

legislation before us now and to do it this year.

But the vote we just had means we will have no debate on don't ask, don't tell. And just as importantly—and I know the Presiding Officer serves on the Foreign Relations Committee—it thwarts a serious discussion about pressing national security issues. Imagine that. We are prevented from debating fundamental national security concerns at a time of two wars. People in my State of Colorado do not understand such obstruction, and I do not think Americans all across the country do.

This is further illuminated because every year for nearly a half century, Congress has taken up and passed a bill renewing our defense policies for the Nation for the coming year. That is 48 years consecutively. And this Defense authorization bill, like all those that came before it, is as critically important as the 48 that have preceded it. It provides funding for our military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iraq. It supports our servicemembers and keeps Americans safe through needed resources and policies, including fair and competitive pay and benefits for our men and women in uniform.

The bill also includes many important provisions directed at the health and needs of our servicemembers' families. Specifically, if I might, I want to mention a provision I authored with help from other of my colleagues which would extend health insurance for military families, enabling children of active-duty servicemembers and retirees to stay on their parents' policies until they turn age 26. It is similar to what we did in the Affordable Care Act last year and this year more broadly for Americans.

Also importantly, this legislation provides improved care for our wounded servicemembers and their families—not just the physical wounds of war but also the mental wounds of war.

As I conclude, I have to tell you I remain hopeful that somehow this Congress can find a way, even in the midst of this partisan rancor, to pass this Defense authorization bill for the 49th consecutive year. I am willing to stay until Christmas, even through Christmas, and the week after, to get this done.

I will tell you, if we cannot get don't ask, don't tell repeal as part of the Defense authorization bill, I am willing to stay through the holidays to debate it on the floor as a stand-alone measure, and I will urge my colleagues to join me in that debate.

So despite the vote today, I have to say I am optimistic about our future, and I am committed, as I know the Presiding Officer is, to a new kind of politics where we can find consensus among our disagreement. I know the people of our States and Americans at large want us to tackle tough decisions. It is why they sent us here: to resolve the tough problems. But I think opportunities that are inherent in

those problems led us to want to serve in the Nation's capital.

Let's reach out to each other. Let's find common ground. Let's call on each other to work together to accomplish our shared priorities and demonstrate support for our Armed Forces. After all, they are standing up for us. We can stand up for them. Americans sent us here to do no less.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

CHRIS DODD

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, in these closing weeks of the 111th Congress, the Senate will be saying goodbye to a number of retiring colleagues. But, for my part, I will miss them all, but I have to be honest, the most poignant farewell will be to my dear friend, Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut.

CHRIS and I have much in common. We are both proud of our Irish roots. We were both elected to the House of Representatives at the same time, in the famous post-Watergate election of 1974. CHRIS moved over here to the Senate in 1980, and I followed 4 years later. We both ran for President—with similarly unambiguous results. Over the years, we have collaborated on many legislative initiatives, including, most recently, the historic Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—the health reform bill.

As we all know, CHRIS DODD is almost literally a son of the Senate. With good reason, he is enormously proud of his father, Thomas J. Dodd, who was a lead prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials and served two terms in the Senate, from 1959 to 1971. CHRIS worked as a Senate page at age 16, and was elected to the Senate at age 36. For three decades, CHRIS has embodied everything that is good about this body: a passion for public service, a sincere desire to reach out across the aisle, a great talent for forging coalitions and bringing people together, and a willingness to work extraordinarily long hours in order to accomplish big and important things.

Over the decades, Senator DODD has been a leading champion of working Americans, fighting for safer workplaces, the right to organize, stronger public schools, better access to higher education, and, of course, quality health care as a right not a privilege. He was the author of 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act, which for the first time entitled every American to have leave from their job to take care of children or elderly relatives.

Make no mistake, Senator DODD is leaving the Senate at the very top of

his game. Last year, when Senator Kennedy fell ill, CHRIS picked up the torch of health care reform. When I became chair of the Health, Education, and Labor Committee, I asked him to continue to take the lead in forging the final bill, which he had led so expertly on before, and which will go down in history as one of America's great progressive accomplishments, on a par with Social Security and Medicare.

Even before final passage of health reform, Senator DODD, as chair of the Banking Committee, was hard at work crafting yet another historic bill: the most sweeping reform of Wall Street and the banking industry since the Great Depression.

To be sure, other Senators played important roles in passing health reform and Wall Street reform. But it was Senator DODD's dogged work and virtuosic skills as a legislator that ultimately won the day. These two landmark laws are a tremendous living legacy to the senior Senator from Connecticut. He has made his mark as one of the great reformers in the history of the U.S. Senate.

