

as well are the vital international food assistance programs that serve as a core component of U.S. efforts to fight global hunger. These have expired as well.

In all, there are 37 programs that have expired, for absolutely no reason. Inaction on the Farm Bill by the House of Representatives is the perfect example of gridlock in Washington that so frustrates the American people. It threatens our economy. It threatens farmers. It harms the most vulnerable among us. And it is entirely pointless and avoidable.

For all their talk of cutting Federal spending and reducing the cost of entitlements, House leaders and the obstructive caucus to which they are catering, by blocking the Farm Bill are poised—by themselves—to increase the Federal deficit by at least \$12 to \$15 billion in 2013 alone. Let me say that again: these obstructionists in the House are threatening to drive up the deficit by \$12 to \$15 billion. While stalling and delaying work on the Farm Bill, saying they want further, draconian cuts in food assistance for the families across this land who are struggling the most, House leaders are about to drive us over this dairy cliff and exponentially increase government spending, hit consumers hard, and destroy the fragile economic gains we have made. This is not what the American people and our farmers deserve. Let's do what is right and pass the Senate Farm Bill into law—without further delay and without the political posturing.

TRIBUTE TO MARGE VAN HOOVE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize with great appreciation one of my longest-serving and loyal staffers, Marge Van Hoove. It is hard to imagine that this day would come, but she has earned a restful retirement from public service.

In January 1987, I had just been elected to serve my first term in the U.S. Senate, when Marge asked to work with me. Even before this meeting, she had been involved in my prior campaigns. Marge's 25 years of service in my Las Vegas office unlocks many wonderful memories.

Marge has always been the first to arrive and last to leave. She never missed a deadline and was always ready with her quick wit. One night, I phoned the office and asked her why she was there so late. She responded, "Because you are calling me so late." Her unyielding dedication to give each task her best is exemplary.

Ms. Van Hoove was the matriarch of my Las Vegas office. She trained staffers and made sure the office ran properly. As the manager of the front desk and scheduling, she saw the process evolve from a pen and paper operation to the modern electronic process that exists today. She also made sure the office maintained the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. She

would joke, "I'm not going to the Federal prison in Lumpoc for anybody."

Despite Marge's many responsibilities, she never forgot a single assignment. No matter what task was assigned to her, she would see it through to its successful completion. Marge never had a sick day until her recent health battles. And even during that difficult time, she worked from home and always staying abreast of all office business.

Marge has a wonderful, engaging sense of humor and accompanied with a memorable laugh. She would pick out quirks among staff and with good nature poke fun at them. She also knew every member of my security detail by name and would charm them during their State visits. To her, everyone was, "Jose" or "Lucille." She would always say, "Ok, Jose" or "Here's the deal, Lucille."

Marge was not only a leader in my office, but a woman of great faith and strength at home. She was born in Santa Fe, NM, but grew up in the San Francisco area, which explains her adoration for the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. She was married to her husband John Van Hoove for 33 years, and they raised two sons John Jr. and Steve. Marge is a proud grandmother of three grandchildren.

Marge's departure into retirement leaves behind a void, but I know that she has instilled many of her strong values and tireless work ethic into the staff she trained. Marge's country western music and cowgirl boots will be out of sight, but she will not be out of the minds of those she worked with. Landra and I will miss our forever friend, Marge, and extend to her our heartfelt love.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to my friend, Senator Daniel K. Inouye. This week in the Senate, we lost a colleague, a mentor, and a compass, and what is more our country lost one of the greatest heroes of the "Greatest Generation".

We are a Nation that still holds its heroes dear, and that is why it is so hard to say goodbye to Danny.

I can think of no place more fitting to say one last "Aloha" than at the very center of this Nation's Capitol Building as Danny rested under the Dome yesterday, which is the symbol of freedom to the entire world and the very freedom he gave so much of himself to protect.

And protect it he did. Danny stood up and fought the racial stereotypes that would have kept Japanese Americans from joining their friends and brothers in World War II. His service in France and Italy, including his heroic battle in Tuscany which earned him our highest military honor, helped fight the spread of evil and hate and religious persecution. In Congress, Danny kept a constant vigil in the service of the people of Hawaii, making sure our 50th State was as well represented as any of the original 13.

As we have gathered to honor him over the past 2 days here in Washington and will continue to gather over this weekend in Hawaii, to thank him, and to say a final farewell, we will be a Congress united. Not conservatives or liberals, Democrats or Republicans, 99 percent or 1 percent. We stand together just as Danny saw us all: as Americans.

Danny was a friend. Quick with a word of advice or encouragement, loyal to his friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in Danny's passing we lost a man who could bridge any divide. We lost a man who led in his platoon, in his caucus, and in his beloved home State of Hawaii.

Danny will be missed by this body and by his friends on both sides of the aisle. But it is my hope his spirit will remain with us, and help ensure that the next generation of heroes has the same freedoms he held so dear. We will never stop fighting to protect them, Danny. Mahalo and Aloha.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

JOE LIEBERMAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in a few days, the Senate will no longer benefit from the service of a member who has left an indelible mark on national security policy and on the Senate. Senator JOE LIEBERMAN has been my colleague and friend for more than two decades. We have shared triumphs and challenges, agreed and disagreed with one another, and each of us has served as a member of a committee the other chaired.

One challenge we have shared is the need to strengthen our nation's manufacturing sector, the economic backbone of our two states and indeed of the nation. Senator LIEBERMAN has served as chairman of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus, which has benefited greatly from his energy and leadership. He has been a dedicated supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers strengthen and grow in the face of international competition. In this work, Senator LIEBERMAN has been an ally of Michigan working families.

Of course, Senator LIEBERMAN and I have worked together on the Armed Services Committee, where he has been an active, thoughtful, principled and energetic member and subcommittee chairman. Senator LIEBERMAN joined the committee in 1993, and from the start, he made an impact. He was the author of what came to be known as the Lieberman Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, directing the Department of Defense to conduct a Quadrennial Defense Review. This review has become an integral part of our nation's defense planning, encouraging the Pentagon, Congress and all who contribute to defense strategy to confront tough questions about strategy, capabilities and resources.

