

Republicans are stuck in the past when insurance companies could use premium dollars for bonuses for the bosses rather than health care. All around America this month there will be hundreds of thousands of people who will be getting a rebate because insurance companies weren't spending enough money on them but, rather, on their own salaries. We set a limit: You have to spend 80 percent of a premium to help people get well. They are stuck in the past and they want to return to when insurance companies were king. They are hopelessly stuck in the past.

But there was a vote that we should all focus on, on the Affordable Care Act. It was a 5-4 vote that upheld that bill. The Supreme Court of the United States did that. But I guess they didn't get the news. The Supreme Court ruled the act is constitutional. It is the law of the land now.

We need to move on. They need to catch up on the fact that people want us to work to create jobs, whether it is in Alaska, Nevada, Kentucky—any of the States. But they want us to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

On July 19, they blocked us from voting on a bill to prevent outsourcing jobs—which, by the way, their Presidential nominee is very good at doing. Now they want us to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

On July 12, they blocked passage of the small business jobs bill that would have helped small businesses all over this country. They wanted to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

But on March 29, they blocked a bill to promote renewable energy.

On March 13, they blocked Senator STABENOW's amendment to extend expiring energy tax credits.

They wanted to vote on the Affordable Care Act, and they stopped us from proceeding to put workers back on the job building and modernizing America, and that was done on November 3.

On October 20, they blocked the motion to proceed to a bill to keep teachers and first responders on the job.

They so badly want to go back and fight these old battles that they blocked a motion to proceed to the American Jobs Act.

They blocked us on a bill to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration, something that has been done as a matter of fact in the past, creating thousands of jobs in America. They wanted us to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

One day last year, after weeks of debate, they blocked the bill to improve small business innovation. That, by the way, is one of the programs that has done so many interesting things, including inventing the electric toothbrush.

Republicans are hopelessly stuck in the past. They need to stop trying to repeal a law enacted 3 years ago. The Supreme Court has declared it constitutional. Let's move on to try to get jobs for people.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe we are now on a motion to proceed to S. 3457; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, John F. Kerry, Bernard Sanders, Kent Conrad, Al Franken, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Thomas R. Carper, Robert Menendez, Jim Webb, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived and that the vote with respect to this motion occur at 2:15 on Tuesday, September 11.

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to thank Chairman MURRAY for her work on the Veterans Jobs Corps Act.

The unemployment rate for our young, returning veterans is higher than that national average, and this is a travesty. This important bill would invest \$1 billion in creating a Veterans Jobs Corps to help our veterans transition into civilian life and get job placements in important areas of law enforcement, first responders positions, or positions in parks and forests involving restoration and protection of our public lands.

The bill makes other strategic investments to improve our infrastructure to help veterans with their job search. Veterans deserve access to Internet at one-stop job centers, as well as qualified outreach specialists to help disabled veterans seek employment. It is designed to help ensure that veterans get the credit they deserve for their training and military experiences when they seek civilian certification and licenses.

I would also like thank Leader REID and Chairman MURRAY and their staffs

for working with me to find an acceptable offset for this legislation, which would have had an impact on the National Energy Technology Laboratory, NETL, located in West Virginia. NETL does critically important research on improving the safety and environmental sustainability of offshore oil and gas development and importantly for my State they are working on identifying measures that can be taken to reduce the environmental impact and improve the safety of shale gas production. I am pleased that we will be able to switch out the objectionable offset and move this bill forward quickly as soon as we return from recess.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

DISABILITIES CONVENTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Disabilities Convention enjoys strong bipartisan support in the Senate, with Senators McCAIN, DURBIN, KERRY, BARASSO, COONS, TOM UDALL, MORAN, and HARKIN leading the charge to ratify the Convention. With their help, I hope we will be able to move this treaty forward in the future.

Twenty-two years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act to lift the barriers Americans with disabilities faced in everyday life. And ever since the passage of that law, the United States has been a leader in expanding disability rights across the globe.

We have led, other countries have followed, and persons with disabilities have found ever greater opportunities to succeed. Now we are presented with an opportunity to strengthen our leadership on disability rights around the world by joining the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This convention is another step towards ensuring that all people with a disability, in any country, are treated with dignity and given the right to achieve to their full potential.

Let me read part of a recent statement to the Foreign Relations Committee from one of my esteemed predecessors, former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, recipient of two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for heroic achievement, who was wounded fighting for our country in World War II.

U.S. ratification of the [Convention] will improve physical, technological and communication access outside the U.S., thereby helping to ensure that Americans—particularly, many thousands of disabled American veterans—have equal opportunities to live, work, and travel abroad. . . . An active U.S. presence in implementation of global disability rights will promote the market for devices such as wheelchairs, smart phones,

and other new technologies engineered, made, and sold by U.S. corporations.

This convention will help U.S. citizens and veterans abroad, and U.S. businesses here at home. And it won't cost us anything. It won't require any changes to existing U.S. law and or new contributions to the United Nations.

As we watch the Olympics this week and admire the incredible feats of all of the athletes, we are reminded of what each of us can achieve.

Just look at Oscar Pistorius from South Africa—also known as the—“Blade Runner,” who this Saturday will run the 400-meter sprint in the Olympics on carbon-fiber legs.

Or watch Jessica Long, an American gold-medal bilateral amputee swimmer, participate in her third Paralympics Games at the age of 20.

This convention will help make the path smoother for Olympians such as Oscar and Jessica.

It has the support of veterans group and disability groups from around the Nation. It has the strong backing of a bipartisan group of Senators as well as leading Republicans such as President George H.W. Bush and Senator Dole.

