

The former soldier now enjoys life as a full-time family man. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Leonard is a remarkable man who has been on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Even after all that he has been through, both the good and the bad, he is still grateful he had opportunity. Although he says he wouldn't go on a trip around the world again for \$1 million, he doesn't regret getting to see the world for free the first time.

In November 2011, there was an article about Mr. Leonard Gilliam published in the Sentinel Echo Silver Edition, a magazine based in Laurel County, KY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo: Silver Edition, Nov. 2011]

WORLD WAR II: A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD  
(By Carrie Dillard)

Leonard Gilliam remembers the days when he and his family "didn't have a cable bill, water bill or electric bill." The 92-year-old Laurel County native has lived on his family farm his whole life.

He was born in 1919 in McWhorter. It was a time when, he said, "everybody used a mule pair, everybody had a milk cow and some beef cattle, and everybody had their own hogs."

You worked hard, he said. Kept your house warm buying coal for \$1 a ton at the mines or a jug of kerosene for 10 cents a gallon. You cooked on a wood stove, and there were always chores to do.

He had to "go through the field and cross the creek twice" on his walk to Twin Branch School each day, so when he joined the U.S. Army in 1941, he was used to walking.

During the course of his military career, Gilliam would spend approximately three years overseas, engage in six major battles and one invasion. He would end his days in World War II in Berlin, Germany, during the Army occupation in July 1945.

Gilliam was drafted. "They didn't draft until (age) 21 in those days," he said. He was the first one in the McWhorter community who got the call.

"There was a busload of us left London early one morning," he said, on their way to Fort Thomas, Kentucky. In less than two days, a contingent from all across the state filled a train headed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for basic training.

Gilliam was trained in artillery. He would later man the tank gun, causing him to lose nearly all of his hearing.

He served in the 2nd Armored Division (Hells on Wheels) under division commander George S. Patton, who once said the 2nd Armored Division "could do the impossible" because he trained them.

Gilliam was at Fort Benning, Georgia, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"They put more guards out, more security," he said, "as war was declared." Gilliam and his division began more practices and maneuvers, traveling back and forth from Georgia and North Carolina, until his deployment overseas. In total, Gilliam would serve six six-month tours overseas.

As a gunner, he said "the tanks were needed on the front" as soon as they arrived in Casablanca, North Africa. They traveled to Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, and on July

10, they invaded the island of Sicily, for which Gilliam was awarded a Bronze Arrowhead.

"Sicily was an interesting place," Gilliam said. It was there he worked as a security officer at an old penitentiary, guarding POWs. "I had a gun and they didn't, but they didn't give me any trouble," he said.

In fact, he said, once they got acquainted, the POWs were "some of the finest people I met."

He said he'd put his gun up and sit down to eat with the prisoners. They ate the same rations—MREs (meal, ready to eat) just as the soldiers did, and were even given cigarettes.

Gilliam said he and his fellow soldiers were put on a boat in Sicily and weren't told where they were headed.

"It looked like we was going to the United States," he said, "but we was going toward England."

They were on the water at Thanksgiving, and, shortly thereafter, landed in Liverpool.

The invasion of Normandy took place on June 6, 1944. Gilliam arrived just four days later.

Although he describes it as some of the roughest times in the war, it is also where he met a good friend: Vayne McCoy.

McCoy was five years younger than Gilliam, and took to him like a younger brother. Both Gilliam and McCoy were on tanks. Gilliam's was called "Crimson Tide," McCoy's "Churchill."

The two lost track of one another after the war, but reunited in 1997, more than 50 years later. Today, they "get together pretty often," Gilliam said, their families becoming like family to each other.

Gilliam said the Germans were smart, and without the combined effort of the U.S. Army and Air Force, they would not have succeeded in driving them back.

In September 1944, Gilliam crossed the Belgium border, but it wasn't an easy trek. He said it rained the whole way there and turned to snow; it was the coldest winter he'd ever felt.

The Battle of the Bulge was upon them. Standing in knee-deep snow, Gilliam said he and his fellow soldiers would fire their guns and huddle around the tank to keep warm. He was nearly overcome by the exhaust fumes from the machine just trying to get warm. Gilliam suffers from the effects of frostbite to this day.

For a time, Gilliam and his company stayed in a local farmer's barn. The owners, he said, knew of their presence, and he said the owners were overjoyed to help.