Over several years as chairman or ranking member of the Airland Subcommittee, Senator LIEBERMAN has played an influential role in oversight of important modernization programs. His constant attention and leadership has helped the Army push through the challenges of acquiring and fielding the truly networked tactical force our nation needs, and of modernizing its helicopter force. He has provided close oversight of aircraft programs such as the F/A-18E and F, F-22, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and the new KC-46 aerial refueling tanker.

Of course, the committee has grappled with a number of difficult policy questions over the last two decades, from the need to repeal “don’t ask, don’t tell” to the conduct of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Senator LIEBERMAN was the original sponsor of the legislation that repealed “don’t ask, don’t tell” and he played an important role in shepherding this legislation through the Armed Services Committee and the Senate. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Senator LIEBERMAN on these issues, it’s impossible to doubt his thoughtfulness and his dedication to finding the right solutions for our nation.

Senator LIEBERMAN is my chairman on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I’m privileged to chair that committee’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where a small but incredibly talented and dedicated staff has made immense contributions to consumer protections, government oversight and our defenses against financial wrongdoing. I am deeply grateful for Senator LIEBERMAN’s support for our subcommittee’s work.

We also have worked closely on the committee’s efforts to protect Americans from potentially catastrophic releases from chemical facilities. I was a co-sponsor on legislation he authored with Senator COLLINS to address that threat, and I am thankful for his leadership in putting in place these vital protective standards. Senator LIEBERMAN’s work has also included badly needed reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster; improving our cybersecurity protections; and improving our defenses against disease pandemics.

The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is also where Senator LIEBERMAN has accomplished what is likely his most lasting work: reform of our homeland security and intelligence communities in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Reforms of this scope by necessity have many authors, but certainly Senator LIEBERMAN’s role was at the forefront. His leadership was instrumental in passage of legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and in achieving vital reforms to the structure and practices of our intelligence agencies in the wake of the 9-11 attacks. These were sweeping, once-in-a-

generation reforms, and Senator LIEBERMAN was tireless in his advocacy for them.

In these and so many other ways, Senator LIEBERMAN leaves an important and lasting legacy as he prepares to leave the Senate. He is a trustworthy confidant and I shall miss him. Barbara and I wish JOE and Hadassah every happiness as they embark on their next adventure together.

OLYMPIA SNOWE

Mr. President, it is an unfortunate reality that the number of people in Washington working for bipartisan solutions is significantly smaller than the number of people claiming to do so or proclaiming the need to do so. Nearly everyone seeks the “bipartisan” label; fewer wear it comfortably or practice bipartisanship regularly.

That is one reason I am sad to see OLYMPIA SNOWE leave the Senate. Over three terms, Senator SNOWE has represented the people of Maine with intelligence and, yes, moderation. Here’s how Time magazine put it in 2006, in naming Senator SNOWE one of the nation’s 10 best senators: “Because of her centrist views and eagerness to get beyond partisan point scoring, Maine Republican OLYMPIA SNOWE is in the center of every policy debate in Washington.” And I’ve been lucky to observe her work in those debates.

Start with her work on the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, where she has served both as chairman and ranking member. As a member of the committee, I have appreciated her dedicated advocacy for small business. She has worked hard to support SBA’s Microloan program and programs for women owned businesses. She has helped improve SBA’s trade and export finance programs; elevated the SBAs Office of International Trade and add export finance specialists to the SBA’s trade and counseling programs; and established the State Export Promotion Grant Program, designed to increase the number of small businesses that export goods and services.

Senator SNOWE also has been an enthusiastic supporter of our nation’s manufacturers. As a former co-chair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, she has worked to strengthen programs such as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps American manufacturers research and develop new technologies, increase efficiency, improve supply chains and out-innovate our overseas competitors. American workers from Maine to Michigan and beyond are better off for her support of this vital sector of the American economy.

Beyond manufacturing, our states are linked in another way: the historical lighthouses that dot our shores. I was pleased that Senator SNOWE joined me in offering the National Lighthouse Stewardship Act, which would help local governments or nonprofit groups preserve these prized structures for the appreciation of generations to follow.

I was also fortunate to serve with her on the Armed Service Committee, where she served as Chair of the Seapower Subcommittee. She was a strong advocate for the men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps, and worked diligently to ensure that the Department of the Navy had the people and hardware the Navy needs to defend our nation’s interests.

On these and other issues, Senator SNOWE has worked across party lines for the good of her constituents and our nation. But I can think of no issue that better demonstrates her ability to reach beyond partisan interest than one of the most controversial issues of our time together here: the Iraq war.

I worked with Senator SNOWE and a bipartisan group of senators who believed the status quo in Iraq was no longer acceptable and who worked together to chart a new course.

We joined together to advance our collective view that the primary purpose of United States strategy in Iraq should be to pressure the Iraqi political leadership to make the compromises necessary to end the violence in Iraq while accelerating the training of Iraqi troops to take responsibility for their own security.

We made clear that the open-ended commitment of U.S. forces to Iraq was over, thereby undermining the al Qaeda narrative that we were there as occupiers and signaling to the people and Government of Iraq that the time for political reconciliation had come.

As Senator SNOWE rightly pointed out at the time, “The Iraq government needs to understand that our commitment is not infinite. Americans are losing patience with the failure of the leadership in Baghdad to end the sectarian violence and move toward national reconciliation.” She continued, “It is imperative that Congress understands the importance of placing the future of Iraq’s independence in the hands of those who should want it most—the Iraqi people and their government.”

As members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator SNOWE and I also worked as part of the Committee’s effort to investigate the misuse of pre-war Iraq intelligence by policymakers.

Senator SNOWE’s support for the investigation and its findings, in the face of strong criticism from some in her own party, was important to bring transparency to the decision to go to war in Iraq and will help to ensure the American public is not similarly misled in the future.

