

With this chart in the background, I conclude by saying, let us move, after immigration, to an energy subject. Let us take the opportunity Senator DOMENICI is going to give us to bring lease sale 181 up for debate. I will show where it is. Lease sale 181 is going to be a new area, which sits on the border of Alabama and Florida, that we are going to try to open.

I know, Mr. President, this is a sensitive subject for Florida because I have worked with you and Senator NELSON.

The Presiding Officer and Senator NELSON have been outstanding in their advocacy of trying to balance the needs of Florida and their tourism industry, which we have as well, with the needs for the gulf coast.

As we can see on this map, there is plenty of room to give a buffer to Florida that is reasonable and allow for more drilling. That is the idea. It has to be reasonable and provide some additional areas to get some oil and gas far enough off the coast so it will not affect the beaches because Florida does have a tourism industry based on beaches. Our tourism industry is not based on beaches. We only have two beaches, and they are only 7 miles long, and we can't hardly get to them. But we have great wetlands and we are proud of them. We have a lot of ecotourism, pirogues, canoes, hunting and fishing, which is extraordinary in our State, and we are proud of that, just as Florida is proud of its beaches.

Mr. President, you heard me say this to you privately many times. Half the people of Louisiana have grown up on the beaches of Florida. We don't have that much money. We can't go that far. So we manage to go to the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida beaches. We are happy for the day or two spent on a beach in Florida. We are happy for it. But there is a reasonable compromise to be had.

I have been proud to work with many of my colleagues to try to come up with a way to open up this drilling, provide revenue sharing for these States on the gulf coast that have given so much and that want to continue to give and benefit the Nation, and finally to give our people some hope.

It has been a struggle to build the levees through the years. We needed to repair the levees that broke. The hope that we could give to our people all along the gulf coast as hurricane season starts June 1—hurricane season starts June 1. Millions of people living along this coast are reading the reports that this hurricane season might be worse than last. Wouldn't it be wonderful for the Congress of the United States to say this is a security issue for America, that this means a great deal to us, and we are going to act now to provide some hope to the people of the gulf coast?

We have lived in this area a long time, and we are going to stay living here. We have been living here for over

300 years. We were a colony before there was a country. We were living here, and we are not leaving. Whether the country helps us or not, we are going to stay here and keep doing our job. It has gotten to the point where it is so grossly unfair. We have to find a solution so that the people who live here can have hope that the country they live in actually cares about them, not just about how fast they can get out to the rigs to turn on the oil and gas for everybody else, but maybe we would care enough about their homes that have been flooded and the children's schools they can't go to or their churches that got flooded and help them to rebuild their homes, their schools, their churches so they can continue to work out on these rigs and send the oil and gas to New York and to Illinois and to Florida.

We will build smartly, we have built smartly, and we will build even more in that way, but we cannot abandon this coast because if we did, who would keep the rigs working? Who would keep the pipelines open? Who would navigate the ships up the port?

Mr. President, I have taken all or maybe more of my 30 minutes, and I appreciate the time. Again, when we get to lease sale 181, let's try to come together and come up with a reasonable solution, one that works for the Nation, one that works for the gulf coast States, and one of which we can actually be proud.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT LOUIS MOSCILLO

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corps LCpl Robert Louis Moscillo of Salem, NH, for his service and his supreme sacrifice for his country.

Robert, also called Bobby by family and friends, was a 2003 graduate of Salem High School where he played baseball and was on the wrestling team. On January 22, 2005, he answered a call to serve our country during these tense and turbulent times by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He successfully completed recruit training, marine combat training, combat engineer school, and the Martial Arts Program with a Tan Belt and was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as a combat engineer. In February 2006, Bobby deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Free-

dom and the following month was promoted to the rank of lance corporal.

