

so hard on this bill. We appreciate the new chair of the Appropriations Committee and the good work she did; the work done by the New York delegation, led by Senator SCHUMER; and the work done by the New Jersey delegation. This is extremely fine legislation. I really appreciate all their hard work, and the cooperation we got from the Republicans was wonderful.

The people in New England suffered a tremendous blow caused by nature. As has happened during the entire history of this country when that sort of devastation has occurred, Congress stepped in to do something to help the beleaguered people. In this case, it is New York, New Jersey, and some other States, but they were the ones hit the hardest. Even now, hundreds of thousands of people are without homes, so I hope the House takes this up very quickly.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now move to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments on what has transpired today on the floor of the Senate.

First, some enormously important work has been done in regard to addressing the disaster caused by Hurricane Sandy. I know that in a number of States unprecedented devastation has occurred, and we should respond extremely quickly—more quickly than we have. I hope the House will immediately take up this package. Certainly, disaster relief delayed is disaster relief denied. So I hope the House will indeed move extremely quickly to address the devastation throughout the Northeast.

I also wanted to note that tonight 55 Senators stood and said: As we assist the victims of Hurricane Sandy, we should also assist the victims of unprecedented drought and fires that devastated much of our country this last summer.

How is it, we might wonder, that we had devastating fires in July and August and into September and devastating drought and we still haven't approved the disaster assistance? I must say it is 100 percent unacceptable.

If you lost your ranch in a fire, if you lost your fencing, if you lost your corn,

if you lost your livestock, and a program that would have helped that has always been in place for disaster assistance wasn't reauthorized, then you have been stranded since June or July or August. Perhaps in that interim you have lost your farm, perhaps you have lost your ranch, perhaps you have mortgaged everything to hold on. Yet here is the Senate saying: Hey, it is OK that we are not helping you now because, you know what. We are going to help you in the farm bill.

Where is the farm bill? It is not on the President's desk. It is not en route to the President's desk. It has not even been brought up on the floor of the House. A bipartisan group of Senators in this body approved the farm bill and had the disaster relief for our ranchers and farmers in it and sent it over to the House, and it has never been discussed. That is completely unacceptable. It is a moral failure to leave those struck by disaster stranded.

Tonight 55 Senators agreed that it is unacceptable. We should help right now. But you know what. Under the budget point of order that was put forward, you needed 60 votes. We needed 60 votes tonight to help our ranchers and farmers. We only had 55.

Here is the interesting point. This budget point of order is supposed to be about saving money, but this body already approved all of those disaster relief programs in the farm bill, and when that farm bill is done, we are assured tonight that these provisions will be maintained, that we will assist our ranchers and farmers. Thus, we will not save a dime. There is not a dime saved because the same program will eventually be approved. But the relief will be coming so late to the victims of the drought and the victims of the fire who lost their livestock and their forage and their fences.

Tonight, what happened for those 40 who voted against helping our ranchers and farmers is they did not save a penny, but they did enormous damage to citizens across this country, ranchers and farmers who were counting on us.

I rise to say that I deeply regret the Senate's decision tonight. I deeply regret the 40 votes against our ranchers and farmers. I deeply regret that 40 said: Even though it will not save a dime, we are going to hold them hostage to the farm bill, to its eventual passage someday. Holding people hostage who have been victims of disaster is morally unacceptable.

Again, I thank the 55 tonight who voted on the bipartisan amendment. My partner on the Republican side of the aisle, Senator BLUNT, should be profoundly complimented for stepping in to help carry this charge. I was pleased to be his partner. I was pleased to be a partner with Senator STABENOW, chair of the Agriculture Committee, who worked closely with us to arrange for this Senate amendment to be possible tonight, to be able to have this vote. I thank her, and I thank Sen-

ator BLUNT. I thank the other Senate cosponsors, and I thank everyone who voted tonight to say that disaster relief should no longer be delayed for the victims of the fires and droughts of the summer of 2012.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUYE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to bid "Aloha" to an extraordinary colleague and a dear friend, Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

I want to first and foremost offer my most sincere condolences to Dan's exceptional wife, Irene, who has been a pillar of unending strength and courage, as well as Ken and Jennifer, both of whom he spoke of with boundless love, and of course, his entire family, as our hearts go out to them during this most difficult time.