Senator SNOWE recently took another principled stand, in what will likely be her last vote as a member of the Intelligence Committee, when she was the only Republican member to vote to adopt the Committee’s report on the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program. That report definitively shows that torture is not effective in eliciting intelligence and will hopefully significantly influence how our nation deals

with the detention and interrogation of those we capture in the future.

OLYMPIA SNOWE's service has been of enormous benefit to the people of her state. She is rightly respected in this chamber, and around this country, as a leader who has not just talked a good game when it comes to bipartisanship, but has followed words with action, often at the cost of no little political discomfort for her. To the very end of her tenure here, she has fought, as she put it just last week on this, "to return this institution to its highest calling of governing through consensus."

I want to thank her for the many ways in which she has supported programs important to Michigan, and for the thoughtful approach she has brought to the many challenges we have faced together. As she returns to Maine, I wish OLYMPIA and Jock every success in whatever endeavors may come. And I hope we can take to heart Senator SNOWE's wise words as we seek to answer the challenges before us.

SCOTT BROWN

Mr. President, I want to give my thanks to Senator SCOTT BROWN, who leaves the Senate at the end of this session. I have not had the privilege of working with Senator BROWN for as long as I have worked with many of the other Senators who are concluding their service here. But I am grateful for his work as a member of the Armed Services Committee, and for his support for some of the important reforms that helped put a cop back on the beat on Wall Street.

SCOTT's road to the Senate was not easy. Like all too many American children, he was the victim of abuse by those who were obligated to care for him. Senator BROWN overcame great odds to become a United States Senator—odds that had little to do with politics. He is an example of our power to achieve despite great challenges, and we can all learn from that example.

Senator BROWN was one of a handful of members who crossed party lines to support the Dodd-Frank Act, which provided vital reforms of the financial sector in order to help prevent a repeat of the financial crisis that crippled our economy. He and I disagreed on several important provisions of the act, and we disagree in many ways on how it can best be implemented. But his vote was very important to its passage.

As a servicemember for more than three decades, including a deployment to Afghanistan, Senator BROWN has brought a valuable perspective to the Armed Services Committee. He has spoken eloquently of the need to honor our Nation's solemn obligation to our troops, our veterans and our families. He has advocated for the National Guard and supported significant policy changes that are important for our servicemembers, such as supporting victims of rape or incest and repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." I thank him for his contributions to the committee's important work in fulfilling its obliga-

tion to servicemembers and their families.

DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. President, now that the 112th Congress will soon be coming to a close, the Senate will be able to take a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation to those members who will be retiring when the gavel brings an end to the current session. One member who has had a great impact on so many of us on a personal basis is DANIEL AKAKA.

DANNY, as I have come to know him, has been one of the strongest and most loyal parts of our Senate Prayer Breakfast. That regular gathering that many of us attend gives us an opportunity to come together to share our faith and discuss the difference it has made in our daily lives.

No one has played a more important role in those weekly meetings than DANNY. His faith has brought him through some very difficult situations in his life and it has also helped him to pursue policies and programs that have made a difference in more lives than we will ever know.

When DANNY was in the House he was the song leader. His understanding of the importance of music helped him to better express his faith. He led our singing of our hymns by providing us with the history of each song as he explained the meaning of the words that were used to bring its message to life. His faith also showed itself with his work on a sailing ship that helped to bring missionaries around the Pacific to share their faith with those who might otherwise have never heard such stories.

DANNY is a veteran of World War II. His experience during the war gave him an understanding of the sacrifices our veterans made during their service and the importance of ensuring that we as a nation take good care of them and address their medical needs.

That is why one of DANNY's great accomplishments here in the Senate has been his efforts on behalf of his fellow veterans. Whenever an important bill was taken up and passed, DANNY immediately got to work, trying to determine the impact each bill would have on our veterans and how any negative impacts could be addressed and reversed. Just as we owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude for their service, veterans everywhere have a special place in their hearts for everything DANNY has done over the years to protect and preserve the benefits they have earned with their service.

In addition to his great faith and his concern for our Nation's veterans, DANNY also brought to the Senate his love of Hawaii and its great culture and history. It was a gift he shared with us over the years that increased our awareness of Hawaii's past and the great traditions of his home State.

Through the years DANNY has made a reputation for himself here in the Senate as a careful, thoughtful legislator who works quietly but effectively. The

good work he has done on a number of issues has had an impact that will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Thank you, DANNY, for your service both here in the Senate and in our armed forces. You can be very proud of all you have achieved. You have represented your State very well. Thank you most of all for your friendship and for sharing your faith and the impact it has had on your life. You will be missed and not just by those of us in the Senate who have enjoyed having a chance to come to know you. You have been a great friend to our Nation's veterans, too, and they will always remember your commitment to them.

SCOTT BROWN

Mr. President, now that the 112th Congress is coming to a close, the Senate will have an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of those Senators who will be returning home at the end of this session of the Senate. One Senator I know I will miss in the days to come is Senator SCOTT BROWN.

Looking back it is hard to believe that SCOTT has only been a member of the Senate for about 3 years. He has had an impact on our day to day deliberations over those years that far outweighs the time he has been a Member of the Senate. That speaks volumes about his ability to make the best use of his resources so that he could have an impact on those issues that concern the people of his home state.

When SCOTT was elected to the Senate he became the first Republican Senator from Massachusetts to have made it here in more than 30 years. For me, that is proof of the kind of candidate SCOTT was and the effectiveness of the campaign he ran.

His success in what was a very difficult race proved that SCOTT is a natural politician. He has a remarkable ability to grasp the core of the issues before the Senate and determine their possible impact on the people back home. He understands the people back home and he knows how they think and how they feel about the issues before the Senate. Equally important, SCOTT is able to explain those issues in simple, easily understood statements that stick in the minds of the people who hear him. He has a way with words that helps to win people over.

When SCOTT came to the Senate people were not sure what to expect. Was he going to tend to follow one Party or the other exclusively? No. SCOTT took up each issue individually, measuring them all with the yardstick of his principles and his determination to be an effective representative of the people of Massachusetts who sent him to Washington. It was not going to be easy, but SCOTT proved himself to be well up to the task.

