

In the years since then, Victor Ashe has had one of the most distinguished careers of anyone from our State. He was elected to the Tennessee State House at the age of 21, the minimum age for service in that body. He began his service in the Tennessee State Senate at the age of 30, also the minimum age required. He was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate and then spent a year and a half as the executive director of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors.

In 1987, he was elected as mayor of Knoxville, eventually serving for 16 years and becoming the longest-serving mayor in the city's history. In that position, he achieved national recognition by being named president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Five years ago, President George W. Bush named Victor Ashe as our Ambassador to Poland, where he served longer than any other U.S. ambassador to that country. Political appointees usually become our very best ambassadors, and that was certainly true in the case of Victor Ashe. He visited approximately 200 villages, towns and cities in Poland, covering almost every nook and cranny of that country. He hosted receptions and parties for over 28,000 people and had 320 overnight guests at the ambassador's residence. Showing that he never forgot where he came from, most of his overnight guests were from the Knoxville area.

I had the privilege of leading a congressional delegation of 11 Members to Poland; and Ambassador Ashe and his wife, Joan, went far above and beyond the call of duty in hosting us at that time. In addition, I had several Members of Congress who had met him on other trips, and they always came back singing the praises of our great ambassador.

I have met many U.S. ambassadors and ambassadors from other countries during my time in Congress. I have never met, heard of, or read about anyone who has worked as hard or has spent as much time going around the country getting to know people from all walks of life. I want to commend Victor Ashe for all his service to the people of Tennessee in the State house and senate and as mayor of Knoxville. But tonight I especially want to salute him for his great service as the 24th U.S. Ambassador to one of our strongest allies, the nation of Poland.

Having summed up his distinguished career thus far, I also want to commend him for continuing to advocate good things for our Nations.

James Morrison, a friend of mine, writes the "Embassy Row" column for the Washington Times. This past Friday, most of his column was about the farewell message Victor Ashe posted on the Web site of the U.S. embassy in Poland. In that message, Ambassador Ashe criticized the construction of "fortress-like" American embassies throughout the world. He pointed out that these fortresses have been built even in countries where Americans face little danger of terrorist attacks.

Going ridiculously overboard on security causes two very serious problems. One, it sends an unfriendly message from our diplomats, who are supposed to be trying to make friends; and, two, it has cost U.S. taxpayers many unnecessary billions all over the world. Ambassador Ashe wrote: "The design of many of these buildings quite often creates a fortress-like atmosphere, and the impression given to host nations can be less than friendly, not the warm, welcoming impression we should offer as Americans."

He complained that the State Department is imposing security requirements and design elements for all new U.S. embassies, regardless of the threat posed in more peaceful nations. "Given different security situations in virtually every nation, wide flexibility in construction design and location is needed, as opposed to the one-size-fits-all approach," Mr. Ashe said. "As such, different sites and designs can be adopted at less cost and with greater architectural warmth."

I agree with Victor Ashe and congratulate him on his outstanding service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I say that while noting that Representative NEAL from Massachusetts and Representative CAPUANO from Massachusetts want to, at this point, insert their written statements in honor of Senator Kennedy, and that is why I made that unanimous consent request. But it is also for the purpose of any other Member seeking to be recognized to be able to insert their comments at this point.

We rise to honor our friend and our mentor, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, one of the greatest Senators in the history of the United States. He will be on a very short list of the greatest who have ever lived and served our country. We tonight gather, noting that his son, PATRICK, serves with us here in the House of Representatives, and we extend our best to him and to his sister, Kara, and to Teddy, Jr., as well as and especially to his beloved wife, Vicky, and to all of the other members of the Kennedy family.

He was, without question, "an idealist without illusions," in the words of

his brother. He worked as best he could to achieve the goals that he set for our country while at the same time reaching across the aisle to find partners that he could work with in order to accomplish those legislative goals. Without question, it was our great honor, as the Massachusetts delegation, to work with him for all of those years.

Let me, at this point, turn and recognize the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and then we will go through and recognize the other members of our delegation and other Members who have joined here to speak about the Senator. I recognize the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the gentleman who just recognized me, the dean of our delegation, has the distinction of having worked very closely with the late Senator Kennedy for 33 years, for more than two-thirds of the Senator's term. And I know that Senator Kennedy greatly valued his collegiality, as all of us do who serve with him as the dean, and his work now in a number of the areas pays tribute. I do think it is important to note that the longer you worked with Senator Kennedy, the more you came to admire what he did.

I would have one difference with my colleague with whom I rarely differ on things. He said Senator Kennedy would be seen as one of the greatest Senators. I would say the best. And I know my colleague is gracious and may have a Senator or two he needs on the cap-and-trade bill, so he doesn't want to go too far. But I think we would all agree.

I was a fledging academic before I went into politics. I was studying for a Ph.D., and I then learned I had a personal characteristic which was a defect in academics but absolutely essential to serve in this body. I have a very short attention span. And it works to my advantage here and to my disadvantage in serious scholarship. But from both ends, I don't think there is much question about his greatness as a Senator.

Obviously, those of us in the delegation and our great colleague and civil rights leader, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who has worked with Senator Kennedy, goes back even before any of the rest of us in terms of collegiality; but we obviously agreed with his values, and that is a big part of it. But even those who didn't, and this is what's so striking and so needed in our country today, many Members of Congress who served with him who disagreed with him on most substantive issues, joined in the praise for his integrity and his character and his dedication.

