

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate shall now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes for the last time the senior Senator from Colorado.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island. I thank my great friend the majority leader, Senator REID, for his inspiration and for his leadership of this body and his love for this Nation. I think our journey together in many ways has been a similar journey because if you think about a man from Searchlight, NV, raised in the house where he was raised, raised in the circumstances in which he was raised, working in the mines and being essentially part of the poorest part of Nevada, and yet today he is serving in the Senate as majority leader, that is a pathway that illustrates the opportunity and promise of America.

For his support and his leadership, I will be forever grateful, and for the support from his family, Landra and Rory and all of his children as well. I admire him and admire them. I appreciate the comments that were so heartfelt from him, and I appreciate the comments as well from Senator MCCONNELL.

I thank my colleagues who are here this morning. I know almost everybody took off last night, so the Chamber is not exactly full this morning, but I see both Democrats and Republicans who came to hear me say the last few words I will say from this desk in the U.S. Senate.

Let me start out first by giving tribute to my family. My wonderful wife Hope, and my daughter Melinda, who is at Stanford, my daughter Andrea and my granddaughter who are in Denver today watching us on the Senate floor, they truly are the bedrock of my life. Without them I would not be here, and without them I would not have traveled the 64 counties of my great State of Colorado probably 20 times in the last 10 years because they were always there at my side since they were little, holding up balloons and walking parades and doing all the rest of the things it takes to become part of an elected office in such a large geographic area of Colorado. So today I say thank you, and I love you all very much.

I wish to pay tribute as well to my father Henry. As Senator REID described his history, it is a very true history. He was born into poverty and lived through a lot of sacrifice but always remembered the two most important things in his life, as my brother Congressman SALAZAR often says: No. 1, family; and No. 2, love for country. I think those two values guided him to

achieve what he still at the end of his life considered to be his greatest success, and that is that all eight of his children—all eight of his children—became first generation college graduates. So of my father Henry who taught me so many things about life, I will always be forever proud.

Within his family, as well as within my mother's family, if you look at the genealogy, which I will insert for the RECORD, we started back with Juan de Salazar who was born in 1520 and Juan de Salazar born in 1555, who became one of the original founders of the City of Sante Fe—the City of Holy Faith—NM, and then Jose Bernardo de Salazar. It goes on to the point where I am a 12th generation son of the southwest of New Mexico and Colorado. It is a history I am very proud of. It is a history that I hope is not forgotten. It is a history that for a long time was essentially shoved beneath the dust and was not given the illumination of its reality. I hope in some small part my role here in the Senate has been to give credence as well as to celebrate that history that makes us such a wonderful and diverse America. So I appreciate everything I received from my father's side. Yes, he was a proud soldier in World War II. He was a tough master as we grew up. He made us understand the importance of hard work. He had a strong sense of pride, a strong sense of community and giving back, and a strong sense of love for his family.

My mother Emma likewise in so many ways was a strong spiritual person whom I still today call Saint Emma. I call her Saint Emma because nothing can even shake her from her roots. She is who she is. She has a great faith. She is not afraid to live or die. I remember many times in my life, including the death of my oldest brother Leandro, my mother was the one who held the family together after a tragic accident on our ranch back in 1992. To her selfless—completely selfless—love which she has taught the world and has taught my family, I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

I often have asked my mother: Is there a single person in the world you do not like, or is there a single person in the world you hate? My mother will think about it for a minute, and she will say no. She says: I love everybody. Just as she loves everybody, everybody loves her. So I thank her for her faith and all that she has taught us.

To my brothers and sisters—there are seven of us still left. My oldest brother Leandro, who passed away, taught us a lot about history and about the culture of our community. I remember his days working with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers and then coming back to the ranch and farming and working with us for so long. He is and always will be my hero. I miss him.

To all the rest of my brothers and to my sisters, they have all been the bedrock also of my successes. Today, here

on the floor of the Senate, as I give my farewell address, I have the honor of being joined by Congressman JOHN SALAZAR, who is a Congressman for the Third Congressional District which covers about 65 percent of the State of Colorado. Congressman SALAZAR, in his own way, is a personification of many things that my family stands for. If you look at his history and his profile, he is a farmer, he is a soldier and veteran, he is a businessman. He knows issues such as water. He knows and has taught me so much. As he and I have grown up together, being here in Washington with him has been one of the highlights of my entire life.

