office and 7 on the committee to head Princeton University's governmental affairs office here in Washington.

Benjamin Franklin once said: "Energy and persistence conquer all things."

That six-word sentence sums up a career of accomplishments that could fill volumes.

Joyce was on the front lines of many of the challenges of the century just past and the century just begun. And through her energy and persistence she accomplished great things for the American people.

I hired Joyce in 1989, shortly after I was sworn in as a freshman Senator, and the two of us learned the ropes of this institution together.

She worked for me on the Environment and Public Works Committee, later moving to my personal office as my environmental legislative assistant and counsel.

Joyce, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, developed a reputation as a tiger early on, contributing significantly to the Clean Air amendments of 1990, working passionately to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and proposing innovative solutions to stemming harmful greenhouse gases.

It is a reputation she not only never lived down but made a point of earning time and time again on issue after issue.

In 1999, I became ranking member of the former Government Affairs Committee, and I appointed Joyce as minority staff director. In 2001, I became chairman when Democrats regained control of the Senate, and Joyce became majority staff director through the following year.

Whether in the majority or minority, Joyce never let up. With her brilliant mind, near photographic memory, and absolute dedication to the job, Joyce has seen this committee through 6 years of profound accomplishment.

She brought her knowledge of environmental issues to bear by launching principled and studied investigations into the Bush administration's regulatory actions and energy policies.

Joyce helped this committee run its investigation of the demise of the Enron Corporation, establish the 9/11 Commission, and write legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security and the reorganization of our intelligence systems—among the most significant reorganizations of Government in half a century.

And in her final mission for the committee and the American people, Joyce helped shepherd our bipartisan inves-

tigation and report on the Government's failed response to Hurricane Katrina.

Leading by example, Joyce helped assemble and retain a loyal staff whose work ethic and dedication have been tested time and time again with late nights on tight deadlines handling mighty challenges for the American people. They are the envy of the Senate.

But this is all in Joyce's nature. Shaking things up was just part of Joyce's nature. To Joyce, the status quo was often a barrier to progress that must fall as the constant casualty of time as we advance the cause of making our Nation safer, fairer, and more just for each and every American.

I am sorry to lose Joyce's vast knowledge and expertise, and I will miss her sound advice, strict attention to every aspect of an issue, and most of all her faithful service to me through 17 years.

But Joyce, you can walk away knowing that it was a job well done.

Robert F. Kennedy said: "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself. But each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

Joyce, through her energy, persistence, and selflessness, has written herself silently into the history of the great challenges of this generation and left a legacy of achievement that will be both the envy and inspiration for all those who follow.

Unfortunately, our committee has not had a markup since Joyce announced her retirement; our next one will be next week, after Joyce has left us. But because we owe her so much, I will be asking the committee at next week's markup to report an original resolution thanking her. Chairman COLLINS has said she will join me in this resolution, the text of which follows these remarks. But let me close by saying thank you Joyce. I owe you more than I can say, and I wish you all the best.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of a proposed resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## THANKING JOYCE RECHTSCHAFFEN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen, an accomplished environmental lawyer, joined the staff of Senator JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN upon his entry into the Senate in 1989 and served as his legislative assistant and counsel for environmental issues for almost ten years;

Whereas during her tenure in Senator LIEBERMAN'S office, Joyce Rechtschaffen contributed significantly to the protection of the nation's environment, most significantly through important contributions to the landmark 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, ceaseless efforts work to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and innovative proposals to stem the harmful effects of greenhouse gasses;

Whereas in 1999, upon Senator LIEBERMAN becoming the Ranking Member on the then-named Governmental Affairs Committee, Joyce Rechtschaffen took on the new challenge of serving as Democratic Staff Director;

Whereas during her more than seven years in that position, Joyce Rechtschaffen has worked tirelessly to advance the work of the Committee and of the nation;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has played a leading role in every accomplishment of the Committee since 1999, from the 2002 creation of the Homeland Security Department, to the establishment of the 9/11 Commission that same year, to the 2004 reorganization of the Intelligence Community, to the Committee's 2006 investigation into the governmental response to Hurricane Katrina, among many other things;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has shown the same focus and dedication to all of the work of the Committee no matter how significant the issue at hand;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has been a model manager, staffer, employee and colleague to all who have worked with her;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the Committee these past seven years, often at great personal sacrifice;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has been a model of integrity, intelligence, compassion and commitment to building a better America and has shown herself to be the very best and brightest of both civil and Congressional service; Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs thanks Joyce Rechtschaffen for her years of work for and dedication to the Senate and to the Committee and wishes her every success in her future endeavors.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA GRIZ

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in Montana, we have a long and proud athletic heritage, and the University of Montana men's basketball team has added yet another chapter to this great legacy.

The Griz finished their Cinderella season with a 24-to-7 record. Among their many great achievements this season was beating perennial basketball powerhouse Stanford, upsetting the top-seeded Northern Arizona Lumberjacks to win the Big Sky tournament, and shocking the No. 5 seeded Nevada Wolfpack in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

This truly was a magical season for our Griz. By advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament, the Griz accomplished a feat no Griz team had in over 30 years. Yet this season was about more than just wins and losses, it was about a team that is a true class act—both on and off the court.

This team's dedication to their school, their fans, their studies, and their community is a direct reflection of the man who leads them. Coach Larry Krystkowiak is truly the epitome of what it means to be a Montanan. Growing up in a small town, Coach "K" went on to play basketball at the University of Montana, where he

still holds the record for the most points and rebounds in a career. Once he completed his collegiate career, he went on to a successful career in the NBA.