On an occasion of such a large and historic loss, finding the appropriate words to capture the immense depth and breadth of this moment, as well as the magnitude of its meaning, represents the most daunting of challenges. As Dan was the most senior member of this esteemed Chamber, and the second longest serving Senator in its history, every Senator here never known this institution without him—and so it is difficult to comprehend that these hallowed halls will never again witness his presence or hear his deliberative, compassionate, and measured approach.

Like all my colleagues, I profoundly admired Dan for his devotion to this country and the steadfast, irrepressible determination that he exhibited day in and day out, as he sought to better our Nation not only for his constituents in his beloved home State of Hawaii, but for all who called America home. But that is who Dan was, and throughout his remarkable life, he placed the highest of premiums on service above self.

He did on the shores of Honolulu when, having heard the clarion call of sirens ringing out across the island as Japanese planes attacked American naval forces at Pearl Harbor, he rushed toward the battle to volunteer as a Red Cross medic. He did on the battlefields in Italy during the Second World War, when having taken sniper fire and enduring a gruesome explosion that would later claim his right arm, he refused to evacuate, pressing forward to neutralize enemy positions so that he could lead his men to safe ground—an act of heroism and valor which later rightfully earned him the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor.

Those acts of valor, which spoke to Dan's intrinsic and abiding concern for others, distinguished him throughout his life. In fact, it motivated him at every turn in Congress, where he cared not about scoring political points, but about doing what was right. In times rife with partisanship, he proved the rare exception, bringing to bear his principled voice of reason, as well as his enormous credibility, his gravitas, and his vast experience to rise above the rancorous din that all too often envelops us here in Washington.

Indeed, Dan legislated with uncommon civility and candor, ability and efficacy, as well as the most seriousness of purpose and irrepressible good humor. It is no wonder, then, why the people of Hawaii, since achieving statehood in 1959, have repeatedly and overwhelmingly returned Dan to Congress for over half a century, entrusting him not only to be their voice and their vote, but their champion.

And that is precisely what he was—a legislative stalwart and tireless advocate for his beloved home State, fighting fiercely on behalf of his fellow Hawaiians. Whether strengthening vital infrastructure, increasing job training and employment opportunities across the islands, or supporting veterans, he united a workhorse-like legislative craftsmanship with his legendary statesmanship to not only deliver on behalf of Hawaii, but ensure that his State, despite its geographical location, was on the vanguard of modernism.

In fact, I can still well-recall traveling to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan with Senator Inouye and Senator Ted Stevens—who shared a remarkable friendship themselves—as part of a five-member Senate delegation in February of 2002, just 4 months after the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. One of the first American delegations to travel to Afghanistan after the tragedy, we consulted with NATO leaders to discuss international support for anti-terrorism efforts worldwide and met with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and Chairman Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to signal America's commitment to defeating terrorism. And Dan was instrumental in these formative post-9/11 efforts in combating the combat the scourge of terrorism.

And so as we reflect upon his unequalled career, we as a people and as a Nation can find solace in knowing that he has left to us an incredible legacy of service that will not only resonate for generations to come, but that will inspire all of those who are fortunate to follow in his footsteps, just as it has inspired all of us who have had the privilege of serving with him.

Perhaps most importantly, though, he was indisputably what our forefathers quite likely had in mind when they envisioned a United States Senator, and his beloved Aloha State—and indeed our Nation—could not have asked for a more eloquent and powerful

champion fighting on their behalf. I will most certainly always remember the sincerity and warmth of our conversations and forever treasure our friendship.

