

whacked by it. The AMT was never meant to hit middle-class families, so a new tax to pay for the mistake was plainly unfair. When Democrats finally took it out, the AMT fix passed the Senate 88-5. We shaped that one.

Again and again, we have insisted the minority be heard and, in the end, we were. We have shaped a lot of legislation this year to ensure that Republican priorities were addressed. We are proud of it.

We have also stopped a lot of things that we thought would undermine our security.

The most prominent example, of course, is Iraq. After last night, Senate Democrats had held 34 votes this year related to the war in Iraq. And on every one that either attempted to substitute our judgment for the judgment of our commanders or cut off funds for our men and women in the field, we prevailed.

So we have shaped a lot of things we thought were worthy, things like the AMT fix and the energy conservation bill. And we have proudly blocked some things that we thought were just bad ideas altogether, like pulling our troops out of Iraq before the Petraeus Plan had time to take hold.

But our intention from the start was always, if possible, to avoid confrontation as an end unto itself. The history books are filled with examples of the things Congress achieved when opposite parties controlled the White House and the Congress. That was always our first option.

Unfortunately, our friends seemed intent on forcing votes all year, whether they be on Iraq or any number of domestic issues, that never had a chance of either passing the Senate or of becoming law. The practical effect, of course, is that very little would get accomplished in the end.

But it didn't have to be that way. On the bills I have mentioned, Democrats had a choice: they could have presented us first with the version they knew we could cooperate on. Or, as we saw all too often, they could present us with a partisan bill that could only serve them as a talking point. When they chose the former, we racked up some serious accomplishments together.

Over the last week, we have seen this kind of cooperation work on the energy conservation bill and on the AMT.

I have actually enjoyed working with the distinguished majority leader all year. I won't be the first person to remark that he has a tough job. But he has shown a lot of patience this year, and he has put up with a lot. So I want to thank him for his collegiality and his friendship.

I also want to thank him once again for speaking to the students at the McConnell Center in Louisville in October. It meant a lot to the students, and it meant a lot to me. A lot of people seem surprised when I tell them the last two Senators I have had speak at the center are Senator KENNEDY and Senator REID.

All of us were put here by voters with vastly different backgrounds who hold vastly different views. And the fact that we can work together and pass legislation that covers every one of them is really the glory of this institution and this country. But we will never be able to do that if we are not gentlemanly and respectful. TRENT had it right. We can't lose sight of the important things.

In that spirit, I thank all of our colleagues and staffs on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, for all the sacrifices they have made this year and for all the grief they took from their constituents, their wives, their husbands, and their kids for living the kind of life we all live in this fishbowl. I know a lot of them are on their way home at the moment. I am glad they are. I must say I am not far behind. But I do want to wish them all a very warm, happy, and Merry Christmas with their families.

I might say to my good friend the majority leader and to all of our colleagues, we are looking forward to a month off and then looking forward to getting back together at the end of January to see what we can accomplish next year for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a statement I will give later in the day about what we have done this year. But I want to take this opportunity to reciprocate with the kind words the distinguished Republican leader said on my behalf.

Without in any way taking away from the opportunities we have, Senator MCCONNELL and I, as being Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, these are wonderful opportunities, honors neither one of us would ever imagine we would have. I have been in government a long time, as has my friend the Republican leader. We both recognize that we have to set an example for the rest of the body in patience, in cordiality, and being gentlemen and friends to each other. I think we have done that.

We have gone through some difficult times, criticized not each other personally but as to what has taken place there has been criticism. That will continue, and there is nothing wrong with that. I would like to say my criticism is constructive in nature, and I hope that is how I take any criticism that I get from the other side.

We have a lot to do next year. Next year will actually be more difficult than this year because we will be in the midst of a Presidential election. For me, though, I will have three Democratic Senators back working full time. That will be very pleasant. We will not have to try to arrange the schedule for all four of them.

Scheduling is hard because the Senate has changed over the years, even since I have been here. Schedules are

now a lot determined by airplane schedules, not Senate schedules. But on the one hand, when Senators are forced to think about having to be here and not do their fundraising over a weekend, or going back to their States, we tend to get a lot done. We have had to, on occasion—several occasions this year—say we are going to have to be in on the weekend, but with the exception of one weekend, or maybe two weekends, we were able to get the same amount of work done had we stayed here all weekend.