Without the protection of that barn, they likely "would have frozen to death." Gilliam said the group held up in that barn, sleeping in the hayloft, for three weeks until temperatures got warmer.

Gilliam said he remembers the faces of young children as they made the journey across France, Belgium, and Holland.

"The children were standing and waving at us. If we halted for some reason, they'd climb the tanks and hug everybody."

"The look on those little children's faces, you was glad to have done that for them," he said.

In April 1945, Gilliam said his outfit met the Russians on the Elbe River.

"For me, the war ended. I didn't fire another shot."

Gilliam said soldiers returning from World War II got a hero's welcome, but veterans of other wars, like the Korean War or Vietnam, did not receive the same respect. "Soldiers of the Korean War didn't get that welcome when they came home," he said. "They could've used a welcome home, too." But Gilliam has never considered himself a hero. Those are the ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice, he said. In 238 days of battle, the

2nd Armored Division suffered 7,348 casualties, including 1,160 killed in action.

"The heroes didn't come back. They're still there."

His older brother, Blane, was among them. Blane Gilliam, an Army radio operator who was serving in the Pacific, was killed in action/missing in action at age 30. Gilliam received word of his death around the time he reached Germany.

Following the war, Gilliam returned home and married Wilma George, who was 11 years his junior.

"Here I was a 25-year-old man, been around the world on a killing spree," he said. They were married for 61 years and had three children—Wanda, Coy and Linda. Today, Gilliam has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is a member of Twin Branch Methodist Church.

"I wouldn't make that trip (again) for one million dollars," he said. "But I got to see the world (for free)."

TRIBUTES TO SENATOR BARBARA  
MIKULSKI

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in light of last week's celebration here in the Senate, to recognize the truly historic and remarkable accomplishment of my good friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

As we all know, Senator MIKULSKI just last week achieved another stunning milestone as she became the longest-serving woman in the history of the United States Congress, surpassing Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers. Of course, it was at the outset of this 112th Congress that Senator MIKULSKI overtook Maine's legendary Senator Margaret Chase Smith. To say it's been quite a Congress for the Gentle Lady from Maryland is the height of understatement indeed.

In the process of paying tribute to Senator MIKULSKI, I discovered some interesting information, namely that three out of the four longest serving women in the Congress were actually born in Maine—Congresswoman Rogers, Senator Smith, and myself as third longest serving woman in both the Senate and the House.

Senator Smith of course served Maine and Congresswoman Rogers represented the 5th District of Massachusetts. Both were Republicans, and both were born in Maine. And so, let me just say, as one who is privileged enough to fall into the same categories, on behalf of the great State of Maine which appears to produce women of tremendous endurance at both ends of the U.S. Capitol, we could not be more proud of the Senator from Maryland.

But the commonalities don't end there—far from it. In addition to the overlapping biographical information I just referenced, it is a point of tremendous pride that all three of us also placed the highest of premiums on serving those who have served our Nation by giving every fiber of their being to protect, defend, and secure our cherished freedoms—our courageous men and women in uniform and our veterans.

Born in Saco, ME, Edith Nourse Rogers authored legislation that made her

one of the great champions of our men and women in the military as well as our Nation's veterans. As a Member of Congress, Edith Rogers displayed a work ethic worthy of her Maine roots and was known as "the busiest woman on Capitol Hill."

During her storied 35-year career spanning from 1925 to 1960—still the longest tenure of any woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Rogers counts among her long-lasting achievements the securing of \$15 million to develop a national network of veterans' hospitals in the Veterans' Administration Act, the creation of both the Women's Army Corp and the landmark GI Bill of Rights.

She also proposed the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs immediately after World War II an achievement that would finally take place in 1989. She was held in such high esteem by our veterans that the American Legion presented her with the Distinguished Service Cross—the first woman ever to receive that prestigious honor.

The incredible inroads and contributions that Edith Rogers made on behalf of our military, Senator Smith mirrored in the Senate. And just as an aside, I think it is worth noting that both shared a floral trademark, demonstrating that they could legislate in what was then very much a man's world without sacrificing their femininity or grace. Representative Edith Rogers wore an orchid or gardenia, and Senator Smith would don her signature rose.

