

My dear brother John, 13 years my senior, who passed away earlier this year, was a role model I put on a pedestal. He encouraged me at every turn, providing me with invaluable counsel and infinite support. And there is no finer example of a beautiful, caring heart, a person who lives her faith, than John's wife Bunny.

Speaking of faith, I am so proud of my two nephews, John Hanford III, currently traveling the world as our U.S. Ambassador at Large for religious freedom, and Jody Hanford, his brother, 17 years with Campus Crusade for Christ and 15 visits to work in Russia and Ukraine.

I also wish I could thank teachers such as Agnes Weant, whose dedication to young people led her outside the classroom on more than one evening to discuss colleges and future opportunities with my parents, and Duke University's dean, Florence Brinkley, who encouraged me to spend a summer in England studying at Oxford.

Because of the support and encouragement I received from family, friends, and teachers, I ventured to Washington, seeking to be part of something greater than myself. As a young adult, I was incredibly fortunate to encounter several great mentors who offered me direction, opportunity, and encouragement, mentors such as Bill Cochrane, who was thought of by many as North Carolina's third Senator. Bill served in the office of North Carolina Democratic Senator B. Everett Jordan, and he was like a one-man personnel office, assisting eager young people in finding jobs in Washington. During the summer of 1960, I worked in Senator Jordan's office. Knowing that firsthand historical experiences are much treasured by young people, Bill helped me get a front-row ticket to my first national campaign on board Vice Presidential nominee Lyndon B. Johnson's whistle stop tour of the South. Although my staunchly Republican father was concerned about my riding through the South, especially through Salisbury, my hometown, on LBJ's train, I knew Bill Cochrane was giving me an unmatched learning experience, and I was right.

And how I wish I could hold out a hand of thanks to a remarkable woman who served in this Chamber for many years, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. While working for Senator Jordan, I had the gall to request a meeting with Senator Smith. She didn't know me from Adam, but not only did she agree to see me, she devoted an entire hour to sharing her thoughts and encouraging me to get a law degree so I could bring some additional skills to a public policy job. I took her advice and entered Harvard Law School 2 years later. Senator Smith's example taught me the importance of having an open door for younger people who also seek public service as a noble endeavor and might need a little advice and mentoring along the way.

I was privileged to have the best mentor imaginable in Virginia Knauer,

special assistant to President Nixon for consumer affairs. Virginia, a truly unselfish boss, wanted me as her deputy to have every experience that she had—my first testimony before Congress, my first press conference, speeches across America. After working with her for 5 years, Virginia wanted to support my nomination to the Federal Trade Commission. "Oh, no, Virginia," I remember telling her. I said, "I love being your deputy" when she broached the subject. Virginia replied:

Elizabeth, you have grown and learned as much as you can in this job. It is time for you to spread your wings.

In other words, she nudged me out of the nest. To this day, Virginia, at age 93, remains one of my most cherished friends, and I am grateful to President Nixon for my many years on the Federal Trade Commission.

I am indebted to former President Ronald Reagan for asking me to serve as his Secretary of Transportation and to President George Herbert Walker Bush for the privilege of serving as Secretary of Labor. And I thank the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross and their army of millions of volunteers for allowing me to serve 8 years as their president. At each of these positions, I have been fortunate, indeed, to be part of a team of extraordinary, hard-working men and women. I thank all those who have shared the mission fields with me over the years.

My special thanks to my very talented and capable Senate staff. These incredible men and women understand what it means to be true servants of the public, to have a passion for what they do. Yes, we have shared a mission field. We have worked hard. We have had some fun along the way, too, and we made a positive difference for North Carolina and America.

I thank all Members of the U.S. Senate. I knew many of you as friends long before becoming your colleague, and you will remain my friends after I depart the Senate. You will surely be in my thoughts and prayers as you steer our country through the challenging times ahead.

Most especially, I thank my incredibly supportive husband Bob, who is a constant example—and probably for some of you as well—that a leader should have not only a strong backbone but also a funny bone. From armed service to public service, elected six times by his Republican colleagues to be their leader, Bob's more than half a century of service to our country is a constant inspiration. Because of his leadership, we now have the beautiful memorial to the men and women of World War II. Bob's compassion and caring for his fellow man, exhibited through his actions in both public and private life, are to me unparalleled. He remains the light of my life. For all that you have done for me and for countless others and for our country, I thank you, Bob, from the bottom of my heart.

