

AARP found that 9 out of 10 Mainers would prefer to receive services at home as opposed to a nursing home or other residential care facility. Moreover, by helping patients to avoid more costly hospitals and nursing homes, home health and hospice save Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers millions of dollars each year.

Over the past several years, I have had the opportunity to meet and visit with a number of home health and hospice patients and providers around my State. I have seen firsthand what a difference the highly skilled and compassionate care that these health professionals provide makes to the lives of their patients and families. That is why I am such a committed and passionate advocate for home health and hospice care. I therefore urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these wonderful health care professionals and volunteers during the month of November as we celebrate National Home Health and Hospice Month.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA SHUTE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a trusted member of my staff who will be departing the Senate. Melissa Shute has served as my legislative counsel, handling issues involving energy, natural resources, and public lands. I have been fortunate to have a wonderful tradition of outstanding staffers to handle my energy and environmental issues; however, the problem with good staff is that they often get pulled away.

Melissa is no exception. She came to me in 2008 after serving as lead counsel to one of our former Members whom I highly regard, Senator Pete Dominici, on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. While on the committee, Melissa was a key player on legislation to increase domestic energy production in the United States. Melissa has developed an expertise in energy and environmental issues and the importance they play in our economy. She is an enthusiastic warrior for the principles we share.

Melissa has provided critical counsel to me regarding major issues in nuclear, coal, and renewable fuel research and development. She also took a leading role in helping Alabamians living on the gulf coast during the tragic oil spill. Melissa and my energy team went above and beyond to take the steps necessary to help those impacted by the environmental disaster receive the support and information they need to begin the road of clean-up and recovery.

A graduate of the University of Tulsa's College of Law, Melissa has demonstrated a sound legal mind in analyzing legislative proposals that would impact current moratoria on off-shore drilling. She understands that we need to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and find new ways to tap the rich energy supplies our country has to offer.

She has been a great partner as we have worked to reduce the huge wealth transfer from the United States to purchase foreign oil, to reduce pollution, to produce energy at the lowest possible prices, such as nuclear power, and to create jobs in America. It has been a good run.

Mr. President, I express my deepest gratitude to Melissa for all of her efforts and leadership, and I wish her well as she moves on to a new chapter in her life.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN BOYD

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to one of the most esteemed members of my staff. Stephen Boyd, an exceptional individual with a deep devotion to the State of Alabama, will be leaving my office to become chief of staff for a new member of the Alabama delegation, Congressman-elect Martha Roby.

Stephen came to my office 7 years ago right out of law school. I was immediately impressed not only by his talent but by his tenacity. No matter how difficult the task given him he would pursue it with vigor, and he would not relent until he arrived at a solution. Stephen sees every obstacle as a challenge to overcome.

In his first post as my legislative assistant for energy issues, he worked on efforts to establish the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. That program became law through the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Stephen also played a significant role in developing the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which President George W. Bush signed into law in 2006.

Early on, Stephen also recognized the need to pursue alternative energy sources in order to diminish our dependence on foreign oil. Through his efforts he brought considerable attention to switchgrass as a renewable energy resource, ultimately leading to switchgrass' potential being recognized in President Bush's 2006 State of the Union Address.

One of Stephen's most valuable assets is his ability to anticipate problems and to prepare for the unpredictable. Stephen was the point person for our office response when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. But before that disastrous hurricane hit, Stephen had already implemented an office action plan to make sure we could quickly and efficiently respond to an emergency.

In the last 4 years, Stephen has served first as my press secretary, followed by a swift promotion to communications director. He played a key role in overseeing office communications during some of the most difficult and challenging issues our country has faced in a long time—from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, to the recent economic crisis, to the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Stephen also made an invaluable contribution in two Supreme Court con-

firmations, helping deliver a crucial message about preserving the integrity of America's courts—defending them from the corruption of politics and grounding them in the firm bedrock of our Constitution.

