

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—key legislation setting aside more than 100 million acres of Alaska's most pristine public lands. Stan staffed hearings throughout the lower 48 States and Alaska and was one of the many key professional staff who helped shape the final legislation. The law was a milestone in conservation, protecting an area larger than the State of California and more than doubling the size of the Nation's system of national parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers.

When John Seiberling retired in 1987, Stan remained on the Interior Committee staff, serving under former Representative Bruce Vento, chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. Stan continued to work on many other laws and regulations affecting public lands and natural resources, including the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act sponsored by my father.

Stan's expertise was simply indispensable. In 1995 Stan left the Resources Committee to become the legislative director for David Skaggs, a House Member from Colorado, who benefited from Stan's years of experience and expertise with public lands issues.

I have a letter from Congressman Skaggs noting all of Stan's accomplishments and service. I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD.

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

JUNE 13, 2012.

Hon. STAN SLOSS,
*Congressional Staffer Extraordinaire, Office of
Senator Mark Udall, Washington, DC.*

DEAR STAN: Yes, "The Honorable." You are entitled to that term of address more than most on whom it is bestowed *ex officio*. For you, it is has been earned *per labores*.

I am reluctant to contemplate your retirement—or, more precisely, to think of the Congress no longer subject to your knowledgeable instruction and deft oversight. No doubt the superlatives will flow from those who will speak in person at your party. I wish I could be there, and will count on the good Senator to read this for me.

My vocabulary is barely adequate to express my admiration, respect and gratitude for your service to Article I branch and to me personally. You are simply without peer in devotion to duty, in insistence on the highest standards of intellect and integrity, and in institutional loyalty. You have educated us with your insights into law and policy, you have inspired us by your courage and steadfastness, and you have supported us with your friendship and wry humor.

All who have had the privilege of working with you, even as we pretended that you worked for us, feel a poignant mix of deep affection and some sadness at the occasion of your retirement. To say that you will be profoundly missed barely suffices. I pray that you will draw enormous pride and satisfaction in looking back on a career of exceptional service to your country. The United States is a much better place on account of Stan Sloss. The Honorable Stan Sloss.

Godspeed, dear friend.

With great respect and affection,

DAVID E. SKAGGS,
Former Member of Congress.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. While Stan was working with Congressman

Skaggs, he also dealt with contentious issues related to Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons site in Colorado, and the other sites in the U.S. Department of Energy nuclear weapons complex.

Stan was one of the first people I hired following my election to the House of Representatives in November of 1998. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I was fortunate to have someone with Stan's experience who also understood issues important to Colorado. While in my House office, Stan was instrumental in developing a number of land and environmental bills that were signed into law, including the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act, which converted this site and a vast expanse of open space into a wildlife habitat asset after it was cleaned up and closed. He also steered into law the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act, one of the last unprotected areas along Colorado's Northern Front Range mountainous backdrop. Stan has also been my expert on fire prevention, developing legislation on forest health and wildfire response and mitigation.

But Stan's work has not just been confined to the environmental arena. His keen intellect, common sense, and sharp legal analysis have been invaluable on a wide range of issues and topics that face each and every one of us every day. He has been especially effective in tutoring many of the younger members of my staff on the inner workings of Congress, helping them learn the nuances of legislative drafting, and serving as an example of the highest standard of professionalism for congressional staff.

Like any thoughtful and accomplished lawyer, Stan is often fond of saying that he can "argue it flat or he can argue it round," and his objectivity is legendary in our office. Having said that, however, I also know that beneath his always calm demeanor and his capacity to see all sides of the question, there beats the heart of a man who is passionate about doing the right thing.

Through many years of working on behalf of the people of Colorado in my House office and now my Senate office, Stan has always been a voice of wisdom, reason, and, above all, integrity. My colleagues in the Colorado congressional delegation have often looked upon Stan as their resource as well. I have never minded sharing him because his advice and guidance carry weight that inevitably makes better whatever bill or policy he has been asked to consider. I think I daresay the Presiding Officer has also had the opportunity to work with Stan and take advantage of his wisdom and insight.

Stan is a person of depth and accomplishment beyond his work in Congress. He is one of the best read people I have ever met. He is an expert on gardening, on opera, on history, and the list goes on and on. I have to say parenthetically, as a graduate of Williams College, for me to say that about an

Amherst graduate probably has double weight.

