

to do just that. It would allow Internet providers to create a fast lane for companies that can afford to pay a premium. It would allow mobile networks, like AT&T and Verizon Wireless, to completely block content and applications whenever it suits them—for either political or business reasons.

Let me underscore this—this is the first time the FCC has allowed discrimination on the Internet.

Let me give you an example. Maybe you like Google Maps. Well, tough. If the FCC passes this weak rule, Verizon will be able to cutoff access to the Google Maps app on your phone and force you to use their own mapping program, Verizon Navigator, even if it is not as good, even if they charge money, when Google Maps is free.

If corporations are allowed to prioritize content on the Internet, or they are allowed to block applications you access on your iPhone, there is nothing to prevent those same corporations from censoring political speech.

The Obama campaign used a mobile app to help organize volunteers. And now there are a bunch of Tea Party apps you can download. But maybe not for long. Not if your wireless carrier doesn't want you to get them. And that is something every American should care very deeply about.

I am here on the floor today because I think Americans need to understand just how critical net neutrality really is.

This is complicated stuff. But it directly affects all of us.

And it is not just about speech, it is also about entrepreneurship and innovation. It is about our economy.

There is no question in my mind that without significant changes, the proposal currently pending before the FCC would be bad for our economy.

Think about companies like YouTube, which started in a tiny office above a pizzeria, and grew to be worth billions of dollars. At the time, Google had a competing product, Google Video, which was then the standard but was widely seen as inferior. Had Google been able to pay Comcast large amounts of money to make its website faster than YouTube's, YouTube would be nowhere. Fortunately, Google could not pay for priority access, and the rest is history.

Think about Facebook. Once upon a time, it was a small startup. Remember Friendster or MySpace? They were once the dominant social networking sites before Facebook won over users with a vastly superior product. But that might have never happened if Friendster or MySpace had paid lots of money to reach users faster. If Facebook had taken a significantly longer time to load on your computer, it never would have succeeded.

These are just some examples of how today's free and open Internet has fostered innovation, which has created jobs, and has spurred competition, which has benefited all consumers. Now think of the next Facebook or the

next YouTube or the next Amazon. The only way to guarantee that innovation will continue is to have strong net neutrality rules that will protect and maintain today's free and open Internet.

So the FCC has to make two big decisions, one on the Comcast-NBC merger, and one on net neutrality. These decisions will impact every American for years to come.

You may not know this, but the FCC is an independent agency. Independent agencies are nonpartisan. They are not beholden to Congress or to the President, and they certainly should not be beholden to the industries they regulate. That is why I am concerned when I hear that the Chairman of the FCC is calling the CEOs of companies they are supposed to be regulating, seeking their public endorsement of his net neutrality proposal.

Independent agencies are charged with acting in the public interest. So when I hear that the FCC is considering a net neutrality proposal that is supported by the largest media corporations in America, I am suspicious, and you should be too. The FCC should not be worrying about getting the sign-off from the very corporations that it is supposed to be regulating, period.

The FCC has made public its plans to act on its flawed net neutrality proposal this coming Tuesday. I sincerely hope that the FCC will make significant improvements before then, and that each of the Commissioners will think long and hard before they vote to approve a proposal that could actually make things worse for all Americans.

I have also heard that the FCC is going to be acting very soon on the NBC-Comcast merger, and it needs to do this in the light of day, not hidden in the middle of Christmas and New Year's. The American people have a right to know about this merger. I will be supremely disappointed if approval of the merger is slipped through when most of America is unwrapping presents and spending time with their families, not worrying about their cable or Internet bills.

We are at a pivotal moment and we need to stop the cascade of dominos that will forever change how we pay for TV and browse the Internet. But it is not too late. The government has a role to play here, and I hope the FCC will step up, be brave, and do what is right for the American people.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

KIT BOND

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, At the end of each session of Congress it has long been a tradition in the Senate to take a moment to express our appreciation and say goodbye to those who will not be returning in January for the beginning of the next Congress. One of those I know we will all miss in the months to come is KIT BOND.

I still remember the first time KIT BOND was drawn to our attention on a national basis. It was 1974 and then Governor KIT BOND was being honored for his work in state and municipal affairs by the Jaycees as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans of that year. He was in his thirties and he was already making his mark in the day to day life of his home State at a time when most people his age were still trying to find the "right" career to focus their energies on that would be both challenging and rewarding. After seeing him so recognized and realizing what it meant, I was inspired myself. I have been in awe of him ever since.

That honor that KIT received so many years ago proved to be one of the first to come his way during a four-decade career that now includes his service to the people of Missouri on the State and the Federal level. Over the years he has been a champion for the people of his home State and that is why they have elected and reelected him numerous times. Simply put, he has been an outstanding and highly effective legislator.

It is no secret. KIT has an amazing resume. Actually, it is more a record of success that lists what he has achieved and the results he has been able to obtain that reflect the work he has been a part of that has helped to make our country a better place for us all to live.