As soon as he arrived, SCOTT found himself in the thick of a number of legislative battles. He took on each issue carefully and thoughtfully which thoroughly confused all those who thought they had SCOTT all figured out. SCOTT

proved to be an independent individual who was determined to do everything he could to make a difference in Massachusetts and in Washington. He soon proved he was able to do all of that and so much more.

For 3 years, SCOTT has been an important addition to the day to day life of the Senate. I have no doubt we have not heard that last from him. He only needs to take a moment to see what he is interested in taking on in the next chapter of his life. He has a wealth of talent and ability and more importantly, he genuinely cares about the future of our Nation and all of the people who make up his home State and our Nation. There is a lot of opportunity out there for SCOTT and I know he will take full advantage of it.

Thanks, SCOTT, for your service. Thanks for working so hard to get here, and once you did, thank you for never doubting in your ability to make a difference. You have helped to make changes both here and back home in more ways than you will ever know. Thank you, too, for your friendship. For 3 years you have been a strong and powerful advocate for the future of Massachusetts and you can be very proud of all you have achieved during your time in the Senate.

JON KYL

Mr. President, it is a tradition in the Senate to take a moment at the end of the session to express our appreciation for the service of those Senators who will be retiring at the end of the year. This year it seems that we have quite a few retiring Senators who will be greatly missed because of the important role they have played in our leadership on both sides of the aisle. Such a Senator is JON KYL. I know we will miss him, his willingness to work with all of his colleagues, and his understanding of the issues and the need for us to come together to address them.

JON KYL may very well be one of the smartest individuals I have ever met. More importantly, he is not just highly intelligent, he also has an abundance of wisdom. That means he not only knows what is right—he does it! Putting knowledge into action is always the toughest part of the equation.

Here in the Senate, JON has taken on a combination of assignments that most members would have found impossible. JON not only served as our Party “Whip”, but he also helped to direct our efforts with his great understanding of the many details that form such an important part of every issue we take up in the Senate.

JON has been such a great asset for our party because his focus is on the details of every issue that comes before the Senate. That is why, more often than not, when a complex matter is up for our consideration, many of us want to know what JON thinks and what his recommendation would be. His insights have always been an important part of many of his colleagues’ consideration of what each of us should do to further the interests of the people of our home States.

One thing everyone who has spent some time with JON knows about him is his great love for NASCAR. In fact it is more than just an appreciation—I don’t think there are many who understand it with the depth that he does. He not only knows the stats, but he has a great feel for how each race played out, the strategy that was employed and the significance of the results. The way he describes “how the game is played,” the rules, and the key players in every race is enough to get anyone interested in attending the next event. NASCAR ought to make him their ambassador. He would increase interest in it right away. He had done a lot to make me a fan, too!

Politically, JON is a staunch conservative. In fact, I am sure if you look up “staunch conservative” in a reference book it will refer you to their article about JON. JON’s great talent makes him the perfect example of what a conservative is, and his knowledge serves to highlight the positions and issues that are important to all conservatives.

Something else that we have all come to know and appreciate about JON is the strength of his faith and his belief in the importance of the family. One of his first considerations when we took up any legislation was how will this affect our Nation’s families? It was that important to him. I can not imagine a better starting point for our discussions and deliberations.

Thank you, JON, for your willingness to serve. You have made a difference in more ways than you will ever know. In the months to come, I will miss seeing you around the Capitol building. I will also miss having the benefit of your advice and counsel—though I intend to keep your number handy. What I will miss the most, however, is your friendship. Keep in touch with us. We will always appreciate hearing from you.

JIM DEMINT

Mr. President, one of our traditions here in the Senate is to take a moment as the current session of Congress draws to a close to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of all those members who will be leaving when the gavel brings to a close the 112th session of Congress. I know we will miss them all—especially those like JIM DEMINT who have played such an important role in the work we do every day in committee and on the floor.

I know I wasn’t the only one who was surprised to learn that JIM DEMINT was leaving the Senate to become the president of the Heritage Foundation. It is a great opportunity for him, and I know he will make the most of it in the years to come. We will miss him, though, because in a short time he had become an important voice in the Senate for the issues that meant a great deal to him.

Looking back, I have no doubt that JIM learned at an early age that the law is a great teacher and by coming to Washington to help draft our laws he

could help to teach people all across the Nation what it means to be a citizen. He could also help to ensure that our government responds more fully and substantively to the needs of the people of our Nation. I think that is what most interests him about the Heritage Foundation—the knowledge that it will be another opportunity and provide him with a different platform from which he can continue to have an impact on those issues that mean so very much to him.

Over the years I have come to know JIM as he has taken his place as one of a very few who have been known as the conscience of the Senate. He is an individual of strong principles and core values and he brings his sense of direction to the work of the Senate every day.

As I have watched him in action, I have seen his ability to bring our attention both carefully and forcefully to the flaws in the legislative matters we had taken up for deliberations. In everything we did, JIM would take a close look at the wording of each clause and every proposed amendment and make it clear to us the reasons why he believed something needed to be changed. Then as we began our debate, he would then present his points with greater clarity and substance as he made clear his strong opposition to or support for the issue that was before us.

His views on how the Senate functions and how we could make it more effective and more efficient are clearly presented and strongly espoused in his books. I have no doubt that JIM’s books could change the Senate if we could get every one of our colleagues to read them, consider them and then put some of his ideas into practice.

Thank you, JIM, for your willingness to serve and for all you have helped us to accomplish during your time in the Senate. You have presented us with some strong, bold ideas about our future as a nation and I have no doubt they will continue to have an impact on the Senate for a long time to come. Thanks for sharing them with us.

The new adventure you will now begin with the Heritage Foundation sounds like a challenge you will fully enjoy. I know we will continue to hear from you in your new post and we are looking forward to it. You have an important viewpoint to bring to our deliberations and it would be missed if you didn’t continue to make your thoughts and concerns known. We will be watching and listening for your comments and suggestions in the days to come. Good luck and keep in touch!

