

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Committee on Rules and Administration will be providing its hearing room, SR-301, to the impeachment committee for an organizational meeting at a time to be determined.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will take further proper order and notify the House of Representatives and counsel for Judge Kent.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask in an orderly fashion that Senators approach the desk for the signing of the resolution of impeachment before they leave the Chamber.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 11 o'clock today, there will be a vote on the nomination of Mr. Koh, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. I tell all Senators I had a conversation with the Republican leader today. We are doing our best to move to a couple appropriations bills. The first in line is the Legislative Branch appropriations bill, and the next is Homeland Security. We hope we can get on those. The Republican leader said he would do his best to help us do that. I hope that, in fact, is the case. We will keep Members advised as to what we will do the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF HAROLD HONGJU KOH TO BE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I will consume. I intend to yield time to Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator FEINGOLD.

Mr. President, I rise in very strong support of the nomination of Dean Harold Koh to be the Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State. This nomination is, in fact, overdue.

Dean Koh is one of the foremost legal scholars in the country and a man of the highest intellect, integrity, and character. He received a law degree from Harvard, where he was an editor of the Law Review, with two master's degrees from Oxford University where he was a Marshall Scholar.

He clerked on both the DC Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served with distinction in both Democratic and Republican administrations, beginning his career in government in the Office of Legal Counsel in the Reagan era.

I think everybody who has dealt with him and has worked with him on a personal level understands the skill Dean Koh would bring to this job. He has worked with the State Department on a firsthand basis. He served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in the Clinton administration—a post for which he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 1998.

He left government to teach at Yale Law School, and he went on to serve as dean until his nomination to serve in the current administration. As a renowned scholar and a leading expert on international law, he has published or coauthored eight books and over 150 articles.

Throughout his career, Dean Koh has been a fierce defender of the rule of law and human rights. He understands that the United States benefits as much if not more than any other country from an international system of law where we are governed by the rule of law.

At the same time, his personal commitment to America's security and to the defense of our Constitution are indisputable. Accusations that his views on international or foreign law would somehow undermine the Constitution are simply unjustified and unfounded—completely and totally. As Dean Koh explained in response to a question from Senator LUGAR, who supports his nomination, he said:

My family settled here in part to escape from oppressive foreign law, and it was America's law and commitment to human rights that drew us here and have given me every privilege in my life that I enjoy. My life's work represents the lessons learned from that experience. Throughout my career, both in and out of government, I have argued that the U.S. Constitution is the ultimate controlling law in the United States and that the Constitution directs whether and to what extent international law should guide courts and policymakers.

So while disagreements on legal theory are obviously legitimate, I regret that some of the accusations and insinuations against Dean Koh have simply gone over any line of reasonableness or decency. Some people have actually alleged that Dean Koh supports the imposition of Islamic Shariah law in America, which it just begs any notion of relevance to what is rational.

Some have questioned Dean Koh for allegedly supporting suits against Bush administration officials involved in abusive interrogation techniques. Well, this is a matter for the Justice Department that he will have no role in as Legal Adviser of the State Department.

Others have actually gone so far as to claim—believe it or not—that he is against Mother's Day. I am happy his mother was at the hearing. He pointed to her and had to go so far as to actually deny that, which is rather extraordinary.

Dean Koh deserves a better debate than he has been given thus far, and all of us are done a disservice when the debate gets diverted to some of the accusations we have heard in this case.

Regardless of any policy differences, everyone in the Senate ought to be able to agree on Dean Koh's obvious competence. We have received an outpouring of support for this nomination from all corners, including from over 600 law professors, over 100 law school deans, over 40 members of the clergy, 7 former State Department Legal Advisers—including the past two Legal Advisers from the Bush administration—and many others.

Perhaps most remarkable has been the enthusiastic support for Dean Koh from those who do not agree with him on some issues who have spoken out on his behalf, including former Solicitor General Ted Olson and former White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten. No less a conservative legal authority than Ken Starr wrote:

The President's nomination of Harold Koh deserves to be honored and respected. For our part as Americans who love our country, we should be grateful that such an extraordinarily talented lawyer and scholar is willing to leave the deanship at his beloved Yale Law School and take on this important but sacrificial form of service to our Nation.

So I think that says it all. That is the kind of Legal Adviser we need at the State Department. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination and to vote for cloture on this nomination.

Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining on our side? At least another 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 3 minutes 40 seconds remaining.

Mr. KERRY. That is the total time we have available?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the total time remaining controlled by the majority.

Mr. KERRY. I divide it evenly between Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator FEINGOLD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of the nomination of Harold Koh to be Legal Adviser at the Department of State.

I have known Harold Koh for many years, as a friend and as a neighbor in New Haven, and there is no doubt in my mind that he is a profoundly qualified choice for this important position, and deserving of confirmation.

To state the obvious, Harold is a brilliant scholar and one of America's foremost experts on international law. He also has a distinguished record of service in our government, having worked in both Democratic and Republican administrations and consistently won the highest regard from people across the political spectrum.

However, Harold Koh will bring to this position a deep devotion to our country and an appreciation of the fundamental values for which we stand, drawn from his own personal experience and the experience of his family.

Harold's parents came to this country, like so many before and since, fleeing the evils of dictatorship and seeking freedom. It was this experience that helped forge in Harold his lifelong commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

Harold has of course been a prolific scholar, having authored or coauthored 8 books and more than 150 articles. And in the course of his long academic career, he has quite often exercised his right of free speech.

To tell the truth, there have been occasions when Harold has said or written things that I personally don't agree with. And although he is too gracious to say so, I am sure there have been occasions when I have said or done things that Harold has not agreed with.

But this has never interrupted my respect for Harold—for his intelligence and his integrity, nor I have any doubt about Harold's love for our great nation and its values, and his commitment to uphold our Constitution. To use a word we do not use enough anymore, Harold Koh is a true American patriot who will put our country and our Constitution first.

It is also worth noting that no one who has ever worked with Harold has offered anything but praise for him personally and support for his nomination. In fact, his nomination has attracted a remarkable bipartisan coalition of supporters, including Ted Olson, Ken Starr, and Josh Bolten.

These endorsements reflect the fact that, even those who might not always agree with Harold on every issue, nonetheless respect him enormously and feel he is profoundly qualified to serve in this position.

There is a great deal that we debate in this chamber, but there is really no debate about the importance of the rule of law to our country. That is what Harold Koh's life and career have been all about, and it is that surpassing priority that he will bring to the position of Legal Adviser at the State Department.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support Harold Koh's nomination and to vote for his confirmation.

The cloture vote will occur at 11 o'clock, minutes from now. I speak from a real depth and personal experience with Harold Koh. I know him and have known him for years as a friend and a neighbor in Connecticut. Based

on that and all of his professional work, there is no doubt in my mind that he is profoundly qualified to occupy this important position as Legal Adviser at the Department of State. He is a brilliant scholar. He is one of America's foremost experts on international law. He actually is qualified to be the Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State. He has a distinguished record of service in our government, having worked in both Democratic and Republican administrations. He has consistently won the highest regard from people across the political spectrum.

Harold Koh will bring to this position a deep devotion to our country and the appreciation of the fundamental values for which we stand, based on his personal status as the child of immigrants who came to this country, escaping dictatorship, seeking freedom, and contributing mightily to America.

Harold has been a prolific scholar in the course of his long academic career. He has fully exercised his right of free speech. To tell the truth, there have been occasions when Harold has said or written things that I personally don't agree with. Although he is too gracious to say so, I am sure there have been occasions on which I have centered on some things that Harold has not agreed with, but that has never interfered with my respect and admiration for him—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Connecticut has expired.

Mr. LIEBERMAN.—because I have always known, regardless of whether we agree or disagree, Harold Koh is committed to the United States of America, to the Constitution, and the rule of law. What more could we ask for a Legal Adviser to the Department of State.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am so pleased to rise today in strong support of the nomination of Harold Koh to be Legal Adviser at the State Department. I have known Dean Koh for more than 30 years, and I can say without any doubt he is an excellent choice for this position. I say that not just because he is one of my oldest friends but because he is one of the leading legal scholars in the country. He is extraordinarily qualified for this position.

Dean Koh is one of the most intelligent, ethical, and hard-working individuals I have ever encountered. He has spent his career of some 30 years working on public and private international law, national security law, and on human rights. Throughout that time, he has been committed to America's security and to defending our Constitution. He has dedicated his life to upholding the rule of law and strengthening American values.

