

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Akaka	Gillibrand	Merkley
Baucus	Grassley	Mikulski
Begich	Hagan	Murray
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Blumenthal	Johanns	Pryor
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Brown (OH)	Kerry	Reid
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Cardin	Kohl	Sanders
Carper	Landrieu	Schumer
Casey	Lautenberg	Shaheen
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Conrad	Levin	Tester
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Durbin	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Manchin	Warner
Franken	Menendez	Whitehouse

NAYS—41

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Ayotte	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Hatch	Risch
Blunt	Hoeven	Roberts
Boozman	Hutchison	Rubio
Brown (MA)	Inhofe	Sessions
Burr	Isakson	Shelby
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Snowe
Coats	Kyl	Thune
Coburn	Lee	Toomey
Cochran	McCain	Vitter
Corker	McConnell	Webb
Cornyn	Moran	Wicker
Crapo	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—5

DeMint	Kirk	Wyden
Heller	McCaskill	

The amendment (No. 3095) was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCAIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to modify the consent agreement that the Senators from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE and Mrs. SHAHEEN, have 15 minutes equally divided following the remarks of Senator BAUCUS.

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

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I wish to take a moment to shine the light on a dark topic in my home State of Montana.

On Sunday I read something that hit me in the gut. The Billings Gazette reported that during 2010 at least 210 Montanans committed suicide. That is according to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. That was 2010. In 2011 that number was 225. Another 5,600 Montanans attempted to kill themselves last year. That is a startling average of about 15 per day. In a State with roughly 1 million residents, that is nearly twice the national average.

We in Montana have a saying that I think is quite accurate. Montana is

really one big small town. We know each other, only about 1 or 2 degrees of separation. You know what. If you ask if we know Uncle Joe, we all know each other. We know somebody who knows someone very close to us. We know each other's families.

These numbers are devastating. Among the victims of suicide in Montana are children, parents, neighbors, friends, and sadly many are also our military veterans who return home only to be held behind an invisible enemy line known as PTSD.

In Montana, we are a proud home to more veterans than nearly any other State per capita. We also had more Montanans volunteer for service after 9/11 than anywhere else in the country per capita. There are nearly 300 Montanans serving in Afghanistan today. We are proud of these men and women, and we are grateful. We take our responsibility to honor them very seriously. So the statistics are all the more alarming. They are very important.

In 2011 a report from the Center for a New American Security found that from 2005 to 2010, all across the country a servicemember took his or her life almost every 36 hours.

Matt Kuntz, the executive director of the Montana chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness, has described Montana's suicide epidemic as a public health crisis. Matt knows all too well that behind each and every one of those numbers is a family and community devastated by the loss. Matt is a veteran himself. In 2007 he lost his stepbrother, an Iraq war veteran. I know Matt, and I knew his stepbrother. He lost his stepbrother to suicide. His stepbrother was so scared, so frightened to go back to Iraq after serving three or four tours of duty. He knew—he said to Matt: If I go back, I know I am going to die. So many of my friends and buddies have died. I know if I go back, I am going to die too.

That caused him to be very depressed, and it caused his suicide. So my friend Matt took action. He dedicated himself to raising awareness. Largely because of Matt's dedication, the Montana National Guard led the way with a successful pilot program to increase screening of veterans both before and after deployment. That is natural in Montana because, as I said earlier, we are really one big small town. We know each other, we want to take action, and we want to get results.

I was proud to champion particularly the 2010 Defense authorization bill that took the Montana National Guard model, which we developed in Montana. With the DOD Defense bill, it is now implemented nationwide. Now every branch of the military has implemented screenings. We started screening before kids go over, as soon as they come back, 6 weeks later after they are back, another 6 months later after they are back, just continually screening, personal screenings. Thousands of health care providers have been trained

under this legislation and, most importantly, thousands of servicemembers are now getting personal and private one-on-one attention from a trained health care provider.

There is still a lot more to be done, and I am proud we took steps to advance the ball yesterday by passing the Mental Health ACCESS Act as an amendment to the current bill. I applaud Senator MURRAY for her work on the measure, and I am proud to be a cosponsor. This provision creates comprehensive standardized suicide prevention within the DOD. It expands eligibility for VA mental health services to family members of veterans. It creates more peer-to-peer counseling opportunities, and it requires the VA to establish accurate, reliable measures for mental health services.

