

I recently—before Labor Day—visited Open M, a free health clinic in Akron, where I met Christine, who runs a small gift basket delivery business by herself but cannot afford health insurance. Fourteen years ago, while working, Christine was seriously injured in a car accident, leaving her with multiple knee surgeries, foot and back problems, and a cane to help her walk. She had to pay these expenses out of her pocket, draining her savings and compromising her economic security.

Last week, I spoke at the Center for Working Class Studies at Youngstown State University, one of the Nation's first and certainly one of the Nation's premier academic programs devoted to the many phases of the American worker—the factory worker in Lordstown or the home care nurse in Niles, the teacher in Youngstown or the truckdriver in Boardman. The center tells the story of working-class communities to a nation that it helped build.

Ohioans from across the Mahoning Valley showed up and listened while others told the story of working-class families struggling with the crushing costs of health care.

John from Champion, OH, described how his sick nephew lacks health insurance and cannot afford the neurologist he is supposed to see. He said that if health reform doesn't pass soon, his nephew probably won't live long enough to receive the care he so desperately needs.

Michelle from Youngstown asked the question at the root of all of the struggles that define the progressive labor movement. In her early thirties, she is one of the nearly 50 million Americans who are uninsured. She asked:

Isn't health reform a moral issue, where people in need and deserve care should have access to it?

The question of morality—whether coal miners' lives should be protected or food safety should be essential or the right to fair wages should be absolute—has long defined the labor movement's progressive mission.

The passing of Senator KENNEDY, a champion of the American worker, reminds all of us what government can, and should, do on behalf of American workers.

The history of our Nation shows that our workers helped transition our Nation from one industry to the next, driving innovation and creating economic prosperity for workers, communities, and industries, creating the middle class.

The history of our Nation shows that those who worked hard and played by the rules had something to show for it—a secure and good-paying job that supported their family and gave meaning to their community.

But today the American worker is confronted with economic challenges that threaten to undermine our economic security. Workers from Lorain to Wilmington, from Xenia to Zanesville, deserve a government that does more and does better for them.

Today President Obama and many in Congress are working to ensure workers be justly rewarded for their labor. As Ohioans understand, manufacturing recognizes the value of an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. We know that manufacturing is a ticket to the middle class. We know a strong middle class makes a stronger nation. That is why Americans deserve a manufacturing policy that works for them.

Manufacturing accounts for more than 10 percent of our entire economy and nearly three-fourths of our Nation's industrial research and development. Manufacturing jobs pay 20 percent more on average than service jobs. For every massive auto plant you see driving from east to west along the Ohio Turnpike, from Youngstown past Toledo, there are dozens of manufacturers making component parts and services for emerging industries in clean energy, aerospace, and biotechnology.

I applaud the administration's decision to tap Ron Bloom to direct a national strategy which will help manufacturers transition to the 21st century economy. It is not an easy task. It is one that requires hard work and progressive vision.

But in no uncertain terms, our Nation must establish a national policy to once again invest in our most important American asset—the American worker.

In the Economic Policy Subcommittee that I chair, we have looked at the elements of a national manufacturing strategy—investing in innovation, strengthening our component parts supply line, connecting workers with jobs in emerging industries, improving assistance for distressed communities, and revamping how our Nation does trade.

Done right, we can reinvest in our workers' capacity to build the next generation of technologies and rebuild our next generation of middle-class families.

Done right, we can create new industry, and we can create good-paying jobs and secure jobs.

Done right, we can ensure the future of our Nation's global economic competitiveness.

Let us honor the story of the American worker who built this country, who sustains our middle class by reinvesting in them. Labor Day is a time to honor a movement that respects the dignity of work and reflects the decency and dedication of our workers.

This year's Labor Day comes at a historic time in the progressive labor movement's ongoing march toward economic security and a new era of productivity for our Nation.

Along with a national manufacturing policy, health insurance reform must be part of this Nation's legacy of giving meaning to workers and giving hope to the middle class.

The vote on health insurance reform will be, next to my vote in opposition to the Iraq war 6 years ago as a Mem-

ber of the House of Representatives, the most important vote I cast in this Chamber. I hope at this time next year I will be reading the stories of Ohio workers who live with the health care they deserve and the dignity they have earned.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RENO HIGH SCHOOL 130TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of the Senate to the 130th anniversary of Reno High School. Located in Washoe County, NV, Reno High School is the first and oldest high school in the city.

Until 1879, all Reno students went to school in a one-room building. That year they moved into a building officially named Central School, which gave high school-aged students their own floors. Though the school accommodated students from elementary through high school, it was often referred to as Reno High School throughout the community. In 1912, Reno's high school students moved into their own building and this school was properly dedicated as Reno High School.

I would like to take a moment to celebrate and cherish the rich history of Reno High School. It serves as a wonderful example of how a school can succeed through the hard work of its community members. Over the course of its history, Reno High School has educated thousands of bright individuals, cultivating their talent, and providing them with a nurturing environment in which to grow.

Notable alumni include U.S. Treasury Secretary Eva Adams, Pulitzer Prize winners Ann Telnaes and Warren LeRude, and Nevada State senator Bill Raggio. Its ranks also include a long list of local leaders who have made the Reno High School Alumni Association a robust organization, which now boasts the beautiful Link Piazza Alumni Center on campus. This freestanding building, completed in 2000, houses memorabilia dating back to Reno's earliest academic beginnings.

This school year begins by bringing students and alumni together in numerous events acknowledging the

school's heritage. Festivities will honor the school's legacy by looking at the past, the present, and the great memories in between. I am confident that Reno High School will continue to be a beacon of academic excellence in the State of Nevada, as it has been during the last 130 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, families, and proud alumni of Reno High School. The leadership, dedication, and enthusiasm you possess and share with the community help continue the school's legacy and make Nevada a better place to live.