During his confirmation hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dean Koh effectively responded

to all of the charges against him. He made clear that he understands that his role as legal counsel for the State Department would be different from that of an academic, that he would adhere to the constitutional laws of our land, and that of course he does not believe that foreign law can trump the Constitution.

There is no doubt in my mind that Dean Koh will candidly and objectively advise the Secretary of State on existing law, while also ensuring that she receives competent, objective, and honest advice on the legal consequences of her actions and decisions in an effort to support and advance the President's foreign policy agenda.

At the same time, Dean Koh will ensure respect for our national interests and our legal obligations. If confirmed, Dean Koh will serve our President, and this Nation, and defend the Constitution fully and faithfully.

We are long overdue in confirming Dean Koh. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of cloture so we can move expeditiously to an up or down vote and Dean Koh can begin his service as the State Department's Legal Adviser.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise reluctantly to speak against the nomination of Harold Koh to be the Legal Adviser to the State Department. I had a chance to explain some of the reasons yesterday, and for the benefit of our colleagues I wish to cover those and some additional concerns as well with a little more detail.

There is no question that Dean Koh is a brilliant lawyer and he has been a charming advocate for his promotion to this important position. However, I have concluded that he is not the right person for this job, because he has stated what I would consider to be radical views with regard to the role of the United States sovereignty relative to the rest of the world.

For example, he has advocated judges using treaties in customary international law, including treaties that the Senate has not ratified, to bind the United States. If that is not an erosion of U.S. sovereignty, I don't know what it is. Advocating that judges who take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States should instead look to international treaties as the source of that law, to me, is a radical and very fundamental shift in what I think most people would expect from our judges.

He said that Federal judges should use their power to "vertically enforce" or "domesticate" American law with international norms and foreign law. Do we want the top adviser at the State Department supporting the idea that international bodies and unelected Federal officials, not the Congress,

should be the ultimate lawmaking authority for the American people? I don't think so.

This has manifested itself in a number of ways. For example, in an interview that Dean Koh gave on May 10 for the "News Hour," he was asked about, for example, some of the interrogations that took place in places such as Guantanamo. He basically said that the U.S. forces, including our commanders and presumably the intelligence officials who actually conducted interrogations and detentions, violated the Geneva Conventions and should be held accountable for that. Does he believe that U.S. officials should be prosecuted and perhaps convicted of war crimes because they did what the American people asked them to do, consistent with the legal opinions from the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department?

As the Wall Street Journal points out today in an article called "The Pursuit of John Yoo"—I will read a couple of sentences from it:

Here's a political thought experiment: Imagine that terrorists stage an attack on U.S. soil in the next 4 years. In the recriminations afterward, Administration officials are sued by families of victims for having advised in legal memos that Guantanamo be closed and that interrogations of al-Qaida detainees be limited. Should these officials be personally liable for the advice they gave to President Obama?

The article goes on to say:

We'd say no, but that's exactly the kind of lawsuit that the political left, including State Department nominee Harold Koh, has encouraged against Bush administration officials.

Of course, it goes on to talk about the lawsuit brought by Jose Padilla, a convicted terrorist, against lawyers at the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department that is being encouraged, if not facilitated, by Harold Koh, the outgoing dean at the Yale Law School, the person who is being proposed for promotion as a Legal Adviser at the Justice Department.

I think his views, if they were confined to academia and to Yale Law School, would be one thing, but the thought that he would bring and put these what I would consider to be out-of-the-mainstream legal theories and approaches into action as a Legal Adviser at the State Department, to me is a frightening prospect.

He has also, in the course of his writings, taken very extreme views with regard to the second amendment to the Constitution of the United States, part of our Bill of Rights, the right to keep and bear arms. In 2002, and later in *Fordham Law Review* in May of 2003, he wrote an article called "The World Drowning In Guns" in which he argued for a global gun control regime. Do we want the top adviser at the State Department working through diplomatic circles to take away Americans' second amendment rights to the Constitution? I think not.

Third, Professor Koh in 2007 argued that foreign fighters, detainees held by

the U.S. Armed Forces anywhere in the world—not just at Guantanamo Bay—are entitled to habeas corpus review in U.S. Federal courts—in civilian courts—just as an American citizen would be, no matter where they were held. Do we want the top adviser at the State Department working to grant terrorists and enemy combatants more rights than they have ever had before under any court interpretation? I think not.