HERB KOHL

Mr. President, now that the 112th Congress is coming to a close, we have an opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of our fellow Senators who will be retiring at the end of the year. HERB KOHL, one of those who will be returning home when the gavel brings to a close the current session of Congress,

will be missed, for he has been very active and involved in the day-to-day work of the Senate for many years.

My first contact with HERB came about when I found out that he had a ranch in Wyoming. I shouldn't have been surprised. As I have had a chance to come to know him, it seemed pretty clear that he had a lot of Wyoming in him. He is a gentleman and a gentle man in every sense of those words. He says what he means and he means what he says. For him, those words aren't clichés, they are an indication of the way he lives his life.

I know I am not the only one who thought that about HERB. That is why he has a well-earned reputation for being a calm, thoughtful legislator. He has a knack for taking on a problem, giving it his full attention, and then working with members on both sides of the aisle to develop a workable solution to solve it. That is why he has been so successful on a number of issues.

HERB's ability to patiently pursue an agenda, and then focus on a solution that would receive the support necessary to pass, has been a hallmark of his service. Never one to seek out public attention for his efforts, he has been rewarded with something far more important: the knowledge that he has done a good job. His commitment to the future of his home State and our Nation has made it possible for him to have an impact on several issues of great importance to people from every corner of the United States.

HERB has been such a successful legislator in part because of his small business background. He understands better than most the important role our businesses play in our local, State and national economies. He is a man of vision who put his great talents into action when he helped to take the family business to the next level. His success in that effort helped to put him on a path that made it possible for him to do some things that a lot of us only dream about.

One of those great dreams he was able to make come true was his ownership of a professional sports team, the Milwaukee Bucks. There had been some speculation that the team might be bought and moved out of Milwaukee. HERB made sure that wouldn't happen. He bought the team and kept them in Milwaukee, and the people of Wisconsin appreciated his efforts to keep the home team—at home.

None of that would have been possible if not for HERB's ability to organize his time so that he could make the best use of that precious commodity. That has been one of his greatest assets in the Senate, too. Back home, his constituents know that he is a thoughtful person who is interested in them and is always on the watch for those things he can do as their Senator to make their day-to-day lives better.

His constituents have greatly appreciated his work in Washington on their behalf, and that is why they returned

him time after time so he could keep doing such a good job of representing them. HERB has compiled an important record that he should be proud of because it reflects his commitment to the future of his home State and our Nation.

BEN NELSON

Mr. President, at the end of each session of Congress, as is our tradition, we take a moment to express our appreciation and acknowledge the many contributions each retiring Senator has made to the day-to-day work of the Senate. We will miss them when the gavel brings to a close the 112th Congress—especially Senators like BEN NELSON who have made an important difference during their service.

Since he is from Nebraska, BEN is a neighbor to my home State of Wyoming and he understands more than most the inherent problems and challenges faced by rural America. The people of Wyoming, Nebraska and the West have taken on a rugged way of life and it shows itself in their independence, their unique spirit and their great love of their community and their country.

BEN's upbringing and his ties to his State of Nebraska gave him an important understanding of the issues that surround our rural way of life. He took an active role in the Senate's work on agriculture and energy issues because he understands how great a concern they are back home.

BEN learned at an early age that he could make a difference if he worked hard and dedicated himself to the people of his State. It was a plan of action he put into everything he has ever done in life.

It helped him to make a successful run for governor, after which he decided to run for the Senate. He knew it wouldn't be easy, and it wasn't, but when the votes were counted he had won an important Senate seat and was headed here to represent his beloved home State.

Soon after he began his Senate career he cast a vote to lower everyone's taxes. That took courage. In the years since then, he has shown that he has a lot of that important quality in abundance.

Since we are neighbors and share an appreciation and understanding of rural America and our unique way of life, it shouldn't come as a surprise that we have a great deal in common. We both love our great outdoors and there are places in Nebraska that are almost as beautiful as Wyoming.

We both love to hunt, and BEN has had some very interesting opportunities to pursue his hobby all over the world. My hunting has all taken place in Wyoming. Because of our love of hunting and my great affection for fishing, BEN and I co-chaired the Sportsmen's Caucus. We have also worked together on a number of issues related to the great outdoors. They are matters that mean a lot to us and to our constituents back home.

Thanks, BEN, for your service and for your determination to make the position of your constituents known here in Washington. You have made a difference in many ways and you can be very proud of your legacy of service. Thanks, too, for your friendship. I have enjoyed coming to know you. Whatever you have planned for the future, I hope you continue to enjoy the great adventure of your life.

JIM WEBB

Mr. President, as we have all learned, it doesn't always take a lifetime of service to make a difference, especially here in the Senate. JIM WEBB is one of those unique individuals who had an impact here although he only served for one term before deciding to retire. I know I will miss him and his great support for our Nation's military and his heartfelt concern for our Nation's veterans.

As I have had the opportunity to come to know JIM a little better, it is clear that he is a man of strong convictions. As we say in the West, he is someone who means what he says and says what he means. He walks his talk.

When he first arrived in Washington he made it clear he wasn't going to be someone who could be taken for granted, especially when it came to those things in which he strongly believed. He put his home State of Virginia first and he was going to work hard to ensure that the concerns of the people back home were heard—and heard clearly—whenever an issue was taken up that was going to have an impact on them.

A Vietnam veteran himself, he had a great interest in national security issues. His determination to make a difference in that area became very clear right from the start. Serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee he worked very hard to ensure that our veterans were able to access the benefits they had earned with their service.

JIM is a good writer and he has several books to his credit. They have received a great deal of notice and one of his stories has been made into a movie.

I know I join with many of my colleagues in wishing him all the best as he returns to Virginia. I don't know what his next great adventure will be, but I do know his skills and talents will provide him with a number of opportunities to choose from in which he can continue to play an active part in his State.

Thank you, JIM, for your willingness to serve—not only here in the Senate but in our Nation's military. The recognition you earned with your efforts will continue to inspire others. Because of you our Nation's veterans have had a champion in committee and a warrior on the Senate floor who did everything you possibly could to ensure our veterans would never have to settle for anything less than the best. They have earned that and so much more with their service, their many sacrifices on our behalf and their unsurpassed love for our country.