We are at a time now where politics is held in low repute by a lot of young people. I would hope that younger people in particular would think back to the deep, deep love for Senator Kennedy that was expressed by so many people across the political spectrum. Think about the accomplishments to which so many people attribute; think

about the people who express the enormous gratitude for the difference he made in their lives. There could not be a better example of how you can get into this business of politics and do good. I would hope people would be encouraged by that.

Beyond that, there is one particular point that I want to stress. We have a besetting sin today in our politics where people think that you show your depth of commitment to a cause by rigidity, not just by rigidity, but impugning the motives of those on your side who try to get something done. Compromise for its own sake is a very bad idea. People who talk about the "center" have to be clear what they mean. The "center" is not a place of value. It may be where you wind up. But you wind up there as you try to move the center. Yes, you want to try to be representative of a majority. Those who have as a goal finding the precise middle are giving up their own moral and intellectual capacity.

What Senator Kennedy did was to start firmly from a set of moral principles and then work to get them accomplished the best that he could. And that is, unfortunately, a practice that today isn't as appreciated as it should be. Purity is a wonderful state, I am told. I do not say that from experience. But it doesn't make anybody any better off.

No one was more firmly committed to the ideals of fairness and equity than Edward M. Kennedy, and he understood that the more firmly committed he was to them, the more he was morally obligated to make some progress on them.

I realize ideals help nobody, and I say that because he was at the same time one of the premier idealists of our time. No one better or more consistently articulated the goal of a society in which no one suffered unfairly, in which all were treated with dignity and had a certain minimum, at least, of substance. But while he was preeminent as a preacher of that set of moral virtues, he was also preeminent as a hands-on politician who could work with others within the democratic process with other people elected who might have disagreed with him, and because of him, more of his goals were accomplished than were accomplished by anybody else. No one did more to advance those causes which he exemplified.

But he never got all he wanted. And I hope that is also an example; and the example is that, sure, you do not belong in politics unless you have a set of ideals. You don't have any business trying to gain influence over others unless it's to make this world a better place.

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But once you have those ideals, your obligation is not simply to treat them in a way that makes you feel good; it is to get them accomplished.

I do not think in American history over the time of his Senate career that

anybody did a better job for people of all income, for the victims of discrimination, whether it was based on race or sexual orientation, or gender, for the whole concept of what we think is the genius of America; namely, that when you're born, you're born with a chance to maximize your potential, and the economic circumstances or the prejudice of others or anything else don't hold you back.

This Nation is enormously indebted to Senator Edward Kennedy for the work that he did and for the example that he set. And I thank my colleague, the dean of our delegation, for leading this Special Order.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman very much, and I turn and recognize now a good friend of the senator, BILL DELAHUNT from Quincy.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you.

I just want to pick up on a theme that Barney touched on. You know, Ted Kennedy might have had adversaries but they were never his enemies. He treated everyone with respect and with dignity and that character, that DNA, if you will, was the proximate cause of his success as a Senator who championed all of the great causes in the past 50 years.

You know, Tip O'Neill said that all politics is local. Well, with Ted it was personal. It was based upon those personal relationships. I'm sure that there are literally thousands that considered Ted Kennedy a dear and close personal friend. I know I did.

I had the fun of being Ted Kennedy's Congressman, and as you all know here from Massachusetts, we had our own schtick. It was a great banter. And he would leave me messages on occasion on my cell phone at night, reminding me that the grass hadn't been cut and that the snow hadn't been shoveled out in Hyannis Port.

I sailed with Ted Kennedy frequently; our colleague and his son, Patrick; his oldest son, Teddy, junior; and a sister, Kara; and his devoted wife and soulmate, Vicki Kennedy. He was an exceptional friend. I miss him terribly. But I know that my experience with him was multiplied by the thousands. He had a way of communicating with people that was unique. You could reveal to him your concerns. You could share with him your secrets, and you could always be assured that the advice that you received was sound, and it was in your best interests.

You know, we're saddened by his death, those of us who have served with him, those of us who considered him a dear and close friend. But I guess for me the gift of that friendship was something that was so special that it overwhelms the sadness that we all share and that so many share.

We were indeed fortunate not just to serve with probably the most prolific Senator that ever served in the United States Congress—2,500 bills. I'm not going to touch on his public record, but we know that his record speaks for itself.

But what many in this country are only beginning to discover is that for Ted Kennedy, it was not about himself; it was about others. He had his share of pain and tragedy in his own life, and I dare say that that provided him with an incredible capacity for empathy and to understand others better than anyone I've ever met in public life.

So let me conclude by saying I miss you terribly, Teddy, but I know you're still with us. Sail on.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I recognize the gentleman from Worcester, a good friend of the Senator's, JIM MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Thank you and I thank my colleague for arranging this Special Order to honor an incredible leader and an incredible friend, Ted Kennedy.

You know, in the McGovern household in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Kennedy name has always been magic. Our family admired and respected President Kennedy. We all supported him, were committed to Robert Kennedy and the causes that he stood for, and we always felt it a very special privilege to be represented in Massachusetts by Ted Kennedy. You know, all of us, especially the Massachusetts delegation, already miss Senator Kennedy. We miss his humor, we miss his friendship, his advice, his leadership.