I wish to also thank all of my colleagues here, and I will say just a few specific words about them in a few minutes.

In early February, the Senate selects a Member to perform its oldest non-legislative tradition, the reader of George Washington's Farewell Address on the floor of the Senate. In 2006, Senator HARRY REID, the majority leader, gave me the honor of doing that reading. I think Washington's famous words are important for us to remember at this time of transformation in America. In his farewell to public life in 1796, Washington warned us of the dangers of partisanship, of geographic sectionalism, and the politics of division. Washington said:

We are one Nation. With slight shades of differences you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Washington's Farewell Address is a message to be reborn today. In this moment, in this time, with the inauguration next Tuesday, with this body in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, there is a new hope, with a growing sense that we are all in this together, and we are again becoming the one Nation the first President of the United States of America imagined.

Our next President, Barack Obama, embodies this historic change. He is asking us not to think of ourselves first as red States and blue States but as Americans first, with obligations of service to one another. We can solve our problems, no matter how difficult they are. We can reach the horizon of human possibilities no matter how difficult it might seem, but in order to do that, we must all work together. It is in this spirit of collaboration—of Nation before party, of compromise, of results-driven government—that Americans believe we can get it done this time.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all of you in this Chamber who have guided me in our work over the last several years. I wish to comment specifically just on four or five areas I am very proud of that we have worked on together in the Senate.

The first is about the forgotten America and the work we have done together to make sure the rural part of America that has so often been forgotten is no longer forgotten. When you look at the United States of America, the fact is, there are about 3,000 counties. About 1,700 of those counties are characterized as rural, and in each of those counties, we have significant unemployment. We have income disparities of some \$10,000 per capita between people who live in those rural counties and the people who don't live in those rural counties. So it has been important for us to address the issues and needs of rural America. We have done that in some significant ways. The passage of the farm bill, which we ultimately had to pass out of this Senate, I think, on three or four different occasions during the last year, was a culmination of that promise to the forgotten America.

I wish to thank Senator REID for making sure we kept our feet to the fire to get that bill done. I wish to thank the people who were involved in that legislation, including the chairman of the committee, Senator TOM HARKIN; our ranking member, the great Senator from Georgia, SAXBY CHAMBLISS; as well as KENT CONRAD and others who were involved in that historic effort, including all of the members of the Agriculture Committee.

Secondly, the creation of a new energy frontier. There were many of us, including some of us who are on the Senate floor this morning, who set about some 4 years ago with a vision that we could set America free; that we could deal with the reality of the inescapable forces of our time of national security and economic opportunity at home and environmental security for our planet; and that we could set America free from our addiction to foreign oil. Under the leadership of Senator BINGAMAN from New Mexico as chairman of the committee, and the work of Senator Pete Domenici and other members of the Senate Energy Committee, I believe we have taken some steps in that direction which are very significant. There is much more we must do, and we are absolutely committed to making sure we take the moon shot to energy independence in the years ahead. Of this I am confident: this time we will not fail. We cannot afford to fail in the energy imperative for our Nation.

I thank all of my colleagues with whom I have worked on the Senate Energy Committee. I also wish to thank every Member of this Chamber who has worked to make sure America's defenses remain strong and that we protect America at home through homeland security efforts and the implementation and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and the efforts we have worked on together in this Chamber to give the United States of America a new direction with respect to the war in Iraq.

It is because of the debates that have taken place in this Chamber that today we are on a new pathway and new plan in Iraq. As divisive as those debates have been, I am confident that the people who worked on that issue had the best interests of the United States of America in mind.

It is in that vein that I enjoyed very much the work I did with many Senate Democrats and Republicans in trying to craft the legislation that implemented the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Sixteen Members of the Senate joined us in that legislation. Because that legislation really created the roadmap for where we are in Iraq today, I am pleased with the work I was able to do in that effort.

I will never forget the fact that Senator LEVIN, Senator WARNER, and Senator REID were among the first people who took me to that place in the Middle East, places I had never traveled to before, right into Baghdad, to places around that country. It was information I gleaned from those trips that helped me participate in one of the debates of our time that characterizes the last 4 or 5 years in America.