Perhaps most timely, Professor Koh appears to draw moral equivalence between the Iranian regime's political suppression and human rights abuses on the one hand, which we have been watching play out on television, and America's counterterrorism policies on the other hand. In 2007, he wrote:

The United States cannot stand on strong footing attacking Iran for "illegal detentions" when similar charges can be and have been lodged against our own government.

Do we want a Legal Adviser to the State Department who can't see the difference between America defending itself against terrorism and the brutal repression practiced by a theocratic dictatorship? I think not.

I am afraid that Dean Koh is just another in a line of radical nominees by this administration that the Senate should not confirm.

I think back to Don Johnson who was also nominated to the Office of Legal Counsel who said America is not at war post 9/11, and that instead of embracing the provisions of the Constitution that recognize the President's powers as Commander in Chief to protect the American people, we ought to instead resort to a paradigm that says, Well, this is a law enforcement matter. If it is a law enforcement matter, then you are not going to do anything to stop terrorist attacks before they occur; you are merely going to prosecute the terrorists after they kill innocent life.

Just like Don Johnson, who said we are not at war, Harold Koh has encouraged and facilitated the investigation and perhaps prosecution of American military personnel, and who knows who else, including lawyers who have provided legal advice, as well as perhaps the intelligence officials who relied on that advice to get actual intelligence that we have used to deter and indeed to defeat terrorist attacks on our own soil.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting against cloture on this nomination. Professor Koh may be an appropriate individual for some other job, but when our national security is at stake, and our role relative to the international community, whether we are going to subject ourselves not just to the U.S. Constitution and laws made by the elected representatives of the people here in the Congress but instead to international treaties and international common law that we have not agreed to and that the American people have not consented to, I think this is the wrong job for this nominee. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting against cloture.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to strongly support the nomination of Dean Koh for this position. I have known Dean Koh from his outstanding work at the Yale Law School and from his outstanding contribution as the dean of the Yale Law School. He comes to this position with an extraordinary educational background: summa cum laude of Harvard College, Oxford; Harvard Law School, cum laude. He has had a distinguished career with the Federal Government having served as Assistant Secretary of State from 1998 to 2001. He has done exemplary work at Yale. His father was the first Korean lawyer to study in the United States.

Yesterday, I spoke at some length about Dean Koh and inserted his extraordinary resume in the RECORD. It took many pages to list all of his honorary degrees, all of his publications, and all of his awards. When we search for the best and the brightest to come to Washington, Dean Koh is a perfect match for that description. If his nomination is to be rejected, it certainly will be a signal to people who have an interest in public service that they are better off not treading in these waters because the politics is so thick that even individuals of such extraordinary credentials can be rejected by the Senate.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this nomination. I have been in this body a while. I have never spoken with such enthusiasm or such determination for the confirmation of a nominee as I have for Dean Koh. I think he will do an outstanding job.

Certainly, the points that have been raised by the distinguished Senator from Texas are worthy of consideration, but there is no showing that any of those ideas will be followed to the extreme to the detriment of the United States, and his qualifications suggest he would be a great asset to the United States of America and the State Department.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undesignated Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

Harry Reid, Mark L. Pryor, Sheldon Whitehouse, Daniel K. Inouye, Russell D. Feingold, Christopher J. Dodd, Roland W. Burris, Richard Durbin, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Mark Udall, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Max Baucus, Jeff Merkley, Blanche L. Lincoln, Maria Cantwell, Byron L. Dorgan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Harold Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the State Department shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 212 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Akaka	Gregg	Murray
Alexander	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Hatch	Pryor
Begich	Inouye	Reed
Bennet	Johnson	Reid
Bingaman	Kaufman	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kerry	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Burris	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Snowe
Cardin	Lautenberg	Specter
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Lincoln	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lugar	Voivovich
Dorgan	Martinez	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Webb
Feingold	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Mikulski	

NAYS—31

Barrasso	DeMint	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Risch
Brownback	Graham	Roberts
Bunning	Grassley	Sessions
Burr	Hutchison	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Thune
Coburn	Isakson	Vitter
Corker	Johanns	Wicker
Cornyn	Kyl	
Crapo	McCain	

NOT VOTING—3

Byrd	Cochran	Kennedy
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 31. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No applause from the gallery is allowed.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business and that I be fol-

lowed by my colleague, Senator ISAKSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE GRUBE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an academic leader and a true public servant—Dr. Bruce Grube. A decade ago, Dr. Grube took the helm of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. At the end of this month, after 10 years on this job, he will leave Georgia Southern a bigger, better, and considerably richer university, both in terms of its endowment and in its academic achievements, than when he started.

