

and cosponsored by Senators Webb and Wyden. It would provide for the approval of an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau in response to Supertyphoon Bopha.

Few people are aware that as Hurricane Sandy was making its landfall in the northeastern part of our country, the United States, a supertyphoon known as Bopha was tracking a path of destruction across the western Pacific. The Republic of Palau, which is one of our closest allies and with which we are tied by a strategic alliance known as the Compact of Free Association, was struck by Bopha on December 2, causing extensive damage. The President of Palau declared a state of emergency, and the U.S. President, acting through the Department of State, issued a disaster declaration for Palau.

This massive storm went on to kill over 1,000 people in the Philippines. Fortunately, there were no deaths in Palau, but high winds and storm surge and torrential rains caused widespread damage.

A week ago the Ambassador from Palau, the Honorable Hersey Kyota, wrote to me as the chair of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction for assistance to nations that are in free association with the United States. The Ambassador asked for my help in responding to the disaster, but he did not ask for additional funding. Instead, the Ambassador asked that the agreement on future assistance that was signed between the United States and Palau in 2010 be added to this emergency supplemental so the funding already agreed to by representatives of the United States would become available for disaster relief and recovery in Palau.

I fully support the request by the Ambassador. I am glad to have the cosponsorship of my colleagues Senator WEBB, who is chairman of the Asia-Pacific subcommittee, and Senator WYDEN, who, of course, is the incoming chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and I urge my colleagues' support of the amendment.

The amendment tracks S. 343, which was introduced by me in February of 2011. At that time it was cosponsored by Senators MURKOWSKI, AKAKA, and WEBB. The agreement to be approved would revise and update the Compact of Free Association that has governed U.S.-Palau relations since 1994 by extending and phasing out financial assistance over 11 years.

Palau is an island nation located strategically between the U.S. territory of Guam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Captured in World War II, Palau became part of the U.S.-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In 1994 Palau became a sovereign nation in free association with the United States under a 50-year compact that grants the U.S. military rights that the Department of State calls "vital to our national security."

The compact also provided Palau with an initial 15-year term of assistance that ended in 2009. The agreement would extend and phase out U.S. assistance by 2024. Congress has provided stop-gap funding since 2009, but the Department of Defense wrote to our committee—the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources—in April of 2011 stating:

Failure to follow through on our commitments to Palau, as reflected in the proposed [agreement], would jeopardize our defense posture in the Western Pacific.

The agreement provides for the phaseout of financial assistance for operations, construction, and maintenance. The Congressional Budget Office's 10-year budget estimate for direct spending is \$171 million. This U.S. commitment to future funding would make a crucial contribution to Palau's efforts to respond and recover from this present disaster.

U.S. failure to respond to the needs of this strategic ally in its time of need by simply approving the already signed agreement would signal to Palau and to most other nations in the Pacific that the United States is an unreliable partner. So I urge the support of my colleagues for this amendment and for approving the agreed-to assistance to Palau so they may have the resources needed to respond to Supertyphoon Bopha.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to address this Chamber for possibly the last time as the senior Senator from the great State of Texas.

I have to say it is an ironic note that if I had given my farewell address last week, there would have been so much joy in the halls of the Capitol, ringing with the laughter and the anticipation of our season's happiest time. But in just one weekend, a sadness has set in with the news of a massacre of innocent children in Newtown, CT, followed by the loss of our wonderful colleague, Senator Danny Inouye.

So I will leave this extraordinary institution and experience with a heavy heart for those who have been lost in the last few days.

I want to thank the people of Texas for asking me to represent them in Washington. I want to thank the many people who have served on my staff for almost 20 years. I have to say I am touched that both benches on both sides of this room are filled with my staff members who have been so hard-

working and so loyal and have produced so much in 20 years for our State and Nation, and I thank them.

I want to thank my colleagues and all the people who work here, the Senators, but also those who work behind the scenes to make our lives as good as they can be with the hard hours we all have; those who keep our buildings safe and clean, who work in the libraries, the shops, the cafeterias, and who guide tens of thousands of tourists through our Nation's beautiful Capitol each year.

I want to thank my husband Ray and our two children Bailey and Houston. They are 11 years old now, and so many of my colleagues who were here when I started bringing my children as babies have watched them grow up. The Senate isn't easy on families. They have sacrificed so I could serve the people of Texas, and I am grateful for their patience and generosity. They have loved coming to the Capitol—11 years for the children and 20 for my husband Ray. And I know my children's fondest memory, if I ask them what do they remember most about visits to the Capitol, is playing soccer in the Russell Building's hallways in the evenings when the coast is clear.

