

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

where they want to go. We have had employees who have worked in my office, continued their education, and have become very outstanding. I have a number of former staff people who are actually serving in elected office; I think some five or six people right now who are serving. They decided to go back to Colorado and pursue elected office. I congratulate them, as they are very active citizens in their communities.

I wish to mention some of the committee chairmen I have had an opportunity to work with. One of the committees I was successful in getting on was the Budget Committee, with PETE DOMENICI as chairman, and then JUDD GREGG following him, and now we have Senator KENT CONRAD. All of these chairmen have been very gracious and helpful in working with me on issues.

Then I have had the chance to serve on the Armed Services Committee. Senator JOHN WARNER, a great friend, and somebody who is retiring and who has been very helpful, served as the chairman of that committee while I was on the Armed Services Committee.

I also served on the Banking Committee. The first chairman I served under was Phil Gramm and then RICHARD SHELBY and now CHRIS DODD. I have to say I have been blessed with great leadership on all of those committees.

I also served on the Intelligence Committee. I served with Senator SHELBY, who was chairman, and Senator Kerrey who was ranking member at the time I served on the Intelligence Committee.

Now I serve on a different committee this Congress, the HELP Committee. It deals with health, education, pension and labor issues. My well-known colleague here in the Senate, Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, is chairman of that committee. He is a wonderful person and someone whom I greatly appreciate and who has spent a lot of time in Colorado, I might say.

I also serve with my very good friend who was chairman of that committee for a while, Senator ENZI. I couldn't ask for a better friend. He is from Wyoming, a neighbor of Colorado. So we had many issues in common, and both Joan and I consider Diana and MIKE ENZI as our very good friends.

PETE DOMENICI

I wish to say a few things about those people who are retiring, starting with Senator PETE DOMENICI, who I mentioned was my chairman on the Budget Committee. I have worked with him also on the Appropriations Committee. I worked with him on energy issues and issues that are common to New Mexico and the State of Colorado. His service here in the Senate has been remarkable and dedicated. The West has been blessed that we have had such a good spokesman as Senator DOMENICI out there, carrying many of the issues that are important to his neighboring States, as well as New Mexico. The institution will miss him. I am sure New

Mexico will miss him. I consider it an honor and a pleasure to have served with him.

JOHN WARNER

Senator WARNER I mentioned earlier. We couldn't ask for a greater statesman. He has made a number of trips to Colorado. I worked with him on the Defense Authorization bill. He has been more than considerate and helpful to those issues that are important to Colorado. He has been supportive on matters that we worked on for Fort Carson and for Peterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy and the many other issues involving the military and military installations we have in Colorado. He has been tough at times, but his leadership has been greatly appreciated by me. I think the Senate and the country have been blessed because Senator WARNER has been willing to dedicate so much of his time and effort to making this a better country, a stronger country. He is somebody I am very proud to have been able to serve with.

LARRY CRAIG

Also retiring is Senator LARRY CRAIG from Idaho, another westerner with whom I found a lot in common. He and I both have strong agricultural roots. He has been a very strong advocate of those issues important to the West and his State of Idaho. Again, I have appreciated working with him on national park issues and public lands issues. He is a superb individual.

CHUCK HAGEL

Another individual I wish to recognize who is retiring is Senator CHUCK HAGEL from Nebraska; again, one of the neighboring States of Colorado. The State of Nebraska is downstream from Colorado. So we have ribbed each other a little bit about water issues. Basically, though, we have been partners on water issues. We have been able to work together on many issues that have improved the management of water in the Platte River drainage system, which is one of the many rivers that originates in Colorado and flows downstream. I also worked with Senator HAGEL on the Banking Committee. He was one who pushed early on for the reform of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. He brought to this institution a great deal of experience. Again, he has decided to retire the same year as I have. I will always remember Senator CHUCK HAGEL and our relationship and how we have been able to work together, I think for the betterment of both of our States.

I would be remiss if I didn't brag about my partner and my wife, Joan Allard. Joan has spent much of her time being with me, whether I have been in Colorado or here in the Senate. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL talked about the town meetings she attended. She attended about as many of those town meetings as I. It has been kind of embarrassing at times because sometimes the number of people who came just to see her in the back of the room

was large and they were having more fun back there than I was, up front trying to conduct the meeting. People loved Joan as they got to know her throughout the State of Colorado. Her dedication to me and to her family and the people of Colorado is remarkable and unique. We are known as partners here in the Senate. Wherever I go, Joan is very close by, and people are used to seeing us both at receptions. Many times I was invited to events where they wanted me to come alone. I said: No, I want my wife with me, and if you can't accept my wife, maybe we won't make the reception, because she is somebody who I didn't want to be divorced from this process. She has been willing to make a personal commitment in time and in supporting me in my work. So I wanted to make sure that the responsibilities of serving in the Senate didn't drive a wedge between what a wonderful relationship we have had. She worked side by side with me at the veterinary hospital. We worked and met the challenges of raising two wonderful daughters whom we are very proud of, and now we are seeing grandsons coming up. So I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated wife. We still have a lot ahead of us. I am very pleased that she was willing to take an interest in my job of representing the people of Colorado.

