

So no more votes today. We will let everyone know as soon as we can what votes there will be on Monday. If we have a vote on Monday, it is a very narrow window because of the holiday that starts at sundown on Monday night. That vote would be between 11:30 and 12:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I did not hear all of my good friend's, the majority leader's, remarks, but I did hear the end of them, and I do want to underscore that he is entirely correct, that this crisis we face in the financial markets is about Main Street.

A good example of that is a community of mine that wanted to issue municipal revenue bonds the other day. These were highly rated bonds. There was no buyer. This is going on all across the country. It underscores the need to act responsibly and quickly, which we anticipate doing on Monday.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PETE DOMENICI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, few Senators have meant more to this body than PETE DOMENICI, and few are more deserving of that praise. I am honored today to say a few words on the floor of the Senate about the good and humble man we all know around here as "Uncle PETE."

PETE is a classic American story that reminds us why America is so great. His parents were Italian immigrants who taught their five children the importance of faith, the rewards of hard work, the blessings of a big family, and an abiding love for their adopted country.

As an only son, PETE grew up fast, working in his father's wholesale grocery business, studying hard at St. Mary's High School in Albuquerque, and developing a good enough fastball to become a star pitcher at the University of New Mexico.

In a sign of his future success as a lawmaker, PETE put together an impressive 14-3 record his senior year in college. He was such a good pitcher, in fact, that he caught the attention of some major league scouts and soon earned a spot in the starting rotation of the Albuquerque Dukes.

Now, for most American boys growing up in the 1940s, being a minor league pitcher would have been enough. But not for the son of Alda and Cherubino Domenici. After earning his JD degree at the University of Denver, PETE became a lawyer. From there, he had the tools he would need to go to bat for the people of New Mexico for the next 5 decades.

Elected to the Albuquerque City Commission in 1966, he became mayor of Albuquerque the following year at the age of 35. It was there in the shadow of the Sandia Mountains that he got to know the needs and the ambitions of his friends and neighbors and seemingly everyone else.

Today, there is almost no one in New Mexico—from the high plains in the east, to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the north, to the high plateaus that cover much of the rest of the State—who does not offer a smile of recognition at the familiar name of PETE DOMENICI.

Five years after becoming mayor, the people of New Mexico sent PETE to Washington. It was one of the best decisions the voters of any State have ever made.

In six terms, PETE has built a reputation for honesty that is second to none. The undisputed leader on energy issues in the Senate for nearly four decades, PETE saw the need to secure America's energy future before it was cool, even writing a book on the promise of nuclear energy.

Thanks largely to his efforts, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission received its first application last year for a nuclear powerplant in 29 years.

PETE is the only American to be awarded the French nuclear society's highest award. He spearheaded efforts to pass the landmark Energy Policy Act of 2005, a comprehensive bill that has spurred the growth of renewable energy such as wind and solar and which has set America on a path of increased energy efficiency.

PETE authored the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, a bipartisan bill that opened new areas of the gulf to oil and natural gas exploration. Long before people were calling on Congress to find more and use less, Pete was showing us that it could be done.

PETE's tenure on the Budget Committee earned him a well-deserved reputation as one of the strictest fiscal hawks in Congress. As chairman or ranking member for nearly 23 years, he coauthored the original Budget Reform Act of 1974, which started the modern budget process and established the Congressional Budget Office. He authored the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, leading to 4 straight years of surpluses.

There is no greater friend of the disabled in this country than PETE DOMENICI. A coauthor of the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, he has fought tirelessly to expand it ever since. And just this week, all that hard work paid off when the Senate approved full mental health parity as part of the tax extenders bill. After years of patient effort, PETE's vision for expanded benefits for millions of struggling Americans will—we hope—soon be the law of the land.

PETE's contributions to his home State are literally legendary. He helped protect and preserve New Mexico's breathtaking natural beauty by working to create nearly 1 million acres of wilderness throughout the State. In concert with the National Park Service, he authorized the Route 66 initiative to help preserve the look and the feel of this iconic American road.

He has helped bring water to rural communities through the water supply

bill. He secured funding for the only major western dam project of the last decade. All of this is just part of PETE DOMENICI's legacy.

Fortunately, the people of New Mexico will be able to get the whole story thanks to an effort that was recently announced at New Mexico State University to study PETE's impact on public policy and contributions to the State in 36 remarkable years of service in the Senate.