I would not be here today if it were not for my parents who gave me the gifts of strong values, unwavering support, and education to be whatever I wanted to be. I must say that my parents were surprised when they saw what I wanted to be. They would never have thought that their daughter, growing up in LaMarque, TX—a town of 15,000 good people—would think she could be a United States Senator. We had a wonderful public school system, and I am proud to say I am a product of public education. My public schools in LaMarque—which were excellent—and my University of Texas and University of Texas Law School prepared me to be what I could be.

It has been a privilege to walk these halls in the Capitol of the world's greatest and longest serving democracy.

I think back to the days that stand out in our memories. September 11, 2001, of course, is the one none of us will ever forget. We know exactly where we were the minute we knew there was a terrorist attack on America. And though we suffered a horrific attack, the strength, resilience, and extraordinary acts of kindness of the American people showed the world that attempts to destroy our way of life would never succeed. On that day, no one could get in or out of Washington and many communications networks were inoperable. So when the Pentagon was hit and the Capitol was evacuated, my staff and I walked one block to my home on Capitol Hill. Just as an example, the husband of my office manager worked in the section of the Pentagon that had been hit, so we were on the one phone that we had to hospitals, the police, anyone we thought might be able to tell us if he was safe. Thankfully, he was fine. But there were so

many who waited for hours, who called hospitals, to hear from their loved ones. Sometimes the news was a relief and sometimes they waited in vain for good news.

I have to say it was an incredible moment when the Senators who could find each other, wherever they had gone from the Capitol, finally gathered late afternoon in the Capitol Police headquarters to talk to our leaders who had been taken to an undisclosed location. They said, We don't want anyone to come, but we were going to the steps of the Capitol to hold a press conference. We don't want anyone there because we don't know if it is safe, but we want to tell the press that we are going to open for business tomorrow and do the Nation's business, even though there was suspicion that the Capitol had been on the terrorists' list of targets.

Every single one of the Senators—and I think there were 60 to 70 who had made it to the Capitol Police headquarters—did come to the Capitol steps, as did Members of the House of Representatives. After the press conference was held by the leaders, all of the several hundred who had gathered spontaneously broke out singing "God Bless America." That was a time that said this is the strength of our country and we will not be defeated.

As I exit the Senate, I am aware that we are divided as a legislative body and as a country. I do not think we have different goals—not here, and not in America—but we do have different ways of reaching them. Congress suffers a great deal of criticism for partisan acrimony. But while we may disagree politically and air our opposition in this Chamber, it is the conversation behind the scenes that cements and defines our relationships. I will leave the Senate knowing I have worked with men and women of great patriotism, intellect, and heart on both sides of the aisle.

I wish to thank my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, for the many wonderful years working together. We seconded one another at times and engaged in rigorous debate in others. Yet the American people should know that either way, we are collegial and we all understand that our States have different needs and there will be differences in priorities. But in the Senate, an adversary today will be an ally tomorrow. It is a rare occasion for acrimony to turn personal.

It would be my parting hope that this collegiality will not be lost. Protecting the rights of the minority has assured that every Senator's voice is heard and every State represented is heard, as intended by our Constitution. Open debate and open amendments are what differentiate the Senate from the House.

When our committees function, we pass bills in vigorous markups, we put the bills in shape for floor debate. If they don't go through committees and are not allowed floor amendments, the quality of the legislation suffers and mistakes are often made.

Let me give you some examples of how relationships can produce results.

During the anthrax scare, the Hart Building was closed for a month, which made it very difficult, of course, for Senators based there to do their work. So Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN's staff joined in my offices in the Russell Building. My chief of staff at the time gave them full access. One of Senator FEINSTEIN's staff members commented on that: A Republican office giving Democrats free rein? But my chief of staff said, They had full access because we trusted them.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have teamed up to pass important legislation—the Hutchison-Feinstein Overseas Basing Commission—that studied the training capabilities and costs of overseas military bases to determine their value compared to American bases. This resulted in consolidation and closures that brought thousands of troops back to the United States where training and rapid deployment were superior. We passed the Feinstein-Hutchison Breast Cancer Research Stamp bill that, through voluntary purchase, has raised \$72 million for breast cancer research. That was Senator FEINSTEIN's idea. And Senator FEINSTEIN and I took the Amber Alert for abducted children nationwide, which has accounted for rescuing almost 600 children since its passage.

