

We do need to act. Global warming likely will lead to more severe heat waves and more fierce storms. That affects all of us. These are weather patterns that compromise air and water quality, reduce agricultural productivity, and threaten public health.

The simple step of planting a tree this fall can make a difference in someone's carbon footprint. One tree alone can absorb as much carbon dioxide as a single car can produce over 26,000 miles of driving. The more trees we plant, the greater the impact. One acre of trees may remove up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in 1 year alone. Trees planted in the fall generally require less water than those planted in the spring, making this a good time to get started.

Every person can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and work to provide future generations with a healthy environment. This September 15, I urge the people of Illinois to participate in Carbon Day events throughout the State, learn about the simple steps they can take to reduce their carbon footprint, and have a lasting impact on their environment.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues today to express my profound and heartfelt sadness on the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a universally acknowledged "lion of this institution"—an unsurpassed colleague, a legislator's legislator, and political icon of incalculable, landmark significance to the U.S. Senate and the Nation and a good friend to me and to so many others in this body through the years.

Like all of my colleagues here today, I want to first and foremost offer my most sincere condolences to Ted's extraordinary wife Vicki, who has been such a tower of strength, courage, and faith; as well as to Ted's three children Kara, Ted, Jr., and PATRICK KENNEDY and two stepchildren Curran and Caroline Raclin; Ted's sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, and to his entire family who have done so much to shape the course of our Nation. My heart goes out to Senator Kennedy's numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews whose participation in his funeral mass could not have been more moving. I also extend my deepest sympathies to the people of Massachusetts, who have lost a legendary champion and fierce advocate for nearly half a century.

And how powerful and poignant was the remarkable outpouring of respect and affection for Senator Kennedy by the American people—from the streets of Boston, outside the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and near the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, to congressional staff assembled on the Senate steps and mourners and well-wishers on the Capitol grounds or along the route to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery.

On an occasion of such a large and historic loss, summoning the appropriate words to capture the immense depth and breadth of this moment as well as the magnitude of its meaning represents the most daunting of challenges. Like every Senator fortunate enough to serve in this esteemed chamber during the span of the last 46 years, I have never known a Senate without Ted Kennedy, and it is difficult to comprehend that this hallowed Chamber will never again resound with Senator Kennedy's booming voice that would literally shake these walls.

As I look around this Chamber, I know I am far from alone in saying I will miss Ted's oratorical command of rhetoric and argumentation as well as his passion-filled gestures that punctuated his statements, and of course I will never forget those occasions when Ted would really get wound up as only Ted could, and his glasses would come off, and he would swing them around and around, faster and faster as his polemic reached a crescendo. And so, there is a highly personal and inescapable void among all of us that is at once acutely palpable, indescribable, and unforgettable.

I can still remember entering the Senate in 1995 having served in the U.S. House of Representatives and looking to my fellow New Englander, Senator Kennedy, as a model legislator, the best of his generation even then, for what can be achieved in the Senate with passion and devotion and an almost peerless ability to simply "get things done."

I always profoundly admired Ted for his commitment to this country and the steadfast, immutable determination he exhibited each and every day as he sought to better our Nation to the benefit not just of his constituents in Massachusetts but to all Americans. And he did so with uncommon civility and candor, facility and efficacy, partisanship and bipartisanship, as well as the most seriousness of purpose and irrepressible good humor. In short, Ted Kennedy combined legislative craftsmanship and legendary statesmanship that were the marvel of his time and that represented a pinnacle of leadership.

And part and parcel of his historic and overarching legacy is not just the results produced by his hard-fought labors, which have reached every corner of our country, but how he legislated and conducted the demanding task of advancing the public policy process. Where there was a divide, he saw an opportunity to repair the breach. Where there were opposing forces, he resolved to find a point of alliance.

As my colleagues here can attest, Senator Kennedy was ever-cognizant that your adversary today could, and frankly often would be, your ally tomorrow—the staunch opponent you encounter on one occasion may well support you on another down the road. Because for Ted, common ground was not simply a plot of earth he tilled, cul-

tivated, or nourished, it was soil he intuitively knew was meant to be shared and that would be improved through collaboration. And he understood keenly that the most powerful light was not the spotlight, but reflected light that shone first on someone else.