I could never have dreamed of the people I have been privileged to meet,

the jobs I have been privileged to hold, or the issues I have been privileged to influence. Perhaps Theodore Roosevelt said it best with these words:

Far and away, the best prize life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

I am so very fortunate to have found that best prize as a servant of the public. While I don't know what awaits me in life's journey, what will come next, I pray that I will find a way to continue to work hard at work worth doing.

May God bless America, and may God bless the United States Senate.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

BAILOUT DECISION

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the very important issue before the Congress this week: the proposed bailout of the three major U.S. auto manufacturers. Of course, I have looked at this issue and the proposals that have been put forward very carefully because this is such a serious issue. I have studied the draft language that was released on Monday that certainly constitutes the proposal as we have known it for the last few days. I have followed all of the discussions and ongoing negotiations and ongoing changes to that language proposed Monday. In fact, I have offered concrete—hopefully helpful—suggestions of movements that could possibly garner my support. Based on all of that, after very careful thought and consideration, I have reached two inescapable conclusions for me. First, I cannot support this proposed bailout of the three U.S. auto manufacturers. Second, because I believe this proposal actually dooms those companies to failure, doesn't save them from it, I will use every procedural tool available to demand an amendment process on the floor of the Senate and to delay and block the measure as it presently stands.

I don't come to this conclusion lightly. I certainly realize that the failure of these companies, should they go under, would be devastating, first for millions of individuals and fine American families and secondly for our economy as a whole. In reaching this decision, I don't trivialize or minimize in any way the impact of that sort of failure. Certainly that has been brought home to bear in my State, particularly in northwest Louisiana. We have a significant GM plant in Shreveport. I am very aware of the positive impact of that plant. I am very aware of the workers there, the families, the suppliers who are affected. And, of course, all across our State, I am very aware of auto dealers and other folks who are tied so closely to this industry. I oppose this bailout plan, not in spite of the suffering to all those folks and our economy that failure of these companies would bring, I oppose this

bailout plan because of that level of suffering, because of that significance to individual workers and families and the economy as a whole.

That may seem a bit of an odd statement to some folks. Why do I say that? Well, for two reasons. No. 1, this proposal, at its core, is about giving these companies \$15 billion of loans, \$15 billion on the promise of a detailed restructuring plan yet to come. So we give them significant amounts of money—\$15 billion—so that they go through that process, so that they start that discussion, so that they come back to us months later with a detailed restructuring plan.

Well, my reaction to that is pretty simple. I think the average American would say: What? Isn't that putting the cart before the horse? \$15 billion, and then later, after that is out the door, we will see a detailed restructuring plan? Secondly, even more important than that, it means that the impetus, the pressure to make that restructuring truly fundamental, truly to the core, which is absolutely necessary for these companies to survive, that pressure is not nearly as great as if we held the money until that detailed restructuring plan was presented.

The second reason I will vote against this bailout plan, the second reason I believe it actually would doom these companies to failure is that I believe it politicizes the management of these companies right at a time where they need to move in the opposite direction so that business and engineering considerations alone guide their company's futures.

Let me say bluntly, I have no confidence—absolutely no confidence—in the present management of these three companies. But let me also say, if there is a way for that to go from bad to worse, it is by injecting into the process politics and a political appointee such as this so-called car czar. That would make a very bad situation very much worse. It would politicize further the management of these companies, again, when they need to move to a situation where business and engineering considerations alone guide their decisions.

Another good, specific example of this politicization is language which has been in the proposal so far to actually prohibit these companies from legally challenging various moves for individual States to impose onerous, complicated, different environmental standards on them. Again, we are bringing political mandates, political pressure, political decisions to bear right at a time when these companies need to move in the opposite direction, get away from all of that, which has been a part of the reason they are where they are today, and base their future decisions on business and engineering considerations alone.

