

80s, when Senator Kennedy had sent him the requisite number of roses.

Of course, no matter what your political persuasion, you could see Ted Kennedy as an example of public service. He devoted his entire life to public service. He did so despite his easy financial condition. He did so despite numerous opportunities elsewhere. He did so despite seeing his three brothers sacrifice their lives in service to their country.

I want to quote from our colleague Ted Kennedy, a quote from April 2006. He said:

The defining aspect of our country is opportunity—the hope that you can do better, that your children can do better. But you need an even playing field. To do that, you can't be sick and in school. You've got to have health care. You've got to have an economy working to give people a chance to get ahead. It is not guaranteed. But you do have to have an opportunity. Our country is big enough and strong enough and wealthy enough to give that kind of opportunity to everybody. That's what I work on every day.

What an example for all of us. There is something else I wish to say about our colleague, because much has been made of his flaws. But who among us does not have flaws? Maybe Senator Kennedy realized so much his flaws that he decided despite those, he was going to do the best he could do for his fellow humankind. So he dedicated his life to the poor, the sick, the young and old, and the disabled. He fought against discrimination of all types. Indeed, he stood up for the least among us. Who cannot admire that, in being a champion for the least among us.

Godspeed, Ted Kennedy.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in remembering the amazing life of Senator Edward Kennedy, a man beloved in the Senate and beloved in America.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Vicki, his children, and his whole family.

Like so many others, I consider myself lucky to have worked with him. He was more than a colleague, he was a mentor and a friend.

I remember that he used to send me a message, "The lantern is lit," when we would have late night votes. It was his way of beckoning me and a small group of Senators—Senator SCHUMER, Senator CANTWELL and maybe one or two others—to his office in the Capitol where he would regale us with stories as only an Irishman would.

Ted Kennedy's wit and stories, his passion for a cause and his country and his love for the Senate made me want to go to work every day. He never gave up and he had a fiery zest for the legislative battles that was always tempered by a bipartisan pragmatism.

I remember last year when we were working on the Medicare improvements bill, which was absolutely critical to Medicare recipients across the country.

Seniors were counting on us to pass this bill, but we were just one vote short of the 60 we needed. But HARRY

REID knew how to find that last vote. The afternoon of the vote, the doors of the Senate swung open and in walked Senator Kennedy.

I will always remember watching him walk onto the Senate floor with then-Senator Obama and his son PATRICK on either side of him. Every single Senator had made their way to the floor, and the gallery was full. Applause erupted as he walked out, even though it is against the Senate rules. Each of us gave him a tearful hug and kiss as he made his way to cast his vote.

His very presence seemed to open the floodgates. Suddenly, a bill that was about to fail by one vote passed by nine as Republicans who had spent weeks blocking the bill suddenly switched their votes after Senator Kennedy.

His presence was so persuasive that day because his colleagues knew these were issues he believed in deeply, and had spent his life fighting for. He never gave up on the good fight.

Ted Kennedy, with his booming voice, gave a voice to the voiceless and stood up for those who had no one standing with them. As he said, "We are all part of the American family and we have a responsibility to help members of that family when they are in need."

Ted Kennedy did more than just speak these words, he lived them. Day in and day out on the Senate floor, he fought for justice and equality and opportunity for all Americans.

I will give you just one example, after we tragically lost our friend and colleague Paul Wellstone, Senator Kennedy picked up his torch and helped get the Mental Health Parity Act through the Senate.

His many achievements will be etched in the history books and his legacy will live on in the hundreds of laws that bear his name.

But Ted Kennedy will be remembered for more than just his legislation, he will be remembered for his heart and his humor and his zest for life.

On a snowy winter day in Washington, DC, one year, one of my friends took his family to go to sledding and who should he see? Senator Kennedy and Senator DODD across the way, sledding down by the National Cathedral.

This is the Ted Kennedy I will remember, a man who made the most of life, a man who loved his friends and his family and a man who worked each and every day to make this country stronger.

While he will no longer walk onto the Senate floor, he will remain with us through the lessons he taught us and the memories he blessed us with.

Today, let us honor his life by picking up his torch and continuing to fight the good fights, while also respecting those on the other side of us.

Let us fulfill his dream of "an America where we can all contend freely and vigorously, but where we will treasure and guard those standards of civility which alone make this nation safe for both democracy and diversity."

Ted Kennedy loved this country and was willing to work with anyone and find common ground in order to open the doors of opportunity for all Americans.

He carried the weight of history on his shoulders, but rose up to become the lion of the Senate and one of the greatest legislators in the our country's history.

Although he is no longer with us, he will continue to inspire us.

Mrs. MURRAY. 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. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, September 11 is a day of the year that has special resonance for all Americans and always should. Earlier this week I was honored to stand with some of the family members of those who died 8 years ago this morning on flight 93. They were here to mark the establishment of a memorial to those brave men and women who gave their lives that day over a field in Pennsylvania and who in the process may very well have saved the lives of many of us here. Their role in history will now be forever memorialized here in the Capitol, ensuring that we never forget their sacrifice nor the sacrifice of the thousands of other innocent men and women who were taken from us on that terrible day. This is just as it should be, because as I said during the ceremony earlier this week, there are some moments in the life of a nation that are worth remembering. There are others that are impossible to forget. September 11, 2001, is both.