So, again, I say to my friend, the Senator from Kentucky, the Republican leader, we have a lot to look forward to next year. We are going to see a new President to replace President Bush. We hope that will create, in the last year of President Bush's term, more cordiality between the two of us.

I have a meeting later today with the President's Chief of Staff. I hope that will bear fruit. One of the things we have to work on is to try to not have to be in session during the entire next month. We have Senators lined up to cover that. I hope we can work something out with the White House so that is not necessary because there is a significant number of Democratic nominations and a large number of Republican nominations we would like to clear. Hopefully, we can do that later today.

So I will be back later, but I do want to express my appreciation for the kind words and thoughts of my friend, the Senator from Kentucky.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, will be recognized for up to 30 minutes.

The Senator from Wyoming.

THANKING THE MAJORITY AND REPUBLICAN LEADERS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank our leaders for getting together and working things out so we were able to conclude our votes late last night and begin the Christmas recess. It was a relief to many to know they were not going to be here through Christmas due to complications that could arise from airplanes. Today, though, I am going to talk about something that is completely different.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE MCGUIRE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am joined on the floor by Katherine McGuire,

who is the staff director of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. This will be her last time on the floor of the Senate.

It was just about 11 years ago when I first came to Washington to serve the people of Wyoming in the Senate. As soon as I arrived, the first item on my agenda was to start to put staff together. I knew it was an important first step because the key to whatever success we are able to achieve is always due in large part to the dedicated and loyal people who work with us and for us.

In addition, that first staff is so important to a new Senator because our staffs help to set the tone for that first Congress and the beginning of every Senate career. It is true that in the end, you are only as good and effective as the people with whom you work and for whom you work—as it turns out sometimes.

Now, I talked to everyone I could. I went through a mountain of resumes and slowly but surely began to make some progress. In a short week, I went through orientation—with the leadership of my wife, we bought a house—and I interviewed over 100 people for my staff.

As I reviewed the credentials of an impressive group of applicants, I knew I would need someone to head up my staff who knew Wyoming. That meant I would need to find someone who had Wyoming roots and understood the needs of my home State. In addition, that person would need to know Washington and the Senate and how to help me and the rest of the staff get things done. I knew it would not be good enough to work hard if that hard work and determination did not produce the results that we were after.

It would not be easy to find someone who was equally at home in both Wyoming and Washington, but when I had those qualifications in mind and started looking for such a person, one candidate rose to the top. That was Katherine McGuire, and she was clearly the best and most obvious choice for the job.

She had committee experience as well as State staff experience. She also had a master's degree in agricultural economics. I represent an agricultural State, and I knew I would need that help. She helped to fuel expectations, which we were then able to meet. It is with a lot of pride that I have been inducted into the Wyoming Agricultural Hall of Fame, largely because of her efforts.

Now, I would never forget those early days. As is true with all Senators, our first office consisted of one room. It was actually a storeroom for the credit union. That cramped space helped us to develop a strong sense of teamwork right from the start because we were all in the same room and everybody knew what everyone else was doing.

Now, fortunately, Katherine was there at the helm, and she helped to direct the efforts of my legislative staff

right from the start. She was able to do so because she is a natural leader. She leads the best way, and that is by example. People on my staff know they can approach her with any ideas or suggestions they have, confident she will hear them out and help them with whatever issue areas they have been assigned.

Thanks to Katherine, we were able to accomplish a great deal during my first few years in the Senate. In more sessions than I could ever count, Katherine showed she was a great negotiator and an even better strategist. She is the best networker I have ever seen.

Her competitive spirit began to show itself in high school in her play on the basketball team. It then expanded in college, and then blossomed when she played professionally in Europe. You do not want to try to rebound an issue with her.

Then, when the opportunity came to chair the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, once again, I knew I would need to put someone in charge of my committee staff who could handle the responsibility and the opportunity we would have to take action on some issues of great importance not only to the people of Wyoming but to the rest of America as well. Once again, it did not take very long for me to feel certain that Katherine was the perfect choice for the committee staff director position.

On the committee or on my personal staff, Katherine has proven herself time and time again, and over the years she has made a difference in my work on a long list of topics that have come to the Senate floor. It would be impossible to name them all.