Looking back, KIT had already begun to make a name for himself when he graduated from the University of Virginia's law school. He was first in his class and had a number of opportunities awaiting him, some of which he explored, before he returned home to Missouri. Once there he began his career of public service as the State's assistant attorney general under former Senator John Danforth.

Soon thereafter KIT won his first statewide race when he was elected to serve as State Auditor. Two years after that, he became the State's first Republican to serve as Governor since the days of World War II. He was also the youngest Governor the State had ever had.

As Governor he learned a lot of lessons that stemmed from being a Republican Governor with a general assembly with 70 percent Democratic majorities in both Houses. He has commented that those days taught him a great deal about the meaning of bipartisanship. That is why, when he ran for and won a Senate seat, he soon became known for his ability to work with all of his colleagues on a long list of issues.

Over the years, for example, he has been a tireless supporter of our Nation's military. He has also been a fighter for our veterans and their right to the benefits they have earned through their service.

Another issue close to his heart has been the need to increase the availability of safe and affordable housing and improve the infrastructure of Missouri and the rest of the Nation.

These and many other issues that KIT has taken up during his career reflect his belief in the importance of doing everything we can today to make our tomorrows better for our children and our grandchildren—since their future is ours, too.

I know I am not the only one who will have a moment from time to time next year when I will wish KIT was still around here, walking around with that trademark smile of his, caught up in yet another battle for something he believed in, something he knew would be important to the people of Missouri and the future of our Nation.

Fortunately, whenever we feel the need for a little of his advice or an observation or two we will know where to find him—just down the street, back home in Missouri.

Now that this chapter of KIT's life has ended, I have no doubt another will soon begin. As KIT pointed out, "there are many ways to serve" and "elective office is only one of them."

As he leaves the Senate, I would like to thank him for his willingness to serve; his wife Linda for her support and encouragement along the way; his son Sam for his heroic service in our Armed Forces; and all the members of his family who stood behind him over the years.

Diana and I send our best wishes and heartfelt appreciation to them all. We especially want to thank KIT and Linda for their friendship and for all they have meant to this Senate family of ours that extends from one corner of our Nation to the other.

Keep in touch. We will always enjoy hearing from you with your thoughts about whatever we happen to be taking up on the Senate floor. Good luck and God bless.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bills on December 17, 2010, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 3447. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4602. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1332 Sharon Copley Road in Sharon Center, Ohio, as the "Emil Bolas Post Office".

H.R. 5133. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 331 1st Street in Carlstadt, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Frank T. Carvill and Lance Corporal Michael A. Schwarz Post Office Building".

H.R. 5605. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 47 East Fayette Street in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, as the "George C. Marshall Post Office".

H.R. 5606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 47 South 7th Street in Indiana, Pennsylvania, as the "James M. 'Jimmy' Stewart Post Office Building".

H.R. 5655. An act to designate the Little River Branch facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 NE 84th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 5877. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 655 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, as the "Lance Corporal Alexander Scott Arredondo, United States Marine Corps Post Office Building".

H.R. 6392. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5003 Westfields Boulevard in Centreville, Virginia, as the "Colonel George Juskalian Post Office Building".

H.R. 6400. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 North 6th Street in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Earl Wilson, Jr. Post Office".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 3817, A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978, and the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988 to reauthorize the Acts, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-378).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 4049. A bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. Res. 703. A resolution recognizing and honoring Bob Feller and expressing the condolences of the Senate to his family on his death; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. Res. 704. A resolution to authorize the printing of a revised edition of the Senate

Election Law Guidebook; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

AMENDMENT NO. 4814

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4814 proposed to Treaty Doc. 111-5, treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol.

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4814 proposed to Treaty Doc. 111-5, supra.

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4814 proposed to Treaty Doc. 111-5, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 4847

At the request of Mr. LEMIEUX, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4847 intended to be proposed to Treaty Doc. 111-5, treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 703—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BOB FELLER AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS DEATH

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 703

Whereas Robert William Andrew ("Bob") Feller was born on November 3, 1918, near Van Meter, Iowa;

Whereas Bob Feller learned to play baseball on his parents' farm in Dallas County, Iowa, and commented that "What kid wouldn't enjoy the life I led in Iowa? Baseball and farming, and I had the best of both worlds";

Whereas Feller attended Van Meter High School where he pitched for the baseball team;

Whereas Feller, at the age of 17, joined the Cleveland Indians, where he played for 18 years, his entire career;

Whereas Feller led the American League in wins 6 times;

Whereas Feller led the American League in strikeouts 7 times;

Whereas Feller pitched 3 no-hitters, including the only Opening Day no-hitter, and shares the major league record with 12 one-hitters;

Whereas Feller was an 8-time All-Star;

Whereas Feller was a key member of the 1948 World Series Champion Cleveland Indians;

Whereas Feller threw the second fastest pitch ever officially recorded, at 107.6 miles per hour;