

Dr. Himes served under five Presidents during his tenure at Campbellsville University. Dr. Michael V. Carter, the current president, said upon hearing the news, "We thank God for the life and career of Dr. Bobby Himes and his service to Campbellsville University and humanity."

My prayers and those of the people of Kentucky are with his wife Erlene and the Himes family after this sad loss. I hope the wonderful memories of Dr. Himes's long and fruitful life can give them some strength during this difficult time.

In his book, Dr. Himes looked back at his own success and wrote, "What a career, what a life for a rural Kentucky boy! My granddad Himes would be pleased."

What a life, indeed. Kentucky and our Nation have lost a great American with the passing of Dr. Bobby R. Himes. And I have lost a dear beloved friend.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, last night my flight to Washington was diverted to Columbus, OH, due to bad weather. As a result, I missed rollcall vote No. 163, to invoke cloture on the motion to concur with House amendment No. 2 to the Senate amendments to the housing bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last night, due to weather delays and an unexpected flight diversion to Columbus, OH, I missed the rollcall vote concerning cloture on the motion to concur with House amendment No. 2 to the Senate amendments to the housing bill, H.R. 3221. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

REMEMBERING SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was saddened by the news of the death of our former colleague, Jesse Helms of North Carolina. It was a privilege to work with him when he served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He was always courteous and respectful of the interests of all of the members of the committee. His conscientious efforts to be fair and resourceful in achieving a consensus on the provisions of legislation providing Federal Government support for the producers of food and fiber were deeply appreciated by me as a Senator from the State of Mississippi, which is so heavily dependent on farming and agribusiness.

I also admired his warmhearted and friendly manner. He was the epitome of the Southern gentleman. He was forceful and combative in his arguments in support of the issues he believed in, and he was never afraid to say what he thought, even though he knew he might not be supporting the prevailing view.

His wife Dot was one of the most precious Senate Wives Club members. My

heartfelt sympathies go out to her and all the members of the family of our departed colleague.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a great patriot—and a good friend—who passed away on our Nation's Independence Day.

It seems somehow so fitting that Senator Jesse Helms should have left us on July 4, the anniversary of America's foundational document. Senator Helms was, above all else, a patriot who loved his country and the ideals we embody as a nation. And he spent his entire adult life defending those ideals, beginning with his service in the U.S. Navy in World War II.

Jesse always fought for what he believed in, even at great personal—or political—cost. Two things friends and foes alike acknowledged, and admired, about Senator Helms were that you always knew where he stood and that his word was as good as gold. He was a man of enormous integrity, as all who dealt with him on a personal and professional level can testify.

While he was a formidable politician, there were some things that, for Jesse, were more important than political success or winning elections.

He spent much of his three decades in the Senate standing up for the principles he believed so deeply in, even if that meant taking on powerful opposition, sometimes in his own party. But as Jesse famously said, "I didn't come to Washington to be a 'yes man' for any president, Democrat or Republican . . . I didn't come to Washington to get along and win any popularity contests."

What he did win in Washington was the enduring affection of people on both sides of the political aisle who found that this tough-as-nails politician was also a gracious, generous, compassionate human being. As Linda Chavez so aptly said in tribute to Senator Helms, "he took his politics seriously, but he didn't use political differences as an excuse for bad manners." He embodied southern charm, good manners, and courtliness. He seemed to recognize that there is never a contradiction between standing up strongly for your political and philosophical principles and always treating people, including those who disagree with you, in a way that always respects their human dignity.

Nor was this just a public display of good manners—Jesse Helms' Christian charity extended to his private life as well. Having been active in the pro-life movement for a long time I can't tell you how many times I have heard the accusation that pro-lifers only care about life from conception to birth—after that, they have no interest in caring for their fellow human beings.

Well, suffice it to say that Senator Helms disproved this caricature. Jesse and his wife Dot were always what I like to call "pro-life and whole-life." In 1963, after 21 years of marriage, they adopted a disabled child, their son Charles, after they read a newspaper

article in which the child, who was 9 at the time, wished for a mother and a father for Christmas. Senator Helms never used adopting a child with cerebral palsy to soften his image as a hard, uncaring right-wing ideologue—in fact, he refused to talk about it in interviews. But Charles was, he said, a great blessing and was the center of his family. He served for years on the boards of private charities to help others with cerebral palsy.

For those young people who had the opportunity to work with him, he was a wonderful mentor. More than anything else, he loved to talk to young people, give them guidance and encouragement, and show them the ropes of public service. Those who knew the dynamics of his office testified that he was always more accessible to young people than he was to high-powered lobbyists. One of his great legacies is the Jesse Helms Center near his hometown of Monroe, NC, an organization centered on young people and dedicated to assuring that future generations fully understand and appreciate the blessing and opportunities of this great country.

What is perhaps most obvious about Senator Helms was that he was, simply put, a political giant. He was among the first to take up the pro-life cause in Congress, and his dedication to that cause never wavered. He was a lifelong opponent of communist tyranny, and his leadership in key Cold War battles was indispensable. Ronald Reagan could never have achieved all that he did achieve without Senator Helms' strong and steady leadership as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

And that was not all the Reagan revolution owed to Jesse Helms. Like Ronald Reagan, he left the Democratic Party after many years as a Democrat because he believed it no longer embodied the principles he believed in. He was on the cutting edge of transforming the solid south from the Roosevelt coalition to the Reagan coalition. His support for Ronald Reagan in his State's primary in 1976 was the key to Reagan's victory, and the beginning of the revival of his fortunes that led to the Reagan landslides of 1980 and 1984.