The people of New Mexico are not the only ones who are grateful for PETE's service. He may not know this, but PETE has a lot of fans in Kentucky. Back in the late 1990s, when Kentuckians were beginning to learn the extent of the environmental and health damage caused by the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, PETE offered a helping hand. Whether it was appropriating funds for the cleanup, making sure workers were screened for lung cancer, or compensating those who had been wrongfully injured, Senator DOMENICI has been a reliable partner to me and a great friend to the people of Paducah every step of the way, and we are grateful for his help.

A record such as this is not easy to achieve in the Senate. It takes vision, hard work, patience, and an ability to cooperate with Members on both sides of the aisle. One mark of PETE's skills in working with Members of both sides is the praise he has received not only from local media but the national press as well. Here is what the New York Times had to say about PETE in 2001:

If Mr. Domenici sounds like a serious man, he is. A colleague once described him as having a case of terminal responsibility. He is not cut from the same bolt as most politicians.

Like most of us, PETE never could have done it alone. And he has not. Around the same time the minor league scouts noticed PETE, PETE noticed a young lady named Nancy Burk. And 50 years ago this year, PETE and Nancy were married. Fifty years of marriage is a remarkable achievement in itself, and it is well worth noting.

Apparently PETE and Nancy were both overachievers. Over the years, they raised eight children, which, of course, makes all the other accomplishments look a little less challenging.

They are a remarkable couple. They made the Senate a more friendly place. And I know my wife Elaine has enjoyed getting to know Nancy and working with her in the Senate Spouses Group.

The members of my staff are going to miss Uncle PETE a lot as well. They will miss his frequent visits and his stories about the old days and the way he lit up like a child whenever he talked about his faith, his children, his grandkids, and his beloved wife Nancy who, thanks to PETE's bragging, is known to everyone on my staff as a great cook.

They will miss his warmth, his good cheer, and his passion for the issues of the day. They will miss the same

things that his colleagues will miss: an honest statesman and a good man who made all of us proud to be Members of the same institution as him.

Whenever PETE is reminded of all that he has done for the people of New Mexico and for our country, he always says the same thing: It is an honor. Now we, his colleagues in the Senate, say the same thing about the time we have spent working alongside this good man.

Senator DOMENICI, it has been an honor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first, I have to thank the distinguished Republican leader for his kind remarks and equally as important for his consideration of me ever since he has been our leader. It has been easy for me to make suggestions and to know he would listen. It has been easy for me, when he has asked me to do things, to do them because for the most part he has been right on his ideas, he has been right on his judgment. I very much appreciate his remarks here today.

I have worked with a number of leaders, as everyone knows, and they are all wonderful people. Obviously, when you serve with people such as the distinguished Senator Bob Dole, who was in your position, I say to my good friend who just remarked on my behalf, and when you sit in the same position as our good friend from Tennessee, who sat there for so long, Howard Baker, you know you are in good company. And I know you are in good company. But I would say to them, they are in good company with you.

Now, I am supposed to say goodbye to the Senate and that is probably what I am not going to do because I do not quite know how to do it. But I am going to say something in my address today. It may be a little bit broken up. But I do want to start by saying I want to thank my wife first.

Frankly, to be honest, she should not have let me run for the Senate. After I ran for city council and became mayor of Albuquerque, we already had our children. We were not a moneyed family, and I guess you all could guess we were pretty broke. Here I was in that condition telling her that I want to run for something else. And the Lord blessed me. I had a luck-out. I got a big lawsuit that settled. No, it did not. It went to jury right about that time and made a lot of money. I was able to at least tell my wife we were not going to go broke running for the Senate, although there would not be much around for us to share. The case was a good one, and it made us able to go on through that campaign.

But anybody that has been from a family that is as large as ours knows that for the head of the household to decide to run and serve as a Senator, especially in a State like New Mexico—

which is not Republican at all, and which is, very big—for the lady of the household to say yes, and then to live with it, has not been an easy job.

She has probably had as hard a job—a much harder job—than I, and she has never been anything but beautiful and decent and honest and loving and caring. Obviously, she did not have enough time to do all these things that I have done. She did some of them. But I can say, wherever any of the Members and their wives met her, they had nothing but good things to say because they could not say otherwise. She deserves just that.