For these companies to survive, no matter what taxpayer dollars are involved, they need truly core fundamental restructuring. They need to re-

vamp and revisit all their obligations, all their business models, all their labor contracts, all their dealership associations—everything that constitutes them as they presently are. They need to do that; if not in a bankruptcy process, they need to do that through a process which is the equivalent of bankruptcy, just by another name.

This plan which is being worked on and will be presented before us is not that. What is worse, it is not only not that, I believe it will prevent that from ever happening and will, therefore, doom these companies to failure, no matter what taxpayer dollars are thrown at them.

Again, for this reason, I have reached what is for me a clear and inescapable conclusion. No. 1, I cannot support this general bailout plan. No. 2, because I believe this plan will actually doom the companies to failure, I will use every procedural tool available to demand a fair and open amendment process on the floor of the Senate and to delay and block the measure as it presently stands.

Mr. President, with that, I yield back the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FALLEN PENNSYLVANIANS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, yesterday, I came before the Senate to pay tribute to Pennsylvanians who gave, as Abraham Lincoln said, "the last full measure of devotion" to their country serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Therefore, today, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the men and women of Pennsylvania who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This struggle began in the weeks following the gravest attack on American soil; it was a direct response to eliminate the sanctuary of those who plotted the horrific events of 9/11.

The men and women who have served in Afghanistan have faced extreme danger but have persevered with a can-do spirit. Our men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces are indeed in a class of their own—all their own, I should say. And, like their brothers and sisters serving in Iraq, they mourn the sacrifices of their own.

So today in the Senate, I would also like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of those 25 Pennsylvanian heroes who may have fallen in the battles of Afghanistan but who have only risen in our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. I list them now:

CWO Michael Slobodnik of Gibsonia, PA;
PFC Michael Dinterman of Littlestown, PA;
LTC Richard Berrettini of Wilcox, PA;
SPC Jonathan L. Luscher of Scranton, PA;
SPC Derek Holland of Wind Gap, PA;
PV2 Matthew Brown of Zelienople, PA;

1LT Jeffrey Deprimo of Pittston, PA;
2LT Michael Girdano of Apollo, PA;
SGT Douglas Bull of Wilkes-Barre, PA;
SSG Troy Ezernack of Lancaster, PA;
Po3 John Fralish of New Kingstown, PA;
CPT Bryan Willard of Hummelstown, PA;
SGT Jonathan McColley of Gettysburg, PA;
SGT James Fordyce of Newtown Square, PA;
SGT Brett Hershey of State College, PA;
PFC James Dillon, Jr., of Grove City, PA;
SSG Paul Sweeney of Lakeville, PA;
SGT Christopher Geiger of Allentown, PA;
SFC Scott Ball of Mount Holly Springs, PA;
SGT Jan Argonish of Peckville, PA;
SSG Patrick Kutschbach of McKees Rocks, PA;

CPT David Boris of Pottsville, PA;
MSG Arthur Lilley of Smithfield, PA;
1SG Christopher Rafferty of Brownsville, PA;
MSG Thomas Maholic of Bradford, PA.

To the families of these brave Americans, please know your son's or daughter's service will always be remembered and appreciated. Every time a child is able to go to school in America without fear, that service is appreciated. Every time a graduate looks positively toward their future, to live in a land of freedom and liberty, those who have served are appreciated and their sacrifice is appreciated.

The response of these men and women—whether it was in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world that they served—their response to the ultimate call to service ensures that each of us may live in freedom.

As Benjamin Disraeli once said:

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

During this holiday season, when thoughts of our families and loved ones are on our minds, I wish to express my condolences and gratitude to those families who have loved and lost someone dear to them and also to express gratitude to those whose loved ones are now serving in a war theater far from home. Please know you are in our prayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERSEVERANCE IN TOUGH TIMES

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise during this Christmas season to share with the Senate and the Nation an inspirational story from my home State of Montana. As a former public school teacher myself, I have known for a long time how amazing Montana's young people can be. This story is a story of triumph over tragedy that serves as the latest reminder.

Early on the morning of September 18, Montanans in and around Yellowstone County woke up to learn the tragic news that the Huntley Project