I tell my colleagues from outside of Massachusetts that I'm proud to call myself a Ted Kennedy Democrat, and a Ted Kennedy Democrat is somebody who's a believer in dynamic and efficient, bold and effective government, somebody who believes it is important to stand up for human rights and for civil rights, and Senator Kennedy did so with incredible integrity and with incredible character.

You know, I believe as has been said here that he is the greatest legislator in the history of the United States Senate.

On health care, I mean every major piece of health care legislation that has been enacted into law has Ted Kennedy's fingerprints all over it. There are millions of children in America today who have health care because of Ted Kennedy.

And education: Every major education bill to expand educational opportunities for people of every background is a result of Ted Kennedy's leadership.

In the area of workers rights, a strong champion of organized labor, somebody who promoted and enacted major legislation that protected workers and workers rights.

In the area of civil rights, you're going to hear from our colleague from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, a hero in the civil rights movement who will talk to you about the fact that Ted Kennedy was the leader in the area of civil rights in the United States Senate.

And on the Iraq War, I have a special admiration and respect for his courage, for the stand he took against that war, when it was not popular to do so, but

he took that stand because he believed it was the right thing to do. He thought that war should always be a last resort, not a first resort, and I think he was right on that war.

But to all of us in Massachusetts, he was our Senator who assembled the best staff you could possibly imagine. When somebody lost their Social Security check, they called Ted Kennedy in his office. When a veteran needed help, they called Ted Kennedy. When a local official needed funding for a local college or hospital or road project, they called Ted Kennedy's office. All phone calls were returned, whether it was from the Queen of England or Mrs. O'Leary who lived in a three-decker in Worcester.

But more than that, I appreciate very much his personal touch. I was grateful for that personal touch, you know, the notes and the calls. When somebody was sick in your family, you got a phone call. When you got a special recognition or if you won an election, you got a note. If something great happened to you, you know, he was the first to call.

When my son, Patrick, was born, the very first call we received was from Ted Kennedy, even before my mother and father called the hospital. The very first gift that we received was from Ted Kennedy, a blanket that had my son's name stitched into the blanket with the words, Love, Vicki and Ted. And the same thing happened when my daughter was born a couple of years later. Those are things that I will never forget and always treasure.

You know, when he died, I said that nobody can ever fill his shoes, but we must try to follow in his footsteps, and I really believe that.

You know, one of the things that Senator Kennedy said was that the great unfinished goal of his life was health care. He believed that everyone in this country deserves health care. He thought it was a national scandal that tens of millions of Americans are without health care. He believed that we could provide better health care to people, that we could put a greater emphasis on preventative care to prevent people from getting sick. He believed we could come up with a health care system that would control costs so that families and small businesses wouldn't go broke trying to provide health care for their families or for their workers.

And so while he is no longer with us, we need to continue his work. He was the conscience of our country, and I believe that we need to continue to be inspired by his example. We need to continue to stand up for what's right. We need to continue to fight for what's right.

And I will say as my colleagues have said, I feel it has been a special privilege and an honor for me to be part of this delegation that for so many years was led by Senator Kennedy, a great leader and a great friend. And the world is going to miss him. And I already do.

I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. And we thank the gentleman for his excellent comments.

Let me turn now and recognize the gentleman from Massachusetts, a good friend of the Senator's, JOHN OLVER.

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I was still making changes in what I was intending to say, and usually I do that all the time.

I rise tonight to remember and honor the life and the life's work of a dear friend, Senator Ted Kennedy. There are few Americans alive today whose lives are not affected in some way by Senator Kennedy's vast body of legislative achievements. He's credited with hundreds of laws enacted over his 47-year Senate career, and many of those laws make up fundamental tenets of the social contract that is our modern society.

One of the best examples of Senator Kennedy's impact on society can be seen in his groundbreaking Americans with Disabilities Act, which opened the door to jobs, housing, transportation, communications, and a better life for millions of citizens. It also fundamentally changed the way people viewed others who live with disabilities.

Providing opportunity was a great theme of Senator Kennedy's work, as evidenced by his contributions to strengthening public education. Throughout his career, he fought for better teachers, better schools, more funding, and better methods to enhance learning for America's children.

For wage-earning Americans, Ted Kennedy will perhaps be best remembered for his refusal to accept minimum wage levels as they fell further and further behind in their purchasing power. When others balked or faltered on the issue, Senator Kennedy had a knack for pushing through a deal to get everything he could for workers as soon as it could be achieved.

On the international front, when the great debate over America's waging a preemptive war arose at the outset of this decade, Senator Kennedy used his stature and status as a national newsmaker to oppose the President and the Congress' transgressions, as he saw them, with the use of America's military power.

There are many other important accomplishments one could list, but the issue Senator Kennedy himself labeled as the cause of his life, health care, probably stands out as his greatest area of achievement.

Senator Kennedy extended COBRA coverage for workers in between jobs and eliminated preexisting condition restrictions for workers in group insurance plans. He fought for and won uncommon allies in his crusade to provide health coverage for all children, which he considered a moral obligation. He created the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Ryan White CARE Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

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Though his ultimate cause of universal health care was one he did not live to see enacted, we are where we are today because of Kennedy's lifelong commitment to that cause. In a sense, the effort is still his effort. The gains that Congress will eventually pass will also be a part of his legacy.