When duty calls, we in Montana answer proudly. This is about taking care of these men and women just as they have taken care of us. These people put their lives on the line in the name of our State, our country, and our freedom. We have a responsibility to try to do all we can to help them return to their families and live a reasonable, healthful life back at home. Too many Montanans are suffering in silence, as in other parts of the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring a voice to this important cause. Thank you, Matt, and thank you all for taking action in the Senate to further our efforts to give servicemembers and veterans the care and support they deserve.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REMEMBERING WARREN B. RUDMAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor today, along with my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator AYOTTE, to honor the life and service of a distinguished former Member of this Senate and a proud son of New Hampshire, Warren B. Rudman.

Senator Rudman was widely and deservedly hailed in both life and now in his death as a public servant who reached across party lines to get the job done for his country and his State. Warren Rudman didn't do this out of weakness, he acted so because of the strength and courage that marked his entire life. An Army combat veteran of the Korean conflict, Warren Rudman earned a Bronze Star Medal. He was an amateur boxer. As the attorney general for the State of New Hampshire, he was

a ferocious prosecutor. His memoir was aptly entitled "Combat."

As a Senator, Warren Rudman relished taking on big battles. In the 1980s, he joined with Senators Fritz Hollings and Phil Gramm to tackle deficits. If the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act had been followed by subsequent Congresses, we would not be struggling today to reduce massive deficits.

He didn't shrink from holding a President of his own party accountable either, when he served on the congressional panel investigating the Iran Contra affair. Nor was he reluctant to hold his fellow Senators accountable when he chaired the Senate Ethics Committee.

Warren Rudman's public service did not end after he left the Senate. Most notably, he cochaired with another former Senator, Gary Hart, a national security commission that correctly predicted a terrorist attack within America's borders.

Warren Rudman was always blunt and outspoken. During the Iran Contra hearings he said to Oliver North:

The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong. And what Ronald Reagan thinks or Oliver North thinks or what I think or what anybody else thinks matters not a whit.

He said he left the Senate because Congress was "stuck in the mud of strident partisanship, excessive ideology, never-ending campaigns." That was how he saw Congress 20 years ago. Obviously, he was very aware of what was happening in this body.

But it was his more quiet work that Warren Rudman was most proud of. His greatest achievement, he said, was his behind-the-scenes efforts to get David Souter, another son of New Hampshire, nominated to serve on the Supreme Court.

Sometimes forgotten is Senator Rudman's authorship and successful push to enact the Small Business Innovation Research Program, which to this day still enables small businesses to compete for Federal research and development awards.

Warren B. Rudman lived a long and full life. His service graced the Senate, and to the end he had New Hampshire granite in his veins.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I join my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, in paying tribute to and honoring the life and legacy of Warren Rudman. Warren Rudman was a Senator from New Hampshire whose intellect, courage, and conviction brought great honor to this institution.

Warren Rudman embodied the very best of New Hampshire: frugal, fiercely independent, and totally committed to the common good. He didn't aspire to be a politician, but when he saw his country was headed in the wrong direction, he stepped up to serve, and his focus was always doing the right thing

for our country and the people of New Hampshire.

It wasn't the first time Warren Rudman had been called to duty. He had already distinguished himself in the U.S. Army, serving as a combat platoon leader and company commander during the Korean War. It was there that he saw the horrors of war and became convinced of the need for American military supremacy and strength. For his brave service he was presented the Bronze Star.

Following his return home, Warren Rudman settled in Nashua, his hometown—also my hometown—where he raised his family. After completing law school, Warren entered private practice, where he remained until he was called to serve once again—only this time he was recruited to bring his energy and ideas to New Hampshire State government. Warren quickly proved himself as Governor Peterson's chief of staff. Then, at age 39, he was appointed to serve as New Hampshire's attorney general.

I am very proud to have also served as New Hampshire's attorney general. In my view, Warren Rudman is probably the greatest attorney general to serve in New Hampshire's history. He modernized the office of the attorney general to meet the needs of a changing State. He was a tough-on-crime attorney general who personally tried criminal cases.

Warren Rudman earned a reputation for standing firm on principle even when it wasn't popular. It was perfect practice for the battles he would later fight in Washington on behalf of the people of this country.

