

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended to 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION ACT

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my Senate colleagues.

Yesterday, we passed a reauthorization of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act. That is very significant for my State of Louisiana, particularly southeast Louisiana. Today I expect that package will be similarly approved by the U.S. House and passed into law to fully reauthorize this important restoration program.

In a minute I will get into why it is important and positive and noteworthy. Let me mention in passing its significance to me. It happened to be the first bill I ever passed in Congress. I came to the U.S. House in a special election in 1999, and very soon after that we passed into law in my freshman term this legislation in 2001. More important, it has been a very positive, productive program cleaning up a big part of Louisiana and parts of Mississippi.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin is about 16 parishes in Louisiana, four counties in Mississippi and southeast Louisiana. Lake Pontchartrain and the areas surrounding Lake Pontchartrain are the most populated part of our State—at least 1.5 million residents.

When I was a kid, unfortunately Lake Pontchartrain had come into a sad state and was visibly dirty. Nobody would have thought of swimming there at the time. Soon after that, however, a positive grassroots effort started to clean up the lake. It wasn't some big government program, it wasn't some edict from the EPA or anyone else. It was a grassroots citizens effort. It was embodied by a great organization that was founded and still exists: the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. That nonprofit, private foundation, that group of active citizens and stakeholders got together around the need to clean up the lake and make it a suitable lake once again and clean up all the surrounding parishes in that watershed.

That effort had great success from when I was in high school for the next several decades. Then, as I was coming to the Congress, we wanted to take the next step and amplify those efforts. So with an enormous amount of input from that citizens group and other local stakeholders, we came up with a

model, a completely voluntary, proactive cleanup effort housed in the EPA focused exclusively on the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. That is when we acted, 1999 and 2000, and passed that legislation in 2001.

It has had an enormously positive impact. It created a real partnership—again, built from the ground up, from local stakeholders, from that local group of civic activists—and it generated restoration efforts, similar statuses, and other important restoration efforts around the country, and over the last many years it has had real impact.

As Carlton Dufrechou, then head of the Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Executive Committee, said:

It's been the catalyst for over 100 projects that have reduced pollution from sewage plants, dairy operations, and helped preserve Louisiana's fragile coast. And the results are quantifiable. Lake Pontchartrain is again fishable and swimmable.

That is really the ultimate test. That is the ultimate measure, when citizens can go out and swim in the lake as they can now; when they can go out and actively fish in the lake in a way they never did to that extent a decade and two decades ago. That is the ultimate validation. That is the ultimate measure.

We did reauthorize the program in 2006. Now, in 2012, we are reauthorizing it, basing it on the same continuing model, a from-the-ground-up enterprise, a proactive voluntary effort; not some Washington bureaucrat throwing a huge cumbersome rule book at local stakeholders but building from the ground up through voluntary proactive restoration efforts, getting those stakeholders together, the people who know the lay of the land the best, and acting based on their priorities and their recommendations.

That was the model from the beginning. That was the model before this legislation, with the grassroots effort that preceded it and that continues. That is the model we will continue to use. I hope, in some small way, that can be the model we use more and more actively in environmental cleanup around the country. Certainly, that is the positive perspective I will bring as the new ranking Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee.

So I again thank my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—for passing this reauthorization. It is important and productive and positive and will continue to be on the ground in southeast Louisiana.

I very much look forward to that reauthorization passing the U.S. House and being signed into law so that those activists and stakeholders and citizens on the ground in southeast Louisiana can help lead that important continuing work.

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

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

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise for a few moments to share a few thoughts about our friend and colleague who passed away yesterday, Senator DAN INOUE. It was a shock to me here on the floor yesterday when his passing was announced and it is still a shock today to see that it is indeed real—the beautiful bowl of white roses on his desk.

I want to share a remembrance or two. When I was 19 I was struggling with what direction to take in life and thought public policy might be something worth pursuing. I asked my father. My father read the newspaper every day and watched the evening news and would run a commentary on the world. I asked him, if I were to try to get a summer internship in Washington, DC, to see how government really works, who should I apply to. Of course he noted I should apply to my home State Senators, Senator Packwood and Senator Hatfield. I asked him if there were any national Senators who stood out. He said there are four I think you should try to talk to: Senator Kennedy, Senator Humphrey, Senator Church, and Senator INOUE.

I proceeded to write letters to see if I could get an internship with any of my home State Senators or any of those four. I did not succeed outside my State. I did get an internship with Senator Hatfield, which changed the course of my life. But when I was elected to the Senate, Senator Hatfield asked me to bring greetings to his old colleagues, those who served with him, particularly Senator INOUE, because Senator Hatfield had chaired Appropriations and Senator INOUE was chairing Appropriations. That was a tremendous introduction because it led to one of my first conversations with Senator DAN INOUE when I came to the Senate. He showed me his spectacular view down The Mall, looking toward the Washington Monument, and said anytime you want to come and use the balcony you should come and use it. It is one of the best places in Washington.

We shared the joy he took in just the beauty of that space. We shared stories about the old days, the days when Senator Hatfield and Senator INOUE worked together on appropriations. We also had a chance to talk about some of the challenges that have occurred in the committee. In recent times, we discussed how much harder it is to get appropriations bills to the floor and have them considered in a bipartisan nature.