His leadership has been robust. During Dr. Grube's tenure as President of Georgia Southern the school's enrollment has risen almost 23 percent. Nearly 18,000 students are proud to call Georgia Southern their academic home. And while freshman SAT scores were rising some 13 percent on his watch, the university was being catapulted into national prominence. During Dr. Grube's time as president, Georgia Southern was designated a Carnegie doctoral/research university, was featured in the U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges" guide, and was named one of the Nation's "Top 100 Best Values" in education by Kiplinger.

He also oversaw the creation of two new colleges specializing in information technology and public health, presided over a veritable building boom on campus, and brought Georgia Southern into the Internet age with distance learning courses.

Of all his remarkable achievements, perhaps the most significant is that in the decade of Dr. Grube's presidency, the amount of scholarships funded through the Georgia Southern Foundation has doubled. In 1999, the foundation's scholarships totaled \$644,000. In 2007, the foundation was able to award \$1.3 million to deserving scholars, many of whom may not have been able to start school or complete their degrees without that assistance. And Dr. Grube has led the way in doubling the university's endowment in 9 years' time.

In addition, he has overseen Georgia Southern's rise in the world of collegiate athletics. In the past decade, the Eagles' volleyball, softball, baseball, and golf teams have reached their respective NCAA tournaments. Its football team went to the FCS national championships, and its cheerleading squad captured the national title.

Georgia Southern and the entire university system will miss Dr. Grube's visionary leadership. Fortunately, this political scientist who got his start in the classroom won't be going far. After a little time off, he will return to Georgia Southern to teach in 2010.

Dr. Grube, we certainly wish you and your family the best. Your professional dedication to better education has made Georgia Southern and Georgia a

better place in which to live. I am proud to call you my good friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise with my colleague from Georgia, Senator CHAMBLISS, and pay tribute to my friend, Dr. Bruce Grube. A lot of times we stand on the floor and say "my friend," when it is a passing statement. Well, it is not for me. I met Dr. Grube in 1989, when he was named the 11th president of Georgia Southern University, and I was with him as recently as commencement last year.

He is a great leader in education in our State, and he will be missed. But he is both remembered and revered and there are three reasons I would like to talk about his distinguished career. No. 1, he did what is most important for college presidents to do—he raised the endowment of the university. In fact, he doubled the endowment of the university. And because of that, as Senator CHAMBLISS said, he doubled the number of scholarships going out to deserving Georgians to come to Georgia Southern University. That is No. 1.

No. 2, as a former chairman of a State board of education and one whose passion is education, I love what Dr. Grube did when he put in the First-Year Experience program at Georgia Southern University, a program designed to make the first-year experience a lasting experience so student retention improved at Georgia Southern and more kids who entered graduated. Since the inception of that program, retention at Georgia Southern University has gone from 66 percent of the freshman class to 81 percent of the freshman class—four out of five returning and getting their degree at Georgia Southern University.

No. 3, among everything else that a president of a university does in terms of responsibility, it is so important that they outreach to the community. When you go to Bulloch County in Statesboro, GA, if you are at Snooky's Restaurant for breakfast, Dr. Grube is there. If you are on campus in the middle of the day, interacting with students under the shade of a Georgia pine tree, Dr. Grube is there. If there is a charitable or benefit program in Bulloch County, Dr. Grube is there. He is the face of Georgia Southern University, and he will be missed—but only for a year because after a brief sabbatical he comes back to teach political science at Georgia Southern University. He returns to his roots, established in his doctorate degree at the University of Texas in political science and carried on for years to come as a distinguished professor of political science at Georgia Southern University.

I am proud to rise with my colleague, Senator CHAMBLISS, to pay tribute to a great Georgian, a great educator, and my personal friend, Dr. Bruce Grube.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.