Just like passing the Americans with Disabilities Act, ratifying this Convention is, quite simply, the right thing to do.

REMEMBERING PHILIP PENDLETON ARDERY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian and a man of great accomplishment who leaves behind a towering legacy of service with his passing. Mr. Philip Pendleton Ardery of Louisville, KY, passed away on July 26, 2012, at his home. He was 98 years old.

Mr. Ardery's life story reads like a well-written novel of action, suspense, and drama or several novels, given how much living he packed into his 98 years. A war hero, philanthropist, author, public servant, and committed flag bearer of New Deal liberalism, he made such a profound impact on my hometown of Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and our Nation that I feel compelled to come to the floor and say a few words about his passing.

I have great admiration and respect for Phil and his remarkable life. That may surprise some, given that he and I did not have a lot in common with respect to our political or ideological views. I am certain that much of what I have done in my career in public life did not please him one bit. Having said that, every American, no matter where you stand on the political spectrum, has to recognize the extent of Philip Ardery's commitment to service. Service was the watchword of his life, be it service to State, Nation, or those less well off than himself.

Phil was born in 1914 in Lexington, KY, the son of William Breckinridge and Julia Hoge Spencer Ardery. Later

in life, he moved to a farm on the Paris-Lexington Pike. His youth in Bourbon County forever left an imprint on him, and he loved to share his love for the area with others.

Phil graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kentucky in 1935 and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1938. Also in his Harvard Law class was Phil's boyhood friend from Bourbon County, Edward F. Prichard, Jr.

After law school, Phil joined the Army Air Corps, and during World War II he became a B-24 squadron commander. Phil flew a full combat tour of 25 missions, dropping bombs on Norway, Austria, Crete, Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland. He then volunteered for one more mission on D-day and commanded a division of about 200 pilots. For his bravery in uniform, Phil was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the French Croix de Guerre. He later wrote a book about his war exploits, called “Bomber Pilot: A Memoir of World War II.”

While still training as a pilot in Texas, Phil met the woman who would become his wife, Anne Stuyvesant Tweedy. Together they had four children. They married on December 6, 1941, the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After the war, Phil practiced law with a focus on representing the electric cooperatives bringing power and lights to rural Kentucky. A loyalist of Franklin D. Roosevelt's, he would remain committed to the ideals of New Deal liberalism for the rest of his life. He ran for office a few times, including in the Democratic primary for a Senate seat in 1946 and in the general election for the House of Representatives seat from Kentucky's Third District in 1956. He lost both those races, but did win a race for Jefferson County Fiscal Court in 1958.

Meanwhile, Phil's longtime friend and Harvard Law School classmate Edward F. Prichard, Jr., was having quite the political career in President Roosevelt's administration. Known in Kentucky as “the boy wonder,” it was a near certainty that Prichard would run for Governor or Senator someday, and almost surely win.

But a dramatic twist that would ruin the two men's friendship caused that not to be. Prichard came to Phil and confessed to him that he had participated in a crime. Phil took Prichard to Phil's father, who was a Bourbon County circuit judge at the time, to relate his story. This chain of events eventually led to Prichard's conviction of stuffing the ballot box in the State's 1946 election. He was sentenced to 2 years in Federal prison.

In yet another book Phil wrote, a memoir titled “Heroes and Horses: Tales of the Bluegrass,” Phil wrote that it was not Edward's crime in and of itself that created the rift between the two friends, but his public denial of wrongdoing. “That put [him] in the position of making my father appear to

be a liar,” Phil wrote. “So Prich and I had to be enemies.”

This story does, however, have a happy ending. Although friction remained between the Ardery and Prichard families, in 1976, Prichard finally admitted his guilt in a newspaper interview. In 1984, Ardery reached out to his old friend, who was by then blind due to diabetes. Phil paid the expenses for the two men to visit Harvard for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of their former law professor, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

After watching a friend's son struggle with schizophrenia, Phil helped found what has become Wellspring, a network of 19 facilities that provides housing and rehabilitation to people with severe and persistent mental illness. Wellspring has helped more than 6,000 people over its 30 years in existence, thanks in large part to millions of dollars raised by Phil.

Phil also helped found the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, a national mental health research group that has awarded roughly \$300 million in grants to scientists around the world in the past 25 years.

Phil served as the first commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard, and led it during the Korean War in England, where he served as a NATO wing base station commander. He retired with the rank of major general in 1965. As a pilot in London, he met and befriended famous names like Edward R. Murrow and T.S. Eliot.

Phil's many philanthropic activities also include service as director and president of the Frazier Rehab Center, as a director of the Jewish Hospital Health Care Systems, and as a member of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, the Kentucky Humanities Council, and the executive committee of the Kentucky Historical Society. He was the chairman of the American Heart Association and the Kentucky Heart Association.

I know several members of the Ardery family well, and I want to convey my and Elaine's deepest condolences to all those who knew and loved Philip Ardery. We are particularly thinking today of his wife, Anne; his son and daughter-in-law Joseph and Anne; his son and daughter-in-law Philip and Cecilia; his daughter and son-in-law Julia and William; several grandchildren; and many other beloved family members and friends. Phil was preceded in death by his son Peter.

As I hope I have made clear, Philip Ardery packed an amazing amount of success and accomplishment in his long and rich life. We can be grateful that such a devoted public servant was granted so much life on this Earth to do his good works. There is no doubt that thousands of people—from the rural Kentuckian who needed electricity, to the beneficiaries of his charitable work, to the many whose lives were saved thanks to his service in uniform—have reason to be thankful for Mr. Ardery.