

agency eliminates an important moving option for do-it-yourself consumers. This would economically hurt the principal users of portable storage companies, namely the middle class, military, students and other price-conscious consumers. For these reasons and the others mentioned by my colleague, it is my sincere hope that the FMCSA preserves the rights of consumers, as intended by Congress, to ready and unfettered access to lower cost options with respect to moving their household goods.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

DAN AKAKA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the last 22 years, DANIEL AKAKA has represented the people of Hawaii in this body. They have been the better for his service, and I have greatly appreciated the wisdom, humility, and passion with which he has served here.

One issue on which we have been able to work closely as fellow members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is oversight of the Federal workforce, a key issue for his State and for taxpayers everywhere. Senator AKAKA's passion for Federal workforce issues comes from his passion for public service and for effective government. Just in this Congress, I was an original cosponsor of his Federal Whistleblower Protection Act, to strengthen the law protecting Federal employees who bring to light fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal programs. That Akaka bill is expected to be signed into law before the end of the year. Also this Congress, I was proud to cosponsor his Hatch Act Modernization Act to allow hard-working employees of State and local governments, who are covered by the Hatch Act, to serve as elected officials in their communities.

In addition to his focus on Federal workforce issues, Senator AKAKA has long been a valued member of the Armed Services Committee. We have worked together on legislation to reform Defense Department business and financial management systems; strengthen oversight and accountability of wartime contracting; and strengthen the Defense Department's management of the substantial funds it spends to acquire property and services.

Senator AKAKA joined in 2002 with Senator INHOFE to form the Senate Army Caucus, and through this bipartisan group they have focused welcome attention on the programs and needs of our Army. Senator AKAKA, himself an Army veteran, has been an important source of insight into the challenges facing our soldiers and their families.

Of course, as the former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator AKAKA has long demonstrated an intense dedication to those who have helped defend our Nation. His steadfast advocacy for veterans health programs,

education benefits, and other important programs has made a significant and lasting impact on the lives of veterans and their families.

When people describe DANIEL AKAKA, one of the first words used to describe him is "humble." He is indeed that. He has been a dedicated and principled servant of the people of Hawaii and our Nation, an unfailing ally of our veterans and their families, and a valued colleague and friend. I will miss him, and I will always remember how he taught us that gentleness and effectiveness are not mutually exclusive characteristics.

HERB KOHL

Mr. President, in his four terms representing the State of Wisconsin in this body, Senator HERB KOHL's focus has been precisely where it should be: the welfare of the people of his State and of our Nation. Whether in supporting American manufacturers and the jobs they provide, in fighting for protection from crime and for adequate nutrition for our children, in protecting senior citizens from elder abuse, or in preserving the Great Lakes that our two States share, Senator KOHL has accomplished much on behalf of American families.

I have been fortunate to work closely with Senator KOHL on issues of vital importance to our States. He has long been a strong supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers with technical support and services that make them more efficient and competitive in the global marketplace. His support for adequate MEP funding has made a significant difference for American companies and workers.

Now, we in Michigan bow to no one in our love for the Great Lakes, but even I would admit that Wisconsin, second only to Michigan in its length of Great Lakes coastline, is a close competitor. As a member of the Great Lakes Task Force, which I cochair, he has supported cleanup of toxic hot spots, the fight against invasive species, protecting Great Lakes water quality, and sufficient funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

We have also shared an interest in consumer protection. Senator KOHL chairs the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, and from that platform, he has battled those who would prey on American consumers, whether they are abusive credit card companies or oil-exporting cartel nations.

But where Senator KOHL has left what may be his most lasting impression is in his hard work on behalf of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens: children and seniors. He has long advocated solutions to help make college more affordable. He has helped expand the availability of nutritious breakfasts for school-age children and programs to help parents afford food on the table for their families. He has worked to strengthen afterschool pro-

grams. And in 2007 and again in 2008, he introduced the Patient Safety and Abuse Protection Act, which allowed employers to perform background checks on nursing home employees to help prevent elder abuse. When this legislation was included in the Affordable Care Act in 2009, it was a major step forward for patient safety.

I will miss working with HERB KOHL on these and many other issues. I will miss the opportunity to give him a hard time whenever our Detroit Pistons beat his Milwaukee Bucks. I hope we can continue the important work he has helped move forward: protecting good jobs, our Great Lakes, our students, and our seniors.

DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today the State of Hawai'i, the Senate, and the United States mourn the loss of Senator Daniel Inouye.

Observers of the Senate today know Chairman Inouye as a poised, soft-spoken statesman: courteous and collegial; shunning of the spotlight; above the petty churn of the partisan fray. But historians will remember him as a great patriot, a fierce warrior, a brave pioneer, and a great leader.

Chairman Inouye's unflinching commitment to his country withstood both the moral threat of having his family deemed "enemy aliens" and the direct physical threat of Nazi firepower. His famed "Go For Broke" 442nd Regimental Combat Team was made up of Japanese-American volunteers, but even among this exceptionally decorated group of men, Second Lieutenant Inouye exemplified exceptional bravery and sacrifice in what Winston Churchill described as the war "to confront not only military but moral aggression."

The fight to see the American values of freedom, justice, and equality fulfilled would continue beyond the war years and throughout Chairman Inouye's lifetime of service to his home state and his country. The new State of Hawai'i sent him to Washington as part of its very first delegation. The first Japanese American elected to Congress, he has been a champion of civil rights for women, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and African Americans. Indeed, Chairman Inouye was the last surviving member of the Senate to have voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He also ferreted out corruption at the highest level of government, serving on the Senate's select committee on the Watergate scandal, and chairing the investigation of the Iran-Contra arms affair.

