

side, with respect to issues of guns and firearms. I recall a debate that was vigorous, robust but principled. I appreciate that effort and his service.

WAYNE ALLARD

There are three Senators with whom I have had the opportunity to serve closely. They are people I respect immensely and wish the best to as they go forward. WAYNE ALLARD and I came to the Senate together. We were in the House of Representatives together. We have served on both the Armed Services Committee and the Banking Committee together. It seems, indeed, that on the Banking Committee, we were either the subcommittee chair or ranking member, depending on who has the majority, throughout our career in the Senate. In that effort, we worked closely with Senator ALLARD and his distinguished staff on issues with respect to homelessness, housing programs, many areas of endeavor. He has been a distinguished individual who has done a great deal, not only for the State of Colorado but for national housing policy and for many other areas of endeavor.

On the Armed Services Committee, I had the privilege of working with him. He applied his energy and efforts to clean up the Rocky Flats plant, a nuclear facility in Colorado. He has made a lasting and extraordinary contribution to his State through those efforts. I commend him for all those. I wish him well as he goes forward.

JOHN WARNER

Senator JOHN WARNER was my chairman on the Armed Services Committee. Frankly, he represents the model of a Senator. His integrity, judgment, and decency resonate throughout this Chamber and will make a lasting impression on this body. He has served Virginia with distinction. He has particularly served the men and women of our Armed Forces with distinction and unfailing dedication. Part of that comes from his own experience. As a young man he joined the Navy and then later was in the Marine Corps. His own experience, later amplified by his service as Secretary of the Navy, left an indelible impression upon him. That impression is the fact that all the great decisions made in Washington ultimately must be borne by young men and women who serve in uniform. He has never forgotten that. He has never forgotten that decisions we make play out in the lives of soldiers and sailors, marines, airmen, and their families. That unfailing sense of obligation to these young Americans is a profound contribution he has made.

He is also someone who on many occasions has defied the current tides of popular opinion. I recall that when the deplorable incident surrounding Abu Ghraib broke, there was a sense in some quarters that we should try to avoid mention of that, that we should minimize the issue. Senator WARNER recognized we couldn't do that, that we owed it to the men and women in the Armed Forces to look at the issue care-

fully so it would not be repeated, to ensure that it was, as it truly was, an aberration in the otherwise extraordinary dedication of our forces, not just to the military profession but to the ideals of decency that have been the hallmark of the American fighting man and woman throughout our history. His efforts there will be ruled as a remarkable display of placing the needs of country and respect for the institution of the military above any partisan political concerns. He is someone who has made a huge contribution. Again, that contribution will resonate throughout the history of this country, particularly the history of the Senate.

CHUCK HAGEL

Finally, let me pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague. We entered the Senate together 12 years ago. Senator CHUCK HAGEL has represented Nebraska with rare insight and extraordinarily good humor for 12 years. He is one of those individuals who is respected and liked by everyone because he is an extraordinarily decent person, someone who takes his job seriously but himself not so seriously. He is someone I have had the privilege to travel with across the globe—Russia, Afghanistan, Singapore, the Philippines, northern Africa, and back again to Afghanistan and Iraq. He, too, has a rare dedication to the men and women of the armed services, born of his own personal experiences. As a young man he chose not only to join the U.S. Army but to serve in Vietnam. He had the opportunity to be posted to Germany. He would have served out his time and left. But he decided he had to march to the sound of the guns. His brother was already there. Together in the same unit, he and his brother served the U.S. Army. He was wounded in action, received the Purple Heart. He came back as a veteran and continued his education and then built a very successful business career. But he never lost sight of those men and women who serve in uniform. He is very active in the USO. He is someone who was active in veterans affairs. Then, finally, when he was elected to the Senate, he took his learning, his experience and appreciation and played a major role on the Foreign Relations Committee. His commitment to a broad multinational policy of using our alliances, of building our power not just through our military power but through diplomatic and reputational power has made a significant contribution to the country, not just for the moment but for many years. He is leaving the Senate to pursue other endeavors. I wish him well. He has been a remarkable friend. He, Lilibet, and their children, Allyn and Ziller, are a remarkable family. I will miss him particularly. I salute him, thank him. He, to me, is the very model of a Senator who has served his country in different ways and now has chosen to continue to serve in other ways. I am sure he will continue to contribute to the country.