Back in my part of Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy was always a good friend to the First Congressional District. In recent years he championed the development of the University of Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute and helped to support Holyoke Hospital, a critical health services provider in the Connecticut Valley. He was ever willing to exercise his seniority in the Senate when Massachusetts companies needed it, and when campaign season came around, no one could bring out and motivate as many workers as Senator Kennedy. His stump speeches in remote corners of Massachusetts, for State or local candidates, were always an oratorical treat for those lucky enough to hear them.

To me personally, Senator Kennedy was an inspiring and thoughtful friend. I could always count on an immediate and passionate response to whatever was on his mind and on my mind, and his attentive friendship came with a warm smile, a sense of humor and a caring heart. Senator Kennedy's breadth and depth of leadership was unmatched in the Congress. He was a tireless worker for his constituents and all humanity, and I am honored to have known him and served with him.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. We thank the gentleman so much for his words. Next we recognize another great friend of the Senator, JOHN TIERNEY, from the State of Massachusetts.

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman for recognizing me and want to acknowledge before we start, PATRICK, I know you're going to speak later, but I hope that this is somewhat fulfilling for you. It can never replace the loss of your dad, but hopefully it will at least let you know how much the people that served with him had the honor and pleasure of doing that, loved doing it and appreciated him every day. And my colleague, BILL DELAHUNT, was more than just the Congressman for the Senator, so I extend my sympathies to you as well; you were a friend, probably even closer than most of us were because you were there so often and spent so much time with him. And so I express those condolences to you. But it's a loss to all of us. The Dean of the delegation, ED MARKEY, of course, served many, many years with the Senator. I looked at a little factoid the other day that indicated that Senator Kennedy was born on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday. I thought if that's accurate, and I assume that it is, how interesting it was, because nobody appreciated history more than Senator Kennedy and nobody appreciated his role in history more than that.

I can remember ED MARKEY at one point, at a function introducing Senator Kennedy as one of the best United States Senators, only to be corrected by the Senator saying, One of the best? The best. And while he was joking, I think he turned out to be absolutely right on that because he certainly has a record that you have heard from JOHN OLVER and others here that is just phenomenal. JIMMY MCGOVERN expressed it as well.

I won't start to enumerate all of the things that the Senator did. We'd be here for far too long. And I think, after hearing my colleagues, most people finally start to appreciate that wherever you were in life, you benefited from him; whether you were cleaning hotel rooms or doing some other job that was difficult like that, you benefited from the minimum wage, health care, education, all the things that we care about. And frankly, when we are all looking to try and have the honor of serving here, listening to people in our constituencies, they're talking about those things that matter to them, the bread and butter issues, whether or not they're going to have a job, whether or not it pays well, whether or not they're going to be able to keep their family healthy; whether or not they're going to be able to give their children opportunity. This great Senator epitomized all of that.

One thing that I don't think has been mentioned so far that I just want to hit on is the fact that the Senator used to tell a story about being lectured by his father when he turned 21 or so about the fact that he was going to be the recipient of some resources that other people didn't have the benefit of; he could choose to be idle and do nothing with his time, or he could choose to be of service to others and to mankind. We all know which route he took. But that remains an inspiring story to all people even to today.

And during the course of this summer when the President had his Service to America campaign going on, many of us had the opportunity to go and visit a lot of organizations that had volunteers in, and when you would remind them of that story and tell them about the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act that was signed into law earlier in the year by President Obama and now their role in stepping into his belief of service and doing something for their fellow citizens, doing something for America and no matter how small or large, no matter where it was, you could see the inspiration that they got from the Senator, from his life, from his acts, and from the fact that this law had passed because he motivated people to pass it and get it through. This will remain as one of his great legacies, the fact that he spent his life serving others, that he was selfless in that regard, and that while he was serious about the business that he did, he was also never taking himself too seriously, and always willing to make people feel comfortable and to

see the lighter side of things and to see the better part of humanity. In even people who were his political opponents, he saw a good part, and he was able to draw out of them a response that made them accept him and others and work on issues together.

I can remember being with the Senator when we would go out, particularly to senior citizen places where he just couldn't resist singing a song, particularly Irish song, couldn't resist getting out and dancing if there was a ballroom dance going on. And, of course, I guess I must take myself too seriously, or just know how bad a singer or bad a dancer I am. I was always looking for the door, and he would never let that happen. He'd be the first one to force you on the floor, make a fool of yourself, but have some fun and go on that. That's the humanity of the man; that he loved everybody, he loved having a good time with them, could get them to go along with him; and then when it was time to get serious, he could do that in a heartbeat. He could make the case. He had great oratorical skills that carried the day over and over again. And he truly is a giant. I know that the story of his life is just jumping off the shelves right now because people are starting to remember all that he did.

Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of political jargon, people making attacks and going back and forth, people forget that when you separate all that out, whether you are a conservative, or whether you are a liberal, whatever your political opinion, there are things in your life that you have that you're grateful for that are a result of the work of Senator Kennedy. I think that's the bottom line in all of this is that this Senator was a great Senator for America. He was a great friend to all of us. He was a great father and brother for people in Massachusetts. We sorely, sorely miss him. But none of us regret at all having had the opportunity to know him and to serve with him.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman very much. And the gentleman is so right. I could call Senator Kennedy one of the greatest Senators in history, I could call him one of a small handful of the greatest Senators in history. But that would be inaccurate. That just wouldn't capture not only how history will record him, but how he wants to be recorded by history. And there will be an accurate reflection of that, I think, as people, as the gentleman pointed out, continue to focus upon his life.

Before I turn to the gentleman from South Boston, let me go back the gentleman from Quincy, Mr. DELAHUNT.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman would yield for a moment before our friend, STEVE LYNCH, makes his remarks, this conversation, the colloquy between yourself and JOHN TIERNEY, reminds me of an anecdote. I wasn't present and maybe PATRICK could attest to its validity. But when Ted Ken-

edy was described as one of the two most significant United States Senators in that institution's history, the other being Webster, that his response was, Well, what did Webster do?

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman.

No place played a more important role in the history of Massachusetts Irish politics than South Boston, the home of the next friend of Senator Kennedy, STEVE LYNCH from South Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. MARKEY, the dean of the New England delegation, for reserving this time in order for us to pay a special tribute to our friend and colleague, Senator Ted Kennedy. If you have been watching tonight, you will notice that the Members with the most seniority have been given the privilege to speak first, which is the way it works down here. The longer you are here, the more you appreciate that. However, I am one of the more junior members of the delegation, and unlike some of the fellows that have been around here forever, like Mr. MARKEY and Mr. FRANK and Mr. DELAHUNT, I had a relatively short time, 8 years, to spend working with Ted Kennedy. And I cherish every one of those years. But in addition to working with Ted, as a colleague—and Ted could, he could get it done. He could get it done. And I was always amazed at that.

But I also had a different perspective of Ted Kennedy. I saw him in action before I came to this House. I grew up in the public housing projects in South Boston, the Old Colony housing projects. And I can tell you that whether you lived in the housing projects in Old Colony in Southie or Bromley-Heath or Mission Main or Franklin Field, if you grew up, if your family struggled to make ends meet in public housing, no one in public housing had a better champion, a more valiant and noble champion than Ted Kennedy. And that's really the first perspective that I had of Ted Kennedy as someone who was working for our benefit as a family growing up in public housing and in pretty tough circumstances. He was there for us.

I also had a perspective of working as an iron worker for 18 years, strapping on a pair of work boots, becoming a union president for the iron workers. I can say from that perspective as well, whether you were an iron worker, like I was, working in the building trades with a lot of my union brothers and sisters, or whether you worked on a factory floor, or maybe you were a nurse going out every day working double shifts and overtime, or you were a policeman or a fireman, no working person in this country had a more gallant champion to protect their rights and protect the conditions on the job than we had in Ted Kennedy. And the outpouring of love that we saw during the memorial service and the wake and the funeral and even during Ted's illness, it reflected that collective experience of

not only the people of Massachusetts but of New England and the United States. And it was something to see.

My mom raised us in public housing, and when the motorcade came along Carson Beach in the shadow of the housing project where we grew up, my mom insisted that I help her down there—she's not as young as she used to be, but I helped her down there and just to give respect to the Kennedy family and to Ted during that last journey, last part of his journey. There is a saying from the iron workers, especially in the steel mills, that the strongest steel comes through the hottest fire. And really, when you looked at Ted's life and saw what he accomplished and the challenges that he had; his brother, President of the United States, taken in violence; his brother, the Attorney General, candidate for the presidency, taken from us in the same way; the huge challenges to Ted. They were unthinkable, unimaginable, yet he worked through it, and not only did he overcome that, but he also reached out to other people and shared a strength that he gathered from those experiences.

I'll never forget—this is my only Ted Kennedy story that I'll relate tonight, but I was a freshman, actually, I was very early in my career as a State Representative, and we had six of our brave fire fighters killed in a terrible fire in Worcester, Massachusetts. We all went to the Worcester Centrum for that ceremony. The families were there and every seat was taken and every bit of space on the floor was taken. The place was filled to the rafters. And that's where I was sitting, far above the floor. But I'll remember Ted's remarks. Here are six families that just lost their loved ones. And Ted Kennedy, you know, you could have heard a pin drop in that Centrum that day.

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He basically said to the family—I'll never forget his words. He said, From my own experience, I have found that every once in a while life breaks your heart. And even though there were thousands and thousands and thousands of people in that Centrum that day, in reality, it was just Ted and it was just those six families, and he was helping them through that. And that's a gift.

We all go to wakes and funerals and try to help families through tough times, but I never saw anybody carry it off with the grace and the profound empathy and love that Ted was able to accomplish.

I just want to say that I'm delighted that we had an opportunity tonight to say our thoughts and to share our concerns for Ted's family, PATRICK and the entire family. We know what they're going through.

I think the test of all of us who are born on this Earth, the true test of our time, however short it is on this Earth, is whether the work we do while we're on this Earth is going to live after us

and is it going to positively affect the people that we leave behind.

By any measure, by any test, Ted has passed that test with flying colors. He has left the power of his example for all of us to try to follow.

