

have one that could actually work. I was excited about that. But as I began to examine it I didn't believe it would be a practical solution the way it was written.

I emphasized last year that people in a temporary worker program should not come for 3 years, as last year's bill did, with their family, and be able to extend again and again and then be expected to leave the country sometime in the future. So this bill was better in that regard, but it still allowed families to come with the person—20 percent—and others to come and visit, creating all kinds of possibilities for overstays in that regard. That is why the Congressional Budget Office projected a very large increase in visa overstays as a result of the way this bill was written in that regard.

I was very intrigued and excited that my suggestion last year—that we model our legislation on the Canadian system—was being considered. The administration said they liked this merit-based system. They liked the point system. They thought we ought to go more in that direction. Canada admits 60 percent of its people through immigration under a competitive, skill-based system because the Canadians have learned and have proven, if you talk to them, as I have, that persons who come in with any college, with a skill, and with a good work history—and if they speak English or French, they give extra points for that—very seldom go on welfare, very seldom take benefits from the government, and become properly productive citizens who pay taxes and become good citizens for Canada.

We have, at this time, only a mere 13 percent of our people coming in on the basis of their skills. Today, the overwhelming majority come in based on chain migration and family connections. I thought we were going to make a real move toward the Canadian system with this bill. I know Senator KYL worked his heart out to try to do that, but when the final compromise was reached, he couldn't get a better deal than this, that this merit system would really not take effect for 8 years, and during the interim period, there would be a surge of chain migration numbers for 8 years, perhaps triple the current rate. To me, that was a political compromise too great. That is something I couldn't support.

Let me just speak briefly about how we came to the final vote tonight. I think the majority leader, HARRY REID, maybe wanted to get rid of this bill from the start. He has now begun to say it is President Bush's bill, but it was the Senate's bill. He called it up without a committee hearing. It is Senator REID's bill, if you want to know the truth. He brought it up under rule XIV. It didn't even go to committee. The majority leader has that power. He called it up directly to the floor.

Yes, it had bipartisan support, but he was the one who enabled that to occur.

The new bill was introduced after they called up the old bill. Then REID tried to substitute a completely new bill, and then we debated that with not a great deal of time. For example, I had 20, 30 amendments filed. I got one amendment up for a vote. I tried to bring up a number of other amendments, and every time I have tried to bring one up, it was objected to. Senator CORNYN, one of the finest, most capable lawyers in the Senate, a former attorney general of Texas and justice on the Texas Supreme Court, got one amendment up for a vote. Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, from North Carolina, had an amendment dealing with drunk drivers—an important amendment. She tried to bring hers up, and it was objected to. This afternoon, there was only one amendment pending that actually had been called up and had been introduced, filed, and made pending.

So we had this discussion about having some votes this afternoon, and then we were told that we were going to re-vote on cloture tonight. What I want to say to my colleagues and anybody who is listening is that if cloture had been obtained tonight, after a half dozen more votes, no other amendments would have been pending.

So we simply had a little disagreement this afternoon. We said that we wanted to have other amendments pending so that if cloture were invoked, we would have amendments that could be voted on post cloture. In fact, we were working to pare down over 200 amendments that had been filed, to bring in those amendments to under 20 amendments, maybe even lower. That is when the majority leader decided to call another cloture vote, and that is the vote that failed, I would note, on a bipartisan basis. While 7 Republicans voted for cloture, 12 Democrats voted against the majority leader and against cloture.

We had not had sufficient time to debate this bill. We had not had sufficient time to have amendments. It will be almost a thousand pages when put in bill language. That is not a bill that can be passed in a couple of weeks. It needs more debate than that, and it was never taken to committee. The committee did not hear it, and no amendments were offered there. It was brought directly to the floor.

So I would just say that I think we do have a responsibility to treat people who come to our country, even those who come illegally, compassionately, fairly, justly, and according to good principles. We have a responsibility to create a legal system that works in America. I am afraid this bill didn't do it. That is my problem with the bill. I think that the American people agreed. If we come back again, the bill needs to be a vastly improved product. I would be glad to suggest some ways to make it better. In fact, I have before, and I will again.