All of us who lived through that day know this to be true. We know that with each passing year, the day itself may become more distant in time but the memories do not. And yet it is important we mark that day each year with sadness for those whom we lost; with solemn pride in the heroes of 9/11; and with renewed determination to confront terrorism wherever it is found. The memory of the fallen impels us.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like all Americans, I will never forget where I was on September 11, 2001, and I will never forget the way our country responded. In the face of great tragedy,

Americans came together with courage and unity.

Eight years later, we continue to face great challenges. As a government—and as a nation—we are working to improve our safety and tackle the many difficulties facing us today. The safety of all Americans remains priority No. 1 for everyone in government. We still have troops working hard to protect and defend our Nation. At the same time, we continue to recognize that our diversity is also America's greatest strength. Despite our many differences, in times of need we are always one nation united.

This year, for the first time, 9/11 has been designated a National Day of Service and Remembrance. It is with a heavy heart that I stand on the floor of the Senate today marking this day with a cloak and white roses on the desk of our departed colleague, Senator Ted Kennedy.

Ted worked to designate this day as one of service, and in April the President signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act making that goal a reality. Ted would be proud of each and every American who took up that call.

The mission of this new designation is:

[T]o honor the victims of 9/11 and those who rose to service in response to the attacks by encouraging all Americans and others throughout the world to pledge to voluntarily perform at least one good deed, or another service activity on 9/11 each year. In this way we hope to create a lasting and forward-looking legacy—annually rekindling the spirit of service, tolerance, and compassion that unified America and the world in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

I cannot think of a better way to honor the memory of those who were lost than by taking a moment today to remember, and then performing a good deed or act of service.

September 11 is not just a day of national loss but of personal loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who lost a friend or loved one. Your loss is our loss, and you are forever in our hearts.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise on this most solemn of occasions as our Nation pauses to commemorate the horrific September 11 terrorist attacks that were perpetrated against our country 8 years ago. With utmost reverence for the unimaginable loss experienced on that fateful morning at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in a field near Shanksville, PA, we remember with the heaviest of hearts all of those tragically taken too soon. And in my home State of Maine, we join families who pay tribute to victims they knew and loved—Anna Allison, Carol Flyzik, Robert Jalbert, Jacqueline Norton, Robert Norton, James Roux, Robert Schlegel, and Stephen Ward. Their lives were deplorably cut short, but they will be eternally etched in our memory.

Indeed, this is a heartbreaking anniversary—one of inconsolable sorrow and anguish that recalls vicious and inhuman attacks against our fellow citi-

zens and our nation. But this is also a time when all that may divide us is set aside to focus on everything that unites us as we coalesce together as a single and unconquerable voice against the forces of treachery and terror that sought to destroy us and break our spirit.

We share in the grief borne by those with family and friends who perished in these heinous acts of cowardice, and we join with them in paying homage to their memories and the legacies they leave behind. And we recognize that even the march of time can never fully diminish the litany of emotions we experience as we strive to comprehend how such malice could exist in the world and could be committed so ruthlessly against innocent people.

Yet amid the trials and tribulations that this date in our history evokes, we take solace in the sacred truth that none of us grieves alone, that there are no strangers among us—only Americans.

We recall that, during one of the darkest days in our Nation's extraordinary and storied history, we also witnessed our Nation's mettle and solidarity, the inexhaustible courage and undaunted bravery that provided us with boundless inspiration and hope that sustained us then and inspires us today. And nowhere was that more evident than with the first responders who, in the face of unspeakable adversity and peril, heroically ran toward the very dangers others were desperately trying to escape, placing their lives in harm's way in the most courageous and valiant of endeavors to save others without regard for their own safety.

The noble devotion of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers has forever established a selfless example of seemingly ordinary Americans performing extraordinary deeds in the service of others. Those men and women of valor illustrated the lasting and powerful truism that the benevolent forces that seek to uplift humankind will ultimately prevail over those base elements that would conspire to bring it down.

We also honor all who, in the days following September 11, searched for survivors and worked in the devastation at Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and in the wreckage of United flight 93. Many—indeed, far too many—of these fearless responders paid with their own lives or now live with the indelible effects of having worked so closely to the rubble and ruin. They gave their all so that we could heal as a Nation and we will never forget their exceptional contributions.

Their service and sacrifice are also a vivid reminder of the exceptional men and women who have donned our country's uniform to safeguard and defend our Nation. Whether on our shores or soil here at home or around the globe, their steadfast sense of duty and love of country are an inspiration to us all, their commitment fortifies our deter-

mination, and their professionalism steadies our hands in an uncertain world.

Like every American, the details of the morning of September 11, 2001, are powerfully seared in my mind from how it originated with beautiful and clear blue skies to its conclusion with a grief-stricken Nation in mourning and stunned disbelief. I watched the images on the television along with the rest of the world, and later that day as the Sun set over the National Mall—still capped by the billowing smoke from the wound in the side of the Pentagon—I joined my colleagues in the House and Senate on the U.S. Capitol steps in singing, "God Bless America." It was an unmistakable message of unity and one that demonstrated to the country and to the world that we would never be deterred—that our freedoms could never be crushed by the blunt and tortuous instruments of terror that are no match against a resilient people certain in the knowledge that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

The unending pain of loved ones lost does not ease with the passing of years, and yet out of the horrors of these atrocities emerged heroes who were then and will forever be shining testaments to the very best of who we are as a nation. And so, today, we memorialize those whose lives were stilled on September 11, and at the same time, we cannot help but extol the unbounded courage and indomitable spirit exhibited on that day and during the aftermath that continues to be the hallmark of this great land.

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.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3288, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.