

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.

Senator ALLARD has a different background than most of his colleagues. Born and raised in Colorado, the son of a cattle rancher, he had a successful career as a veterinarian. He and his wife Joan started their own animal hospital. He maintained his successful practice while serving as a State senator, and was elected to the House of Representatives for three terms starting in 1990.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside WAYNE on many issues over the years. We have been allies in pushing the Department of Defense to safely and efficiently dispose of deadly chemical weapons stored in the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Depot in Colorado.

I have watched with admiration as he fought to establish the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, which is crucial to preserving the natural habitats of so many diverse species in Colorado.

That success came after he successfully pushed, as a Member of the House, legislation to make the Rocky Mountain Arsenal site a wildlife refuge, turning a site that was once a manufacturing center for nerve gas and other chemical weapons into what is now one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the Nation.

WAYNE has fought to get aid for workers in Colorado who were exposed to unhealthy amounts of radiation at nuclear weapons facilities. He has also taken the lead on passing legislation to preserve the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Colorado's Spanish Peaks mountain area. With his retirement, Colorado is losing a longtime champion of conservation and environmental protection.

Senator ALLARD has been a consistent and strong supporter of our military and our national security interests. He led the debate on establishing a system to protect America from ballistic missile attacks, and he has supported funding and rigorous testing for such programs.

He has passed legislation multiple times to improve the system of voting for our men and women in uniform serving overseas, making sure the brave warriors who protect America are heard when it is time to elect America's leaders.

With all these accomplishments, and many more, the senior Senator from Colorado is going to leave some very big shoes—maybe it is better to say boots—to fill come next January.

He is also going to leave behind many friends. I am proud to call myself one of them. Elaine and I have enjoyed getting to know WAYNE and Joan and their family over the years. We have had a chance to have dinner together from time to time, just the four of us. We will miss the common sense and grace they have brought to our Nation's Capital.

We are sorry to lose such a fine Senator. But as WAYNE has said himself about his pledge on term limits: A promise made should be a promise kept.

The people of Colorado should be proud that their Senator ends his tenure with integrity, with honor, with humility—the same integrity, honor, and humility he brought when he came to the Capitol.

WAYNE, we all wish you the best of luck for whatever the future holds. You will always have friends in the Capitol. We look forward to seeing you and Joan in the coming years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Colorado.

MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky for his more than generous remarks. Joan and I have been thrilled to have been able to work with you and your lovely wife on many issues. The people of Colorado need to know I got things done in this body because of your help and your assistance. Many times we shared common issues that we wanted to see move forward. But lots of times you were more than generous in giving me an opportunity to put forth my bills and my arguments on various bills, and I will forever be thankful for that.

I think the country needs to know that in your wife and you we have two great leaders in this country. I brag about both of you when I get back to Colorado and talk about those people who I think have made a huge influence on this country and have set a great example for Americans.

So I thank you. I thank you for your continued leadership. I look forward to your continuing to serve in this body. America needs you, and the people of Kentucky ought to be thankful they have such a fine Senator.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the Republican leader.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to now wrap up with a few comments. I have now spent 12 years in the Senate, 18 years in the Congress all together, when you consider the 6 years I served in the House of Representatives. I can say it has been a great experience. In my view, I have represented the best State in the Union. We refer to it as the "Centennial State" because it joined the Union exactly 100 years after we became the United States.

It has always been enjoyable to talk to my colleagues and talk to visitors to the Capitol about my State of Colorado because they have usually had great experiences when they have visited my State. It is a tourist attraction. We have a lot of things that bring people to Colorado. It is a beautiful State. People have great vacations when they go there, and they are more than anxious to share their wonderful experiences with me, share the wonderful and welcoming attitude they experienced from the people of Colorado, and share with me how much they have enjoyed visiting the great State of Colorado.

And, when people get tired of talking about the great State of Colorado, we have always been able to talk about their favorite cat or their favorite dog because, as a veterinarian, it has always been a common interest among many of my colleagues in the Senate, as well as visitors to our office, to talk to me about their favorite pet. So it has been a wonderful experience.

This is the greatest legislative body in the world. It is an honor to serve here. There are a lot of dedicated employees who have helped me get things done in this body. They put their own political preferences aside and thought of the well-being of the institution. They have always been very polite and most supportive and helpful. I wish to thank them.

I have had great employees in my office. I wish to mention that you get things done because of the people with whom you surround yourself. I have two members who are currently on my staff who have served with me since I was first elected to the Congress. I was elected to the House of Representatives in 1990. They came in with me and worked with me on the House side for 6 years and then they came over here and continued to work in my office for the last 12 years. I appreciate their dedication. Those kinds of people don't come along everyday. They spent 18 years with me, bless their souls. The two I speak of are Sean Conway and Doris Morgan. Both of them have been dedicated staff people who have helped to make my service to the people of Colorado successful.

There are also some staffers who joined me after I became a Senator in 1997, in addition to the two I mentioned, including Andy Merritt, who is now my State director; Dick Poole, who is one of my top staff people; Tewana Wilkerson, who has helped me on the Banking Committee; and Kris Hanisch, who has helped us balance our books as well as helping us to move through the maze here in the Senate. We do have our own little bureaucracy in the Senate. She knows it and understands it and has helped us move through it. She has been my office manager and has kept us on the straight and narrow. I appreciate the dedication of all of the employees who have worked with me.

I have a great group of employees currently serving me in my office. We have had a number of people who have come and gone, but I never felt it was because they were disappointed in having to work in our office. When I talked to people who came to work as employees in my office, I would say: If your ultimate goal is to work in a Senate office, I want you to rethink your goals. I want you to get an experience here that will help you grow once you leave the Senate, so you can be a better citizen, so you can contribute more fully to whatever path you decide to assume once you leave this great body and leave our office. So I have always tried to encourage them to think about