A lifelong native of Skowhegan, Maine, Senator Smith was also a trailblazer and a woman of phenomenal firsts—the first woman to be elected in her own right to the United States Senate; the first woman to serve on the Armed Services Committee; the first woman to serve on the Appropriations Committee; the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for the Presidency by either major political party, in 1964; the first civilian woman to sail on a United States destroyer in wartime; the first woman to break the sound barrier in a U.S. Air Force F-100 Super Sabre Fighter—at 800 miles per hour, I might add.

In fact, that reminds me of the time in 1992 when Senator Nancy Kassebaum came to visit me in Maine, and we traveled together to see Senator Smith at her home and library. Senator Smith gave us a wonderful tour—despite her failing health at the time, and I recall asking her about a bright orange suit I saw that was hanging on one of the walls. And she replied that it was her flight suit from the time she broke the sound barrier. She then told me about how she had initially questioned the less than flattering color tone until she learned that the bright orange would help them find her if she had to eject! But for all of her courage, fearlessness, and monumental leadership, one of Senator Smith's indelible

achievements was shepherding the historic Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

Mr. President, I am forever humbled by the shoulders I have been so proud to stand upon. As I recall the milestones of both Congresswoman Rogers and Senator Smith, especially for our veterans and armed forces, I cannot help but think of how they paved the way for my service as the only Republican woman Senator on the Personnel Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, battling as I was at the time in the late 1990s for the fair and equitable treatment of women in the services, including assurances that men and women would train as they fight—side-by-side!

For all of their joint accolades, neither Senator Smith nor Congresswoman Rogers set out to forge news paths for women in politics. In fact, upon winning her first election to the House, Congresswoman Rogers declared, "I hope that everyone will forget that I am a woman as soon as possible." What we remember about these amazing women, born in Maine, is their great integrity, love of country, and a desire to serve. No wonder they have inspired legions of women, myself included.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for recently becoming the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress. However, in doing so, I am reminded that this milestone does not define her legacy. Rather, her legacy as a coalition builder and a tenacious advocate of the marginalized defines Senator MIKULSKI's tenure as a public servant for the people of Maryland.

Throughout her career, Senator MIKULSKI pioneered the role women play in today's Congress. When she joined the Senate in 1987, Senator MIKULSKI became one of two female Senators and the first Democratic woman ever to join the upper chamber. These achievements were not due to a famous husband or father; Senator MIKULSKI was elected because of her integrity and her fiery and compassionate character. Her personal and professional experiences over the past 35 years make Senator MIKULSKI an excellent mentor for first-term female members, leading to the appropriate title: "Dean of Women." I was recently reminded of "the Dean's" ability to rally the support of female colleagues as Senator MIKULSKI and seven of 17 female senators lent their support for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act on the floor of the Senate. Her efforts are emblematic of a unique ability to orchestrate voices in defense of the voiceless.

Just as the Violence Against Women Act provides support to both male and female victims of domestic abuse, Senator MIKULSKI's legacy as a champion of the exploited transcends the concept of gender. From her roots as a social

worker and community organizer, Senator MIKULSKI has constantly stood for social justice. She was a driving force in the landmark Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which furthered protections for women and others faced with discrimination in the workplace. Equal pay for equal work is a principle that Senator MIKULSKI will continue to defend. From the young lady who delivered groceries to seniors, to a passionate defender of the ethnic American, Senator MIKULSKI continues to stand in solidarity with those forced to live in the margins.

I have been proud to serve in the Senate with Senator MIKULSKI for over two decades, and I have enjoyed working with her on many issues, in addition to our time serving together on the Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations for many years. Perhaps most memorable is a CODEL we took to sub-Saharan Africa in 1990.

While my colleagues and I applaud Senator MIKULSKI on the longevity of her career, we more importantly take this moment to celebrate the leadership and achievements that characterize her 35 years of service. How long she has served bears witness to how well she has represented the people of Maryland.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who is now the longest serving woman in the history of the Congress and congratulate her on reaching this important milestone. Senator MIKULSKI is an inspiration to us all. She had broken down not only multiple gender barriers, but legislative, economic and societal barriers as well.