JEFF BINGAMAN

Mr. President, at the close of each session of Congress, the Senate has traditionally taken a moment to express our appreciation for the service those who are retiring have provided to the people of their home State and our Nation. It gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions that every Senator makes to the day to day operations of the Congress and the work they have been a part of as we have worked together to craft the laws that govern the Nation.

Over the years I have learned a great deal about how the Senate works and how to be an effective representative for the people of my home State from one of the best, JEFF BINGAMAN. He has compiled quite a record that he can be very proud of, and he has done it quietly, almost behind the scenes as he has shown himself to be "a workhorse and not a showhorse."

For those of us from the West, that is quite a compliment. In a nutshell, it means that someone is a lot more concerned with getting results than in getting the credit. It proves the old saying that you can get just about anything done if you don't care who gets the credit for it.

When I first arrived in the Senate, I had always believed in the importance of getting acquainted with how things work by taking a close look at how the people who were getting the results I was equally committed to achieving were doing it. Using that as my standard, one Senator who caught my attention quickly was JEFF BINGAMAN.

JEFF is a fellow Westerner and he knows and understands the issues that are so important to the people back home. As I watched him in action, I could quickly see why he was a success story here. He had a reputation for his ability to work with both sides of the aisle to get the results the people of his home State had sent him here to achieve. He had an understanding of the ramifications of the legislation we were working on that was second to none. Taken together, all of that had helped to make him an important ally in any legislative battle that needed to be won.

As I got to know him, I looked to him for his leadership on the issues that were on the minds of the people back home in Wyoming. He was taking the lead on a number of them as he worked to increase the awareness of our colleagues about matters like open spaces, water and the future of our energy industry.

Over the years, JEFF has been a mentor to me. I have learned a great deal from him from our work together on Western issues and from our service on the task groups we both worked on. Jeff has an ability to summarize a difficult issue simply so that it can be understood on a number of levels by those of us who come from backgrounds that are quite different from Jeff's and all our Western colleagues. He was then able to propose commonsense solutions

that not only made sense to our fellow Senators, but were also able to obtain the support they needed to be considered and passed by the Senate.

That would have never been possible if not for one of JEFF's great gifts—his ability to find common ground in the midst of some sharp disagreements. He knows how to take the views of all concerned into account and then develop a plan of action taking a variety of viewpoints into consideration. Somehow he had a knack for finding a way to make it all work.

None of that should have surprised us. After all, JEFF has one credential on his resume that not everyone has: the persistence and determination to acquire. JEFF was active in Boy Scouts at a young age and with a lot of hard work and determined effort, he was able to reach the rank of Eagle.

Some people might be surprised that I mention JEFF's Eagle, a great achievement that he was able to attain so many years ago. I have found that the Eagle speaks volumes about the strength of someone's character as they grew up. It proves that they were focused on more important things—like setting goals and then planning a course of action to reach them—one by one. There is no more valuable skill to have in the pursuit of a career and the development of a life than that.

During his service in the Senate, JEFF has compiled a record of which he can be very proud—as proud as the people of New Mexico are proud of him. That is why they kept sending him back to the Senate. It is also why his record of service will continue to receive the notice it deserves as the issues he has worked so hard on will have an impact on the West and the Nation for many years to come.

I don't know what JEFF's plans are for the future, but I feel certain we haven't heard the last from him. I hope he will continue to keep in touch with all of our Western delegations. I am certain we could all use a little New Mexico wisdom from time to time on the issues that come before us that are of such great concern to the West and rural communities all across the country.

Thank you, JEFF, for your service to New Mexico and to the United States. We appreciate your willingness to come to Washington to ensure the concerns of your State were heard and that they received the attention they deserve. Thanks most of all for your friendship over the years. I have learned a great deal from you and about you and I know the lessons I have learned from you about the Senate and our Committee structure will continue to make me a more effective advocate for Wyoming and the West. Whatever the next chapter of your life holds in store, I know you will give it your best—just as you have done with every other great adventure in your life.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Mr. President, now that the campaigns are over, the elections have

been held, and the Senate is winding down its current session, I appreciate having this opportunity to express my great appreciation to those Senators who have had a great impact on me and our work together in the Senate. Such an individual is KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, who has had a remarkable career as the Senator from the great State of Texas.

Senator HUTCHISON and I go back quite a way—in fact, we go back to the days before I was elected to the Senate. That was when I had just beat the odds and managed to receive the nomination of my party to the Senate. A great part of the reason for my success had to do with the support I received from my family and the enthusiasm we put into everything we did that year. It really had an impact throughout the State during the primary season. Now that the primary was over, however, the real battle was about to begin.

I knew, as soon as I was nominated, that I had a problem. I was running against a very strong candidate, a woman with a wealth of experience in politics who had already waged and won a statewide race. I had no doubts that we could still win, but I wasn't kidding myself that it would be easy, either.

Fortunately, I had a secret weapon—KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON. She agreed to come to Wyoming and campaign with me. That was a tremendous blessing because she had a natural feel for politics and she more than made up for my lack of experience in running a statewide campaign. She gave me a lot of good advice and we took it all. Then we set out on the campaign trail and that is where she really proved to be an asset.

Each stop we made Senator HUTCHISON showed that she was a natural politician. People responded to her and the way she spoke during our events. She made it clear that she was a hard worker who said what she meant and meant what she said. Her Texas style played well in Wyoming and it really made a difference for me.

Then, when I came to Washington to begin my work in the Senate, I watched her take on some pretty difficult issues. She had a talent for seeing the best solutions to those complicated problems and that helped her to make a difference in her home State and here in Washington.

What most impressed me was her ability to see a problem as it was developing and then formulate a strategy to deal with it before it became any more difficult. She was very focused on the needs of her home State and what she could do here in the Senate to make sure that the issues of most concern to the people of Texas were addressed.