Madam President, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the service and memory of my friend, Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming. His exemplary service in the Congress over the past 18 years is a shining example of the good that can be accomplished for the public benefit. A 1955 graduate of the University of Wyoming, Senator Craig demonstrated considerable leadership early in his life; he entered the Marine Corps soon after graduation and rose in rank from private to captain in just 4 years. Following his service, Senator Thomas returned to Wyoming to make a difference in his native State, serving as executive vice president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau and later as general manager of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association. In 1984, Senator Thomas first entered public service as a State representative, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1989, and finally ascended to the Senate in 1995.

It was my honor to work with Senator Thomas during his Senate career. He was a firm believer in compromise and bipartisanship. This was no more evident than when he and I introduced legislation to protect taxpayer privacy. We worked together on a broad range of issues from protecting consumers to stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons to Iran. Senator Thomas and I shared a belief in this body and what it can achieve. I am very saddened by this tremendous loss, but the memory of Senator Thomas and his good deeds remind us all of a long, rich life that should be celebrated, and I respectfully request that this statement be entered into the RECORD.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, Senator Craig Thomas was a wonderful friend to all of us. He was an accomplished Senator, and he was a true cowboy. It is that spirit that won't be replaced in the Senate, and it is that spirit that I would like to remember today. Craig's record in the Senate will reflect his significant accomplishments, and I wish to honor the quality of the man who achieved them.

I had a special affinity for Craig. Not only did he and I come to the Senate at the same time, we had also served in the House of Representatives together. Craig came to the House in 1989, 2 years after I did, when he won a special election to replace our current Vice President, DICK CHENEY, who had been made Secretary of Defense.

We, of course, were also fellow westerners, and I admired the manner in which he embodied the values of the West: the self-reliance, grit, and quiet determination of pioneers that shape Americans still today.

These values were impressed into Craig as he grew up on a ranch near Cody, WY. Those values of the American West, instilled by the rugged landscape of Wyoming, would serve him well in the Marine Corps and in the Senate.

Craig did not talk a whole lot, but he always meant what he said. He communicated in a way that didn't require a whole lot of "jibber-jabber," as he would say. Everyone appreciated this quality in him. You never had any doubt about where Craig stood, something our public officials could learn from today.

Craig understood that words and rhetoric easily vanish from our memories. He recognized that honor is not won by keeping up appearances but by working hard and accomplishing what you set out to do. He understood that the best way to accomplish difficult things was to get busy doing them. To Craig, this was common sense, but oftentimes common sense is all too uncommon.

In his commonsense manner, he served the people of Wyoming who overwhelming elected him to the Senate on three occasions. Craig let the interests of the State guide his work in the Senate. He never let his ego get in the way of doing what was best for Wyoming and the country.

My wife Caryll and I grieve with Craig's wife Susan and their family. But, in our grief, we also celebrate his life. There is much to celebrate not only in Craig's accomplishments—whether on behalf of our national parks, farmers, or rural families, to name only a few of his legislative priorities—but also in his character. He was a humble servant for Wyoming who stood up for the people of his State. Even in his illness, he never wavered from his duties as a legislator.

The values of the American West are the commonsense values that make self-government possible. Craig Thomas, the cowboy and statesman, embodied these values that made this country what it is and are needed to sustain it in years to come.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I join with my fellow Senators and so many in Wyoming and throughout the country in expressing my profound sadness on the passing of my colleague and good friend, Senator Craig Thomas. I also want to offer my most sincere condolences to his wife Susan, their four children, and the entire Thomas family at this most difficult of times.

