

would create jobs, I have not been able to get this bill to a vote on the floor of the Senate. I am tempted to ask unanimous consent that the bill pass, but I will continue to work in the regular order to move the bill to the floor of the Senate and on to passage.

I had a long career—if you want to call it that—as a high-altitude mountain climber before I came to the Congress. That experience prepared me to serve in the House and in the Senate in unexpected ways.

In 1992 I was on the south face of Mount McKinley, known to the people of Alaska as Denali, as well. We were 10 days into what was supposed to be a 7-day climb. We were out of food. The only way to get down was literally to go up and over the top of Mount McKinley.

The lesson I learned in that successful climb was, when you are faced with 20-below temperatures and high winds, the only way home is over the top. You have to work together to accomplish the impossible. When you do work together to accomplish the impossible, you find a way to make it happen.

In some ways I believe that is the choice Congress has to make as we face these challenging times. We can either work together and find a way up and over the summit—passing legislation that will create jobs, fix our budget problems, and start working on the problems Americans face every day—or we can keep fighting with each other, in effect, starving the country of the leadership I know Congress can provide and that we must provide in these challenging times.

Madam President, I close my remarks today by asking my colleagues to join me in passing this straightforward, bipartisan, and commonsense ski areas bill and to support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I also ask my colleagues to work with me to enact locally developed wilderness proposals, such as the San Juan Wilderness Act.

As we tackle unemployment and how to grow the economy, let's not forget the important role our public lands can and will play in the future.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

NAVY MASTER-AT-ARMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JOHN DOUANGDARA

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I rise today to honor a fallen hero—Navy Master-At-Arms Petty Officer First Class John Douangdara of South Sioux City, Nebraska. Petty Officer

Douangdara was part of the East Coast Based SEAL team on the Chinook helicopter that was downed by enemy fire in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011.

He was a dog handler for the SEAL team. He and his combat assault dog led their unit on patrols in order to expose dangerous explosives and hidden enemy combatants. He and 29 fellow servicemembers, and his combat assault dog Bart paid the ultimate price in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As a dog handler, the East Coast Based SEAL team entrusted their lives to him and to his dog. His first dog Toby was killed in action in Iraq. His second dog Bart would die with him on the helicopter.

The name “Douangdara” can be difficult to pronounce, so his Navy comrades soon gave him the call sign “Jet.” Members of his unit remember him for being trustworthy and always positive. The decorations and badges earned during his distinguished service speak to his dedication and his skill. He received the Purple Heart, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star with “V” Device, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with “V” Device, the Army Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation (2 awards), the Good Conduct Medal (2 awards), the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Service Medal (3 awards), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), the Overseas Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), the Rifle Marksmanship Medal, and the Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

I am told Petty Officer Douangdara had a joyful disposition and a deep sense of commitment to American ideals that were evident to everyone he encountered. John's high school friends and teachers recall his sense of humor coupled with a competitive desire to win. Participating on the high school mock trial team was one way he directed his very considerable energy.

John was also about helping others. It was not a surprise to those who knew him that his energy, focus, and empathetic nature would lead him to military service and the challenge of working with the Navy SEALs.

John belongs to a very special family. His mother and father escaped from Laos 31 years ago and emigrated to the United States. They settled in South Sioux City, Nebraska, where they grew and nurtured a very respected family. The South Sioux City community honored John with a special memorial service on September 25, 2011. They also named a local park after John.

I know his community and Nebraskans as a whole are enormously proud of his service. I am confident they will provide his family with comfort during this very difficult time.

Today, as we bow our heads with the Douangdara family, I ask that God be with all those serving in uniform and that He bring them home safely.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING PATRICK DELEON

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Dr. Patrick DeLeon, who has helped me to serve the people of Hawaii and our Nation for 38 years. Dr. DeLeon is retiring, but he leaves behind a legacy of work that has greatly improved the lives of many of our citizens in Hawaii, particularly the native Hawaiians, while advancing the professional circumstances of doctors, nurses, and psychologists.

After joining my staff in August of 1973, Pat, a psychologist and attorney, directed my efforts to create and refine health and education policy. In the later years he would also serve as chief of staff for my Washington, DC, office. Pat helped to shepherd legislation related to native Hawaiians, immigrant children, the people of the Pacific, and higher education. Under his service the importance of nurses, psychologists, and other health professionals have been properly recognized.

He has been very active in helping our community college system in Hawaii become full-fledged 4-year colleges. For example, he played a major role in the establishment of a school of pharmacy and a school of nursing at the University of Hawaii's Hilo campus.

Pat also serves as a teacher, a mentor, and psychologist to my staff, a role that will be difficult to replace.

I thank Pat for his decades of hard work, his service to the people of Hawaii and this Nation, and, most importantly, for his friendship.

FURTHER CORRECTING H.R. 2608

Mr. INOUE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 83, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a further correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2608.

Without objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any

statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) was agreed to.