I want to mention my first big bill, though. It was drafted to keep Washington bureaucrats from being successful in their determination to make methane gas into a solid, which, of course, would have taken away royalties from property owners and even forced them to pay back royalties. In my first year, in less than a month, the correction was passed by both the Senate and the House unanimously. That meant that Katherine, my team, and I had to talk to 535 Members in Congress in less than a month to get that result.

It was interesting later to watch the Supreme Court use that bill as a basis for back payments to these same people. We could not do anything to solve anything before the legislation was passed because you have to look to the future.

So that was our first big win, and, fortunately, more was to come, as Katherine headed up my team effort. I will just mention a few: the global HIV/AIDS law, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the new MINER law to protect miners of this country, the new Food and Drug Administration reform law, the Pension Protection Act, and a host of other successful bills that were signed

into law. For every one of them, Katherine was always there putting in long and extended hours, providing clear, accurate leadership and advice and doing everything she could to make our team vision come true.

Whenever I get the chance, I like to tell people who ask about my staff that I was very fortunate to hire the people I did. In fact, I still think that if staff work was an Olympic event, my staff would win the gold medal—and Katherine would be the most valuable player.

Katherine was a natural fit for the captain of the team—a role she has played very well. She is proof of the wisdom of the old adage that a good captain makes everyone on the team better. Katherine has been such a good leader because she has always been willing to do what was necessary to ensure a successful outcome. She has an unusual amount of abilities and talents, and an overdose of persistence that has helped her to get things done. She has never been one to talk about what she would like to accomplish; she just takes action.

In the West, we like to say she rides hard. That has helped her to earn the respect and appreciation of not only my staff but all of the staffs she has worked with and developed close ties to over the years.

I have always believed in something called the 80 percent rule. I was not surprised to discover that Katherine understood my 80 percent rule so well because she had put it into practice long ago without even knowing the name. She knew that 80 percent of every issue can be brought to agreement. People usually are willing to accept 80 percent instead of nothing. It is the other 20 percent that is difficult to resolve. But by focusing on the 80 percent, impossible problems become possible and can be solved around here.

Katherine was also there to help support my vision to look for and find the third way in dealing with conflicts. Her philosophy has always been fashioned after the old adage: We will either find a way or make one. That attitude has always served to help her bring groups to the table to reach compromises that seemed unlikely at best.

Now Katherine has decided to leave the Hill to take on another challenge in her professional life. Katherine knows that life is an adventure, and constant change is a good thing. Now she will be moving to a new place to help spread our message.

As she leaves, I cannot thank her enough for all she has done for me and for Wyoming over the years. She has been a tireless worker, and she has never hesitated to roll up her sleeves and get to work whenever and wherever she was needed.

I remember one long evening on the Senate floor. During my speech, in thanking people at the end, I mentioned that Katherine was an excellent juggler, referring to her ability to handle many tasks at the same time. Her

daughter was watching on C-SPAN2 and said: I didn't even know Mom could juggle.

Being a legislative director and a staff director has cost her a lot of time from home. But she has been able to work her family life into her work schedule as the top priority that it needs to be. Now she will have more time to spend with her own team at home that needs her love and attention. Her husband David, along with her children Ellie and Cooper, have all been very supportive during her Senate years. She is now going to try something new, and once again her family will be there for her, supporting her, and providing the assistance she will continue to need as she pursues her new career.

It will be difficult to say goodbye to Katherine. When she leaves the Senate, she will be greatly missed. Someday soon, we will have found someone to take on the responsibilities that she leaves behind, but we will never be able to replace her. Her constant warm and genuine smile, her concern for all the people on her staff, and her unique ability to size up a political situation immediately upon contact—unmatched. She has been a tremendous addition to my personal and committee staffs, and we will miss her daily presence in our lives.

Like most offices, our staffs are more than our legislative teams, they are extended family. That will not change. She will forever be a member of the Enzi family—another daughter.

The Senate is a place to work unlike any other in the world. It welcomes only those with special skills and unique abilities and provides them with a tremendous opportunity to make this great Nation of ours a better place in which to live.

In the end, that will be Katherine's legacy after 17 years of service in the Senate. On my staff, and before that, serving with Senator Al Simpson and Senator RICHARD LUGAR, she has made the most of every opportunity she was given, and she can be proud of the record of success she has compiled over the years in every area of her life.