The first vote I took in the House and in the Congress was on whether to authorize the first Gulf War in 1991. That was a tough vote. I have now possibly cast my last vote on the economic bailout or the stabilization act we voted on yesterday. So my congressional career has been bookended by hugely significant votes that have humbled me in terms of the trust the people of Colorado have granted. I wish to thank the people of Colorado who have been supportive and who have expressed their views to me in my town meetings, letters, e-mails, faxes, and phone calls. My office has sent out roughly 2.1 million constituent letters since I was sworn in. I say honestly that I relish every opportunity to hear from and explain myself to the people of Colorado. Even those who weren't supportive and who expressed those views in town meetings, letters, e-mails, faxes and phone calls, I thank them for that.

I have no regrets and leave this institution with a clear conscience. I feel as though I have been true to my campaign promises and have worked to hold down taxes, hold down spending, hold down the growth of government here in Washington, and I have fought to balance the budget. I feel as though I have worked to defend local control and keep America strong. I have kept in mind private property rights and the power of the State in managing its own water resources.

It is time to say goodbye and wish my colleagues the very best, and to wish my successor, whoever that might be, the very best. It is time for Joan and me to move on, hopefully returning to a future in the private sector. I

came to Washington with small business experience, and I hope to continue working in the business sector. The challenge, as I see it, is for future Congresses to protect the freedom that continues to create opportunity for us and future generations and to ensure that we have a secure America.

May God bless America, and may God bless Congress's future endeavors.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INMATE TAX FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7082, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7082) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain prisoner return information to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7082) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6296, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6296) to extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the

table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6296) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LET OUR VETERANS REST IN PEACE ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 778, H.R. 3480.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3480) to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate punishment enhancements for those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3480) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ORGAN TRANSPLANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, tragically, a month and a half ago, we lost a wonderful colleague of all of ours, Stephanie Tubbs Jones—Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a wonderful Congresswoman who, whenever you met her, had a big, broad smile on her face. She obviously loved her work on behalf of her country. All of us miss her.

There is legislation called the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act of 2008. I have worked on it in the Senate. I provided a companion bill in the Senate. Yesterday, I worked with Dr. COBURN on the other side to resolve any differences. I understand it is still being reviewed. My hope is that this legislation will be enacted today. Let me describe the importance of this legislation.

We have more than 99,000 Americans right now awaiting organ transplantation. They are on a waiting list to find an organ. In fact, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting because they suffer from end-stage renal disease, and they are waiting for a kidney transplant. About 6,000 who are on that waiting list will die this year. We know how to save them, but

they will die because they did not get a transplant—a kidney, heart, lung. They will die.

I have worked on this issue for many years. I recall some long while ago I worked on legislation that required every tax refund that went out to the American people in that year to be accompanied by a little sheet that told you how you could become an organ donor, how you could sign up. Seventy million Americans got a little piece of information on how to sign up to become an organ donor. On my driver's license in my wallet, it says "donor." It is pretty easy to do for most Americans.

As I indicated, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. Many will die before they get one. On the day the legislation that informed 70 million people how to become an organ donor passed, I held a press conference with a group of my colleagues. Senator Strom Thurmond came to the press conference. I believe Strom Thurmond was 90 years old then. He came to the press conference to sign a big plaque we had, to sign up as an organ donor at age 90.

You had to know Strom Thurmond to understand the irony. He was a remarkable American, a remarkable Member of the Senate. At age 90, he signed an organ donor card, and here is what he said: When I am gone, I don't know if I have anything anybody wants, but they are welcome to it. That was his notion of an organ donor card, and he signed up.

The fact is, not just in memory of our wonderful colleague, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, but in pursuit of doing the right thing. We can save a lot of lives by passing this legislation. This legislation will authorize an increase in the Federal contribution that has been the same since 1984. The Federal contribution to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

The Federal contribution to that network was \$2 million in 1984, and that is what it is today. This legislation proposes an increase in that authorization—not a major increase but an increase that will allow us to do greater work to try to match those available organs with those who desperately need a donation.

The good news is that patients no longer have to wait for someone to die, for example, to get a kidney. Living donations and paired donations have dramatically increased the number of kidney donations every year. That is saving lives and, by the way, saving taxpayers money. The cost of renal dialysis is very high.

I come to the Senate floor today only to say this is a very important piece of legislation for tens and tens of thousands of people in this country who even now are waiting for an organ transplant, some of whom will die before they get it. We can save many lives with this legislation.

My hope is that at the end of today we will have cleared the bill on both