Warren ran for the Senate in 1980 because the issues he cared about were being neglected. He believed in a strong national defense and he saw the Nation's fiscal situation careening dangerously off course. He was worried about the threat that presented to our country's future.

As a first-term Senator, Warren Rudman truly made his mark, and that is certainly not easy to do. But it showed his character, his leadership, and his persistence because Warren Rudman's name will forever be linked with his landmark effort to rein in Federal spending. The Gramm-Rudman legislation was born of the bold idea the Federal Government shouldn't spend beyond its means. When it was signed into law, annual deficits were \$200 billion. Imagine how much better off we would be if we had heeded Warren Rudman's warnings and truly followed through on the work he did in this body.

Warren's zeal for responsible government went beyond reducing spending. As a former prosecutor, he was seen by his colleagues as someone who was committed to fairness, truth, and independence. When the Iran Contra scandal erupted in 1986, the Senate moved to investigate and Warren Rudman was selected to serve as the committee's top Republican. At the outset, he made

one thing clear, and that always guided Warren Rudman in everything he did. This is what he said:

"I consider myself an American first and a Republican second."

That was a commitment he kept, helping to lead a nonpartisan inquiry that pursued the facts. He saw himself as asking tough questions on behalf of the American people and he expected answers. With the Nation in turmoil, Warren Rudman stood firm for the rule of law. His rigorous commitment to uncovering the truth brought credit to this body and great pride to the people of New Hampshire.

Of course, representing their interests was always Warren Rudman's true passion. Warren Rudman had New Hampshire in his blood and he brought New Hampshire common sense to Capitol Hill. While Warren was at the center of some of the most consequential debates in Washington, he always put his constituents first. In fact, legislation he authored to help small businesses continues to benefit entrepreneurs to this day in the Granite State.

Shortly after arriving in the Senate, the first bill he introduced on behalf of the State of New Hampshire and our country was a bill called the Small Business Innovation Research Act, which was aimed at bolstering small high-tech companies in New Hampshire and across the Nation. To this day, the SBIR Program continues to help small defense and technology companies through competitive grants, and it has been a very important program. That was the idea of Warren Rudman the day he came to the Senate, which is so impressive, and Senator SHAHEEN and I have proudly worked together across party lines to make sure this important program continues to be effective.

Warren Rudman will be remembered as a statesman, someone who loved his country and wanted to make it better. In bidding farewell to the Senate in 1992, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve with such talented colleagues in this esteemed body. He also expressed his hopes for the future of this body, and this is what he said: "It is a very special place, with very special people, and I hope in the coming years the institution can coalesce to bring those talents together in a bipartisan way to do what is good for America."

As our country continues to face great challenges, may all of us remain mindful of Warren Rudman's wise words and the powerful example he set for this body. Granite Staters throughout all New Hampshire mourn his loss, but we will never forget his legacy as an esteemed representative of the people of New Hampshire and someone who always put America first.

Mr. LEAHY. It was a pleasure and an honor for this Senator to serve side by side with the late Senator from New Hampshire, Warren Rudman.

As we in New England knew and, of course, as the people of New Hampshire, and we neighbors in Vermont, especially knew—he was a skilled and accomplished legislator. He was a credit to this body. He was a catalyst for reform. He always kept his word. What was most important to me personally is that he was a good and close friend. We traveled together, we worked together, and we never let our different political parties get in the way of doing things that helped our part of the country or our country at large.

I think he was shaped by his experience as well as by his Yankee origins. An Army combat infantry commander, he saw much action during the Korean conflict before coming to the Senate. He had been a widely respected attorney general from New Hampshire.

Senator Rudman embodied the characteristics that many of us call the old school of Senate values. We served together on the Appropriations Committee. We often worked together on national issues, as well as on behalf of our two adjoining States. As I said earlier, I quickly learned that when Warren Rudman gave his word, you could count on it.

He served during a time when Senators would readily put aside party affiliations to work together. When progress required compromise, as it usually does, he was able to help chart the way forward to accommodate different viewpoints and interests. Regrettably, that kind of bipartisanship at this point in the Senate's history is too rare, and I think we have to work to recapture it.

In the can-do Yankee spirit, he took on difficult challenges and stuck with them. From national security and foreign affairs to budget policy, he dug into pressing and often prickly issues, and he made a difference.