Back home, Senator HUTCHISON has always been concerned about our young people and what she could do to ensure they realize they can be anything they want to be if they are willing to work hard to succeed. That is why the young women of Texas look up

to her and see her as a model of what they can also hope to someday achieve. That led her to publish a collection of stories about successful women. Senator HUTCHISON knows that a good biography is more than a source of inspiration, it is a very specific “how to” manual that young women all across the country can look to for inspiration, guidance and direction on how they can hope to achieve the same kind of success in their own lives.

Senator HUTCHISON has a remarkable family and I know that she is very proud of them. Not too long ago, she and her husband decided to adopt a child. They wound up adopting not one, but two children who are blessed to have two such special parents. It’s just another example of the way Senator HUTCHISON has been reaching out to help those who need her in so many ways over the years.

Senator HUTCHISON has blazed a trail in so many ways during her career in public service. She was the first woman ever elected to the Senate from Texas, and during her service she has helped young women all across her home State of Texas to realize that there are no limits to their future. They can be anything they want to be if they are willing to do whatever it takes to succeed, just as Senator HUTCHISON has done. She is not just a role model, she is an example of what is possible for everyone to achieve.

KENT CONRAD

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as the work of the Senate for the current session of Congress begins to wind down, it is good to take a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation to our friends and colleagues who will be retiring when the final gavel brings to a close the 112th Session of Congress. One friend I know I will miss in the months to come is KENT CONRAD.

KENT is a hard worker, a Senator who is fully focused on the needs of his home State and the work that needs to be done to address the issues of concern to his constituents. He is a Senator who will always be known as a serious and thoughtful legislator who has a good sense of how today’s problems will affect tomorrow’s bottom line if we don’t act now to bring our economic policies under control.

Throughout his career, KENT has never been one to look for the most popular way of doing things. He was more concerned with finding the most productive way of doing things. He knows that what looks like a good idea in the short term doesn’t always lead to producing the kind of long term results we must have if we are to strengthen our economy and put the Nation back to work. He has a great sense of what needs to be done now to ensure our children and grandchildren will have the same advantages that we had. That means never putting off until tomorrow what we ought to be doing today to ensure those issues are addressed. In fact, when Kent announced his decision to retire he made

mention of that fact and how his time would be better spent working instead of campaigning.

KENT has been a part of the Senate for four terms—and I am on my third. Over the years I have enjoyed having a chance to come to know him and his wife. They are a very special couple and they are equally committed to each other and to the future of our Nation. Their shared determination to make this a better country for all of us has helped to make them a team that has left their mark on the Nation’s capital.

I have had a chance to travel with them both and Diana and I have enjoyed the time we spent together. KENT has a tremendous sense of humor and he has a very interesting outlook on the world. He knows more about the legislation we take up on the Senate Floor than almost anyone else and his understanding of how our bills are written and the impact they will have on our future and our children’s future make him someone you would want to be on your side when the battles begin to rage in Committee or on the Floor.

KENT is pretty easy to work with and I have enjoyed the opportunities we have had to tackle some pretty difficult issues together. That sense of humor of his has helped him out on a number of occasions when the going got tough. I know, because I have seen him in action as we worked together on several bills. I also co-chaired a Caucus with him.

As the Chairman of the Budget Committee, KENT has really revealed his leadership abilities. The Budget Committee provided him with a platform that made it possible for him to speak out on issues that were of great interest and concern to him. He has been a very effective Chairman and he has left a legacy of hard work and positive results that will provide all those who follow him with a good road map to follow that has already proven to be effective.

The main thing I think I will always remember about KENT, however, is the way he prepares for his presentations. I don’t think there has ever been, nor will there ever be a Senator who is always so well prepared.

KENT and I both appreciate the power of a well designed chart or graph. If you really want me to understand how the policy or program you are offering will affect my home State of Wyoming and the Nation as a whole, show me the data in pictures not words. KENT makes a regular habit of doing that, and he does it better than just about anyone else.

I know that we will be hearing more from KENT in the months to come. I don’t think he views his retirement as an opportunity to stop working. I think he sees it as a chance to take on something new, some great and challenging new adventure in his life. I don’t know what he has planned, but I am looking forward to seeing him take it on day by day.

KENT has been a friend to so many of us over the years and I know he will be missed. We appreciate his service, we thank him for the way he handled the gavel in his Committee, but most of all we thank him for his friendship, for his love of the Senate and his determination to make the country a better place for us all—both current and future generations. KENT has been an effective Senator for his home State and in so many ways he has succeeded in helping to make North Dakota and our Nation a better place to live.

RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, at the end of each Congress the Senate has a custom of taking a moment to express our appreciation to those members who will be returning home when the gavel brings the current session to a close. This tradition provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge each Senator’s efforts and take note of the difference they have made both back home and here in Washington, DC.

One Senator I know I will miss in the months to come is Senator RICHARD LUGAR. He has had a great influence on my service here in the Senate. During his six terms of service in the Senate, I know I’m not the only one who learned a great deal from him about how to be the kind of legislator that gets results.

I was fortunate to have had someone like Senator LUGAR reach out to serve as a mentor to me. When I first arrived, my experience in the Wyoming State Legislature had taught me to enter the legislative battles slowly, taking the time to learn from the seasoned veterans how to be an effective advocate for my home State and the people back home. Senator LUGAR proved to be a good choice for me to observe as I tried to pick up on his way of doing things on the floor and in his Committee.

I soon learned that Senator LUGAR had a style all his own. His demeanor of being quiet and calm in his dealings with other members and the thoughtful presentations he made on the Senate floor made it clear that he always had a strategy in mind as we took up those issues that meant a great deal to him.

I shouldn’t have been surprised he had such a good understanding of the right way to do things here. It’s an indication of one of his great achievements—he’s a fellow Eagle Scout. That great training he received in his younger days never left him. His years in the Boy Scouts prepared him for the challenges he had taken on over the years and it taught him the importance of teamwork—bipartisan teamwork—in taking on the issues that were of such great concern to the people of his State. His experience with the Scouts taught him a great deal about life and the importance of holding on to the principles and values that helped to make him a leader back home and here in the Senate.