But Dan Inouye was first and foremost a servant of the people of Hawai'i. Ever grateful for the faith they entrusted in him year after year, he worked to make sure they had every opportunity to achieve the full potential of the American Dream. I was honored that he joined me as an original member of the Senate Oceans Caucus,

and as a cosponsor of my bill to establish a National Endowment for the Oceans to protect the environment and economies that are so vital to both his home State and my own.

As his colleague and compatriot Senator DANIEL AKAHA said on the Senate floor in those first hours after we received the terrible news of Chairman Inouye's passing, "He fulfilled his dream of creating a better Hawai'i." His wife Irene, his son Ken, his daughter-in-law Jessica, his stepdaughter Jennifer, and his granddaughter Maggie can all be proud of that legacy. My thoughts are with them in this, their time of loss.

As the old hymn tells us:

Now the laborer's task is o'er;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.

Aloha, Dan Inouye.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BURKE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to thank and to honor an invaluable member of my Senate team, Michael Burke. As my Maryland projects director, Mike has been the key liaison between the Federal legislative process and the critical institutions of my home State of Maryland. As my top environmental adviser, Mike has been vital to each of my environmental priorities, from climate change to the Chesapeake Bay. Mike is a substantive expert, a keen strategist, a wise counselor, and an attentive mentor and friend to my entire team. He is a diligent public servant who leads quietly, by example, with the strength of his knowledge and skill. As he retires after an exemplary career of service, I am pleased to pay public tribute to this remarkable man.

Mike has devoted much of his career to protecting the natural splendor of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic, particularly our iconic Chesapeake Bay. Before joining my team, Mike was associate director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay program. There, he dedicated himself to implementing solutions for the bay, which is the world's largest estuary, one of the most important water bodies in the Nation, and a natural resource that all Marylanders treasure. Shortly after I was sworn into the Senate, Mike joined my office as an EPA fellow. He demonstrated an incredible knowledge and understanding of the wide range of issues affecting Maryland, and I knew I needed to hire him as a permanent member of my staff. He brought his passion for the environment to his work in the Senate, skillfully leading efforts on environmental issues from Chesapeake Bay health to clean air, and from climate change to wildlife conservation. I will continue to fight hard for the issues and programs that Mike helped initiate.

Mike knows the ecological importance of the Chesapeake Bay and the impediments harming the bay's ecology because he has seen it all and experienced it firsthand. From Poplar Neck to Elk Neck, from Catoctin Mountain to Calvert Cliffs, from the Nanticoke to the Pocomoke, from Rocky Gorge to Sandy Point, Mike has experienced the natural wonder of our great State. It is his deep appreciation for the importance of protecting our State's natural resources that has made him such a valuable member of my staff.

In addition to his critical environmental work, Mike led my team in charge of instate projects. The key institutions of Maryland's public life our universities, our hospitals, our local governments, and community organizations have benefitted from Mike's expertise in navigating the legislative process and his commitment to fighting on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Mike's substantive knowledge and political acumen extend well beyond the bay and Maryland. His policy expertise led Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, to ask me if I would "lend" Mike to her committee during the committee's arduous work on both the 2010 climate bill and the 2012 Transportation bill. While his full-time service to my office was missed during those periods, I was pleased to see how much my colleague from California valued Mike's input and skill, and I was happy to see him brought in to help the chairman with these important committee initiatives.

In addition to his wealth of knowledge and strategic skill, Mike will be missed most of all for the warmth, integrity, and generosity of spirit that he brings to every encounter. When he first joined my office, he would occasionally send Maryland trivia questions around to the staff. His enthusiasm helped to broaden my team's—and even my own—knowledge of the great State of Maryland, and endeared him to everyone in the office. No matter how tough the circumstance and here in the Senate, we often face tough days—Mike is quick to declare with a smile that he has "never had a bad day." He has committed himself to mentorship, voluntarily and enthusiastically spending hours working with more junior colleagues, guiding and advising them with a selflessness that is remarkable for being all too rare.

During the years, I am proud to say that I have come to value Mike not just as a staff member, but as a friend. He and his wife Pat have become favorites within the Cardin team, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge Pat publicly as well. Her strong commitment to Maryland is evident not only in her own work in children's health care, but in her support of Mike's efforts here in these Halls, and I thank her for her contribution to the people of Maryland.

Mike's knowledge of the environmental issues of the day does not just stem from his professional experience, but also from his personal interest as an avid naturalist, bird watcher, kayaker, and overall lover of the outdoors. Mike is most at home among the natural spaces he treasures, either on the water in a sea kayak or walking along a nature trail. For several years, Mike has shared that passion with the community by writing a column featuring different species of Mid-Atlantic native and migratory birds in the "Chesapeake Bay Journal." As with everything he does, Mike's columns always manage to include some of the quiet wisdom that is uniquely his. In a column about the common song sparrow, a local bird that is often overlooked in favor of those with brighter colors and flashier songs, Mike urges his readers to look beyond the bird's plain exterior to appreciate its unique contribution to the natural community. His words manage to capture something about his own steady, unassuming service to those around him. Mike writes, "We lead quiet lives until some rare person decides to listen with abiding patience, waiting for us to finally step out from behind protective cover and softly announce our presence. And then anonymity gives way to the individuality that has been there all along." For me, for my team, Mike has always been both the quiet presence and the patient listener, working with steady determination for the people of Maryland. As he looks forward to a retirement filled with relaxation and the outdoor recreation that he loves, I am humbly grateful for his service. He will be missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 285. An act for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6014. An act to authorize the Attorney General to award grants for States to implement DNA arrestee collection processes.

H.R. 6671. An act to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet.

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 3642. An act to clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.