CHRIS DODD has accomplished many things during his three decades in this body. But, in my book, the highest accolade is simply that CHRIS DODD is a good, generous and decent person, with a passion for fairness and social justice.

For me, it has been a great honor to be his friend and colleague for the last 36 years. Our friendship, of course, will continue. But I will miss the day-to-day association with CHRIS here on the floor, in committee, and elsewhere here on the Hill.

Paul Wellstone used to say that "the future belongs to those with passion." By that definition, our friend CHRIS DODD has a wonderful future ahead of him. No question he is full of passion, passion for doing what is right for the people of this country. But no question, the Senate is losing a giant—one of our most accomplished and respected members. We are also losing a happy warrior in the mold of FDR and Hubert Humphrey. As the columnist E.J. Dionne has written, "The happiness quotient in the Senate will definitely drop when [Senator] Dodd leaves." I couldn't agree more.

For 36 years in Congress, CHRIS DODD has faithfully served the people of Connecticut and the people of the United States. And there is no doubt that he will pursue new avenues of public service in retirement.

As I said, I will miss his friendship and counsel here in the Senate. But I wish CHRIS, his wonderful wife Jackie, and their wonderful young children, Grace and Christina, the very best in the years ahead.

TED KAUFMAN

Madam President, when our colleague Ted Kaufman, who is leaving, was sworn in as Senator in January 2009 to succeed the newly elected Vice President, Senator JOE BIDEN, he made it clear that he would not run for election in 2010. He noted that he had not

raised money to become a Senator and would not raise money to be elected 2 years later. He would be a free man, beholden to no special interest, determined to do only what is right for the people of Delaware and the United States.

Senator Kaufman has made good on that pledge. He may no longer be a Member of the Senate since the swearing in of the new Senator from Delaware, Mr. COONS, but in just 2 years in the Senate, he left his mark—both legislatively and in the esteem of Senators on both sides of the aisle.

Of course, it should come as no surprise that Ted Kaufman excelled in this body, and had influence and clout far beyond what is typical for a freshman Senator whose tenure was only going to be 2 years. After all, he came to this body with a distinguished and diverse background in government, business, and the academy. He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Duke, which led to a job with DuPont chemical company. He went on to earn an M.B.A. from the Wharton School and taught at Duke University's schools of law and business. And, of course, as we all knew Ted before, he served for 20 years on the staff of Senator JOE BIDEN, most of that time as chief of staff.

Like most Senators, I have enormous respect for the role of the Senate's professional staff members. In fact, we often joke that Senators are "a constitutional impediment to the smooth functioning of staff."

In Senator Ted Kaufman, we saw the best of both worlds, combining the expertise and competence of a veteran staffer with the leadership and political skills of a first-rate Senator. This made Senator Kaufman a formidable presence in this body for the last 2 years.

No question, Senator Kaufman's influence was felt most impressively in the effort to reform Wall Street in the wake of the financial meltdown of 2008.

Soon after becoming Senator, he cosponsored, along with Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY, a bill to give Federal prosecutors more effective tools for rooting out financial fraud. President Obama signed that bill into law in May of last year.

And when the Senate undertook the sweeping reform of the financial system earlier this year, Senator Kaufman quickly stepped forward as one of the toughest critics of Wall Street, giving speech after speech here on the floor proposing and demanding fundamental changes in America's broken financial system.

I listened with particular interest to his explanations and criticisms of high-frequency trading and other opaque trading practices of hedge funds and big Wall Street firms.

I was proud to cosponsor the SAFE Banking Act, cosponsored by Senator Kaufman and Senator BROWN.

This legislation would have dramatically reduced the size and concentra-

tion of the largest financial institutions, thereby making our financial system safer. I was disappointed this proposal was not included in the financial bill. But getting 33 votes for this ambitious measure was no small feat, and, no question, Senator Kaufman's tireless efforts helped to rally support in the Senate for reforming our financial institutions. Thanks in no small measure to Senator Kaufman's expertise and relentless advocacy, the worst aspects of Wall Street's casino capitalism have been eliminated, and our financial system is better able to allocate capital to areas of the economy that need it the most.

So the junior Senator from Delaware was true to his word. For the last 2 years, he was a Senator's Senator, giving his all, beholden to no interest, serving the people of Delaware and the United States with competence, character, courage, and, I might add, with rock-solid integrity.

I have valued Ted Kaufman's friendship and counsel here in the Senate, as I said, going back for nearly 20 years. I look forward to continuing that relationship now that he has departed from this body. So I join with the entire Senate family in wishing Ted and Lynne much happiness and success in the years ahead.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

With the close of the 111th Congress, the Senate will lose to retirement again one of our most seasoned and respected Members on the other side of the aisle, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH of Ohio.