I want to thank you, the dean of our delegation, ED MARKEY, for the opportunity to share my thoughts. My prayers and the prayers of my family go out to the Kennedy family.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. We thank the gentleman so much for his words.

In 1974, Paul Tsongas from Lowell was elected to the United States Congress. Today, these many, many years later, NIKI TSONGAS serves here in the Congress. So the Tsongas and the Kennedy story goes back many years.

I'd like to recognize the gentlelady from Lowell, NIKI TSONGAS.

Ms. TSONGAS. I'd like to thank the dean of our delegation for hosting this Special Order so we can remember our most remarkable Senator.

As I was thinking about how best to talk about him—and we've heard some wonderful remembrances this evening—I was looking back to the early sixties when I was, like so many of us, a student in high school, a beginning student in high school—I hate to give away our age—but the inspirational figures of the Kennedy family, in particular, President John F. Kennedy.

My husband, Paul, used to say that he was inspired by that Presidency to seek public office. But he had grown up in what he called a “disadvantaged household.” His parents were Republicans. And it was the Presidency of John Kennedy who inspired him and so many either to become a Democrat or to seek out public office, little knowing that some years later we would be serving with the man we remember tonight.

My first recollection, though, of Senator Kennedy is in 1974, when Paul was a candidate for the seat that I now hold. Senator Kennedy agreed to come to Lawrence, Massachusetts, to campaign for Paul, who was part of the great Watergate class in which there were many, many Democrats running across this country. Paul was running against an incumbent Republican.

Senator Kennedy came to Lawrence, Massachusetts, to St. Mary's Church. He was accompanied by Barbara Souliotis, who many, many years later still serves as his State director. At the time, I think she was an advance person, whom I remember her utter professionalism in keeping Ted on track.

We've heard tonight what a great speaker he was, how he could really connect with the crowd. And so he did that evening. While Ted was speaking, Paul looked at me like, “Now what on Earth do I do?” because he knew he could never compare with Ted Kennedy. And he didn't even try. But you could see then how fundamentally Ted connected with people, because they trusted him and they knew that he was working on their behalf.

I remember, again, Ted in 1978, when he supported Paul against an incumbent United States Senator, somebody who was his colleague, a Republican, as he did so often; kept his word, supported his colleagues, whether they were seeking the Presidency, as they in turn supported him.

Well, I haven't had the opportunity to serve, unfortunately, with Ted as long as others here. I do have a couple of remembrances from the past several years. One was when he did agree to come and campaign for me, again, in Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts, the cities of the Fifth District of Massachusetts.

This time, though, he came with a van. He brought Sonny and Slash, the dogs. Barbara Souliotis, who was with him in 1974, was there at his side yet again, along with Vicki. We started out in Haverhill. We went to an old diner that was owned by a Greek American family. Barbara's mother brought pastries that she cooked. Ted sat there with a little demitasse of coffee, ate the pastries, and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

Then we traveled on to a small school where we were going to read. It was an early reading program, a very, very good one; one that I think is a real model going forward. And Ted, this remarkable Senator who has met with every imaginable world leader, sat and sang Itsy Bitsy Spider to the 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds that were in the room with him. He had a remarkable ability to connect with all of humanity.

My last conversation with him was around a point of legislation that we both jointly sponsored to protect a farm called Barrett's Farm. We've learned to know what a lover of history he is. But I represent two parks: The Minute Man National Historical Park and the Lowell National Historical Park.

Barrett's Farm is a farm that played a very important role in the beginnings of the American Revolution. It was a farm that housed munitions that the Minutemen were going to use. And the British, learning of the new munitions, decided to march on Lexington and Concord, prompting Paul Revere's ride to warn that the British were coming.

The Minutemen got to Barrett's Farm, hid the munitions, so by the time the British arrived, the munitions were safely set aside where they could be used as we advanced our Revolutionary War effort, but the shot was heard round the world that changed the history of this country.

So we worked hard. My former Congressman, Marty Meehan, had initially filed the legislation. I followed up on that, working with Senator Kennedy. The bill finally was signed into law.

This April, I was sitting in my office and got a call. It was Senator Kennedy on the line, and I picked it up and he said, NIKI, isn't it grand? He could celebrate that small legislative act that protected such important history with

the same joy and commitment that he did the grandest of efforts.

Senator Kennedy's legislation has shaped American lives in ways we cannot even know. Every day our lives are different for all that he did. And we are so fortunate to have had his service, to have the great legacy of the Kennedy family, and to be serving today with Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, who continues that legacy as well.

We will miss him. We will miss him forever. But we will always remember him in the large acts and small kindnesses of his life.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. We thank the gentle lady so much for those words.

Now we turn to—and a number of Members have alluded to him—the great civil rights leader who knew the Kennedys in the sixties and now serves here in the House of Representatives, Congressman JOHN LEWIS from the State of Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague ED MARKEY and members of the Massachusetts delegation for holding this Special Order in honor of Senator Kennedy. I rise today just to say thanks to Senator Kennedy and to the Kennedy family.

During the sixties, I had an opportunity to meet President Kennedy, in June of 1963, when I was only 23 years old, and then to see him at the end of the March on Washington when he invited us back down to the White House. I got to know Robert Kennedy, the Attorney General, meeting with him in his office and campaigning with him in Indiana, Oregon, and California.