And if Ted Kennedy put into practice the idea that politics in the often-cited words of German Chancellor Bismarck was indeed "the art of the possible," he was also equally adept at implementing the notion that leadership was the catalyst for accomplishing the impossible. Not, however, by going it alone but rather by enlisting the active support of others.

The fact is, like so many of my colleagues in this Chamber, I was privileged to work with Senator Kennedy on several memorable measures, and one recent endeavor in particular exemplifies his collaborative spirit—the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. That experience for me represented a microcosm of Ted's unrivaled political and public policy acumen.

To begin with, Senator Kennedy, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions or HELP, ordinarily would have been the lead sponsor on legislation being reported out of his committee. But, as all of us in this Chamber know, there was nothing "ordinary" about Ted Kennedy, and he graciously deferred the lead sponsorship to me and instead joined as lead Democratic sponsor of our measure, a gesture of incredible generosity and good will that I will never forget. And so, after already twice garnering Senate passage, we began a third attempt to achieve Senate enactment of vital reforms to protect Americans from both health insurance and workplace discrimination based on their genetic makeup. Beginning in November of 2006, we embarked on what was to be a second 18-month-long effort to systematically address every issue which opponents raised. Senator Kennedy's remarkable capacity to build consensus with both his colleagues and stakeholders, spoke to his consummate skills as a legislator and negotiator.

And Ted never tired in this undertaking, and his knowledge and skills and those of his superb and dedicated staff helped ensure our success when, on May 21 of last year, we at last witnessed the enactment into law of this landmark civil rights protection. Our victory was tempered, however, by the fact that due to his illness, even then, Ted could not join us at the White House that day for the signing. And yet it speaks enormous volumes that Senator Kennedy chose to devote his remaining energies in the past 15 months prior to his passing to ensuring that health reform advance ever forward.

As anyone who has come into contact with Ted Kennedy can tell you, he possessed and exuded a contagious joy and exuberance that permeated all he did. I well recall a few years ago being in

Boston for a Base Closure and Realignment—BRAC—Commission hearing, and we were waiting for an elevator. As many in this Chamber will recall, this was a very anxious and uncertain period for a number of us. But I will always remember seeing the elevator doors open and who should appear but Ted Kennedy, alongside a large group of his constituents, fighting the closure of a facility in Massachusetts. And without missing a beat, he roared with his sonorous voice: "You go fight them Olympia with everything you've got!" The whole crowd with him cheered.

That moment reflected so much of what Ted exemplified, encompassed, and meant to so many, and he approached his causes with a ferocity of spirit and feeling that was unmatched. It is true, as all of us in this institution know all too well, if Ted Kennedy were opposite you in a debate, and sometimes I was, it could be rough going and you had better be prepared! But if he were with you, let's just say your chances for victory increased exponentially!

And Ted never lost that gusto—not in legislating and not in life. Who could forget witnessing Ted throwing out the first pitch for New England's beloved Boston Red Sox at this year's home opener at Fenway Park? Or his zeal for his beloved Massachusetts or, for that matter, the Maine coast which he loved so much where he sailed every summer. Indeed, one year he and Vicki visited an inn near our family place at Hancock Point. And I will always remember the excitement and anticipation he exhibited as he showed me his map of the journey he and Vicki were preparing to undertake, sailing along the beautiful Maine coastline.

As my colleagues know above all, this greatest of deliberative bodies has lost a giant and a legislative standard-bearer who was tirelessly devoted to its history, its stewardship, and its purpose, and his ardor and love for this most august institution and the Nation it serves will never be extinguished. Senator Kennedy now ranks among a rarefied, pantheon of legendary Senators such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. He was, to evoke the title of the Pulitzer-Prize winning book by his brother, John, truly a "profile in courage."