Given his myriad accomplishments and his stellar service to this office, it is no surprise that Stephen is highly regarded by his colleagues in the Senate. Allow me to share what others have said:

Don Stewart, communications director for Senate minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL, said, "Stephen has shown the kind of calm leadership that was needed in one of the most active periods I've ever seen in my time here. He doesn't yell and scream, he just gets it done."

Josh Holmes, staff director for Senate minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL's Republican Communications Center, said, "Stephen is one of the rare commodities in Washington who prefers achieving results over personal accolades. He's a consummate professional and effective advocate who has been an absolute pleasure to work with."

Rick Dearborn, my chief of staff, said, "I am proud to have worked alongside Stephen Boyd. I have always admired his attention to detail and the great clarity of his perspective. He has a commonsense approach I've witnessed him apply to all manner of complex problems to be solved, issues to be decided or given further thought."

So much of what I believe has guided him to excel has been his basic honesty, his strong core integrity and a sincere commitment to serve the people of Alabama on behalf of Senator SESSIONS through his various roles in our office.

Our loss in the Senate is Martha Roby's gain in the House and the second District of Alabama. He now assumes a key position within our staff delegation, as the Congresswoman's new chief of staff. She could not have made a better choice."

Matt Miner, staff director for the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "Stephen Boyd has been a tremendous asset to the Judiciary Committee during Senator SESSIONS' tenure as ranking member. Through two Supreme Court confirmations and numerous national security debates, Stephen's calm and thoughtful work as communications director helped focus the national debate and convey the Republican message. He is one of the most talented people with whom I have worked on Capitol Hill, and I wish him all the best in his next endeavor."

Brian Benczkowski, former staff director for the Senate Judiciary Committee said, "It was a professional and personal pleasure to work with someone as gifted and hard-working as Stephen Boyd. Stephen has an uncanny ability to analyze any given subject like a top-notch lawyer, while also applying a good dose of Alabama common

sense to the problem, and then communicating the result in clear and unmistakable terms. These skills were an invaluable resource for the Senate Judiciary Committee during my tenure, particularly during the Sotomayor and Kagan nominations. If there is a silver lining in his departure from Senator SESSIONS' staff, it is that he will continue his public service for the people of Alabama. His keen judgment and excellent personal integrity will be an asset to Congresswoman Roby, and I know he will be missed by his colleagues in the Senate."

Alan Hanson, chief of staff to Senator RICHARD SHELBY, said, "It is a credit to Stephen's abilities and work ethic that he has so rapidly advanced in his Capitol Hill career. Having worked with him for 3½ years and known him much longer, I can personally attest that he is a singularly talented and capable jack-of-all-trades. Senator SESSIONS' loss is truly Congresswoman Roby's gain, and I look forward to witnessing the great things STEPHEN will accomplish in his new role in the House of Representatives."

Sarah Haley, press secretary for Senator SESSIONS, said, "Stephen Boyd is a man of scrupulous character, sound ethics, and servant leadership. It has been a privilege to work under him. Stephen will be greatly missed by all of us."

Stephen Miller, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "Stephen Boyd is a brilliant communicator, operating at a truly elite level. And yet he is the furthest thing from an elitist. Thoughtful, genuine, sincere—these are the traits so familiar to those who know him. I am proud to have had the chance to work with Stephen Boyd. But I am prouder still to call him a friend."

Ryan Patmintra, press secretary for Senator JON KYL, said, "Stephen's background in both policy and communications made him one of the top-notch Senate communicators on either side of the aisle. His ability to go beyond talking points and walk reporters through our arguments served us well. We were lucky to have him on our team. His presence and expertise will be sorely missed in the Senate."

Cindy Hayden, who served with Stephen Boyd during her tenure as my chief counsel, said, "Stephen displays unwavering devotion to Senator SESSIONS, to the people of Alabama, and to his principles. A talented lawyer and a trusted colleague, Stephen possesses a likeability even his opponents find hard to resist. I am confident his future colleagues will enjoy working with him as much as I did."

I will miss Stephen. He was always thinking down the road, anticipating programs, and protecting me and the Senate from unwise actions. That kind of attention to detail and good judgment is rare and noteworthy.