Mr. INOUE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1619, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 1619, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to come down to the floor once again to speak to you and the American people. I come to the floor today because there is something that too many people in Washington, DC, are missing right now; that is, we are Americans first.

It is a simple idea but one that seems easily forgotten in politics because Washington has a way of making elected officials act like partisans rather than problem solvers. For example, how can any one Member of the Senate be 100 percent right? I just don't know how that happens. How can they also vote 100 percent of the time with their own party? Do they honestly believe their party is right 100 percent of the time or is it easier than going with the alternative—easier than working together with people whom one doesn't agree with on every single issue?

I ran for the Senate to make a difference, and I believe the voters of this country sent us here to find ways in which we can all agree, to move our country forward and to make things better. Governing wisely doesn't mean spending all our time politicking—making the other side uncomfortable by voting a certain way or taking uncomfortable votes, putting those votes

in the bank for more petty attacks during the election season. But why else would we spend hours and days trying to ram through one-sided bills that can't pass simply to highlight our differences? Is that honestly why we were sent here today? Because there is no Republican bill that is going to pass and there is no Democratic bill that is going to pass. It needs to be a bipartisan, bicameral effort that the President will sign.

We face very huge challenges. That means we must rise to the occasion and rise above politics to accomplish the very big things the American people expect from their elected officials. Our jobs and economic picture, as we all know, is bleak. The line of unemployed workers would stretch across America and back again. Our national debt and deficits are spiraling out of control. Working families are getting squeezed by the high cost of energy, high health care costs, high education costs. Businesses are squeezed by high tax rates, burdensome regulations, and uncertainty about the future and the political leadership in this country. Our housing market is frozen, and the government is making it harder and harder, rather than easier, for borrowers to refinance. Yet with all these challenges we have, the answer here in Washington is just more of the same—more threats, more gridlock, more partisanship. I say enough already, because I have said this back home in Massachusetts and people, I think, greatly appreciate the sentiments: We are Americans first. If we don't work together right now—at this moment in time, right now—then we are going to miss a great opportunity.

We need to focus on jobs. We need to focus on the economy. That is what I have done since the day I got elected. I believe the American people deserve better. They deserve better than congressional gridlock and political gamesmanship. For example, the President—not you, Mr. President, but the President—has given us a jobs bill that isn't perfect, but it is a start. The majority leader has said the Senate might consider the President's package eventually. Really? Eventually? We are in a financial emergency. We are going to talk about creating jobs eventually?

Let's be honest with those who sent us. The current proposal from the President isn't going to pass either Chamber if it relies entirely on tax increases to pay for it. I know it and the Presiding Officer knows it. So when we bring it up, are we going to try to make it better? Are we going to try to pass it?

I urge the majority leader to bring the jobs bill—or jobs bills—to the floor that can actually get 60 votes as well as have a chance of passing in the House. What would they look like? They would look like parts of the President's proposal that actually have bipartisan support and can help our fellow Americans immediately. We should take the things everybody agrees on

and bring them forward now—right now. We could pass a payroll tax cut for both employers and employees. I stood when he said that. I clapped. I agree with him.

We can also pass his version of the Hire A Hero Act that provides tax incentives for employers to hire our heroes who are returning from doing incredible service for our country. It puts them back to work. Their unemployment rate is 25 percent. I am all for it. I clapped again. It is a great idea.

We can get to work on reforming our Tax Code in a way that eliminates loopholes and leads to lower rates. We can do these things. It is possible. Those are the things we agree on and we should be doing immediately—not just bringing a bill forward, knowing it is not going to pass and then spotting a particular person or party for an election season that is so far away that if we don't do something right away, we are going to be in deep trouble and miss the opportunity. We are Americans first. We can do it better and we should do it better.

I have been a little bit discouraged—it seems to go in ebbs and flows—about the ability to actually have an open amendment process. We had to sign a letter to the President guaranteeing we would actually move forward with the trade agreements. Then we had an open amendment process and, quite frankly, I think when it was done, everybody was satisfied that it was just that—an open amendment process—and we got some good suggestions and sent them off to the President. I am eager for those bills to be passed.

We need to allow our Members to offer their own ideas on job creation. There is no one particular person, whether it be the President, the majority leader, the minority leader, or any individual here, who has all the ideas on job creation. Since when? I have a vote, just as each and every one of my colleagues does. I am sure the Presiding Officer has some amendments he thinks would help job growth in his State. I know we have worked on one that was cited by independent groups as being probably the No. 1 way to actually get the economy moving, but we will not even have the opportunity to allow that to be filed as an amendment. Is that right? Of course not.

I have a number of bipartisan pieces of legislation, one of which I just referenced with the Presiding Officer, to help boost our economy in Massachusetts. Whether it is working with our fishermen to protect that industry which provides food for American citizens and throughout the world or whether it is the high-tech sector, bio-farming—you name it—my bills will help solve, as will the Presiding Officer's and others, some of our economic problems. It will not be done overnight, but it is a first step. There is absolutely no reason we can't move forward to have an open amendment process on a bill that will actually create jobs. But they will make a difference in