NOMINATION OF CARMEN R. NAZARIO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, do not object to proceeding to the nomination of Carmen R. Nazario to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support of the Department of Health and Human Services, Calendar No. 304, dated September 8, 2009.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I rise to bid farewell to TED KENNEDY, a man who spent so many hours on this floor. It was here that he engaged in the cause that shaped his life, and now shapes our memories his commitment to everyday people in their pursuit of the American dream.

It is hard for me, as it is for all my colleagues, to imagine this place without TED KENNEDY. To serve here with him was a great honor. At the age of 14, I was already wearing a TED KENNEDY for President button. Then when I arrived here, this man, this lion of the Senate, was so friendly and funny and generous. He helped to teach me the ropes in the Senate, and I felt so fortunate to know him as a person, not just to admire him from afar.

He and his family are one of the reasons I stand here today. His work in the Senate, his brother John's call for a new generation to serve their country, and his brother Bobby's call for social justice all these inspired me to run for office to in some way serve my country as Senator KENNEDY and his family had. One of the greatest honors of my life was winning the Profiles in Courage Award with Senator MCCAIN, and being recognized by members of the Kennedy family for our work on campaign finance reform.

Having Senator KENNEDY there that day was part of what made that such an honor. There was no one else like him; he was truly one of a kind. Who else could be such a fierce advocate, and at the same time such a skilled negotiator? Who else could engage in such heated debate, but still count so many of us, on both sides of the aisle, as devoted friends? No one but TED KENNEDY could do that.

His qualities were legendary he was the hardest worker, he was the quickest debater, and he was the guy who lit up a room with his warmth and wit. It was all there in one extraordinary man, who became one of the greatest United States Senators in our Nation's history. Even putting aside TED's legendary personal qualities, his legislative record speaks volumes about how effective he was. It is a record for the ages, with hundreds of his legislative efforts becoming law.

His achievements in civil rights, education, health care, and workers' rights speak to the absolute commitment he had to the people he saw who struggled to live the American dream; the dedicated people who are the lifeblood of this country, but who struggle—especially in times like these—when they lose their job, or their health insurance or their home. In TED KENNEDY, those Americans found their champion, and we thank him for everything he achieved on their behalf.

I admired so many things TED KENNEDY did, but most of all I was inspired by his work on civil rights. His commitment, through his 47 years in the Senate, to the cause of equality for every American, was perhaps his greatest achievement of all. In his very first speech on the Senate floor, just 4 months after his brother John's assassination, he called for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He played a key role in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was the chief sponsor of the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 1982, and just a few years ago was a key cosponsor of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. He was one of the chief cosponsors of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the chief sponsor of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and a key proponent of the Civil Rights Act of 1991. And the list goes on, Mr. President. There simply is no doubt that he was the most important legislative architect of the expansion of civil rights in the last half century. I am committed to helping to continue that work here in the Senate in his memory.

TED was also someone who suffered many personal tragedies, but he bore those burdens with a quiet dignity that came from his tremendous inner strength. You couldn't know him without being awed by that strength, and sensing it whenever he entered the room, or when he took up an issue. When he spoke, his words echoed not just in this Chamber, but across the country and around the world. This was a man who could change the momentum on a bill or an issue just through his own personal will. He was a powerful person determined to help the powerless in our society, and we loved him for it.

I think "beloved" is the best word to describe how we felt about him here in the Senate, and how so many Americans felt about him around the coun-

try. We are grateful that he lived to achieve so much, and to inspire so many.

And now we wish, as he did when he laid his brother Robert Kennedy to rest, that "what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world." And now we pledge, as he did at the Democratic Convention in 1980, that "the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die." And now, as we grieve his loss, we say goodbye to our friend, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY. We thank him for his lifetime of service to our country, and for his profound commitment to the cause of justice here in the United States and throughout the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ALLAN TESCHE

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special friend from my home State of Alaska, Allan Tesche.

Former Anchorage Assemblyman Allan Tesche passed away July 14, 2009, after complications from heart surgery.

Allan Tesche was the embodiment of a true Alaskan and an incredible public servant. While I was mayor of Anchorage, Allan served on the Assembly. During this time, I got to know Allan and his family well. He was committed to the residents of Anchorage, and his dedication to making our city a better place was second to none. He and his wife Pam were active members of the community and raised their two children in Anchorage.

On behalf of his family, many friends, and colleagues, I ask today we honor Allan Tesche's memory. I ask his obituary, published July 26, 2009, in the Anchorage Daily News, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, July 26, 2009]

Allan Edward Tesche, 60, died in Houston, Texas on July 14, 2009, from complications from heart surgery. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Central Lutheran Church. Allan was born Aug. 3, 1948, to Marilyn and Frederick Rutledge Tesche in Los Alamos, N.M. He graduated with honors from the University of California at Davis in 1970. In the Peace Corps, he spent two years in El Salvador supporting Community Development projects. Upon his return, he enrolled in law school at the University of California at Davis, where he was an honorary member of The Chicano Law Students Association. In his second year he was recruited by the Greater Anchorage Area Borough to serve a six-month internship in the Anchorage Borough Attorney's Office; thus began his long association with Alaska government. Allan was invited by Mayor Jack Rodrick to return after graduation as a staff attorney. Allan's work on borough-city unification in 1975-76 led Mayor George Sullivan to elevate him to deputy municipal attorney, a position he held until his appointment to lead the Mat-Su Borough Legal Department in 1980. In 1982, Allan returned to Anchorage