I remember when Senator Hillary Clinton stopped by with her chief of staff to wish me happy birthday the first year she was in the Senate. It was just a few months after she had arrived, and my staff was surprised—and possibly a bit star-struck—to see the former First Lady walk into the room. We went on to work together on Vital Voices, a global partnership dedicated to supporting and empowering women leaders and social entrepreneurs in emerging economies. We also teamed up with Senators MIKULSKI and COLLINS to assure public schools had the option to offer single-sex schools and classes, after I visited with Secretary of Education Rod Paige the Young Women's Leadership Academy in the Harlem area of New York City—one of the first and most successful pilot projects for girls' public schools, with which I know the Presiding Officer is very familiar.

I remember the time I invited Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI to Texas, because she and I have worked together supporting NASA for so many years, and this year she has been chair and I ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee funding NASA. We went to visit the Johnson Space Center because I wanted her to see the great work they are doing there. Then I took her to the Houston rodeo because I wanted her to see the Texas culture. Well, I am not sure the Senator who grew up in the inner city of Baltimore knew exactly how people would dress at the rodeo, but suffice it to say there were a lot of rhinestones and cowboy boots and big hair and big hats. Sen-

ator MIKULSKI whispered to me during this time, KAY, if we were here Monday and we went to the Chamber of Commerce, would these people look like this? And I said, Yeah, pretty much.

Senator MIKULSKI and I also teamed up to pass the Homemaker IRA, to make sure our stay-at-home moms and dads would have the same opportunity for retirement security savings that those who work outside the home have, and it has been a huge success. We also cosponsored the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. She is a skilled legislator and a dear friend.

Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER has been an outstanding chairman of the Commerce Committee. We don't always agree, but as the lead Democrat and Republican we have worked hard to reach consensus, and we have gotten things done—the FAA bill, started the planning for the next generation of air traffic control systems; the highway bill; the NASA reauthorization that ensured we would keep the focus on our space program that has been instrumental in our national security and economic development, with tremendous help from Senator BILL NELSON, who is the only one among us today who has actually been into space.

In a Congress that has been marked by little progress, we have found a way forward. For some, that might not be something to take pride in. But we have served the American people by passing legislation that keeps the country running, and I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish. Our Commerce Committee has been one of the most productive in the whole Congress. And I count him as a friend.

MARIA CANTWELL and HARRY REID and I have worked to address the issues of our State's taxpayers to have the same deductions as those who have income taxes, though we do not, and that parity has been so important.

Leader MITCH MCCONNELL has guided our party and our conference through the past 6 years. He is a gifted leader and one whom I have witnessed time and time again come up with strategies that have gotten things done in the right way.

Senator JON KYL and I have worked on immigration and death tax relief. Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER and I have championed the America Competes Act, so we would continue the priority of scientific research and that we would never fail to invest in research because it is the sequel for our economy.

I am very pleased the distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and the Finance Committee—Finance Committee now and Judiciary before—is also on the Senate floor. He has been a wonderful friend to me, helping me in my very first election when he was the rock star at my fundraisers in Texas. I thank Senator ORRIN HATCH for his long membership in this body.

I have had the wonderful, good fortune to serve with two colleagues from my home State. First, Senator Phil Gramm, who was a wonderful mentor and colleague. They broke the mold after Senator Gramm. We always enjoyed our school rivalry—he being a Texas Aggie and me being a University of Texas alum—they like to call them hopeless Tea-sips, but we are proud Longhorns.

I have had a great relationship with my other Senator, who is soon going to be the senior Senator from Texas, JOHN CORNYN. JOHN CORNYN, I am very pleased to say, is going to get the opportunity that I have had all these years when people trip up and introduce me as the senior citizen of Texas. I turn that mantle over to my colleague, Senator CORNYN.

I am very proud he is going to be the deputy Republican leader in the next Congress. I know he is going to be a steady hand at the wheel as we try to steer the ship of state in the right direction. He has proven time and again that his steady leadership is the one that rises to the top. I thank him for being on the floor as well today.