Today, we mourn the loss of a true patriot whose love of country and loyalty to its principles were always an inspiration and example to us all. A U.S. Marine captain, an advocate for rural concerns with the Wyoming Farm Bureau, American Farm Bureau, and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, and an indefatigable public servant as a Member of the Wyoming House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate—Senator Thomas always placed a premium on bettering the lives of the citizens of his state, ensuring that their concerns were not only heard—but were addressed vigorously, effectively, and with results.

I recall the distinct honor and privilege of serving with Craig for more

than 17 years both in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. Indeed, we entered the Senate in the same class of 1994, and I remember with tremendous regard our service together on the Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Finance Committees. Time and again, regardless of the issue, Craig exhibited a stalwart dedication to his country and his constituents—with a steadfast devotion that was ever mindful of the public trust placed in his hands.

Senator Thomas was unwavering in his allegiance to the tenets that guided his life. True to his core beliefs and unshakable in the values he drew from his beloved Wyoming, Senator Thomas held fast to his philosophy of fiscal conservatism. And yet when he advanced his arguments, he did so without rancor and with the utmost respect and cordiality. He possessed an unyielding decorum that contributed to his esteemed presence in the Senate, and he had at his disposal that indispensable tool of politics—humor, which he used to great effect and at times with incredibly disarming outcomes. Even when we disagreed, he was never disagreeable, rather choosing to give no more than an occasional good-natured ribbing—always with a smile on his face.

As my colleague MIKE ENZI stated in his tribute, Craig Thomas was not one who necessarily sought the limelight. He lived his life and comported himself in a manner that exemplified the words President Ronald Reagan displayed on his desk in the Oval Office: "There's no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." Whether on matters of rural health, safeguarding the interest and concerns of farmers, or reducing the deficit, Craig focused on making concrete strides, not amassing accolades.

In the arena of public life, regardless of trial, tribulation, or triumph, Senator Craig Thomas remained a compassionate person of immense caliber who served the best interests of the people of Wyoming with unyielding advocacy, integrity of purpose, and uncommon civility. We will miss his benevolent nature, his good will, and his great deeds. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and staff here in Washington and in Wyoming.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHRIS ALLGAIER

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Chris Allgaier of Omaha, NE. Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier, an Army helicopter pilot, was killed on May 30 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 33 years old.

Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier attended Creighton Prep High School, where he graduated with highest honors in 1991. He earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical administration from Saint Louis University in 1995 and

a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University in 2001.

After graduating from college, Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier joined the Army to pursue a longtime interest in flying. He served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, based out of Fort Bragg, NC. This was his second tour in Afghanistan. Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier also served a year-long tour in Iraq. We are proud of Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier's service tour our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife Jennie and three children, Natalie, Gina, and Joanna, of Spring Lake, NC; his father Bob Allgaier of Omaha, and siblings Rob and Sharon, also of Omaha.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Chief Warrant Officer Chris Allgaier.

SPECIALIST WILLIAM BAILEY III

Madam President, I also rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army National Guard Specialist William Bailey III of Bellevue, NE. Specialist Bailey died on May 25 when an explosive device struck his vehicle near Taji, Iraq. He was 29 years old.

Specialist Bailey had been serving in Iraq since November with the 755th Chemical Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company. Specialist Bailey was also a volunteer with the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department for 5 years. He was buried with full military honors and traditional fire department honors. His funeral procession included 35 firetrucks from several departments across Nebraska.

Specialist Bailey is remembered as a devoted husband, father, son, and brother, as well as a committed member of the community. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and he loved motorcycles.

We are proud of Specialist Bailey's service to our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq.

He is survived by his wife Deanna and five children.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SPC William Bailey III.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, on June 8, 1917, the U.S. Army officially organized the First Expeditionary Division. That means tomorrow is the 90th anniversary of what is now known as the 1st Infantry Division or the "Big Red One," headquartered at Fort Riley, KS. The Big Red One has an unsurpassed history of answering the call to duty, and it is vital to our Nation's fight against determined enemies. We are fortunate to have these fine soldiers defending our freedom.

As the oldest, continuously serving division in the history of the U.S. Army, the Big Red One enjoys a long