We know from the Bible that we chart our course in life in our hearts, but God directs our steps. God has directed these new steps in Katherine's life, and I know she will continue to make the most of every step that God moves her to take.

Good luck and God bless you and your family, Katherine. Don't forget us. We will not forget you. In fact, we are going to leave a light burning in a window of the Capitol dome so you can always find your way back home. Thanks for your years of service.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, if I could make one comment. I have known Katherine for a long time. She is one of the truly great staffers on Capitol Hill.

I want you to know how much all of us have appreciated the work you do,

and with this great Senator you have been working for. I appreciate it.

Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from North Dakota has asked that I yield for a unanimous consent request, and then I would like to retain the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Utah. My understanding is the Senator from Utah will speak and the Senator from Rhode Island will be recognized. We will reconvene at 2:15 following the caucus. So I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized at 2:15 for 30 minutes in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA KNIGHT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I may need a little more than 10 minutes because this is an important speech for me.

I am grateful for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, dedicated public servant, health policy expert and my chief of staff, Patricia Knight, or as many know her in the Senate—Trisha.

We were all sad to learn last week that, after over 34 years of public service, Trisha has decided to leave the Senate family at the end of the year, which in the arcane ways of the Senate could be any number of days between now and December 31. In fact, had I been able to convince her to stay until January 7, we would have been able to celebrate with her the 34th anniversary of her first job on Capitol Hill.

Trisha was born here in the District and grew up in Arlington. She progressed through Jamestown Elementary School, Williamsburg Junior High School and Yorktown High School. We like to kid her about the fact that this is the pathway that launched CBS newswoman Katie Couric.

When I first approached Trish about being my chief of staff, she quickly pointed out that she was not from Utah. However, always thinking on her feet, she rapidly concluded that graduating from Syracuse University, or Syracuse U, was close enough to 4 years in Syracuse Utah! And that became her story.

I might add that she graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University, where she majored in anthropology and photojournalism, which makes her in my mind uniquely qualified to work in this body.

Trisha never intended to work on Capitol Hill. She is the daughter of a pair of Washington journalists, both deceased. But, I know they are watching over her and are very proud of what she has accomplished.

She always reminds the young people who come to work in my office that she got her first Federal job by walking up and down Constitution Avenue passing out resumes and the old Civil Service form SF-171.

She was initially hired as a temporary typist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, which it turned out was a lucky career start, because she found out later she had flunked the typing test but they hired her anyway.

That became her launching pad for work in the office of our former colleague, and then House member, Senator Jim Broyhill of North Carolina, the ranking Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

He trained her well. She moved from caseworker, to legislative correspondent, to legislative assistant. I would like to say it was a meteoric rise—but in those days the average Hill staffer stayed more than 2 years. Trisha was there for almost 8 years—day, night, and many weekends.

I knew she would be a real asset to my staff because of her considerable government experience.

Before coming to the U.S. Senate, Trisha served in the executive branch for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. It is interesting that she worked at two cabinet agencies twice—the Commerce Department and Health and Human Services. The Cabinet secretaries she served include Richard Schweiker, Margaret Heckler, Otis Bowen, M.D., Lou Sullivan, M.D., and Bob Mosbacher.

Trisha is perhaps best known for her work at HHS—she served twice as a deputy assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services and is considered by many as one of the top health policy experts in Washington, D.C. In that job, she was a line officer in the Public Health Service, as well as a staffer for the Secretary, and she worked for some of my favorite people—Dr. Ron Docksai, Dr. Bob Windom, and Dr. James O. Mason.

In addition to her work for Senator Broyhill when he served in the House, she has also served on the staff of the House Appropriations Committee, where she was minority clerk for the legendary Silvio Conte of Massachusetts on three appropriations bills: Commerce-State-Justice; Legislative Branch; and Foreign Operations.

I felt very fortunate when Trisha agreed to work in my office as a volunteer after the defeat of President George H.W. Bush. In fact, I tried to hire her the first week, but she flippanantly informed me I didn't have the budget to do it.

A few months later, I found that money, and she joined my health staff, rising quickly to become my health policy director.

She is one of the shrewdest, smartest, most effective legislative minds in the Senate. She deeply understands the legislative process and has cultivated relationships with health policy experts throughout this country and