Throughout her career, Senator MIKULSKI has been a champion for those who are often forgotten. Hubert Humphrey once said the moral test of government is how it treats those in the dawn of life, the twilight of life and the shadows of life. Senator MIKULSKI took this message to heart. Her life has been a life of service. She spent her career as a tireless advocate, first as a social worker in Baltimore on the city council and then in the House of Representatives where she served 10 years before coming to the Senate. For the past 25 years she has continued this advocacy and has been a strong voice on the Senate floor, as well as on the HELP Committee. I have been fortunate to serve on the HELP Committee with Senator MIKULSKI since 2009.

One of the things Senator MIKULSKI is best known for is providing good constituent services. This is something all Senate offices do and it often gets overlooked by the national and international issues of the day. But this speaks to one of the most important duties of a Senator. When your constituent's mother dies in a country halfway around the world and you suddenly need a passport or a visa, when a veteran is not getting the benefits he is entitled to or when an older citizen

cannot afford to heat their home, they can turn to their Senator's local office for help. Senator MIKULSKI makes sure she and she her staff provide help to that family or veteran or older citizen.

BARBARA MIKULSKI knows, and her work demonstrates, that the job of a Senator is not only about numbers and budgets, it is about helping people, especially the vulnerable and those without a voice or a lobbyist.

Again, I congratulate BARBARA on her accomplishment and I look forward to working with her and continuing to fight for our children, our workers and our families with her in the years ahead.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President. I come to the floor today to celebrate the service of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, one of the most tenacious and effective senators to serve in the U.S. Senate. This month, following 41 years of public service, Senator MIKULSKI has reached a new milestone in serving in the U.S. Congress longer than any woman in history. But as she has said, "It's not how long you serve, but how well you serve." Both the State of Maryland and the entire Nation have benefited from Senator MIKULSKI's stamina as well her energy, intellect, and compassion. Today, we can see the difference she has made in our schools, health care, paychecks, and workplaces.

Senator MIKULSKI follows in the footsteps of the legendary Hattie Caraway of Arkansas. As the wife of Thaddeus Caraway, a former Congressman and U.S. Senator for Arkansas, Hattie assumed her husband's place in the Senate following his death in 1931. She once said, "The time has passed when a woman should be placed in a position and kept there only while someone else is being groomed for the job." A year later, she ran for reelection, becoming the first woman elected to a 6-year term. She surpassed several milestones, including serving as the first female Senator to preside over the Senate and the first woman to serve as the chairwoman of a committee.

It would take 74 more years until a woman senator chaired a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator MIKULSKI, now at the reins of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, has shown great leadership and vision as chairwoman and it has been a privilege to work with her. While we share many interests, we have worked most closely to advance the growth of science parks, strengthen law enforcement, and ensure U.S. companies can compete in the 21st century. I look forward to a continued partnership, congratulate Senator MIKULSKI on this historic achievement, and express my deep appreciation for all that she has done.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to honor and extend my warmest aloha to my longtime colleague, a fellow member of the House freshman class of 1977, and very dear friend, Senator BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, for setting a new bench-

mark in her career and a significant milestone in this institution: becoming the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress. With each of her many accomplishments, she inspires the next generation of young American women, and she makes their dreams that much more attainable.

My colleague from Maryland has been a true trailblazer for women in Congress. In 1987, she earned the distinction of becoming the first-ever woman U.S. Senator from Maryland, as well as the first woman Democrat to serve in both the House and the Senate. Last year, she also became the longest serving female in Senate history.

BARBARA has not only witnessed the number of females climb from just 21 when she first came to Congress in 1977 to the 92 female members serving today, her actions and spirit helped to make that feat possible. She continues to be a distinguished leader, mentor, and friend to all of her colleagues in Congress, not just the women. Although we have more work to do to eliminate gender bias and discrimination, I am glad to see that Congress has become more representative of the United States.

Throughout her over 35 years in Congress, BARBARA has remained a fearless advocate for women, working-class Americans, and Federal workers across the country, a steadfast protector of the environment, and a relentless champion of civil rights in this country.

Raised by Polish-American small business owners, she has been a longtime defender of labor rights and a fierce proponent of establishing fair and equal working conditions for all Americans regardless of race, sex, or disability. This cause led her to author the landmark women's and worker's rights legislation, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which I cosponsored, to guarantee women equal pay for equal work.

Being from a State that, like Maryland, has a large population of Federal workers, I have worked very closely with BARBARA on many issues to support our government employees. From the time that we entered the House together, she has always been a strong partner and stalwart champion for the rights of our Nation's Federal workforce, including fair pay and benefits for the dedicated men and women who make our government more secure, effective, and efficient.