In fact, I want to praise our entire Texas congressional delegation. We call it Team Texas. It is a spirit that holds our delegation together, Republicans and Democrats. I have noted that there are those in Washington who think Texans are a little too loud, and we have a little too much fun, but I can assure everyone that Team Texas' hearts are as big as our mouths.

It has been a long and wonderful 19-plus years. We hit the ground running, and we have never stopped. When I was first elected in a special election in 1993, we had two—actually four full planeloads of people flying up for my swearing in. Because it was a special election, we filled the entire gallery. Those rowdy Texans were so happy to watch my little swearing in ceremony. It was a great day for me, as well as my wonderful and loyal friends and supporters.

I started having weekly constituent coffees that first year because there were so many visitors from Texas and I wanted to make sure at least there was one time every week that any Texan who was here who wanted to see me could come and visit and was welcome. So every Thursday morning around 9 or 9:30, the person in charge of this first effort was the wife of a three-star general who volunteered her time in our offices. I think it was as much her handling of the event as the idea itself that has led many other Senators to take up this practice and get a chance to always visit with their constituents at least once a week if they were otherwise going to committee meetings or having to do their work and were not able to see everyone. I want to thank Gert Clark for putting her stamp on our Senate hospitality.

Some of the most powerful moments that will stay with me forever were spent with our members of the mili-

tary. Visiting with them where they are in harm's way across the world is one of the most moving of all experiences. I will never forget the first time, in the early 1990s, flying into Sarajevo in an undercover C-130 that was disguised as a Red Cross delivery of peas—2,000 pounds of peas that we actually had on the C-130—and I have to say my good friend, Danny Inouye, was on that trip with us, as I look over at his empty desk with the white flowers, as was Senator Ted Stevens. We flew in to see our troops in Bosnia.

Later I went back to Bosnia to spend Easter with our troops where we had the most beautiful Easter sunrise service I have ever attended or ever will. It was in an open-air hangar with our service men and women who were deployed there. For the first time it was a Texas Guard unit that was in command of the base, and it was the first time since the Korean war that we had a Guard unit in command of an operation overseas. They did a great job, which led to many Guard units from other States also to take command of bases and operations.

I flew out of Baghdad—this was in the last few years—in another C-130 when there were no lights on the plane and no lights on the runway to make sure there was no clue to the enemy that we were leaving when they were firing missiles around the airport. Or the times I had visited Afghanistan, where the first time I visited with Senator MCCAIN, our troops were sleeping on cots. There were probably 600 or 700 cots in an old Russian-built aircraft hangar, before anything had been brought in for living quarters for our troops. All of their belongings were under their cots, and that was all they had for that first mission into Afghanistan.

I have always been one who has such great respect and gratitude for our men and women in uniform. They put their lives on the line and pledge to give their all for our freedom. The power to wage war is an enormous one, and the weight of its responsibility should rest heavy on our shoulders.

I leave this Chamber proud to have worked to assure our men and women in uniform have the best training, the best equipment, and the quality of life to do the job we are asking them to do. Because of my deep respect for our Armed Forces, my first choice of committees when I came in 1993 was Armed Services, and I was honored to be the first woman in 20 years to chair a subcommittee on Armed Services. The woman before me was Margaret Chase Smith. As the only woman to chair the Senate Republican Policy Committee, I was pleased to be a part of Republican leadership for many years—again, the first since Margaret Chase Smith.

When I was first running for office I said I wanted to make things better for our sons and open for our daughters. I leave the Senate knowing that January will see the greatest number of female Senators in our Nation's history. I

know the torch will be carried on by the next generation.

It is no secret that Texans have a particular sense of state pride. I am no exception. I have deep Texas roots. The Senate seat that I hold first belonged to Thomas Jefferson Rusk, my great-great-grandfather's law partner and good friend. They both signed the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico in 1836. That history reminds me every day that we must protect the freedom that so many of our ancestors fought to produce and retain. My colleague sitting on the Senate floor is in the Sam Houston line, and that is a proud line too. Thomas Jefferson Rusk and Sam Houston were the Commander in Chief and Secretary of War of the Texas Army when we fought for independence. It is so fitting that those two were our first two selected Senators when Texas became a State in 1845.

Each summer I take a week to tour one part of Texas on a bus. It has been so much fun. We did the first one, which was the El Camino Real de los Tejas that we had just passed a bill to designate as a national historic trail, and we went from the Louisiana border to the Mexican border. It took us a week on the bus. It was so great that we have done it every year since in a different part of Texas. It is my State staff's favorite week of the year as well.