I wish to make a quick comment about health care. There are many people who have worked on this issue over time. I do think that what we were able to do with the Children's Health Insurance Program and the passage of that bill last year demonstrates how Republicans and Democrats can come together. When I see an ORRIN HATCH and a MAX BAUCUS working together to move forward with legislation that is so enormously important for the children of America, it is the right step for us as we try to deal with this enormous domestic problem that faces all of us. And there have been so many people who have been involved in those efforts.

Finally, I have spent a lot of time in this Chamber at this desk and my other desk working on the issue of immigration. It is an issue which, frankly, still continues to call out in a very clarion and clear voice that we must get to a resolution with respect to this issue because it affects so much. It affects our national security, it affects whether we really are a Nation of laws, and it affects the reality of 12 million people who live in the shadows of America today. I am hopeful that with President Obama's leadership, the leadership of the Senate, and the leadership of the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats coming together, this is an issue we will finally resolve in the year ahead.

As I conclude, I want to make one more tribute to Senator HARRY REID. We both are men of faith, and we often share our faith together. He encouraged me, along with Senator MARK PRYOR, to be a part of the Wednesday Prayer Breakfast in the Senate. I was proud to chair that breakfast with MARK PRYOR over the last several years and with my colleague, Senator MIKE ENZI.

I appreciate the fact that among those of us who attended that Prayer Breakfast, I am certain that among the 100 Members of the Senate, there is a great common sense that the possibilities of humanity are somehow achievable to all of us, that it is we as human beings who somehow stand in the way of finding what those human possibilities are for all of humanity.

I think back to a story some of you have heard of my grandmother who lost five of her eight children before those children reached the age of 5 years old. I always ask myself: What is it that kept her going? At the end of the day, my answer to my question has been that what kept her going was the fact that she had a faith in the future, that somehow around the corner, in a future she could not see, the world would be much better for her children and for her grandchildren. For sure she could not have seen that the eight surviving children of her only son would all graduate from high school. I am sure she could not foresee that one would become a U.S. Senator, another a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. What she could see was the world would be better for humanity. It is a common bond for Members of this august, wonderful Chamber of the U.S. Senate.

As I close, I want to share the prayer that I have shared with Senator REID and many of my colleagues in this Chamber before. It is a prayer that my brother, Leandro, the oldest in the family, learned when he worked with Cesar Chavez, the founder of the United Farm Workers of America. In many ways, I believe this prayer embodies what we do in public service.

The prayer is as follows:

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.
Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.
Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.
Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.
Give me honesty and patience;
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.
Let the spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.
Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.
Help us love even those who hate us;
So we can change the world.

Mr. President, one thing I forgot to say. The 5 million people of the State of Colorado have give me a great honor to serve as their attorney general and to serve on their behalf. I will submit for the RECORD some of the work we have done in the representation of all of the 5 million people of the State of Colorado. No matter where they were from, no matter what their economic circumstance, they knew we were working on their behalf.

I am elated that Senator MARK UDALL has joined us in the Senate because I am absolutely confident he will become one of the stellar Senators of this body.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the genealogy chart of my family and a list of the wonderful DC and Colorado staff.

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

DESCENDANTS OF CAPITÁN JUAN DE SALAZAR

Juan de Salazar, Conquistador, born 1520, became a Noble in 1543.

Juan de Salazar, Conquistador and founder of Santa Fe, born 1559. José Bernardo de Salazar, born in 1595. Francisco de Salazar, born in 1630. José Juan de Salazar, born 1670. Enrique de Salazar, born 1700. Demetrio de Salazar, born 1750.

Julián de Salazar, born 1780; María de las Mercedes de Sandoval.

Francisco Estéban de Salazar y de Sandoval, born 1800; María del Carmen Valdez.

Eusebio Salazar, born March 9, 1849; Amadeo García, born 1859.

Juan Bautista Salazar, born June 24, 1894; Antonia Cantú, born 1884.

Henry S. Salazar, born March 10, 1916; Emma M. Montoya, born April 23, 1922.

Leandro, LeRoy, John, Ken, Elaine, Margaret, Elliott, and June.