BARBARA is an embodiment of the democratic spirit and continues to be a leader. She uses her great wit, humor, and boundless energy to urge Congress to take up important issues and then works with Members on both sides of the aisle to resolve differences and come together to achieve real solutions that help real working Americans every day. This is a testament to the fact that as she became the longest serving woman in the history of Congress, she has never forgotten her purpose—to make America better.

I again want to extend my aloha and my congratulations to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for this amazing achievement. It is a pleasure to serve with you. Thank you for your many years of outstanding service and genuine friendship, and I wish you the best as you continue your important work here in Congress.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague and mentor, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, and to celebrate her legacy as the longest serving woman in Congress. For over 35 years, Senator MIKULSKI has proudly served the people of Maryland as a tireless advocate and a selfless public servant. It is my privilege to honor her today.

The great-granddaughter of Polish immigrants, Senator MIKULSKI grew up appreciating the value of hard work and service. On the weekends she worked in her parents' East Baltimore grocery store delivering groceries to homebound elderly. It was then that BARBARA developed her deep passion for helping others.

After earning her master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland, BARBARA started a career as a social worker with Catholic Charities and Baltimore's Department of Social Services. An outspoken advocate for at-risk youth and the elderly, she quickly earned a reputation as a fighter and was elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1971. After 5 years on the city council, BARBARA ran for Congress.

In 1976, BARBARA began her first term representing Maryland's Third Congressional District. As one of only 18 women in the House of Representatives, BARBARA was a member of a small but mighty group. During her 10 years in the House, she gained a reputation as a fighter, and in 1986 the people of Maryland again chose her to represent them but this time in the Senate.

As one of only two female Senators, and the first woman elected to the Senate in her own right, Senator MIKULSKI was met with much skepticism. While outnumbered, BARBARA's determination and dedication to her constituents shined through. BARBARA is a steadfast proponent of greater access to higher education, a leader on the front of women's health, and an unwavering supporter of America's veterans. She is determined to stand up for those who are often forgotten.

A few weeks ago, BARBARA shared a touching story that I think exemplifies her character.

When BARBARA first ran for Senate in 1986, she had the opportunity to get to know Harriet Woods, who was campaigning as a Democrat for the Missouri Senate seat. BARBARA saw the significance of having two female candidates for Senate, and she was certain both of them would win. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be for Harriet Woods, who lost to Republican John Danforth.

On BARBARA's first day she was shown her desk on the Senate floor—she opened it and saw Harry Truman's autograph. She had Harry Truman's desk. While she was delighted to have that desk, she knew that it really belonged to the Senator from Missouri and relinquished it. She said that for years she thought about that desk and hoped that it would someday be returned to a Democrat from Missouri.

Twenty years later, on election night in 2006, BARBARA watched the election results come in from around the country—and in Missouri, in particular. She said she stayed up late in the night waiting for the final result. Once she learned of the results from Missouri, she knew that the desk that had been accidentally given to her all of those years ago would finally be returned, where it belonged. I am so pleased to know that the Truman desk was shared, if only briefly, with my friend BARBARA MIKULSKI.

BARBARA MIKULSKI is a trailblazer, a role model, and an advisor to the other women in the Senate. Today there are 17 women in the Senate, and much of that progress can be attributed to Senator MIKULSKI's leadership.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating Senator MIKULSKI on this milestone and thank her for her 35 years of leadership, friendship, and service.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I would like to honor Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI's amazing life and career as she becomes the Senate's longest serving woman Senator. She has been a role model and inspiration to women across the country as she broke barriers in public life. When she first came to the Senate she was one of only a handful of women ever to serve in the U.S. Senate and now she is one of 17 women here on the Senate floor. Her service has made it easier for girls to dream about one day being a Senator—or President.

Senator MIKULSKI and I shared a similar experience growing up: her parents, William and Christine, opened and operated Willy's Market, a small grocery store in their working class neighborhood in East Baltimore. My parents also opened a small grocery store in Milwaukee—the first of what would become the Kohl's Food Stores and then Kohl's Department Stores.