To these Members, I wish them well. I thank them personally for their kind-

ness to me and their thoughtfulness on so many other occasions.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise also to speak about a very important topic, and that is the need to enact legislation to help unemployed Americans amid the current economic downturn. Yesterday, we passed an unprecedented package of support for the financial markets. There are many Americans who are suffering as grievously as our financial markets and those who work in the financial markets. There are an estimated 800,000 unemployed workers who will begin to run out of emergency unemployment compensation because jobs are too scarce in the current economic climate. We cannot turn our back on these 800,000 Americans. We need to help them. In June, I was pleased by the inclusion of 13 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation to all States in the war supplemental spending bill. This help was critical and something I had advocated for a very long time.

Too many individuals in our States who have been unemployed are still looking for work, but they can't find it and they are running out of benefits. The labor market continues to deteriorate. This impact is becoming magnified as a result of the continued unravelling of the financial marketplace. We are seeing—in fact, one of the reasons we acted last evening—credit markets seize up. We are seeing auto sales lots not able to finance the acquisition of cars and buyers not able to buy automobiles. We are seeing a host of problems that manifest themselves in GDP statistics, unemployment statistics, and in the lives of ordinary Americans it is manifested in the stark reality of no work and a family to support. We have experienced the eighth straight month of job declines. Unemployment has soared to a 5-year high of 6.1 percent; 16 States now have an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent or greater. New national unemployment numbers for September will be released tomorrow morning. It is expected that these numbers will continue the downward trend, given the sustained notices of plant closings, mass layoffs, and cutbacks for small businesses trying to survive in this environment. In my State of Rhode Island, the situation is more bleak: 8.5 percent are jobless right now. It is the second highest level in the Nation, a jump of over 3.4 percent in the course of the last year alone. We are hemorrhaging jobs in Rhode Island. It is the highest unemployment rate in Rhode Island since November 1992.

In addition to this evaporation of jobs is the acceleration of prices. Gasoline, food, and health care costs are all accelerating. Families are caught in a tremendous squeeze. That is why I am pleased to have introduced bipartisan legislation, which has been cosponsored

by more than 20 of my colleagues, including the chairman of the Senate HELP Committee and the Finance Committee, Senators KENNEDY and BAUCUS, to extend unemployment insurance benefits so people can pay their bills while they look for work. This measure provides 7 weeks of federally funded unemployment insurance for individuals who have exhausted their benefits, and it provides 13 additional weeks of benefits to unemployed workers in States that have been hit particularly hard by this economic downturn, States that have unemployment rates above 6 percent. Right now 17 States would qualify for this high unemployment figure.

The bill also includes a provision to help qualifying States, such as Rhode Island, replenish their unemployment insurance trust funds which help cover a portion of unemployment insurance benefits. The Senate stimulus package that failed last week included these same provisions to extend unemployment insurance. We need to take aggressive steps to help these families who are struggling to make ends meet. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation.

I was prepared to ask consent to pass this legislation, S. 3507, today, but I understand there is an objection by the minority. Passage of this legislation is vital. Since it appears there will be a lameduck session after the election, I will work with my colleagues to bring this legislation, if possible, to that lameduck session to get it passed. We have to help these Americans.

In summary, if we could afford to authorize \$700 billion last evening to assist financial forces to unclog credit markets, to begin to provide support for the economy, then we certainly can afford to help individuals who are looking for work and can't find it and are desperate. It is only right. I hope we can do that when we return.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The senior Senator from Colorado is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JACK REED

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to make a comment about the Senator from Rhode Island before he leaves the floor. I have had the distinct privilege of serving with my colleague on a number of committees during my tenure in the Senate. I want the people of Rhode Island to know what a class act he is in representing their State in the Senate. It has been a thrill to be able to work with him on issues. We were on a couple subcommittees together and actually shared the chairmanship and ranking position depending on who was in control of the Congress at that time, whether it was Republicans or Democrats: the Personnel Subcommittee and the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, both very important subcommittees in the Armed Services Committee. Then

we found ourselves on the Banking Committee. We found ourselves again working as the top Republican and top Democrat on housing and mass transit issues. We worked together on transit security issues. And now we are together on the Securities, Insurance and Investment subcommittee.