From the first day he joined my staff, Stephen has been a tremendous asset. He has earned the respect and

admiration of his colleagues, and has proven himself as a leader. His journey is only beginning, and I wish him all the best in the months and years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN LANDY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to bid farewell and express my special thanks to Kevin Landy for his 13 years of extraordinary service on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Kevin, presently the committee's chief counsel and my longest serving committee staff member, is leaving the Senate this month. But I am happy to say he will continue his career in public service as the Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Detention and Policy Planning, an office responsible for formulating and implementing reforms at immigration detention facilities.

As a Senator, I am privileged to work with dedicated Senate staffers like Kevin Landy, who want to take their talents, skills, and passions and put them to work for the American people.

Thomas Jefferson once asked the question: "What duty does a citizen owe to the government that secures the society in which he lives?"

Answering his own question, Jefferson said: "A nation that rests on the will of the people must also depend on individuals to support its institutions if it is to flourish. Persons qualified for public service should feel an obligation to make that contribution."

Kevin has answered his Nation's call and leaves the Senate with an exemplary record of achievement on behalf of the American people, on a wide range of issues. In particular, I'd like to highlight Kevin's role as my lead staff member on four bills that I count among my most important legislative accomplishments.

In the 107th Congress, Kevin successfully and simultaneously stewarded to passage two very different pieces of legislation. One of those bills established a new framework for the government's uses of the Internet and passed after a great deal of careful consensus building; the other bill established the 9/11 Commission to independently investigate the circumstances of the terrorist attacks and was enacted after a vigorous and often contentious campaign to surmount the administration's resistance.

First, Kevin drafted the E-Government Act, which I introduced in May of 2001, and which called for greater citizen access to government information, services, and regulatory proceedings over the Internet; better management of information technology; and greater protections for privacy and security.

When Kevin began work on this initiative he was trained as a lawyer and had no government IT background. Yet he worked meticulously with every relevant group and constituency first to become fully informed and then to en-

sure their concerns were addressed. More importantly, Kevin spent months negotiating with OMB officials to overcome the administration's initial opposition. The work paid off when the legislation passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent on the same day, November 15, 2002, and was subsequently signed into law the next month.

Some of Kevin's most significant work for our country was on legislation creating and reforming the institutions charged with the defense of our homeland from the terrorist threat.

Soon after the tragic September 11 attacks, Senator MCCAIN and I called for an independent bipartisan commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attacks and to provide recommendations designed to guard against future acts of terrorism. Kevin helped draft the legislation to establish the 9/11 Commission, which I introduced with Senator MCCAIN on December 20, 2001.

At first we had no other cosponsors, and faced the opposition of the administration. But over the next year Kevin worked closely with the families of the victims of 9/11, who lobbied ardently for our legislation both in the Halls of Congress and in the media, and the administration finally reversed its position the night before the Senate voted to approve the Commission by a vote of 90 to 8. Contentious negotiations with White House officials followed, but on November 27, 2002, the legislation establishing a 9/11 Commission was enacted.

Kevin's effectiveness and his strong relations with 9/11 family members stood him in good stead when I asked him to lead an even greater challenge 2 years later: helping win enactment of legislation to implement the Commission's ambitious and wide-ranging recommendations.

Following the release of the 9/11 Commission's report on July 22, 2004, Kevin led the combined efforts of the staffs of four Senators to quickly draft legislation, S. 2774, that implemented all of the Commission's recommendations, covering not only comprehensive reform of the intelligence community and the creation of a National Counterterrorism Center but also information sharing, terrorist travel, border security, and secure identification, among other topics. Because of the determined efforts of Kevin and his colleagues, I was able to join with Senators MCCAIN, BAYH, and SPECTER in introducing the legislation on September 7, just 6 weeks after the Commission's recommendations had been released.

Kevin continued to play a leadership role as I worked with the committee chairman and my close friend, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, to draft legislation that focused on the Commission's intelligence reform recommendations, S. 2845. On the Senate floor, provisions of the two bills were merged as we faced a blizzard of amendments and tough votes, before we won an overwhelming