DC STAFF

Black, Steve, Leg Counsel; Dunham, Ian, Leg Aide; Ibarra, Beatriz, Leg Counsel; Johnson, Aya, Leg Aide; Koehler, Jim, Legislative Asst; Lane, Jeff, Chief of Staff; Leahy, Andrew, Leg Aide; Lee-Ashley, Matt, Communications Dir; Leslie, Grant, Legislative Dir; Mitchell, Sam, Legislative Asst; Nieters Su, Piper, Leg Counsel; Olsen, Tommy, Deputy Press Sec; Padilla, Joan, Scheduler; Paladino, Emily, Legislative Asst; Perko, Mary, Administrative Dir; Phillips, Jeffrey, Spec Asst for Const Ser; Plumb, John, Legislative Asst; Reis, Ariane, Legislative Aide; Scott, Denise, Spec Asst for Const Ser; Squarrell, Elena, Asst Scheduler; Terry, Anne, Systems Admin; Ulrich, Elaine, Legislative Fellow.

COLORADO STAFF

Amodeo, Michael, Press Secretary; Bobicki, Charlotte, Regional Rep/Ala; Brown, Ann, Regional Dir/Dur; Giron, Angela, Regional Rep/CS; Corwin, Meg, Regional Dir/FtC; Fagan, Renny, State Director; Fetcher, Jay, Regional Rep/GJ; Gardner, Dwight, Regional Dir/PU; Joslyn, Angela, Regional Rep/CS; Kareus, Trudy, Regional Dir/GJ; Kessler, Zane, Community Liaison/Den; Lane, Ken, Senior Counsel; McGraw, Mac, Regional Rep/FtM; See, Randy, Regional Rep/GJ; Milliner, Bennie, Community Liaison/Den; Montoya, Pres, replacement Regional Rep/FtC; Oatman-Gardner, Annie, Regional Dir/CS; Otero, Jerry, Regional Rep/GJ; Pacheco, Romaine, Statewide Dir/Constit Ser; Schwantes, Lisa, Regional Rep/DU; Serenil, Eva, Community Liaison/Den; Sepulveda, Catherine, Staff Asst/CS; Sweeney, Betty, Community Liaison/Den; Tesky, Jonathan, Staff Asst/Den; Wallick, Velina, Scheduler/Den.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank my wonderful staff, many of whom are here today, some of whom are watching back in Colorado, for having made this possible. Without their great effort, frankly, we would not be able to do what we have done. I thank them.

I thank my good friend, the Presiding Officer. I look forward to our continuing to work together.

I yield the floor.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise simply to say a few words of personal tribute to our dear friend, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, who has just spoken so beautifully.

We are going to miss this man. He has only been here 4 years, but he has made an extraordinary contribution to the Senate and to our country. I first got to know KEN SALAZAR in 2000 when I had the honor to be the Vice Presidential candidate for the Democratic Party and went to Colorado. I could see at the first meeting at which I met him—I had an instantaneous reaction to him—that this was a person of strength, of warmth, of character, of purpose. Every day I have known Senator SALAZAR since then has only deepened those feelings about him. You can feel all his strength and all of his purpose and all of his faith and all of his passion and all of his humility as you listen to this final statement he just made on the Senate floor.

I love the fact that one of the last items Senator SALAZAR asked was unanimous consent to print in the RECORD his family genealogy because it speaks not only to his extraordinary history and greatness but to the greatness of our country.

It is, obviously, a fact that the Hispanic-American population has grown and is growing significantly in our country. I have been with KEN on a few occasions, I say to Senator REID, when people have said: You are Mexican-American. When did your family come to this country? And they are expecting to hear 20 years ago, 50 years ago, maybe 90 years ago. And KEN will say with that quiet strength: My family came here in the 16th century. The 16th century, before the Pilgrims came. It reminds us of a history which, as Senator SALAZAR said, was for a long time suppressed. But the Hispanic, Mexican-American contribution to America is long, it is deep, it is proud, it is strong, and it will continue to grow.

Senator SALAZAR was raised in a tradition, like so many of us, where we were told by our parents that to be a good American, you don't have to assimilate or homogenize. You contribute to our country by being who you are and what you are. In the diversity of this great country, we gain more strength. That has certainly been true of the Mexican-American community, and it is particularly true of this great American.