Another aspect of our lives that we have in common is our service as

mayor. There are few jobs quite as difficult as that and I have a great deal of respect for anyone who takes on that challenge.

I served as mayor of Gillette, Wyoming during a difficult time in its history. Senator LUGAR served as mayor of Indianapolis. He brought quite a few good proposals with him and that helped to make it possible for him to do some pretty remarkable things. One accomplishment that stands out was his consolidation of the city and the surrounding county. That helped to make the government work better for the people of the area. His proposals received a great deal of attention and that got his administration noticed. It soon led him to bring his unique brand of leadership to the National League of Cities, where he served as its president.

After such a string of successes, it was only natural that he then bring his vision for the future of our Nation to the United States Senate. For six terms he has been a strong voice for the people of his home State on a long list of issues that were of great concern to them. He has been a leader in both the areas of foreign affairs and agriculture. He has been a great friend of rural America as he has worked to ensure that the programs and policies that work so well in urban areas also benefit rural States and communities like those in his home State and mine. He has compiled a legacy during his service in the Senate that should make him very proud.

Now Senator LUGAR will be returning to his beloved home State. Those are his roots and it represents the kind of experiences that helped to form him over the years. It was a life that made him what he is today—strong, independent and committed to doing what is right.

Now that this chapter of Senator LUGAR's life has come to a close, another will soon begin. That is just as it should be for we will miss his leadership on a long list of issues. I hope we continue to hear from him with his thoughtful ideas on the direction we need to follow to turn our economy around.

I know I join with our colleagues in thanking Senator LUGAR for his service, for the leadership he has provided on more issues than I could ever list in this short reflection on his many years in the Senate, and most of all, for his friendship. That was a great gift that meant a great deal to us all.

OLYMPIA SNOWE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it has long been a Senate tradition to take a moment as the current session of Congress draws to a close to express our appreciation and acknowledge the many contributions each retiring Senator has made to our legislative deliberations both on the Floor and in committee. We will miss them when the gavel brings to a close the 112th Congress—especially senators like OLYMPIA SNOWE who have made an important difference during their service.

With OLYMPIA's retirement Maine has lost a very powerful and effective legislator and our Nation's small business community has lost the support of a great champion. Throughout her service in the Senate OLYMPIA has shown her great understanding of our economy and her commitment to keeping our small businesses strong and vibrant. She knows that our small businesses are truly the backbone of our economies—on the local, State and national level and everything we can do to keep them going strong will have the greatest impact on our efforts to keep our American dream alive and available to the people of our great Nation.

OLYMPIA has very strong roots in Maine and she has an in depth understanding of the priorities of the people of her home State and what they expect her to work on here in Washington. That is why she has a well deserved reputation for being a thoughtful and careful legislator, one who looks closely at all the details of a bill before making her decision, based on its merits.

I don't think I've ever met a Senator who was a more avid reader than OLYMPIA. Whenever the Senate takes up an issue, she is always looking for more materials to read that will help her develop creative and innovative solutions to our Nation's problems.

Then, when the matter comes up for our review in Committee or on the floor, she has at the ready several articles that will drive home and anchor the point she is making. No one is better at researching an issue than OLYMPIA and then, when the matter is up for debate, making it clear what she believes to be the best way to tackle the problem. No matter the topic, it's always a plus to have her on your side.

In the years to come, I will always remember OLYMPIA's dedication and firm resolve to get things done. As we worked together on several issues, it was clear she had a wealth of knowledge about how each provision of a bill would play out. She brought some very good ideas to the process and her input helped to make each bill better.

OLYMPIA had always been known as a powerful and effective speaker. Someone with the ability to not only present her position with clarity and precision, but who could also persuade others to her point of view with her common sense approach to problem solving. Those skills and so many more helped her to make a difference throughout her home State of Maine during her career in public service. In the end, that is why she was so successful in the politics of her home State. The people of Maine know OLYMPIA and they appreciate her efforts on their behalf. Over the years OLYMPIA has compiled a record of success of which she can truly be proud.

I know I join with the people of Maine in telling OLYMPIA how much we appreciate her willingness to serve. She could have followed so many different

career paths, but she was determined to make Maine a better place for our children and our grandchildren. Thanks, too, for her friendship and her support on the issues on which we worked together. OLYMPIA is an individual of great strength and firm convictions and will be missed in the months to come.

I don't know what the Senator has planned for the next great adventure in her life, but whatever it is I am certain we haven't heard the last from her. We will always be pleased to hear her thoughts about the issues we have before us here in the Senate.

REMEMBERING WARREN B. RUDMAN

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of an extraordinary man, an exceptional public servant, and a dear friend, Senator Warren B. Rudman. As the U.S. Senate, the people of New Hampshire, and the entire Nation mourn his loss, I wish to add my voice to the chorus of tributes that continue to reverberate from every corner of the country in commemoration of a man whose contributions to our Nation and our world are as numerous as they are invaluable. I also want to express my heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret his daughters, Laura and Debra, and his entire family at this most difficult of times.

With a Senate that is profoundly dysfunctional and in an era when bipartisanship and compromise are both seemingly lost arts, we recall with tremendous admiration the intelligence and exemplary judgment of a distinguished and iconic legislator whose paramount purpose was to rise above and beyond the din of partisanship to effectively serve the citizens of New Hampshire and the people of our great Nation.

The child of immigrants, Warren grew up in his beloved Granite State. And from an early age, he was instilled with New England's hallmark sense of independence and frugality and its spirit of grit and tenacity qualities which he first brought to bear during his heroic service as combat platoon leader and company commander in the Korean war, rightfully earning him the Bronze Star.

Returning from the horrors of war, Warren emerged with a renewed commitment to duty and service, this time in the public sphere, where he applied himself to delivering justice for the people of New Hampshire as their attorney general. His colleagues would later recall that he was one of the finest public servants to ever grace that office and that all who followed aspired to the example he established.

Mr. President, I stand here today to declare, like so many of my colleagues have, that those sentiments ring true for Warren's service in the U.S. Senate as well. Indeed, he was an exemplary