As we have already heard here on the floor, her father would frequently open the store early so local steel workers could buy their lunches before their shift began. He would also extend credit to help customers who were having a hard time making ends meet. William Mikulski's neighbors didn't go hungry with him as their grocer. BARBARA worked at the store, and helped deliver groceries to homebound seniors in their neighborhood. She got to know her neighbors well, and she understood the important issues facing her community.

Much of what we both experienced working in our family stores and

watching our parents work so hard to provide superior service to their customers, ensuring their children understood the value of hard work, treating others fairly and with dignity, and giving back to the community, influenced our views on customer service. Those views have translated into Senator MIKULSKI's constituent service here in the Senate.

BARBARA's enthusiasm and commitment to serving the people of Maryland has resulted in too many victories to mention here, but I do want to point out a few of the projects we have worked on together on the Agriculture appropriations subcommittee.

Senator MIKULSKI and I have worked closely over the years to protect USDA agriculture research in Beltsville, MD. Beltsville is a historic and crucial part of the USDA's research arm. In fact it is the largest agriculture research facility in the world and does valuable work developing the next generation of crops and farming methods that will feed a growing planet. We've also worked together on increasing funding for the Food and Drug Administration, ensuring that the food we eat and medicine we rely upon is safe.

In my work as the chairman of Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee, I have been especially thankful for the times when BARBARA has spoken passionately about the important programs we fund through the subcommittee. She has been a stalwart supporter of farmers throughout Maryland and across the country, and a true friend here in the Senate. It has been an honor to serve with her.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, my late friend Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," lived his life by the motto "Find the Good and Praise It." That is an easy thing to do when talking about BARBARA MIKULSKI, a friend and colleague with whom I have worked closely since I joined the Senate.

I would like to add my congratulations to those of my colleagues on Senator MIKULSKI reaching the milestone of becoming the longest serving woman in Congress. This is a remarkable achievement for a remarkable woman. For over 35 years, that is almost 13,000 days, BARBARA MIKULSKI has dedicated herself to serving the people of Maryland and representing them here in Congress.

Although Senator MIKULSKI is a proud partisan, she is one of the best advocates of bipartisanship. She understands the need to work together, to learn from one another's point of view, and to strike a deal so that each side can get something of value and move forward.

I have found that when you have BARBARA MIKULSKI by your side in a debate you always seem to win. She brings passion and dedication and tenacity to every issue she works on. Her love of the Senate, Congress in general, and the American people is infectious.

When Senator MIKULSKI and I have worked together it has always been a

delightful experience. Whether authorizing the Teach for America program to allow college graduates to become teachers in our Nation's worst schools; passing America COMPETES, where we improved our energy research programs and STEM education initiatives; or working on higher education where we share a passion for eliminating costly and unnecessary Federal regulations, BARBARA MIKULSKI is a tireless friend and ally.

Congratulations, Senator MIKULSKI. The Senate is proud of you, Maryland is proud of you, and the country is proud of you.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to offer congratulations to my friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, on becoming the longest serving woman Senator in American history.

As Senator MIKULSKI has said, "It's not only how long I serve, but how well I serve." And she has served very, very well. Not only does Senator MIKULSKI serve in the best interests of the people of her native Maryland, but her service continues to improve the lives of Americans from coast to coast.

This comes as no surprise for a person who began her career helping at-risk children and seniors as a social worker in Baltimore. Senator MIKULSKI's nightly commute home from Washington ensures that she will not forget who she works for or where she comes from. The truth is, she never left.

Her commitment and connection to her constituents benefits us all. Her advocacy for access to better health care, improving the quality of education, investing in innovation, and protecting human dignity are not bound by the borders of Maryland. Her service benefits the people of Baltimore, MD, but also the people of Broken Bow, NE.

It is an honor to serve with Senator MIKULSKI. I enjoy her company, I respect her strength, and I admire her commitment.

Congratulations to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI on her record-setting service. We are all the better for it.

#### JOBS ACT

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on H.R. 3606, the Jumpstart Our Business Startups, or JOBS, Act, which the Senate passed on Thursday, March 22, 2012, by a vote of 73 to 26. I am particularly pleased that H.R. 3606 included language from S. 1824, the Private Company Flexibility and Growth Act, which I introduced on November 8, 2011, with Senator CARPER. We authored this important measure to update the shareholder threshold after which entities must register their securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This and other provisions contained in H.R. 3606 will provide companies and small banks with the flexibility to grow, which will in turn lead to economic growth and job creation.