

GEORGE LEMIEUX

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the junior Senator from Florida. Though Senator GEORGE LEMIEUX has only been here a short time, he has been an effective advocate for the good people of Florida. I want to wish him the best of luck.

Senator LEMIEUX was born in Homestead, FL. He is the son of a building contractor. He grew up in Coral Springs, FL, and attended college at Emory University, earning a degree in political science. GEORGE then went on to obtain his law degree from Georgetown University.

Senator LEMIEUX's career in public service began in 2003 when he went to work in the Florida attorney general's office. He would eventually be named deputy attorney general, a position he held for 2 years. He would later serve as the Florida Governor's chief of staff, overseeing numerous state agencies.

After his time in the Governor's office, GEORGE returned to the private sector and was headed down what had to be a lucrative career path in the private sector at one of Florida's most prestigious law firms. But, he answered the call to public service once again in 2009 when Senator Mel Martinez announced his retirement and Florida was in need of a Senator.

Since being appointed to the Senate, GEORGE has served on the Armed Services Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging. He has had a reputation for being pro-growth, pro-business, and a deficit hawk. In fact, he has been one of the few people in the Senate who put their money where their mouth is and actually proposed a plan to address our fiscal problems. Frankly, I think we could use more people like that here in the Senate.

It is just a difficult fact that, here in the Senate, some are here only for short periods of time. But, every State deserves to be represented in this Chamber. Senator LEMIEUX answered the call to serve during what has been an extremely difficult time in the Senate. He has done so with dignity and an unwavering commitment to the people of Florida.

Once again, I want to offer my best wishes for George and his family in all their future endeavors.

BYRON DORGAN

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the departure of junior Senator from North Dakota. Senator BYRON DORGAN, a devoted public servant who has spent most of his life serving of the good people of North Dakota, will be leaving the Senate at the close of this session. He will certainly be missed.

Senator DORGAN was born in Dickinson, ND, in 1942 and was raised in Regent, ND. His family worked in the petroleum and farm equipment business and they also raised horses and cattle. BYRON attended college at the University of North Dakota and graduate school at the University of Denver. He began his career in public service at the young age of 26, when he was appointed to be the North Dakota State

Tax Commissioner. He was youngest constitutional officer in the history of North Dakota.

Senator DORGAN came to Washington, DC, in 1980 when he was elected to serve in the House of Representatives. He served six terms in the House before coming to the Senate in 1992. And, for three full terms, he has ably and energetically represented his native State. During his time here, he has been a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, and, of course, chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. The people of North Dakota have benefitted from his efforts on those committees and, I think he would be the first to tell you, that his home State has never been far from his thoughts here in the Senate.

While Senator DORGAN and I have, more often than not, disagreed on the issues, he has always been sincere in his belief that what he was doing was in the best interest of our country. Such commitment to principle has to be admired, even if, in the end, you disagree with the conclusion that is reached. And, I should note that there have been times, actually in some high-profile moments, in which BYRON has voted differently than the majority of his party. In the Senate, which, of late, has been highly polarized and extremely partisan, going against the grain takes courage and independence, qualities I have admired in Senator DORGAN.

Senator DORGAN is a good man. I want to wish him, his wife Kim, and their family the very best of luck.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of my good friend, the senior Senator from Arkansas. Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN will depart from Senate at the end of this session. She will certainly be missed.

Senator LINCOLN is seventh-generation Arkansan. She was born in Helena, AR, in 1960 to family of wheat, soybean, and cotton farmers. Her first elected office was president of the student council at Helena Central High School. She got a bachelor's degree from Randolph Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, VA, and then went to work on the congressional staff for Representative Bill Alexander.

She left the Congressman's office after 2 years to pursue private sector work in Washington, DC, but would return home to Arkansas to run against her former boss in 1992. Her campaign for Congress was successful and BLANCHE became the first woman ever to represent the Arkansas First District in the House of Representatives.

All told, Senator LINCOLN served two terms in the House before running for Senate in 1998. That year, at the age of 38, Senator LINCOLN became the youngest woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate and only the second female Senator in the history of Arkansas.

BLANCHE's career in the Congress has been defined by her willingness to reach across the aisle and work with Senators from both parties. She is a

proud Democrat but has never been an ideologue. Her devotion has never been to a party line or platform, but to her own convictions and to the people of Arkansas.

I have had the privilege of working close with Senator LINCOLN on a number of occasions. Much of the time, we found ourselves on different sides of the issues. But, there were also a number of times where we were in agreement. In fact, I can think of several occasions where she defied her own party's leadership and was, at the end of the day, a difference-maker on a number of important efforts.

Here in the Senate, things have a tendency to get contentious in a hurry. Far too often, partisanship gets in the way of good policymaking. We should commend those who are willing to see past the politics of the day and focus on the long-term impact of the things we do here in the Senate. Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN is one of those people.

I want to wish Senator LINCOLN and her family the very best of luck going forward.

DREAM ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask the RECORD reflect that if I would have been present for yesterday's vote on the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors—DREAM—Act of 2010, H.R. 5281, that I would have voted against cloture. My wife and I had a long standing family commitment to attend my grandson's graduation.

The American people sent us a clear message on November 2, 2010, to focus on getting our economy moving again. It bears repeating: our country's unemployment rate is nearly 10 percent. Yet instead of listening to the true needs of this Nation, the majority in the Senate is moving full speed ahead with legislation in order to curry favor with political constituencies.