Tragically, on May 1, 2006, this brave 21-year-old marine was killed in action by an improvised explosive device explosion while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the vicinity of Fallujah in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. His awards and decorations include the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Baghdad—and Bobby served in that fine tradition. Daniel Webster said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." Bobby was one of those proud and dedicated volunteers who believed in fighting for our country and guarding our precious liberty, and for that we will always owe our sincere gratitude. His service and sacrifice are a shining example of the highest caliber of person this country can produce. This athletic and spiritual young man realized a calling and chose to employ his youthful energy and considerable talents for his country. He understood that the freedoms and opportunities provided by this Nation need continuous defense and that they are among the most precious gifts he can give to his family and loved ones.

My heartfelt sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Robert's parents, Frank and Donna, and his family and friends who have suffered this grievous loss. Robert was, and forever will be, a strong and integral part of his family and will be missed by all. Because of his devotion and sense of duty, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. May God bless LCpl Robert Louis Moscillo.

ARMY MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT H. WEST

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the life of a fellow Coloradan: Army MSG Robert H. West. Master Sergeant West was killed last week near Baghdad in service to this Nation. He was 37 years old, and lived with his wife and daughter in Arvada, CO.

Master Sergeant West arrived for his second tour of duty in Iraq just 3 months ago. He was there to train Iraqi police officers, shouldering the difficult burden of helping to build lasting peace and democracy in Iraq at a very personal level. Master Sergeant West felt that his firsthand experience as a drill instructor made him a better fit to train Iraqis than many of the young U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq with him. Master Sergeant West's family was not happy about his decision to return to Iraq, but he did so with confidence and courage, telling his aunt, "I'm a trained professional, it'll be all right."

One of the hallmarks of Master Sergeant West's life was his commitment to excellence in everything he did. As a

high school football player he spent countless hours in the weight room, and helped lead Elyria Catholic High School's football team to back-to-back Ohio State championships in the mid 1980s.

After graduating high school in 1987, Master Sergeant West joined the Army in 1988, eventually rising to become a tank commander and drill instructor. In this capacity, Master Sergeant West spent countless hours molding wide-eyed, inexperienced young men and women from around the country into strong, confident soldiers. It was this experience that gave him the confidence to return to Iraq to work with that country's growing police force.

In Iraq, Master Sergeant West was assigned to an armored cavalry division, where he conducted house-to-house searches looking for insurgents. During one of these patrols, an improvised explosive device was detonated near his Humvee, and he was killed.

Master Sergeant West's wife Jeannie and their daughter Shelby must know that Robert's service to this Nation, and his sacrifice on behalf of all of us, does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Robert's service and sacrifice are a profound reminder that the liberty and freedoms we enjoy do not come without a sometimes very personal and terrible cost. As a country and community, we are all humbled by his commitment and offer our grateful support during his family's time of unimaginable grief.

DEATH OF JUDGE EDWARD R. BECKER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the country, the judiciary, and the Senate have lost a patriot, a great man of character and integrity, a gifted judge, and a trusted friend with the passing last week of U.S. Circuit Judge Edward Becker.

Edward Roy Becker was born on May 4, 1933, in his beloved Philadelphia.

He practiced law there for more than a decade, until President Richard Nixon appointed him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1970.

President Ronald Reagan elevated Judge Becker to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1981. The Third Circuit considers appeals from Federal district courts in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the Virgin Islands.

Judge Becker eventually served as the Third Circuit's chief judge for 5 years before taking senior status on his 70th birthday in 2003.

Edward Becker lived for nearly all of his 73 years in his boyhood home in the Frankford section of Philadelphia.

He read legal briefs while riding the train to the courthouse, where he was known for what the New York Times described as a lack of grandiosity rarely found in a Federal court.

With an uncanny ability to play virtually any song by ear on the piano,

Judge Becker accompanied Supreme Court Justices at their annual sing-alongs that the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist hosted for the law clerks.

When part of Independence National Historic Park, which he could see from his chambers window, was closed after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Judge Becker supported the efforts of a citizens' coalition which succeeded in getting the street reopened in 2003.