As I conclude, today, I remember a powerful statement of Senator Inouye's, which speaks to his unparalleled humility and integrity. Having recently been asked how he hoped history would remember him, he replied, "I represented the people of Hawaii and this nation honestly and to the best of my ability. I think I did okay."

Mr. President, I believe, as do my colleagues, that history will recall Senator Inouye as one of our most distinguished and iconic legislators, and just as he joins the pantheon of exemplary leaders who have shaped our Nation for the better, his memory will, too, forever live on in the collective heart of an eternally grateful Nation. Indeed, the Senate, the State of Hawaii, and the Nation, are immeasurably enhanced by his service.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the Senators who will not be returning when the 113th Congress commences next month. I have already spoken about Senator KYL and about Senator Inouye, one of the truly great Americans and giants of this institution. At the time of his death, Senator Inouye was just a few weeks short of celebrating 50 years of Senate service. Only Senator Byrd served in this institution longer.

Turnover is a natural occurrence, but it's important to acknowledge that the Senators who are departing have served in the Senate for a combined total of 237 years, or nearly 20 years per Senator, on average. Add Senator Inouye, and the total is close to 300 years. That service represents an enormous amount of expertise on issues ranging from national defense and foreign affairs to the Federal budget to energy policy. The departing Senators will also take with them vast institutional knowledge and bipartisan friendships and working relationships that will leave a void we will need to fill.

DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. President, DANIEL AKAKA was born on September 11, 1924 just 4 days after Senator Inouye and, like Senator Inouye, he overcame the prejudice and hostility directed at Asian Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor to serve with distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II. Senator AKAKA was a civilian worker in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1945. Then, he was on Active Duty in the Army from 1945 to 1947.

After Senator AKAKA finished his military service, he devoted his career to education, first as a teacher and then as a principal and later as an official in the State of Hawaii Department of Education. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976

and then appointed to the Senate in 1990 upon the death of former Senator Spark Matsunaga. He won an election that November with nearly 54 percent of the vote, and was re-elected to the Senate in 1994, 2000, and 2006, twice receiving over 70 percent of the popular vote and never dropping below 61 percent.

Senator AKAKA is America's first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and the only Chinese-American Member of the Senate. He chairs the Indian Affairs Committee and, like Senator Inouye, he has been a stalwart supporter of Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians. One of his highest priorities has been to secure passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, S. 675. That bill was just placed on the legislative calendar and hotlined, we need to get it across the finish line in the waning days of the 112th Congress. It's the right thing to do.

I have been privileged to work with Senator AKAKA on efforts to protect the Federal workforce. Federal employees have no greater champion than Senator AKAKA, who has chaired the Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management. Senator AKAKA is committed to making the Federal government an employer of choice capable of attracting and retaining the best and the brightest. In 2009, he introduced the Telework Enhancement Act, which became law in 2010 and expands telework opportunities at executive agencies. Senator AKAKA has also fought to create a culture of transparency and fairness in the Federal Government, authoring the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, which I was proud to cosponsor. President Obama signed that bill into law last month. And Senator AKAKA has been a civil rights champion, partnering with Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, me, and others to support domestic partner benefits.

I also appreciate Senator AKAKA's determined advocacy for financial literacy and consumer protections. His Credit Card Minimum Payment Warning Act was included in the 2009 Credit CARD Act. Now, thanks to Senator AKAKA, credit card bills must include a disclosure box to show consumers how long it will take to repay their entire balance if they only make minimum monthly payments. The so-called "Akaka Box" also lets consumers know how much it will cost to pay off their outstanding balance within 36 months, which is a typical length of a debt management plan. Senator AKAKA was also an author of portions of the Dodd-Frank Act addressing financial literacy (establishing the Office of Financial Education within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) and investor protections.

Throughout Senator AKAKA's long and distinguished career in Congress, he has also been an ardent environmentalist. As a former chairman of the