Senator SALAZAR talked about his faith, about his family, about the love of country he learned from his parents. This man is, in so many ways, the quintessential American. He brings this unique cultural heritage of his roots, family roots, way back in Mexico, but he combines those with the values we associate with the American West, the love of the land, individualism, a sense of honor, a sense of confidence that has become so much a

part of the American character. And he added to that, which is where it all begins, as he believes and I believe and most of us believe, with faith, that we are here for a purpose, that our existence here is not an accident, and that we have a series of values that come from our faith which are expressed in the founding American documents and lead us forward.

Senator SALAZAR served our Nation brilliantly in this 4 years he has been in the Senate. What a thrill to have met KEN in 2000 and to have played some small part in having him come here and then to have him as a colleague—as Senator REID said so well, to watch the role he has played. He is a doer. He did not come to make speeches. He makes a very good speech, as we just heard. He came to get things done for the people of Colorado and for the people of America, and he has done that over and over again.

In the so-called nuclear option, I always viewed it as the integrity of the Supreme Court selection process. Senator REID referred to my own recent situation. Senator SALAZAR came forward, a dear friend, incredible across the entire Senate—in this case, the Senate Democratic caucus—and just on my behalf and on behalf of what he thought was right, created a path forward that made me feel great—I can say that personally—but I hope also and I believe facilitated a path forward and reconciliation within the Democratic caucus. Obviously, it would not have happened without Senator REID. That was extremely constructive.

It was a tough decision for Senator SALAZAR to leave the Senate. It is a tough one for us to see him go because he is unique here. But he has responded to the call to serve our country. He will play an extraordinarily important role as a true American environmentalist, a lover of the land, in preserving all that the Interior Department oversees that is America's great natural gift from God—the land. He will also, in a very thoughtful way, play a central role in one of the most significant transformations American Government has made in a long time, which is to turn us toward energy independence and a cleaner, more reliable source of American energy.

I wish him well. The only comfort in seeing him leave the Senate is that he is only going down the street a bit. We know he will be here to work with us.

I cannot think of a better way to end this simple tribute to a dear friend and a great American than to say that over the years we have come to know each other, both greeted each other and at moments of challenge said a particular two words to one another and then said goodbye to each other with these two words in which we have joined our respective ethnic heritages. And the two words that I say to you, dear friend, fellow colleague, as you leave the Senate to serve our country as Secretary of the Interior, and with my confidence that will not be the end of your service

to our country but will go on, in my opinion, higher and higher, those two words bringing our two ethnic heritages together are "Viva chutzpah." God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I, too, rise to commend and thank the Senator from Colorado for his extraordinary service to the Senate, to the people of Colorado, and to the United States of America. He is a consummate gentleman. He brought to this Chamber great judgment and great passion to provide opportunity for all our citizens. He also brought the distinctive values of his State of Colorado—a rough sense of individuality, coupled with a commitment to building community; not just an isolated group of people but a community of citizens—and these values have been extraordinarily important to us. His friendship and his leadership have been extraordinarily important to all of us.

I see the Presiding Officer is my colleague and friend from Rhode Island, and as he pointed out a few days ago, they were both attorneys general together: Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, of course, and Senator SALAZAR for the State of Colorado. But we were all together in Rhode Island, and I was reflecting, Ken, I don't know what the Department of the Interior has to do with Rhode Island. OK, the Outer Continental Shelf. There is a reason for my tribute.

But we were there together at an event, and Senator Pell, our dear colleague, came. He was frail and ailing, but immediately Senator SALAZAR rushed over to him to say: Thank you, Senator Pell. Because as he told us, the fact is he and his brother, now in the Congress, and other family members were able to go to college because of the Pell grant. That spirit of opportunity, of giving Americans a chance, and then standing back and letting them do remarkable things, embodied the Pell grant and so many other programs. That is what not only prepared you for the Senate but gave you the vision to do all you have done to help your constituents and the people of this country to see the opportunity which is America.

You and your family have been in Colorado for five generations. I feel like a recent arrival. My folks got here from Ireland in 1850. So from a new American, a new American to an old established family: Thank you for your service; thank you for your friendship. Good luck, Mr. Secretary.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I didn't intend to say anything about our friend, KEN SALAZAR today, but in listening to his remarks and knowing the contribution he has made around here in 4 short years, I couldn't resist. I am

sure the Presiding Officer, if he wasn't presiding, would come down and do the same thing.