I indicated to Senator INOUE at that time how interested I was in serving on the Appropriations Committee and how

important it would be to Oregon. This began a series of dialog over the last 4 years. It was a tremendous honor to have a chance to share these last 4 years with Senator DAN INOUE. I think all who have spoken about him have recognized he did an extraordinary job of commanding folks.

He took on the difficult tasks in World War II and received the highest recognition for doing so. He did so in a context that was extraordinary. Japanese Americans had been relegated to a second-tier status during the war, and he chose a path that led to first-tier recognition for the leadership and bravery he exemplified.

He did no less of a spectacular job in the U.S. Senate, just days away from completing 50 years of being on the floor of the Senate, advocating for working people, advocating for his home State, and working for a vision of America where all families can prosper. His life was extraordinarily well lived.

It has been an honor to know him, and we will miss him. This Senate will not be the same without Senator DAN INOUE.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. 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. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to speak about our friend DANNY INOUE. It has been a week of emotion. When we look at that black-draped desk with the white flowers, it is hard to believe that such a big part of this institution is gone, not just a living, breathing part of the institution is gone but a part of its history, its memory, its institutions, and its values. DAN epitomized all that.

He was a gentleman first. Actually, we would have to say he was a patriot first. All we need do to see how much of a patriot he was is consider the fact that he had one arm missing because, as an Army lieutenant, he singlehandedly charged a German machine gun nest. He took them out, lost his arm, and ended up in the hospital for 20 months. Of course, we all know he was deservedly recognized with the Medal of Honor years later.

He was a patriot, not only because he served as a young lieutenant but also by being a public servant for well over a half century. He was elected as the first territorial legislator of Hawaii in 1954 and then elected as its first Congressmen when it became a State in 1959. Since 1962, he has been a public servant serving his State.

He was the first Japanese-American Senator. His name is synonymous with Hawaii, and so it is fitting, as told by

his staff, that his last word was "aloha." Patriot first but second he was a gentleman. That is a value which all of us in the Congress ought to remember.

This all emanates from some of the greatest moral teachings on planet Earth. It is what those of us refer to in the New Testament as the Golden Rule: Treat others as you want to be treated. To say it in Old English, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That is a moral principle which runs throughout every major faith on the face of the planet.

DANNY INOUE exemplified that uniquely American value, and somewhere along the way we seem to have gone astray. We go astray from what we have learned in Newtown, CT, and we go astray when we see how some of us treat each other in this Chamber. The old adage is not just to go along but to get along. We would get along a lot better if we get along or to say it in the context of old country boy wisdom: We can attract a lot more flies with honey than we can with vinegar. That is the life our colleague led.

Some people call it a throwback to the gentlemanly days of the Senate, when there was courtliness and deference. I hope it is not a throwback. I hope we are not throwing back anything.

I hope we will remember the life of DANNY INOUE. He felt so strongly about this that when he was the chairman of a committee, he didn't refer to the ranking Republican as the ranking member, he called the ranking member the vice chairman. Of course, that was uniquely Senator INOUE, but it was also practical because he could get more done if he was sitting there as chairman and his vice chairman was sitting right next to him.

We have a lot to learn from these emotional times of losing a valued friend and colleague, but his life exemplified the best part of the Senate. We can sure get a lot more done if we start coming together just like DANNY INOUE taught us.

I yield the floor and 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the U.S. Senate has been conducting its business here in Washington for just over 200 years, and for more than a

fifth of that time, Senator DAN INOUE of Hawaii stood in its ranks. It was just one of the many astonishing feats for a man who so rarely called attention to himself but who had every reason in the world to do so. In a life of honors he was never drawn to fanfare, and that always made him a different kind of Senator. So today we mourn not only a friend and a colleague but also everything he represented to a nation that will always need courageous and principled men such as DAN INOUE if it is to flourish and succeed.

The people who worked with DAN INOUE might have known he served in World War II, but they could have gone years without knowing he was one of the most decorated soldiers of his time. To DAN, his achievements were simply part of the job—and they were many. They start with his military heroism, of course, and they continue throughout his long career of public service. He was the iconic political figure of the fiftieth State.

Until his death, he was the only original member of a congressional delegation still serving in Congress, and there is scarcely an acre of Hawaii or a person in the State that DAN hasn't affected or influenced.

Over many years of diligent committee work, he helped ensure an entire generation of uniformed military went into battle well prepared and that they were well cared for when they returned. Yet despite all this, DAN's quiet demeanor and strict adherence to an older code of honor and professionalism made him a stranger to controversy throughout his many decades in public office. He was the kind of man and the kind of public servant, in other words, that America has always been grateful to have, especially in her darkest hours—men who lead by example and expect nothing in return.

One of my favorite DAN INOUE stories took place right here in the Capitol back in 1959. The memory of a hard-fought war against the Japanese was fresh in many minds as the Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, prepared to administer the oath to a young war hero who was not only the first Member from Hawaii but the first American of Japanese descent ever elected to Congress.

"Raise your right hand and repeat after me . . ." Rayburn said.

And here is how another Congressman would later record what followed:

The hush deepened as the young Congressman raised not his right hand but his left and repeated the oath of office. There was no right hand. It had been lost in combat by that young American soldier in World War II. And who can deny that at that moment, a ton of prejudice slipped quietly to the floor of the House of Representatives.

It is a perfect image of how DAN led by example throughout his long career—with quiet dignity and unquestioned integrity.

It started early for DAN. As a young boy growing up in Hawaii, he and his