The great American poet, Carl Sandburg, once wrote: "I see America not in the setting sun of night . . . I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision." Those days are indeed possible for this Senate, this Congress, and our country precisely because of the indefatigable will and limitless vision of public servants such as Senator Ted Kennedy. We honor his memory and his legacy best by striving every day to make this process work for the U.S. Senate and for the American people.

And what Maine's own Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned about another Senator from Massachusetts,

Charles Sumner, we say today about Senator Kennedy:

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

So it will forever be with Senator Edward M. Kennedy. We will not see his like again. He will be sorely missed.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, one of our most powerful tools to combat domestic violence and other crimes perpetrated against women and families.

The enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 marked an important national commitment to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This landmark legislation filled a void in Federal law that left many victims without the help they needed. In commemorating this milestone, I would like to recognize the leadership of Vice President JOE BIDEN. His dedication to eliminating violence against women and families was vital to our success in passing the original legislation and subsequent reauthorizations. I am proud to have worked with him on this important matter for nearly two decades.

As a prosecutor in Vermont earlier in my career, I witnessed the devastating impact of domestic violence and sexual assault. I saw how it affects people from all walks of life, regardless of gender, race, culture, age, class or sexuality. Our Nation has made remarkable progress since that time in recognizing that domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes, and we have responded with better laws, social support, and coordinated community resources.

Since the Violence Against Women Act became law, domestic violence reporting rates by women have increased by as much as 50 percent, and reporting rates by men have risen by 37 percent. At the same time, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 24 percent for women and 48 percent for men. These are huge improvements, and we should be proud of the work we have accomplished together. There is, of course, more work to be done. Millions of women, men, children, and families continue to be traumatized by abuse, leading to increased rates of crime, violence and suffering.

Earlier this year, I chaired a Judiciary Committee hearing on the ongoing importance of VAWA. We heard from individuals around the country who shared with us the impact the law has had on their lives and the continuing need to strengthen it. We have been hearing for some time about important steps we can take to enhance VAWA, which is why at the beginning of this year I introduced the Improving Assist-

ance to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Act of 2009, a bill to make several needed corrections and improvements to VAWA. Among other important changes, this bill would bolster privacy protections for victims of domestic violence and offer greater help in rural and tribal areas. These improvements would ensure that the law is as effective and strong as it was intended to be and that it meets the needs of those it seeks to protect. We were able to report this bill from the Judiciary Committee in May but with an amendment that has complicated further progress.

On this 15th anniversary, it is important that we pause to celebrate what we have accomplished. There is no doubt we have made great strides in reducing domestic violence and sexual assault, but we know more work remains to be done. I look forward to working together with other Senators, the Obama-Biden administration, and experts in the field to ensure that VAWA remains a vital resource for prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, and, most importantly, the women and families who are threatened with violence and abuse.

GLENN'S FERRY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Glenns Ferry, ID. On September 26, 2009, the citizens of Glenns Ferry will gather in the high school gymnasium to commemorate the 100th year of its founding. This is a very historic and special day for this community.

Glenns Ferry boasts a colorful Western heritage as one of the most famous river crossings on the Oregon Trail. Pioneers would ford the Snake River at the Three Island Crossing until 1869 when Gustavus "Gus" Glenn constructed a ferry roughly 2 miles upstream. Gus's ferry would cut-off nearly 20 miles from the Southern Oregon Trail route, as it carried two wagons at a time across the river.

In 1870, Gus's brother Oliver S. Glenn—known as O.S.—joined him in operating the ferry and together they ran it successfully until 1876. In 1871, the town site was platted just downstream from the ferry site and a community started to grow from the desert.

In 1883, this area was inundated by a force of tracklayers whose duty it was to lay the tracks of the Oregon Short Line railroad. The tracklayers camp required 23 saloons and a dance hall. With the establishment of a post office and the appointment of O.S. Glenn as postmaster, the site required a formal name. And what more suitable a name than "Glenns Ferry" in recognition of the enormous contributions made by the Glenn family.

The coming of the railroad caused the eventual discontinuation of the