Senator JACK REED from Rhode Island comes from a different part of the country. He has different issues that are important to him. I come from the West. I have different issues that are important to me. But we were able to find a lot of commonality and work together in a professional way. I attribute a lot of that to the high moral standards, dedication, and ability to work with others of my good friend from Rhode Island, JACK REED.

I want him to know what a pleasure it has been for me to be able to serve on the various committees with him through my tenure in the Senate.

I am getting ready to retire with the close of this session. So I wished to make a few comments and to recognize a few people whom I have appreciated working with, and particularly I wish to recognize Senator JACK REED from Rhode Island because he is a topnotch Senator and somebody I have enjoyed working with.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I say to him, thank you very much. Let me express my appreciation for your extraordinary assistance and help and collegiality. I wish you well. You represent the very highest traditions of integrity, dedication and decency and I wish you well. Thank you.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the Senator very much. The Senator from Rhode Island is one individual I am going to miss being able to work with.

Mr. President, I wish to make some remarks about leaving the Senate, but I do see the top Republican is here.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, will my friend yield for a question?

Mr. ALLARD. Yes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I was wondering: I came to speak on behalf of my good friend, our senior Senator from Colorado. I wonder if he would object to my going ahead and making my comments about him prior to his speech? Or would that create a scheduling problem for the Senator from Colorado?

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, that does not create a problem for me and, I say to the Senator, I appreciate your willingness to come down and say a few words. When you are finished, I also would like to say how much I have appreciated your leadership on the Republican side. I think you have been a superb leader. I think we have been fortunate to have your leadership in the Senate during some very tough times. A lot of leaders have come and gone. I have always felt comfortable in supporting you all along. Sometimes I can be frustrating because of my commitments to my constituents and maybe my commitment to my issues, but you have been very tolerant of me, and I appreciate that very much.

I yield the floor to the top Republican.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Colorado. I am here to talk about his distinguished career.

WAYNE ALLARD

Mr. President, as the 110th Congress draws to a close, we must reluctantly say goodbye to some friends who will be leaving us. That includes, as we have been discussing, my good friend, the senior Senator from Colorado.

As the Republican leader, I get to work closely with each and every one of our colleagues on this side of the aisle. The thing that has always impressed me the most about Senator ALLARD is the fact that he is a true citizen legislator in the model our Founding Fathers envisioned.

The Founders favored ordinary citizens of extraordinary wisdom. Those who step forward from among the people they represent and return to them when their time here is done.

So it is with WAYNE ALLARD. He is retiring from the Senate because he is following a two-term pledge he set for himself when he was first elected in 1996. In the spirit of George Washington, he voluntarily retires "from the great theatre of Action" to return to the people and the place he has so ably represented.

Anyone who knows Senator ALLARD knows he is a big believer in keeping close contact with the people he represents. As a member of the Colorado State senate, he passed legislation limiting the length of legislative sessions to 120 days to better ensure that State lawmakers stayed in touch with their constituents.

After election to the Senate, he made a promise to Coloradans that he would visit every one of the State's counties every year—a promise he kept, keeping him in sync with Colorado sympathies and values.

Even more impressive are the 700 town meetings across Colorado that Senator ALLARD has held since his election to the Senate.

As a Senator, he has hosted the Allard Capital Conference, which brings Colorado community leaders to Washington to see the workings of the Federal Government up close—and to keep the Federal Government accountable to the people who elected them.

If I may add, I have had the pleasure of speaking to the Allard Capital Conference attendees on more than one occasion, and I have always admired how Senator ALLARD has stayed tied to communities across Colorado. He is always seeking to bring them closer to their elected representatives.

For 12 years, Senator ALLARD has been a strong voice for returning power from Washington back to the people and to the States. He has been a strong voice for lower taxes and lower Federal spending. Hailing from the Rockies, he has been a strong defender and protector of our environment.