Senator VOINOVICH and I have much in common. We are both proud midwesterners. But here is what we really have in common: My mother immigrated to America from what is now Slovenia, the nation of Slovenia, and George's mother was a first-generation American of Slovenian descent. Both of us were—and I think we are the only two Senators ever—awarded the Golden Order of Merit by the Republic of Slovenia, in part for our efforts to assist Slovenia in its campaign to rid the world of landmines and to assist the victims of landmines. We both care very deeply about the success of democracy in Slovenia, a very small nation that has set a powerful example of political stability, economic reform, true democracy, and ethnic inclusiveness in the Balkans.

For nearly 4½ decades, GEORGE VOINOVICH has devoted himself to public service at just about every level of government—quite amazing—as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Cuyahoga County commissioner, Mayor of Cleveland, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, Governor of Ohio, and, for the last 12 years, U.S. Senator from the State of Ohio. Across those 44 years of service, he has been respected for his independence, his pragmatism, and his insistence on putting ideology and partisanship aside in order to accomplish important things for ordinary working Americans.

Another constant in the career of GEORGE VOINOVICH has been his insistence on fiscal discipline and his willingness to advance creative, tough-minded, nonideological approaches to help government live within its means. As mayor of Cleveland, he took a municipality that had recently declared bankruptcy and turned it around to become a three-time All-American City winner. As Governor, he returned the State budget to balance despite a bad economy. And for the last 12 years, he has been one of the Senate's leading champions of fiscal conservatism. By that, I mean true fiscal conservatism, which means a willingness both to cut spending and to raise revenues as necessary in order to bring down deficits and balance the books. On that score, on matters of taxing and spending, Senator VOINOVICH had the courage to break ranks with his own party on many occasions.

Our colleague Senator VOINOVICH has many accomplishments in this body. I do not have time to mention them all, but I know he is particularly proud of his work as chair and, most recently, ranking member of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, wherein he played a key role in passing the National Energy Security Act of 2009, which is helping our Nation to lessen its dependence on imported petroleum.

He is also deservedly proud of his long leadership in the fight to preserve and protect Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes—a cause that has been a constant throughout his career in public service. Here in the Senate, he has been a cochair of the Great Lakes Task Force, and he introduced a bill that, when signed into law in 2008 by President Bush, ratified the Great Lakes Compact to protect these national treasures through better water management and conservation—a singular accomplishment by Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio.

Senator VOINOVICH has achieved much during his distinguished career in public service. I could use any number of superlatives to describe his character and work: sterling character, an honest individual, someone who, when he gave you his word, gave you his word. To Senator VOINOVICH, a handshake was a handshake. It was a commitment, and he would never go back. But in my book, the highest accolade is simply that GEORGE VOINOVICH is a generous, sincere, decent person, dedicated to public service, always determined to do the right thing for the people of Ohio and the entire United States, a man lacking in ideological rigor but still a person dedicated to true conservative causes he has championed all his life.

It has been a great honor to be his friend and colleague for these last years. Our friendship, of course, will continue. I wish GEORGE and Janet the very best in the years ahead.

JUDD GREGG

I know others are here. If I can indulge them just for a few more minutes, I would like to make one more speech in praise of another colleague who is retiring, again on the other side of the aisle, and who is a good friend and someone for whom I have had not only great friendship but great respect, and I have served with him a lot on our committees—Senator JUDD GREGG of New Hampshire.

Senator GREGG can be a very effective and persuasive partisan for the conservative causes he holds dear. He also has a strong New Hampshire independent streak and is willing to buck his party when he thinks it is wrong—for example, when he voted against President Bush's Medicare prescription drug benefit bill because it was unpaid for and would add hundreds of billions of dollars to the debt. Indeed, as ranking member and former chair of the Budget Committee, Senator GREGG has been one of the Senate's leading champions of fiscal discipline.

I especially admire Senator GREGG's capacity for reaching across the aisle, building bridges, and getting important work done. On that score, he has represented New Hampshire and the United States at his very best. This quality has made him a standout member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair. He forged a very productive working relationship with my predecessor as chair, Senator Ted Kennedy. For example, he played a key role with Senator Kennedy in crafting the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act, and a few years later, I was proud to work with both of those New England Senators again—especially Senator GREGG—to reauthorize and improve the Americans with Disabilities Education Act.

In 2008, Senator GREGG was a key leader in crafting and forging bipartisan support for the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. Many have criticized the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, but facts are facts: TARP prevented a total meltdown of our financial system. And almost the entire \$700 billion taxpayer investment has been or soon will be paid back to the U.S. Treasury. In fact, just this week, the Treasury booked a \$12 billion profit on its previous \$45 billion investment in Citigroup.