I first met Senator SALAZAR before he was a Senator; in fact, as we were getting sworn in as attorneys general together, probably in December of 1998, if I remember correctly. We both had been elected to our offices of attorney general in November of 1998, and we went to a National Association of Attorneys General meeting. We immediately bonded. It was very clear and very evident to everyone there that he had the right stuff to be a great attorney general. It turned out he was a great attorney general for the State of Colorado.

I encouraged him to come to the Senate when Senator Campbell announced his retirement, and I think it was probably the best thing I have done since I have been in the Senate was to try to get KEN SALAZAR to come here.

You know, when I think back about our Founding Fathers and how they designed the Senate and how I think they envisioned the Senate should work, they had in mind a person such as KEN SALAZAR to be in this body. They probably couldn't even imagine that Colorado would become a State. I mean, they probably couldn't even fathom the way this country would grow and change over the decades and centuries. But I think when they set up the Senate, they wanted people with intelligence, work ethic, character, and people who could put their personal views aside for the greater good. That is what we have in KEN SALAZAR. He is all those things.

He has been a Senator's Senator for the last 4 years he has been in Washington. I know his brother JOHN is here. I know JOHN is very proud of him, and I know the State of Colorado is very proud of the work he has done. And they should be because there is a lot to be proud about with Senator KEN SALAZAR.

I know all 100 of us couldn't be here today. We have some committee hearings going on, and we also have the inauguration coming Tuesday, so people are kind of bracing themselves and preparing for all of that. But if all 100 were here, I think you would have 99 people stand up and basically say what some of us have already said; that he has been an extraordinary Senator, an extraordinary person, and he has had a great impact in his short time in the Senate.

One last thing, on a personal note. One of the things I love about KEN SALAZAR as a person is his deep and very serious faith. I asked him to come in and chair the Senate Prayer Breakfast, which he took to new heights. He expanded the number of people who were coming to that. He was great. He chaired the National Prayer Breakfast for a year, and I think they probably set a record that year for attendance and in the quality of the speakers they had that year. So he has had not just a political and governmental influence

but an even broader and deeper influence.

Senator SALAZAR, we are going to miss you very much. We all love you, and we all know you are going to do great things at Interior. We know there are a lot of challenges America is facing right now, but we know you are part of the solution. God has called you to be where you are going right now. So thank you for your service, and we are going to dearly miss you in this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I, first, thank you for your courtesy in volunteering to take over the duties of Presiding Officer for a moment so I could be relieved of those duties and come to my desk and have the chance to say something about a very dear friend whom we will miss enormously. I know we have something very important happening in a few minutes, so I will speak very briefly, but I don't want to let this opportunity pass.

We had an energetic group of freshmen Senators come in 2 years ago, and we found KEN was feeling kind of lonely because his class had been sort of a bit smaller than ours. So we sort of adopted him into our group. He has been kind of a big brother to all of us. I have had the privilege of knowing him as an attorney general, and I will not belabor the point, but what people have said about him as a peacemaker, about him as a friend, and about him as somebody who cares deeply about the duty of public service, I can attest to firsthand from many years of experience.

So I will only say we will miss you very deeply. We are enormously confident in you. The Department of the Interior is lucky to have you, President-elect Obama is fortunate to have you join his Cabinet, and we wish you Godspeed, my friend.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am so honored to be here with my friend, KEN SALAZAR. When I think about KEN SALAZAR, I think about KEN SALAZAR in Colorado in his beautiful mountains, and I think of the idea of him going to be the head of the Department of the Interior is something that is a gift to this country.

But I wish to tell one story about KEN. He and I were in Colorado together, out there for Barack Obama, and they had a big RV with the President-elect's picture on it. And KEN SALAZAR is the only Senator who would insist on driving the RV on his own. He did it in style, with his big cowboy hat on. There we were, in the middle of the mountains on this winding road, when all of a sudden we see flashing lights behind us. Sure enough, we were being

pulled over. There were 20 people in this RV and a caravan of media behind us. KEN was as calm as he could be. He pulled over to the side of the road, the deputy comes up—with his big cowboy hat on—and KEN rolls down the window and says: Can I help you?

Of course, we think he is getting a ticket for speeding, and he was ready to accept whatever this was. But the deputy says: Sir, your license tabs are in the wrong corner.

