

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

and consummate public servant, thoroughly understanding that the very essence of good governance was problem-solving and that as an elected official he was entrusted with a responsibility to work across the aisle to accomplish the business of the Nation.

In fact, all one has to do is look to his signature piece of legislation, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget Act, to witness that fact. This bipartisan piece of legislation brought under control the Nation's ballooning deficits and directly contributed to the economic prosperity and growth that is so fondly associated with the 1990s. In that light, we can look to Warren with grateful eyes because in bringing to bear his credibility, his intellect, and his experience, he pursued a course that was not necessarily expedient but that was ultimately right. A longtime fiscal visionary, he was a leader whose voice we should heed today.

But that spirit of integrity, decency, and honor was a mainstay of Warren's character, and those principles were ingrained into the unwavering set of beliefs which remained with him throughout his lifetime. They guided him during the Keating 5 investigation, informed him during the Iran-Contra deliberations, and inspired him in seeing through the Supreme Court nomination of his good friend from New Hampshire and exceptional jurist, Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Indeed, they were the ever-present and indispensable tenets that both firmly grounded him in his Granite State roots while also spurring him to the legislative heights that became the capstones of his landmark tenure in public service.

That is why I will forever admire Warren's passionate, unvarnished, and classic straightforward approach, which helped build consensus throughout his time in the U.S. Senate and which served the country so well. While I missed serving with him in the Senate by 1 year, I had the privilege of working with him on bicameral basis as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and during that time and through those experiences, my husband Jock and I were fortunate enough to become friends with Warren. In fact, he had a tremendous affection for Maine, owning a home on beautiful Bailey Island and while we know his heart forever belongs to New Hampshire, we are still proud to consider him an honorary Mainer.

Undoubtedly, though, Warren was a man ahead of his time. From championing the watershed legislation which reduced our deficit, to helping found the bipartisan Concord Coalition, which offers serious solutions for our Nation's significant fiscal challenges, Warren's is a legacy that Jock and I are proud to carry forward by serving on the board of advisors at University of New Hampshire's Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership, and Public Policy. And as students across the country continue to learn about

Senator Rudman, we take great pride in knowing that history will remember him as a statesman of the highest caliber who served America and his beloved New Hampshire with unsurpassed distinction.

PROTECT OUR KIDS ACT OF 2012

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, each year more than 6 million children in the United States are reported as victims of child abuse and neglect. Tragically, more than 1,500 of those children lose their lives most under the age of four. Many of these deaths are preventable and we must fight for those who are too young to defend and speak for themselves.

The United States currently does not have a comprehensive strategy to address child abuse fatalities, or a national standard for classification and reporting of those deaths. This leaves many child abuse fatalities to be underreported, which becomes an additional hindrance in addressing the root causes.

I am pleased to work with Senate Finance Committee Chairman BAUCUS, Senator COLLINS, and a number of advocacy and child welfare experts to introduce the Protect Our Kids Act of 2012. This legislation will establish the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

The commission will be comprised of a variety of professionals with diverse experience and perspectives. They will be charged with developing a national strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect fatalities, and provide comprehensive recommendations for all levels of government. It will analyze the effectiveness of existing programs designed to prevent or identify maltreatment deaths and learn more about what works and what doesn't. Child abuse fatalities are a national crisis that requires a collective solution. Once the commission completes their work any relevant agency will report to Congress regarding their response to the commission recommendations.

The loss of just one child to abuse is one child too many. I appreciate the work of a number of organizations that have been integral to the development of the legislation and have endorsed it, including the National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths, whose members include the National Association of Social Workers, NASW; the National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths, NCRPCD, National Children's Alliance, NCA; Every Child Matters Education Fund, ECMEF; and the National District Attorney's Association (NDAA).

I look forward to our continued progress in developing a more effective approach to improving child welfare. I thank Chairman BAUCUS and Senator COLLINS for their leadership on this important issue and I ask all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 2838, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012, which we sent to the President late last week. This important bill provides authorization for all of the programs and missions of the United States Coast Guard, along with provisions important to the maritime industry.

One important provision in the bill addresses the tonnage situation of the vessel Aqueos Acadian. The system of tonnage measurement, though arcane and complicated, is vital to the operation and economics of any vessel. In the case of the Aqueos Acadian, its original configuration in 1973 was certified in Coast Guard documentation to be 274 gross registered tons, GRT, which is the official domestic tonnage measurement. Later, the vessel had an addition of a closed-in shelter deck, which increased its domestic tonnage, as well as its international tonnage, which is measured differently than domestic tonnage under the International Tonnage Convention, ITC, rules. Later still, the modifications that increased the tonnage measurements were removed, and the vessel's official documents were issued by the Coast Guard and ABS to reflect that its GRT had been reduced to 275, almost exactly the original tonnage.

Vessels with greater than 300 GRT have safety and manning requirements much more complicated than vessels at or below 300 GRT. At the time of the certification of the down-sizing modifications, the ITC tonnage was not reduced because the Coast Guard's ability to reduce international tonnage administratively is either extremely arcane or non-existent—even if the vessel's tonnage has in fact been reduced.

When Aqueos Corporation in Louisiana purchased the vessel, its official documents reflected that the GRT had been reduced to below 300 GRT. Relying on those Coast Guard and ABS issued documents, the company sought Coast Guard administrative help to reduce the international tonnage commensurate with the GRT. The Coast Guard bill includes language that allows the company to keep operating the vessel under its current documentation and allows time to complete the tonnage-reducing modifications that were not done by the previous owners of the vessel but that the Coast Guard has said must be done. Unfortunately, the ITC tonnage reduction remains incomplete. The provision does not restore the vessel's ITC tonnage to that of the GRT. This second step would afford to the vessel the same result that other vessels in the Aqueos Acadian's class have, through a previous legislative grandfather provision, that allows those vessels' GRT and ITC tonnage to be the same. This second step would not give the vessel a competitive advantage relative to other vessels in the Acadian's class; rather, without it the company is at a competitive disadvantage with those other