This year, Senator GREGG has played a key role on the HELP Committee in bringing together Senators from both parties to advance food safety legislation. Frankly, there were many times when sharp policy disagreements threatened the survival of that bill. But at every turn, Senator GREGG played a constructive role in working through the options, crafting bipartisan compromises, and keeping the legislation on track to passage. I have nothing but admiration and gratitude to Senator GREGG for his leadership on the food safety bill, which, as you know, passed the Senate, and because

of a little glitch, the House had to return it, and it is coming back to us on the continuing resolution bill. We will put it on our omnibus bill and send it back to the House. I do not think there is any doubt that this will be signed into law by the President this year.

That is the first modernization of our Food and Drug Administration inspection systems in 70 years—70 years. Again, I wish to publicly thank Senator GREGG for hanging in there over several years' period of time to make sure we kept it on track from one Congress to another, from one Congress to another, up and down, but we finally got it done. As I just said, I have the utmost admiration and gratitude to Senator GREGG for hanging in there and making sure we got the job done.

As many of our colleagues will remember, several years ago, Senator GREGG bought a \$20 Powerball lottery ticket and won \$850,000. Again, we all want to go up and touch him and see if it will rub off on us a little bit. To this day, Senator GREGG is the only person I have ever known who won a Powerball lottery ticket. Well, as we have often said, that was JUDD GREGG's personal good fortune, but it has been our good fortune to have a Senator of his high caliber and character in this body for the last 18 years. During that time, I have placed great store by his friendship and his counsel. Of course, that relationship and friendship will continue, but I am sorry we are going to miss him here in the Senate.

I join with the entire Senate family in wishing JUDD and Kathleen the very best in the years ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, may I first say how proud and privileged I feel to have been on the floor during the distinguished speeches of the senior Senator from Iowa on behalf of his friends and colleagues, many of decades' duration. I am still in my first term here. I know I still have a lot to learn, but one thing I have learned is that this place operates on friendship and that the friendships here are special ones, forged in cooperation, tempered in combat, and sustained in mutual respect. The Senator's eloquent words about our colleagues are a great testament to that fine characteristic of this body. So I felt very touched and pleased to be here.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am here to draw attention to what I consider to be an urgent need that we include an extension of the Treasury grant program for renewable energy projects in any upcoming tax legislation considered by the Senate. These are called 1603 grants because they were created by section 1603 of the Recovery Act. This grant program has been vital to the renewable energy industry, which creates jobs, promotes

energy independence, and is a vital foundation of the emerging clean energy revolution.

Section 1603 of the Recovery Act allows for cash grants in place of the 30-percent investment tax credit for renewable energy projects. That direct cash payment provides an immediate jump-start to renewable energy projects. Many renewable energy projects were funded using what were called tax equity partnerships, and much of this funding dried up during the recent credit crunch.

The 1603 grant program is a lifeline to renewable energy developers, and it has allowed hundreds of projects to go forward that otherwise would have stumbled or failed. According to the American Wind Energy Association, the cash grants enabled the construction of 10,000 megawatts of new wind capacity in 2009, while just 4,000 megawatts would have been built without the program.

The transition for America to a clean energy economy is long past due. This country has run on the same fuel at basically the same efficiency levels since the start of the Industrial Revolution at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI. This was acceptable maybe in 1900, perhaps even in 1950, but where does it leave us today in 2010? Sadly, it leaves us behind the international competitive curve.

The next big economic revolution—the green, clean energy revolution—will dwarf the digital revolution in terms of jobs and wealth creation. We have heard testimony in this Senate that the Internet is a \$1 trillion industry worldwide, while energy is expected to be a \$6 trillion energy industry. That means jobs. We know other countries are making significant investments in clean energy to claim those jobs and to claim a commanding position in the race for leadership to a clean energy future for our planet.

Half of America's existing wind turbines were manufactured overseas. Of the two wind turbines installed in Portsmouth, RI, one was manufactured by a Danish company and the other by an Austrian company. Meanwhile, our pace of wind turbine installation is also lagging behind. It looks like in 2010, the United States will have installed about one-eighth of the wind power installed by Germany. The United States invented the first solar cell, but we now rank fifth among countries that manufacture solar components. The United States is home to only 1 of the top 10 companies manufacturing solar energy components and to only 1 of the top 10 companies manufacturing wind turbines.

Companies in other countries see the demand for clean energy, and they are moving swiftly ahead of us in the race to meet that demand. An extension of the section 1603 Treasury grant program would help us create and sustain jobs and build the foundation for our long-term economic growth.