Senator Helms' political leadership will be missed, but his impact on our Nation will remain as his lasting legacy. We mourn the passing of this great American, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and to the people of his beloved North Carolina and across the Nation who loved him.

HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I stand today for the 47 million Americans who are uninsured and looking to Congress to address an issue that has reached critical proportions.

I stand for the millions of Americans who are underinsured and cannot afford to pay the difference between their

health costs and their meager coverage.

I stand for the millions of Americans who have lost their health coverage along with their jobs.

And, I stand for the small businesses that cannot afford to cover the costs of their employees.

That is why I am joining Senators RON WYDEN, BOB BENNETT, and many of my other colleagues in taking the first steps towards a bicameral, bipartisan, comprehensive solution for all called the Healthy Americans Act.

The Healthy Americans Act recognizes that our health care system is fundamentally broken and requires Congress, the President, and the Federal Government as a whole to engage in a serious dialogue about our country's health care priorities and the solutions that can make those priorities attainable.

The Healthy Americans Act guarantees affordable, high quality, permanent health coverage for all Americans. It provides benefits equal to those available to Members of Congress, and gives incentives for individuals to make a commitment to prevention, wellness, and disease management.

It changes the crumbling foundation on which we have built our system, challenges the status quo, and makes a commitment to the right of all Americans to live their lives without fear of losing, or not being able to afford health coverage.

This solution is affordable for us. In fact, according to independent studies, this piece of legislation is fully paid for using the \$2.2 trillion currently spent on health care in America and saves \$1.48 trillion over 10 years.

The benefit to Americans will be profound.

The Healthy Americans Act changes the way we think of health care in America through the modernization of fundamental relationships in our current system. By redefining the relationship between employers, employees, and health insurance, we give the American people a choice when it comes to the coverage, the cost, and the benefits they need for their families and their health.

The Healthy Americans Act marks the beginning of a comprehensive, bipartisan effort to health care reform. There will be many challenging issues to consider as my colleagues and I work to provide every American with quality coverage. These include concerns over the potential disruption that such a profound change to the system would have on those with existing coverage, as well as the lack of a publicly sponsored health plan option.

I hope to work with Senators WYDEN, BENNETT, and my Senate colleagues in ensuring that this legislation addresses those concerns, as well as others that may be raised in the future.

Although complex, the health care crisis is one that we cannot afford to ignore any longer. Together, we can turn the health care system in Amer-

ican into a transparent, affordable, efficient and healthy system that can help those that need it most.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish today to talk about the impact the new markets tax credit has had in revitalizing distressed neighborhoods in my home State of Oregon.

The new markets tax credit has become a vital financing tool to organizations throughout Oregon, like United Fund Advisors and Portland Family of Fund, to invest in and nurture business opportunities in our low income communities that are in need of investment capital.

The New Markets Tax Credit was signed into law in 2000 with the goal of using a modest Federal tax credit as an incentive to attract private investment capital to viable urban and rural markets that private investors often overlook and I am happy to report that the credit has done just that.

The Treasury Department reported that as of July 1, 2008, the credit is responsible for \$11 billion of new investment going into economically distressed communities across the country. More than \$600 million in NMTC-supported projects have been launched in Portland alone with the promise to create more than 9,000 construction and permanent jobs for city residents.

United Fund Advisors and its sister organization Portland Family of Funds are but two organizations using the credit in my home State, but I hold up their works as an example of how the NMTC can work.

United Fund Advisors and Portland Family of Funds recognized the potential of downtown Portland. Since 2002, through their CDEs, they have been awarded \$165 million in credits, which they have used to attract investors to finance vital community services, as well as businesses in neighborhoods that have suffered from chronic poverty and disinvestment.

In downtown Portland, the credit has financed several community facility projects, including the Community Transitional School, which is an elementary school that serves homeless children throughout the city. The school serves over 200 homeless children a year and has been in operation since 1990. However, it was unable to secure the financing it needed to support the \$3.5 million rehabilitation of its facility to create a safe, stable and permanent home for the school. The credit was used to attract financing from U.S. Bancorp to make the project possible and the school now expects to open the doors to its new 9,500-square-foot facility this fall.

The credit also provided the gap financing necessary to develop a drug rehabilitation facility within the Union Gospel Mission and to rehabilitate a theater and community space in the Portland Armory, which had been lying vacant for about 35 years.

The credit has been used to reclaim abandoned commercial space and encourage business development and economic activity in downtown Portland. Portland Family of Funds used the credit to assist a minority developer finance the development of two business condominiums designed to bring minority- and women-owned businesses into the downtown Portland market. In addition, the credit financed the Portland Small Business Loan Fund which provides financing to new and emerging small businesses operating in low-income neighborhoods in the city.

None of the projects that I just described would have been completed without the new markets tax credit. Last year the GAO published a report on the NMTC and found that 88 percent of the NMTC investors would not have invested in the low-income community or business without the subsidy provided by the credit.

I am a strong supporter of the NMTC because of its potential to bring communities and businesses that have traditionally been left out of the mainstream financial market into the mainstream market.

I hope my colleagues will join me to support the extension of the new markets tax credit, which is currently set to expire at the end of this year. Our cities and rural communities need this program, and I will do all I can to see that it is extended and expanded.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energ_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Senator—I am getting sick and tired of hearing from Easterners who live in New York or Washington, DC, and can walk to the corner store and who have mass transit options readily available constantly harping about raising gas prices even higher in order to get people to use less gas. The logic is absolutely heinous.

We live seven miles east of Mountain Home; we have no other options but to drive to get anywhere, and, if it is snowing real hard, our only option is our supposedly-evil