After his retirement from professional basketball, Coach "K" moved to the other side of the bench and became an assistant coach. Eventually he found himself back home, as coach of the Griz. As head coach, Coach "K" instilled in his team that being a college athlete is about more than just playing a sport, it is about being a role model for a community. Nothing exemplifies this mentality more than when Coach "K" himself offered to have his head shaved in order to show support to a friend who had recently been diagnosed with cancer and to raise money for children who were battling the disease.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate each player on the roster, the coaching staff, Coach "K", and the entire University of Montana community for their magical season.

I ask that the list of coaches and team members be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

2005-2006 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Coaches: Larry Krystkowiak, Head Coach; Andy Hill; Brad Huse; and Wayne Tinkle.

Players: Mike Chavez; Kevin Criswell; Matt Dlouhy; Bryan Ellis; Jordan Hasquet; Matt Martin; Virgil Matthews; Stuart Mayes; John Seyfert; Kyle Sharp; Greg Spurgetis; Andrew Strait; Austin Swift; and Eric Van Vliet.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTOR FONTANEZ

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Victor Fontanez of Platte City, MO. Mr. Fontanez is a World War II veteran who served with distinction in Europe from 1942 to 1945.

Mr. Fontanez joined the Army in January of 1941, 11 months before the attacks on Pearl Harbor. He recognized the need for soldiers to answer the call, and swiftly volunteered for service wherever he could be used. Joining Company B, 47th Infantry Battalion, 9th Division, Mr. Fontanez was quickly shipped to North Africa where he participated in the larger Battle of Tunisia against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's vaunted Afrika Korps.

In April of 1943, near the town of El Guettar, his battalion was given orders to go over the top of an important hill. As he ran down the hill towards the enemy, a mortar shell exploded close to him, sending shrapnel into the left side of his body. Despite profuse bleeding, he continued on to the bottom of the hill and took cover near a large rock. Another mortar hit the rock, sending concussions through his body and making it difficult to breathe. After the attack, his fellow heroes helped him back to the headquarters, where he was patched up quickly and evacuated to an American hospital in Oran.

For the wounds he suffered that day, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

After his recovery, he was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division as a combat engineer. He was a crucial part of the landing forces at Salerno Bay, Italy. After securing their positions, they were given orders to help reinforce the Anzio beachhead, and then to take Velletri, one of the key cities that the Germans used in the defense of Rome. After the Nazis fell, his division marched through the streets of Rome to a hero's welcome. After the liberation of Rome, his division was sent off on ships to another crucial mission: the invasion of southern France.

It was during Operation Dragoon on the beaches of France that Mr. Fontanez would earn his highest award for valor. While the troops advanced inland from the landing area, a low-flying plane dropped a bomb onboard one of the ships in the bay, causing explosions and major fires.

After seeing a number of badly burned men jump from the ship with their clothes on fire—and with total disregard for his own safety—he entered the water and was able to swim several safely to shore.

For this selfless act of bravery, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

Later he rejoined his company and was able to help drive the Germans out of Cannes and Grenoble. Moving through the cold snow, they rested where they could. As Christmas 1944 approached, the 36th was hoping for a lull in fighting, but German forces launched an attack to the north. After successfully defending their positions, the 36th renewed the offense and crossed the Rhine River into Germany in late March 1945. It was shortly after this that Mr. Fontanez got his well-deserved rest, and was expedited home for extended leave.

Like so many of his generation, Mr. Fontanez's success extended beyond the battlefield. He fathered two children: a son, Victor, Jr., who is now a retired military officer; and a daughter, Edith, who currently lives in Platte City and works with Support Our Troops & Vets.

He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and great-grandfather of four, and counts a military chaplain, two Army soldiers, a Guardsman, an attorney, and a social worker in his lineage. Nearing 90 years of age, Victor Fontanez is a proud member and example of our "greatest generation," and should be commended for his bravery in helping secure the freedoms we all enjoy. On this day, I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in praising the service of this true hero, Victor Fontanez.●

#### IN MEMORY OF MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, California has lost a fine, young leader. Marco Antonio Firebaugh, former California Assembly majority floor leader,

representing the 50th assembly district, and chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, recently passed away. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Marco Antonio Firebaugh's many important accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made as a leader in California.

Born in Baja California, Mexico, Firebaugh served three terms as a member of the California State Assembly and one term as the majority floor leader. In 1998, he was first elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 50th assembly district. During his tenure, he fought for the rights of all Californians, including immigrants and their children, with passion and great success. Under his leadership, the California State Assembly passed legislation that focused on increasing the availability of education to all California residents.

He led the effort to appoint more qualified Latinos and Latinas to high-level positions in State government, including the appointment of only the second Latino to serve on the California Supreme Court, the first Latina to serve as chancellor of a University of California campus, and two additional Latino presidents at the California State Universities at Fresno and Sacramento.

Firebaugh worked strenuously to protect and defend the dignity of his constituents, regardless of their immigration status, and remained involved in community affairs after his departure from the California State Assembly. He served as a visiting professor and policy fellow at the UCLA School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture. Most recently, he decided to reenter public life, as a candidate for the California State Senate, 30th district, and gained the support of many local community leaders, including current 30th district State senator Martha Escutia. His dedication to his fellow Californians will be missed.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Marco Antonio Firebaugh for his guidance and leadership in fighting to improve the lives of all Californians. He is survived by his mother, Carmen Ramos Garcia; his children, Ariana and Nicolas; brothers, Carlos and Jesse; and sisters, Cecilia and Esmeralda.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SULLIVAN WILSON

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I rise to honor one of Connecticut's finest educators: Margaret Sullivan Wilson.

Peg Wilson is a lifelong resident of Norwich, CT. Throughout her life, she has been dedicated to serving the people of her native city, as well as improving educational opportunities for children in Connecticut and, indeed, in America.