I am one of the few to have had the opportunity and the absolute pleasure to visit all 254 counties in Texas. I have met Texans from all walks of life who have opened their homes, their businesses, and shared their stories.

I will be sad to leave, but it is time. I believe strongly that we should keep the lifeblood of Congress pumping. It is good to have new waves of legislators come in with fresh ideas and perspectives after every election. But while I believe that new generations should invigorate Congress, I also want to say a few words of praise for experience.

Knowing the history of an issue is essential to monitor progress. Knowing what an agency should be doing, knowing what was put in law and why allows for better oversight. The expertise of our longer serving Members is an essential part of good governance.

I hope some of the priorities I have championed will continue. Investment in science, technology, and higher education and encouraging more young people to study science, technology, engineering, and math, known as STEM, will make sure we are bringing forward those young minds with the creativity and the engineering background to create the economies for the future. It is so important. This has been the lifeblood of our economy, and it must continue.

Saving the manned space exploration program and ensuring the long-term future of NASA is an essential generator for our economy. Ensuring that stay-at-home moms and dads who worked so hard raising children and

contributing to the community have spousal IRAs to save for retirement, and easing the marriage penalty by doubling the standard deduction—these are a few of the things I hope will continue to be championed as I leave.

It has been such an honor to serve in the Senate. I leave with the hope that the values that built America into the greatest Nation on Earth will be protected so that future generations will have the same opportunities we have had in this great country, opportunities for which our forebears sacrificed so much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, Texans have a profound sense of history, and it is only appropriate that Senator HUTCHISON should mention the fact that we both come from long lines of Texans, starting with Thomas Jefferson Rusk, who first held her Senate seat, and Sam Houston, who held the Senate seat I hold. I will never forget Senator HUTCHISON coming to the floor of the Senate every March 2, Texas Independence Day, and regaling the Chamber with Travis' letter from the Alamo, reminding everyone about another important event in Texas history, a tradition which she carried on after Senator John Tower did for so many years when he served here.

This is a historic moment for many reasons. First, because we are paying tribute to an extraordinary woman who has made history by being the first Texas female United States Senator and someone who has spent the last two decades fighting for common-sense values in our Nation's Capitol. While it is hard to summarize Senator HUTCHISON's great work in just a few short minutes, I am going to try. I am going to try to highlight some of her signature achievements and explain why she enjoys such outstanding support from her constituents back in our great State.

To start with, I cannot think of any Senator serving in this Chamber who works harder than KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON. Sometimes I affectionately refer to her as the Energizer Bunny of the Texas delegation. She is tireless and she is relentless in her pursuit of what she believes is in the best interests of the constituents in our State.

As she mentioned, she has been a tireless advocate for Texas military families. We take great pride in the fact that 1 out of every 10 individuals who wears the uniform of the U.S. military calls Texas home. Of course, some of the most powerful tributes to KAY's legacy are what I have heard from our men and women in uniform.

It is no exaggeration to say every military base in Texas has felt the impact of her work on various Senate committees. I know how deeply proud KAY is of the work she has done to help the troops stationed in Texas from Fort Bliss in the west to the Red River Army Depot in the east—which I dare

say she pretty much singlehandedly saved from being BRACed the last time that occurred—from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls to the Naval Air Force Base in Corpus Christi in the south. Not only has KAY worked to provide our troops with the resources they need, she has done a whole lot to help returning veterans and, of course, their families.

We always talk about supporting our troops when they are deployed overseas, but we spend less time—indeed not enough time—discussing ways to help them assimilate back into civilian life. As the son of a U.S. Air Force veteran who spent 31 years in the Air Force, I am acutely aware, as KAY is, it is not just those who wear the uniform who serve but their families as well.

Many returning vets and their families encounter a whole range of social and economic hardships that can be hard to overcome. Most notably, the unemployment rate among our returning vets from Afghanistan and Iraq is significantly higher than for the general population, something I know KAY has worked on extensively. She has also worked to get our veterans the medical assistance, the job training, and the financial support they need. Indeed, I don't know of any Senator who has done more to help America's heroes adjust to life after the military. That is just one of the reasons why she will be sorely missed.