And so KEN said: Oh, so sorry. And he gets out with this deputy looking on and with the caravan of media behind with all the cameras, and a press guy yelling: This is off the record.

So KEN's picture is there in the Denver Post trying to change his license tabs around the corners.

But it was KEN SALAZAR who wanted to have that moment and that freedom of driving through the mountains of Colorado at whatever the cost, and he will be a true tribute to his home State and to this country.

I am taking over the Prayer Breakfast from KEN, and I have seen firsthand his great faith in God but also the faith he has in his family, whom I see here, and the people of this country. We are all very lucky to have him, though we will miss him as a mentor and friend in the Senate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to strongly support my friend and colleague, Senator KEN SALAZAR, as President-elect Obama's choice to lead the Department of the Interior.

For reasons I will explain shortly, I believe this man—a fifth generation son of the West whose ancestors settled Santa Fe before America gained independence—is uniquely qualified and experienced to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I am very proud to have served the State of Colorado with him. He is an outstanding public servant and he will make an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

Our colleagues in the Senate are well aware of Senator SALAZAR's excellent record of leadership here—he has worked across the aisle and with diverse stakeholders on many issues ranging from health care to national security.

As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, KEN has worked to extend critical renewable energy tax credits, protect our natural resources and encourage environmentally responsible development of domestic energy sources. I've been proud to work with him on a wide range of issues, including protection of our public lands and water resources in Colorado. I'm especially proud of our work together to pass legislation that allowed a lovely older woman, Betty Dick, to pass her final days in peace on land she treasured at the Rocky Mountain National Park.

KEN, I think Betty would be proud of you today too.

Even before his time in the Senate, KEN has been a recognized leader in the

West. As a farmer and rancher, KEN has always had a close relationship with the land and with rural communities. He has spoken eloquently about what he calls "the forgotten America" and he has been a steadfast champion of the land, water and people of the West.

As the executive director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources, KEN used his unique background and experience to protect the environment and Colorado's communities, educate youth about our natural resources, and defend Colorado's water.

He helped create Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, and led it to become one of the most successful land conservation programs in the country.

While serving as Colorado's Attorney General, KEN worked to make our communities safer and address gang violence. He also led efforts to preserve open space during his two terms as Attorney General, where he was well-known as a champion of the natural environment.

KEN will bring his rural values—hard work, honesty, and integrity—to the Department of Interior and help address the many challenges facing this Department. From addressing Interior's ethical lapses to tackling our country's lack of transmission infrastructure, KEN will work hard to put the Department of the Interior back on the right track.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Senator SALAZAR's family and, in particular, his mother, Emma. Like her sons, she is a remarkable Coloradan. I had the opportunity to visit her at the Salazar ranch, Los Rincones, last year.

And if her son, KEN, demonstrates the same indomitable spirit, strength of character and wisdom of his mother—and I believe he will he should be an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Senator SALAZAR as the Secretary of the Interior.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

STATE OF DELAWARE
Executive Department
Dover

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Delaware, I, Ruth Ann Minner, the governor of said State do hereby appoint EDWARD E. KAUFMAN a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., is filled by election as provided by law.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State, at 5:22 p.m., this 15th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America Two Hundred Thirty-Two.

RUTH ANN MINNER,
Governor.
HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

Mr. KAUFMAN, escorted by Mr. BIDEN and Mr. CARPER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Thank you very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. On behalf of all Senators, I congratulate and welcome our new colleague, TED KAUFMAN, to the Senate. Senator KAUFMAN earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University, his MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He moved to Delaware to work for the DuPont Company, as many people have done over the years, working in finance, technical, and marketing positions.

When JOE BIDEN was elected at the age of 29, in 1973, Senator BIDEN asked TED to take a leave from DuPont to help him set up his new office in Washington. Senator BIDEN asked TED for 1 year, only 1 year. He, of course, has given him a lot more than that.

This is a remarkable tenure. It shows TED KAUFMAN's extraordinary loyalty to the service of his country by working for Senator BIDEN.

There is only one JOE BIDEN. Senator KAUFMAN will replace him, but no one will ever fill the shoes of JOE BIDEN. As was said on this floor yesterday at great length, JOE BIDEN is a unique individual. But Senator KAUFMAN has known Senator BIDEN for a long time and worked with him, up real close. He