I have known Senator Ted Kennedy for a long time. He was a very special man, a very special friend. I remember long before I came to Washington as a Member of Congress on an occasion we needed him to speak at a fundraiser for nonpartisan voter registration efforts in the South. He answered our call without hesitation. He spent time among us, honoring not just men and women of means, but everyday people and their little children.

Senator Kennedy, this extraordinary man, was an elegant man who walked with kings, but never lost the common touch. As a colleague, he was generous and committed. He was our leader, our champion, our shepherd. He took up the causes of those who were weak and tried to make them strong. He stood tall and spoke with passion for all of those who have been left out and left behind; the people who had no voice in America.

Ted Kennedy never lost hope. He demanded justice for people of color when it came to civil rights and voting rights, and he also took a stand for seniors and for those with a different sexual orientation and for the disabled.

Senator Kennedy was a man who lived his faith and tried to act on it every single day by doing good to help the least among us. At some of the most tragic and difficult moments in

this Nation's history, Senator Kennedy had the capacity, had the ability to gather his strength and lead us toward a more hopeful future.

As a Nation and as a people, he encouraged us to build upon the inspirational leadership of his two brothers and use it to leave a legacy of social transformation that has left its mark on history.

I would say tonight, Mr. Speaker, and to members of the Massachusetts delegation and to PATRICK and to other members of the Kennedy family, Senator Kennedy was so thoughtful and so considerate. He was one of the most sharing, caring, giving human beings that I have ever met.

During July 2006, when the Senate was about to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, he invited me over to the other side of the Capitol to be his guest on the Senate floor. When the last vote had been tallied, he gave me a copy of the tally sheet. Then he suggested that we walk out into an adjoining room, and he showed me the desk where President Lyndon Johnson had signed the original act on August 6, 1965.

He had a photographer to take a picture of the two of us standing near that desk. A few days later, I received the most beautiful copy of that picture with an inscription from Senator Kennedy. It is hanging on the wall in my home in Atlanta. I will always cherish it as long as I live.

I remember in 1977, Senator Kennedy came to Atlanta and we hosted a little reception for him at my home. He met a few of our friends: my wife, Lillian, and our son, John Miles. He spent so much time playing and talking with my young son, who was not quite a year old.

Senator Kennedy had a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love that never forgot the spark of divinity that runs through us all, no matter whether you were his closest friend or his fiercest adversary.

A brilliant light has gone out that uplifted not just America, but the entire world community. During his life, Senator Kennedy touched so many of us with his brilliant light. He touched more than Members of Congress, but also ordinary people. He touched our President and the leaders of tomorrow.

The spark of light that he gave to each one of us still burns brightly, and it is our duty, our obligation to continue his legacy and pass that light on to unborn generations.

Senator Kennedy will be deeply missed but not forgotten, and his legacy will live on in all of us. He was a wonderful friend. He was a wonderful friend, a wonderful colleague. He was like a brother.

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Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. We thank the gentleman so much for his great words. For me, I had the honor of serving for 33 years out of the 47 that Ted Kennedy served in Congress, here as his colleague. It was my great

honor. For each of us, there are too many stories to retell.

But for me, it all begins with Ted Kennedy running for the Senate; and from that moment on, whenever he spoke about the war in Vietnam or health care or energy or injustice to any person, no matter where they are in the world, I listened. And not only did I listen, but tens of millions of other people listened as well because he took us on a journey, a journey to issues and people that we did not know of but he wanted us to know about and to respond to.

That was really his greatness, that when he spoke, he was true north. He was someone who you knew that he was speaking from his heart and speaking for issues that really only he had the capacity to draw the attention to, and he used his power to do so. He used the special gift that he had been given to accomplish those goals.

I remember at the Democratic Convention in 1980, Senator Kennedy had asked me and Henry Royce over here, who was chairman of the Banking Committee, to introduce his energy bill which would be the counter to the incumbent President's energy bill. It called for solar and wind and conservation and higher fuel economy standards and a different direction for our country. Although his candidacy failed and energy was the big issue at that time, I got a call to come up to his room right after he gave that great "The dream shall never die" speech. He was up in his room with his family—PATRICK was there and others.

In that room, there was not a defeated man. There was someone who had been a great victor. There was someone who had brought all of these issues to the American people. In 1983, as Ronald Reagan had pulled out of all arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union—the first time in a generation—he called me, and he said, EDDY, you know what I would like to do, I would like to work with you on a nuclear freeze resolution to end all production of new nuclear weapons in the world. And he said, You know what would be a good idea, why don't we have it at American University, where my brother gave his speech to end all atmospheric nuclear testing?

Then one month later, there was an attention brought to this issue that changed that whole issue, and 3 months later, 1 million people were in Central Park calling for an end to the nuclear arms race. On every single issue he talked about in his entire life, it changed the whole dynamic of that issue because Ted Kennedy stood up and spoke to it. He inspired me; and he inspired, I think, millions of people across the planet to change the course of their lives.

So it has been a great honor for me and for all of the rest of our delegation to be able to work with him. It is an especially great honor to have as our concluding speaker this evening, his son. His son, who is our colleague here

in the House of Representatives, who in and of himself is a great United States Congressman and who continues the Kennedy tradition of fighting for those causes that other people do not want to fight for and to bring the attention to those who are most in need of help in our country and in our world.