Let me say that these remarks about the Senate itself—I say to my fellow retiree sitting here, JOHN WARNER—I could do this in 20 minutes or 2 days because, obviously, there is so much to talk about. The time in the Senate, when you look at it day by day, was wrenching and difficult at times. It was so hard; but when you look at it over 36 years, it is like a storm. It blew by, and all of a sudden it is 36 years later, and you are gone. Nobody will experience the strange feeling it is after 36 years in a place such as this to wake up of a morning and say you are not going to be here anymore. I don't know what I could offer the Senate to make it more pleasant for people who are leaving, but for me it is time to say goodbye.

Having said that, I wish to move on to what makes a Senator succeed. I have a list of the people who have worked for me in my Senate office here, or in my Senate office in New Mexico, or on the Budget Committee, or on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I will say I could not have done what I have done without fantastic leadership from my staff. My first recommendation to anybody coming here anew is don't let anybody tell you that you can get by with just this person or that person. You have to find people who are smart, people who are gifted, people who are ambitious, and people who want to serve you, the Senator, and make you achieve for your constituency. I have been blessed by an abundance of them. They are not all still here. They are all over the place. Wherever they are, most are in high places doing distinguished things.

The whole list I wish to mention will go in the RECORD shortly. There are three or four people whom I want to recommend. First, Steve Bell, who has been with me most all of my 36 years—all but 8. Those 8 years he took off to go to Wall Street and make his own fortune. He did that. Then he came back, and I caught him one day when he wasn't doing anything. I asked him if he would like to work, and he wondered: Where? I said: How does chief of staff sound? He didn't bother to say I have to talk to my wife or anything. He said: I will take it. And he has been here ever since.

A young man named Alex Flint, as well as another young man in my office—a lawyer—Ed Hild, who shepherded the mental health parity bill for

10 years. There are many other people. I am sorry I mentioned three, because others are going to wonder why I didn't mention them. I am compelled to mention two others. Bill Hoagland was the director of the Budget Committee and is now known in the United States as the our Nation's foremost expert on the budget of the United States. He has written a white paper on the budget and it is incredible. Anybody who wants to know the first 25-year history of the Budget Act should read Bill Hoagland's white paper.

Then there is a lady named Carol McGuire who I got from one of the other appropriations Senators. He was a Democrat. As he left, she came to work for me more than 25 years ago. I can tell you with all honesty, she became as if she were a New Mexican. She knows more about her adopted State, which is my State, than any living public servant of any category in anyplace in New Mexico, because she has served me there and that means in every district she has been the principal person on appropriations projects and activities.

Clearly, there are many others and they all have my greatest thanks as I ask unanimous consent to have this list printed in the RECORD at this time. As I go through and find a few more that I must put in, I think the Senate will indulge me to add them.

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

Steve Bell, Ed Hild, Alex Flint, Bill Hoagland, Chris Gallegos, Charles Gentry, Carol McGuire, Angela Raish, Lee Rawls, Paul Gilmon, Denise Ramonas, George Ramonas, Darlene Garcia, Peggy Mallow, Lisa Breeden, Susie Cordero, Ernest Vigil, Joe Trujillo, Joyce Pullen, Poe and Nancy Corn, Lou Gallegos, Cheryl Rodriguez, Clay Sell, Frank Macchiarola, Scott O'Malia, Maggie Murray, Davie Schiappa.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, now I wish to say that I looked for a little bit of history about myself to see what I said when I first came to the Senate. In those days you waited a few months before speaking on the floor, so I will tell you that I did not give a so-called maiden speech, Mr. Leader, until I had been here 4 full months. I guess it was because I was frightened. I thought this was such a mammoth organization with such compelling things happening, I didn't know where I should be or what I should do. I sat in that seat over there because I was 99th in the Senate. JOE BIDEN was 100 when I came. Incidentally, they parked him in my office, so there were two Senators in the same office when I arrived because JOE had no place to stay and they put us together. So it was DOMENICI and BIDEN in the same office.

But what I said, Mr. Leader, in my first speech—I will just read one sentence, and I said this: "Let us quit this self-serving struggle and get on with the business of governing."

Now, that was when the Senate didn't have time to legislate because we were arguing about Richard Nixon.