Well after his retirement from this body—a voluntary retirement—he continued to serve the country he loved so deeply. Well before the attacks on our Nation of September 11, 2001, he and former Senator Gary Hart headed a national advisory panel investigating the threat of international terrorism. The sobering conclusions they reached about our susceptibility to terrorist attacks were prescient, but largely forgotten, until 9/11.

When I was asked to serve on the advisory board of the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership and Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire, of course I was pleased to accept. His legacy will be reflected well at the Rudman Center, just as his legacy of service and accomplishment will continue to be reflected and appreciated in this body.

Madam President, as I say this, it seems perfectly fitting that the distinguished senior Senator from New Hampshire is presiding: The Senate, and the Nation, are better for Warren Rudman's service.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3096, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up Merkley amendment No. 3096, as modified.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY], for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MANCHIN, proposes an amendment numbered 3096, as modified.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be waived.

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

The amendment (No. 3096), as modified, is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1221. COMPLETION OF ACCELERATED TRANSITION OF UNITED STATES COMBAT AND MILITARY AND SECURITY OPERATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should, in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, and other allies in Afghanistan, seek to—

(1) undertake all appropriate activities to accomplish the President's stated goal of transitioning the lead responsibility for security to the Government of Afghanistan by mid-summer 2013;

(2) as part of accomplishing this transition of the lead responsibility for security to the Government of Afghanistan, draw down United States troops to a level sufficient to meet this goal;

(3) as previously announced by the President, continue to draw down United States troop levels at a steady pace through the end of 2014; and

(4) end all regular combat operations by United States troops by not later than December 31, 2014, and take all possible steps to end such operations at the earliest date consistent with a safe and orderly draw down of United States troops in Afghanistan.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to recommend or support any limitation or prohibition on any authority of the President—

(1) to modify the military strategy, tactics, and operations of United States Armed Forces as such Armed Forces redeploy from Afghanistan;

(2) to authorize United States forces in Afghanistan to defend themselves whenever they may be threatened;

(3) to attack Al Qaeda forces wherever such forces are located;

(4) to provide financial support and equipment to the Government of Afghanistan for the training and supply of Afghanistan military and security forces; or

(5) to gather, provide, and share intelligence with United States allies operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to present this amendment in this Chamber. I appreciate that my lead cosponsor RAND PAUL and nine other Senators have signed on to sponsor this amendment.

This amendment is designed to help draw down the war in Afghanistan in a timely and responsible manner. It is time to bring home our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our husbands and our wives as quickly and as safely as possible and put an end to America's longest war.

We went to Afghanistan with two objectives: destroy al-Qaida training camps and hunt down those responsible for 9/11. Our capable American troops and NATO partners have accomplished those goals. Afghanistan is no longer, and has not been for years, an important hub for al-Qaida activity. Al-Qaida has robust operations in a number of nations around the world, including Yemen and Somalia, but not in Afghanistan.

American forces have also accomplished the second objective: capturing or killing those who attacked America on 9/11. So it is time to put an end to this war.

Simply put, we are currently in the midst of a nation-building strategy that is not working. It simply makes no sense to have nearly 70,000 troops on the ground in Afghanistan when the biggest terrorist threats are elsewhere.

Our President recognizes this fact and has committed to a steady course of drawing down troop levels and handing over security responsibilities to the Government of Afghanistan. In contrast, the House-passed version of this bill calls for keeping at least 68,000 troops in Afghanistan through the end of 2014.

Let me give some details about what this short amendment does. It is a sense of Congress resolution that the President should undertake all appropriate activities to accomplish his stated goal of transitioning the lead responsibility for security to the Government of Afghanistan by midsummer 2013.

This is the President's goal, and our team has been working to make this happen; second, as a part of accomplishing this transition of lead responsibility for security to the Government of Afghanistan, drive down United States troops to a level sufficient to meet this goal.

Third, as previously announced by the President, continue to draw down U.S. troop levels at a steady pace through the end of 2014; and, very importantly, end all regular combat operations by the U.S. troops by not later than December 31, 2014, and take all possible steps to end such operations earlier if it can be done in a manner consistent with a safe and orderly drawdown of U.S. troops.

This amendment very clearly sets out that it is not to be construed that we are recommending or supporting any limitation or prohibition on any authority of the President to modify the military strategy, tactics, and operations of the U.S. Armed Forces as such Armed Forces redeploy from Afghanistan. It also clearly notes that we are not interfering in any way with the