Judge Becker was not just any Federal judge.

After more than 35 years on the bench, he was certainly a senior member of the Federal judiciary.

But he served not only the cause of justice but also the institution of the judiciary in such capacities as the board of directors of the Federal Judicial Center and the executive committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

His many and varied writings covered topics ranging from the federal sentencing guidelines and rules of evidence to the sixth amendment's confrontation clause and even law journal footnotes.

Imagine that, an entire law journal article about law journal footnotes.

Judge Becker made his judicial mark in many ways. Judges write opinions that follow or apply principles established by the Supreme Court. Judge Becker did that as well but also wrote landmark opinions establishing rules or principles that would later be adopted by the Supreme Court.

His 1985 opinion in *United States v. Downing*, for example, adopted a standard regarding expert witness testimony.

The Supreme Court cited Judge Becker's opinion in *Downing* when it adopted the same standard 8 years later in its famous *Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals* decision.

Judge Becker was also known for his knowledge and expertise in handling complex litigation.

He served on the board of editors for the "Manual for Complex Litigation" and handled many such cases during his years on the bench.

In 1996, for example, he wrote the opinion in *Georgine v. Amchem Products* concluding that the factual and legal issues in a lawsuit against asbestos manufacturers were too complex to allow certification of the suit as a class action.

Judge Becker's expertise in the area of complex litigation in general, and asbestos cases in particular, led to his role in our ongoing struggle here in the Senate with the asbestos crisis.

He provided invaluable counsel and assistance to the Judiciary Committee, and his enormous wisdom, credibility, and integrity helped guide many complex discussions and negotiations. Every party to those discussions knew that Judge Becker was a straight shooter, a completely honest broker.

Judge Becker could have considered his a strictly judicial role, limited to

handling the cases that came before him, but Judge Becker looked past the walls of his courtroom at the judiciary as an institution, the justice system, and the country. He wanted to see the grand principles of justice and fairness actually work in people's lives.

Judge Becker was not afraid to wade into other choppy waters in the interest of the judicial branch.

Joined by several leading appeals court judges including now-Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, Judge Becker sought in 1989 to make some sense out of what had become an almost absurd process for hiring judicial law clerks.

Judges were interviewing students barely finished with their first year of law school. Judge Becker believed that the trend disrupted the studies of law students and demeaned the judiciary's reputation. This was classic Judge Becker. He did not have to tackle such a touchy subject.

Previous efforts to change the law clerk hiring system had failed, and the problem was worse than ever. But he cared so much for the integrity of the judiciary, and for the individuals who served in it, that he tackled it nonetheless. And he did it with the straightforward, no-nonsense, commonsense practicality that characterized everything he did.

Judge Becker both loved and was beloved by his colleagues.

He organized a panel of current and former Third Circuit judges to testify on behalf of their colleague Judge Samuel Alito upon his recent nomination to the Supreme Court. That panel was diverse, opinionated, and completely united in support of their colleague.

Judge Becker and Flora, his wife of nearly 50 years, kept in close touch even with retired colleagues and with colleagues' spouses after they died.

In addition to Flora, Judge Becker is survived by his children—Jon, a teacher in Brooklyn; Susan, a Federal prosecutor in Philadelphia—and Charles, a lawyer in Philadelphia—and several grandchildren.

Our colleague, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, was a close friend of Judge Becker for more than 50 years. He has said that Judge Becker was one of the greatest Philadelphians in that great city's history. That is high praise indeed, considering the pantheon of patriots coming from the birthplace of the Constitution.

Judge Becker embodied so much that is great about this country. He cared deeply about principles of fairness and justice. He wanted those principles actually to work. He was both part of a collegial judicial body and a unique individual with his own personality and character.

He would go to baseball games but take legal briefs with him to read.

His colleague, Judge Marjorie Rendell, once described Judge Becker as "the perfect combination of *Mensa* and *mensch*."