Pushing this bill through during a lameduck session of Congress is not how Utahns or Americans want Congress to operate. The bill before us is one of many versions of the DREAM Act introduced in the last 2 months. Though H.R. 5281 would result in a significant change to U.S. immigration law, the bill never received 1 day of a committee markup. An issue as important as this one needs to follow the regular order of the legislative process.

Now more than ever, our Nation's porous border is flowing over with increasingly violent crimes—fueled by drugs, gangs and even human trafficking. Unfortunately, this chaos is spilling into our communities. That is why, when it comes to immigration, my primary focus is on how we can finally secure our borders and how best to fix our broken immigration system.

The fight to control the border is no longer isolated to just the physical

boundary between the United States and Mexico. Indeed, it now includes addressing Mexican cartels; prohibiting mass deferral or parole; streamlining the visa process; requiring participation in key law enforcement programs; clamping down on identity theft; tracking the amount of welfare benefits being diverted by illegal immigrant households; ensuring that dollars are being used to cover newly eligible American children in CHIP and Medicaid; and keeping our great national parks and federal lands safe and free from drug traffickers, drug cultivation, and environmental damage. All of these important issues are addressed in my recently introduced bill, the Strengthening Our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act, S. 3901.

Mr. President, I remain understanding about individuals who, through no fault of their own, were brought to this country for a better life. However, the urgent challenges facing our country must take priority.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I was regrettably absent for the vote on the cloture motion to H.R. 2965, The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act as my wife and I had a long standing family commitment to attend my grandson's graduation. If I had been present, I would have voted against cloture.

I have long stated that our troops should not be held hostage to controversial social policy changes at a time when our Nation is at war. Several top military leaders have concluded that changing military policy could jeopardize our soldiers fighting for our Nation. That is something I cannot support.

These concerns were only reaffirmed a few days ago when the Commandant of the Marine Corps, GEN James Amos was quoted as saying, "I take that very, very seriously . . . I don't want to lose any marines to the distraction [of implementing the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell] . . . I don't want any marines that I'm visiting at Bethesda [National Naval Medical Center military hospital in Maryland] with no legs be the result of any type of distraction."

This opinion was echoed by Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz, who stated in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he opposed implementing any reform until 2012 because he did "not agree with the study assessment that the short-term risk to military effectiveness is low."

Moreover, the recent report also showed that the percentage of those servicemembers in combat arms units which predicted a negative or very negative effects on their unit's ability to "work together to get the job done" stood at an alarming 48 percent within Army combat arms units, and 58 percent within Marine combat arms units.

Our military leaders and front-line forces have spoken. They do not believe repealing don't ask, don't tell is appropriate at this crucial time in our Nation's history and neither do I.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOY RUSHMORE HILLIARD

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to honor the memory of Ms. Joy Rushmore Hilliard, a supporter of the environment, outdoor enthusiast, and a friend of Colorado. Joy passed away peacefully this past August at the age of 86.

As an avid outdoorswoman, Joy was well known as a great angler and lover of nature. She climbed all 54 of the 14ers in Colorado well before it became a popular pursuit. Barbara Mandrell might even say Joy was a climber, outdoorswoman, and environmentalist before it became "cool." In fact, when I look back and think of her heart and passion for life, she reminds me of what being an authentic Coloradan is all about.

Joy even reminds me a lot of my own mother. Of the same generation and cut from the same cloth, Joy not only enjoyed hiking, climbing, skiing and fly-fishing, but managed to balance that love with raising a family. She also was a world traveler and was part of the 1963 expedition that trekked from Katmandu to the base camp on Mount Everest. In addition to her love of the outdoors and traveling, Joy was also a passionate philanthropist who donated her entire life to bettering her community and the world around her.

Not only was she actively involved with many environmental organizations, Joy also was the chairwoman of Colorado Outward Bound, a nonprofit organization that teaches hands-on life lessons using the environment. As you may know, I was a former educator and mountain guide for Outward Bound. Its programs have greatly helped struggling teens and groups with health, educational, or social needs to not only experience the outdoors, but to also learn about the potential embodied in themselves. As the chairwoman, Joy led Outward Bound to new heights and was the inspiration for many participants as well as staff.

In addition to her chairmanship of Outward Bound, Joy was also president of the Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood, and an avid participant in other organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Silver Trout Foundation, and Colorado Open Lands. Her involvement in all of these civic groups reflects not only her respect and love for the environment and Colorado, but also her passion for life.

For her many sacrifices and hard work, Joy received several recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Envi-

ronmental Coalition, the George E. Cranmer Award from Colorado Open Lands, and the Margaret Sanger Award from Planned Parenthood. Joy's other philanthropic actions include helping to establish the conservation wing of the Denver Public Library and a 10th Mountain Division Hut in memory of her late husband Ed, who was a partner of the Redfield Gun Sight Company.

Joy's service to her community, to Colorado and to the environment will always live on in our hearts; she was truly an inspiration for all of us.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6523. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DODD, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1619. A bill to establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, to establish the Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities, to establish a comprehensive planning grant program, to establish a sustainability challenge grant program, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

AMENDMENT NO. 4851

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4851 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 4853

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4853 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.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4854. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to