Stan has an exceptional sense of humor and a dry wit, as demonstrated in the poems he often wrote making wry observations on current events which he would regularly circulate to staff. In short, he has perfected what seems to be the lost art of being polite and courteous to other people even when he disagrees with them. That, of course, is a quality we could always use a bit more of in Congress.

Stan is not only a good employee, he is also a good human being. In the rough-and-tumble world of politics, that is perhaps the highest praise to which any of us can aspire. His contributions to my offices, the offices of other Members, the House Resources Committee, and the whole Congress and ultimately the people of the United States serve as an example of a professional life that commands both respect and affection.

Just a few months ago, my staff and I celebrated Stan's 70th birthday with him, as we had his 60th and 65th birthdays in past years, and today we are honored to celebrate his retirement. My staff and I will miss Stan, it goes without saying, and we will miss working with him.

As a point of personal privilege, I want to make it clear that I know I will continue to seek his advice even after he leaves congressional service. I am excited to see what the next chapter will be for Stan. It will no doubt involve some adventure, some noble pursuits, some deep thought, and some new summits to ascend.

So please join me in thanking Stan Sloss for 37 years of exceptional work in the Congress and for his service to our country that he loves so much. We wish him well.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRIE SLICK

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague from Colorado who has come to the floor to recognize a very fine public servant who has been with him and the Senate for years. I, too, today rise to speak of an Alaskan who has dedicated a quarter century to service in the Senate, working as my staff person down in Ketchikan, AK.

I would like to share a few comments with my colleagues on this occasion. It is a little bit of a happy occasion, a little bit of a sad occasion. I think my colleague from Colorado would agree that when we have someone who has dedicated so many years, we wish them well as they move forward, but their departure leaves a little bit of a hole for those of us who carry on.

Today I rise to honor Sherrie Slick, who on June 1 began her 25th year as a Senate staffer in southeast Alaska based in her hometown of Ketchikan. Sherrie plans to retire from Federal service on July 30, after, again, a quarter century of service to her State.

For Sherrie, I think her retirement is very likely a cause for joy. It is going

to give her more time to spend with her kids and her grandchildren, more time to devote to the many volunteer and civic efforts in which she is engaged in southeast Alaska. But it is going to be a sad time for myself and for Congressman DON YOUNG.

Sherrie provided guidance to the Alaska delegation in Ketchikan, Alaska's first city, through a very interesting time. It has been somewhat of a turbulent quarter century, one in which the region's former economic mainstay, which is its timber industry, has sharply contracted, during a period in which the tourism industry has significantly grown, and during a period where its prospects of supporting major mineral development I think have substantially brightened—that is a good spot for us. It has been a period when Ketchikan, which is the seventh largest entity in our State, which is the only large community that is separated from its lifeline with its airport on a neighboring island, has endured somewhat unwelcome national attention solely because they seek dependable access by bridge.

Over the years, Sherrie has responded to tens of thousands of public and media inquiries and requests for help over everything from Social Security checks and visas to immigration documents. She has listened to thousands of complaints over access to Alaska public land and to objections to many, many Federal regulations—far too many to count here. Through it all, I think it is fair to say that Sherrie has been that proverbial energizer bunny. She has more enthusiasm, more energy than many people combined. She listens patiently, and she works tirelessly to help all. She helps those southeast residents and visitors deal with Federal agencies, navigate the Federal red tape, and then on top of it, all in that extra time, she volunteers to help her community and help her State be a better place in which to live and raise a family.

Sherrie's volunteer efforts were recognized by the community when she was named Citizen of the Year back in 2005 by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce. But her accomplishments go far beyond being named the Federal Employee of the Year, the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Chamber Emissary in 1991, its outstanding board member in 1994 and its chairman in 1996. She has also received the Ketchikan Rotary Club's Community Service Award in 1994, received the Ketchikan Federal Executive Association's Lifetime Community Service Award in 2006, received the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau Rainbird Award in 1990 and gained its Outstanding Service Award in 2006.

Ms. Slick, originally from Corvallis, Oregon, has a degree in elementary education from Oregon State University and also training in business and accounting from Linn-Benton Community College in Corvallis. She moved to Ketchikan in 1975. A mother of two,

Brian and Theresa, she first worked for eight years as the office manager of the Ketchikan Credit Bureau before moving to insurance underwriting for three years. She later became the assistant sales tax auditor for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for five years and then spent a sixth year working as the borough's planning and zoning secretary.