It is my great honor to recognize the great Congressman from the State of Rhode Island, PATRICK KENNEDY.

Mr. KENNEDY. I want to thank my good friend and colleague ED MARKEY for organizing this Special Order and all of my colleagues for the wonderful tribute that they've given my dad tonight. I will just say that he loved people in public life because they were willing to go out and face the elements and weather the scorn of public opinion in order to stand up for what they believed in. That's why he really admired political figures, and especially in a time where political figures aren't very revered. They're pretty much down at the bottom of the public opinion polls in terms of most professions.

But he knew what a difference it meant to have people of good faith and conviction be involved in the political process because he knew what a difference it made in terms of getting good policy done for the American people. He knew how easy it would be for most people to sit back and make criticisms from the sidelines, but it took a really special person to put themselves out and really sacrifice a big part of their lives because it takes enormous sacrifice of their private lives to be in the public life, especially today.

So he always really got so much energy out of the people that he served with. They were the ones that sustained him so much because he felt like he was part of a team effort. There is nothing that he loved more than being part of a team, whether it was playing sports or whether it was just being part of a family team, being part of a family. That was his politics. His politics was simple. It was being part of a group and making sure that nobody in the group was left behind. I think it's a great kind of a spirit that he brought to his politics. It was a family spirit that I saw over and over again in every issue that he faced. He wanted to treat everybody else the way he expected to be treated if he were a member of a family, and I was included.

He was brought up to believe that everybody had dignity and everybody had a place. You know, when I was growing up in my family, we all had a place. A lot has been said about his belief in everybody having an opportunity in society. Well, in an anecdotal way, I can tell you, in my life, he always made sure that I had an opportunity to participate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MINNICK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

REMEMBERING SENATOR KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I yield the time to my friend and colleague.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you. I just will conclude now because I know my friends and colleagues have their time to speak.

I would like to say to each and every one of the folks who spoke tonight, thank you for being here tonight to pay tribute to my father. To the folks on both sides of the aisle that have been so generous to me, it's a great thing, being part of this House, to have colleagues treat you as one of their own, as a part of a collegial family of sorts, in a professional way but also in a personal way.

The thing he loved so much about serving over in the Senate was the great friendships he developed there. I can tell you, having been through what I have been through in the last couple of weeks, I can appreciate personally what a difference it's made to have the friends that I've had in this Chamber be so supportive of me through this time. I want to thank all of my colleagues for their outpouring of support and affection from both sides of the aisle. It is in times like these where you really get to appreciate the fact that you work in a place where everybody appreciates and respects one another.

I think that is the thing my father would want most for our country right now, for people from very divergent points of view to respect one another and respect this country, which was founded on an appreciation for difference of opinion. The reason why he had worked so well across the aisle on so many occasions on important issues was because he understood that this country can't move forward unless people work together in good faith.

I think the thing that he found most distressing at any point in American history was when the country would stray from its foundation of believing that we could resolve our difficult problems through dialogue, because I think he knew personally, better than any other person in American history, what happens when people don't resolve their problems peacefully and, instead, resort to violence. I think that my dad is one of those people who believed in the democratic process. And at the end of the day, people saw what a difference his work made in their lives because of the work that he did within the democratic process, to make our country a better place for everybody to live in.

Even though he was from a different station in life from many people that he worked to help, he didn't look at it from the point of view of socioeconomic background. He looked at it from the point of view that we're all human beings, that we all have a spark

of divinity in us, and we all ought to treat each other with the same respect that we would want to be treated with ourselves. The golden rule, so to speak.

That's why it didn't matter what the issue was. He believed in fairness for everybody because he would want his family to be treated the same way he would want every other family to be treated. But there for the grace of God, he was lucky enough to come from a family that didn't have to worry about paying for health care, education, housing or a pension to retire. He just knew that if he had come from a different family, he would hope that he wouldn't have to worry about the basic necessities of life that too many Americans have to worry about.

And I respect that about him because through the power of example he showed me that you could be a person of conscience and really try to work to make the lives of those who didn't have it as well off as you better through the work that you did in public life. Through that, I think he showed himself as a patriot in more than one way. He not only wore the uniform of this country in the Army, but he wore the uniform in the sense that he fought in the Senate to advance the lives of people in this country through the policy work that he did as a United States Senator.

So, again, let me thank all my colleagues for their great tributes. I look forward to paying him the biggest tribute that we could pay, and that is to make sure that the promise of health care for all is a promise that we ultimately achieve in this session.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you for sharing that with us, PATRICK. Thank you for your service, and know that we love you.

Speaking of reaching across the aisle, I'm going to expose him as someone who had great love and affection for Ted Kennedy, your dad, and a wonderful guy for whom Senator Kennedy had the highest respect, even though they agreed on very little. That's the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank my friend from Massachusetts, Congressman DELAHUNT, for yielding. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their forbearance tonight in not strictly enforcing the time limits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

REMEMBERING SENATOR KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. This gives me a second opportunity to thank my colleagues for their forbearance tonight.

Senator Kennedy was a friend, as are members of his family, including his son PATRICK who is here tonight. It was