Here is another reason KAY will be missed. She has fought time and time again to promote tax relief for hard-working Texas families. In the mid-1990s, as she alluded, she helped to create the so-called homemaker IRA to make sure stay-at-home moms and dads were able to save for their retirement on an equal basis with their counterparts who worked outside the home. I know it is one of her proudest achievements, and I am proud to join with the Senator from Maryland, Ms. BARBARA MIKULSKI, in attempting to rename this IRA the KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON spousal IRA in her honor. I hope we can join together and honor Senator HUTCHISON by getting that done before we close out our business this year.

KAY, of course, has always championed the State sales tax deduction, which may not seem like a big deal to others in this Chamber, but it is a big deal back home in Texas as a matter of fundamental fairness because we don't have a State income tax. I daresay we never will have a State income tax as long as I draw a breath. However, we do pay State sales taxes, and it is only fair that Texas enjoys the same sort of deductibility for the State sales tax that other States have enjoyed for the State income taxes.

KAY has also worked to reduce the marriage penalty tax. She has been a strong defender of taxpayer interests, and her efforts have made the Tax Code less hostile to saving and to families.

She alluded to her great work with NASA. She is one of the Senate's lead-

ing supporters of NASA and human space flight. NASA has contributed historical technological breakthroughs that have benefited all Americans. KAY appreciates the vital importance of basic scientific research, long-term American prosperity, and she appreciates the role NASA has played in fostering innovation. She has long said and advocated for support for NASA because she believes that when we support NASA, we are supporting technologies and the jobs of the future. That is why KAY has done so much to help the Johnson Space Center and our universities to promote Texas as a research State.

Her beloved University of Texas is grateful for her support over the years, which is one reason they will soon launch the KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON Center for Latin American law.

KAY has also crafted legislation that has benefited some of the most vulnerable Americans. Her work on behalf of missing and exploited children includes the national AMBER Alert Network, which she introduced back in 2003. As she said earlier, this law has helped to rescue more than 570 abducted children who would not have benefited but for her work. That is a remarkable achievement, and it is more than just a number when we count the human lives which have been so dramatically affected by her work.

A final note. As I said, Senator HUTCHISON has made history serving as a first woman to serve the great State of Texas in the Senate. KAY has always been a pioneer of sorts. As a father of two daughters, that means a lot to me. I am used to being surrounded at home by strong, intelligent women, but having served with KAY, I have also been a partner with a strong, intelligent Texas woman. KAY has been a role model for so many young women, not just in Texas but throughout the United States. I am honored to be her colleague and I am proud to be her friend.

Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON leaves behind a tremendous legacy of which she, Ray, and her children can be proud. She has a legacy that will long be celebrated by Texans from El Paso to Caddo Lake and from Amarillo to Brownsville. Everyone in this Chamber will miss her, and I know I speak for all my colleagues when I wish her the very best in the next exciting chapter of her life.

I join with my colleagues in saying to the Senator, *vaya con dios*.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to join everyone here in thanking KAY for her great service in the Senate. I have worked closely with her on a wide variety of issues. I have to say she is a fierce advocate. In fact, I have to say all our women Senators have been fierce advocates, and we have benefited from them being here.

KAY has paved the way for Senators—both male and female—to truly become

better Senators and in many cases great Senators. KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON is a great Senator. She worked her guts out the whole time she was here. She is still here, but she is going to retire at this time and she has represented Texas well.

All I can say is she has been my friend all this time. When I needed help from her, she was always there. I tried to be there for her when she needed help as well. She has not only been a delightful person to be around but a very intelligent lawyer. She fought for what she believed—most of which I believed in—in a way nobody could truly ever get mad at KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON.

She is a wonderful person, wonderful mother, and we are going to miss her terribly. This is a body where we could use a few more women Senators—maybe a lot more than a few. They are very good people who work very hard and not the least of whom is KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON.

I remember at times when I had difficulties with the BRAC system and difficulties with special NASA problems, and so forth, we always worked together. We could always count on her to come up with intelligent solutions to some of the problems that should not have existed but did.

I have personally appreciated her very much during those times and in so many other ways as we worked together on legislation to help this country and as we worked to represent our respective States. I have so much respect for Texas, the people of Texas, and what they stand for. I have great respect for these Texan Senators who are two of the best we have ever had in the Senate.

Senator HUTCHISON has been an exemplary Senator, not just for women but for all of us. She has also set some standards that I think both women and male Senators are going to have to try to emulate.