In June 1988, former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, with encouragement from the state's other Senator at the time, my father, Frank Murkowski, stole Sherrie away from local government to head the Delegation's unified southern Panhandle constituent office. In addition to her legislative work, Sherrie has performed a dizzying array of volunteer services for her community and state.

Since 2004 she has been a member of the Ketchikan Pioneers Home Foundation, the state's main senior care provider. She was a board member of the Alaska State Pioneer Homes Board from 2007 to 2010, a board member of the Ketchikan General Hospital Foundation from 2008 to 2010, served as chair person of the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce in 1996, as chairman of Ketchikan Rotary in 2000 and as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ketchikan Federal Executive Association. She also was the Treasurer and Vice Chairman of Ketchikan Soroptimists, a member of the Executive Board of the Alaska Public Employees Association and State Treasurer of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough chapter of the State Employees Political Information Committee.

While active in local and state politics, Sherrie also was the founding board member of the Ketchikan Soccer League, the vice president of the Ketchikan Killer Whales Swim Club, the Co-Leader and Day Camp director of the local Campfire Girls program, a Boy Scouts Co-Leader and Den mother, a leader for the local junior and senior high schools' drill teams and for four years was a board member, vice-chair and chairman of the Ketchikan Theater Ballet. The latter posts allowed her to express her musical loves which include playing piano, organ, clarinet and accordion.

Sherrie, in her "free" time, also operated a part-time catering company and was a partner in the Alaska Cruise Line Agency, which provides lecturers to explain Alaska's history, discuss its scenery and wildlife and answer tourist questions about the state during voyages up the Inside Passage aboard commercial cruise ships. In that role Sherrie has provided factual information to thousands of visitors to the 49th State answering such questions as whether visitors to Alaska can use American stamps on their postcards. She, in that post, has been a true ambassador for the state's tourism industry.

Through it all, including organizing and staffing literally hundreds of federal official visits, congressional field

hearings and volunteer fundraising events, such as those to aid breast cancer detection and treatment, Sherrie has maintained her calm, her poise and her never failing sense of humor and graciousness—not to mention her energy level. Her dedication to family, community and career is universally recognized by friends and associates.

I can't thank her enough for her service to me during my decade in the U.S. Senate, and her service to her fellow Alaskans over the past 25 years. Her intelligence, knowledge and people-pleasing skills will be sorely missed in the future. I hope that all members of the U.S. Senate will join me in wishing her well and godspeed in her retirement pursuits. She has earned all of her accolades and the true thanks of all Alaskans in the Panhandle for a job very well done.

I am pleased and delighted to have her here with her granddaughter enjoying some Washington, DC, hospitality. Again, I cannot give thanks near enough to her for all the years of service Sherrie has provided to my State.

TRIBUTE TO LORY YUDIN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is a definition of "United States Senator" that I have always enjoyed: "A United States Senator is a constitutional impediment to the smooth functioning of staff." We may laugh. But we all know that there is a lot of truth in that!

On the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which I chair, I am blessed with one of the finest staff teams on Capitol Hill. And on that staff, Lory Yudin, our chief clerk, has set the highest standard for professionalism, expertise, and work ethic. So it is a sad day for the committee as Lory retires this week.

Actually, this is Lory's second retirement from the Senate. She originally came to work in the Senate in 1977, as a staffer for the Banking Committee, later moving to the Rules Committee, and retiring in 2001.

She was coaxed to come back to the Senate in 2009. It was a critical time for the HELP Committee, just days before the committee was scheduled to begin markup of the historic health reform bill. We were in sudden, urgent need of a new chief clerk. And not just any chief clerk. This was no time for on-the-job training. We needed a seasoned veteran who could step right in and take charge of a long and complex markup process. Long-time staffers put their heads together and came up with the answer: We need to persuade Lory Yudin to come back to the Senate.

Fortunately, Lory said yes. On her first day, she walked into a scene of disarray, with boxes, papers, and documents scattered across tables and lining hallways. Lory quickly took charge, imposing order and discipline—and, most importantly, projecting a sense of calm and competence. In short order, everything was sorted, organized, and under control. The committee was ready for one of the most