I just want say to the Senator that we love her, we appreciate her, and we wish her the very best. We are going to miss her. This is one Senator who will miss her greatly, and I want her to know that. All I can say is God be with her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased in joining my colleagues in commending and congratulating our distinguished colleague from Texas. Her service in the Senate has truly been outstanding and she has made an impact in our Committee on Appropriations. We have deliberated about the funding of all the Federal agencies and departments of the Federal Government. She has been very careful. She is very serious about her responsibilities, and I am glad to be here today to wish her well in the years ahead and compliment her on a very distinguished career in the Senate.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Michigan and Texas have much in common, de-

spite the fact they are North vs. South, cowboy boots vs. snowshoes, mesquite vs. pine.

One of the things we have in common is water. Our States are, economically, historically, and culturally tied to great waters: Texas to the Gulf of Mexico, Michigan to the Great Lakes. And this shared interest has afforded me the pleasure of working alongside Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, a true Texas pioneer.

As the lead cosponsor of the Harbor Maintenance Act, Senator HUTCHISON has been an invaluable ally in the effort to ensure that America's harbors receive the maintenance funding they need to help our economy grow. Her efforts were instrumental in recruiting 37 cosponsors on our bill and in securing language regarding harbor maintenance for the first time in a transportation bill. Her efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of the thousands of American workers whose jobs are directly tied to well-maintained harbors, from the Port of Galveston to the scores of ports dotting Michigan's shoreline.

Senator HUTCHISON has shown important leadership on other transportation issues, such as a more equitable formula for Federal surface transportation funding, and for adequate funding for State maritime academies, including academies in Texas and Michigan, that help meet the needs of our commercial shipping industry as well as the Department of Defense.

She has been an able and dedicated advocate for our Nation's veterans. She pioneered the concept of the home-maker IRA, which helped millions of American women achieve greater retirement security. She has energetically pushed for stronger science and educational programs, including the establishment of a groundbreaking medicine, engineering, and science academy in her State.

We shouldn't be surprised at these and other successes. When she first graduated from the University of Texas Law School, she bumped up against the misguided tendencies of the law firms at the time to dismiss female candidates, no matter how talented. Undaunted, she walked into a local TV station and asked for a job as a reporter and became the State's first female television reporter. She took a detour, but her experience covering politics led to the Texas House of Representatives, the State treasurer's office, and eventually to become the first Texan woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

The Senate will miss her dedication, her quite effectiveness, her ability to seek practical, bipartisan solutions. She has made a habit of making history, and I wish her the best in whatever history-making endeavors she turns to next.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise also to congratulate and thank a

terrific Senator, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, and to wish her much success in her further efforts. I know she will provide great leadership in whatever she is doing. It has been wonderful to watch over the years, seeing the pictures of Bailey and Houston and how they have grown, celebrating and going to baby showers. On top of all the other accolades today, Senator HUTCHISON is a devoted and wonderful mother to two beautiful children.

As everyone has said, she is the first and only woman to represent Texas in the Senate and will always have that distinction of opening doors and barriers. I know she agrees with me that once the doors open, we want to make sure more women are able to walk through that door as well.

I wish to congratulate her for all she has done. We have come together to fight for opportunities for women around the world at the Senate Women's Caucus on Burma and other efforts she has led. I am very supportive of adding her name to the spousal IRA law. I think that is a very fitting tribute, and I am hopeful we can get that done as well.

I just want to congratulate her.

I do want to have the opportunity to talk about something else, but I see my friend wanting to say a few words.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if the Senator would yield for just a moment to let me say thank you to all the wonderful Senators who have spoken and said nice things. It is one of the few times Senators sort of pause and wish someone well, as they are leaving. It has truly been very touching, and I appreciate the kind words of the Senator from Michigan. It has been a distinct pleasure to have colleagues on both sides of the aisle feel we have done so much together. My hope is that as I am going out the door, the collegiality of the Senate will never change.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT—Continued

THE FARM BILL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I also wish to speak about the importance of passing a farm bill today and thank the Senator from Texas for her support as we passed a strong bipartisan farm bill in the Senate back in June when sent it over to the House of Representatives.

We have had 80 days since the farm bill expired. That is 80 days that farm families and small businesses have been holding their breath and wanting to know what is going to happen in rural America and agriculture across the country. I have not given up, nor have other colleagues here. Certainly, my partner here in the Senate, Senator ROBERTS, and our partners in the House, including Chairman LUCAS and