

aid homeowners, small businesses, hospitals, and New York's critical public infrastructure.

I spent hours with New Yorkers after the storm, and I thank my Senate colleagues for hearing their pleas and ensuring that the Federal Government has stepped up to help them in this terrible time.

I hope that our colleagues in the other body will swiftly pass H.R. 1. New Yorkers have already been waiting too long.

I would like to describe how H.R. 1 will provide Federal relief to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Shortly after the storm subsided, some claimed that the FEMA disaster relief fund had enough funds and that a supplemental appropriation could wait. I could not disagree more and fought hard to ensure that the bill we have today was brought to the Senate floor. H.R. 1 includes \$11.5 billion for the disaster relief fund to support disaster response and recovery needs of our local governments and first responders.

H.R. 1 includes \$17 billion for the community development block grant for victims of Hurricane Sandy who have lost their homes or businesses. FEMA will provide repair funding of \$31,900, but for many of the 300,000 New York homeowners with significant damage, the CDBG funds are essential to cover their uninsured losses. These funds can also be used for the critical mitigation projects, such as flood proofing so that these same homeowners will be safe when the next storm comes.

H.R. 1 provides \$5.4 billion in Federal funds to the Army Corps to fortify our New York coastline. From Staten Island to Montauk, the coast of New York is vulnerable to future storms. The following projects were never fully constructed due to a lack of funding and will now be eligible: South Shore of Staten Island; city of Long Beach; Rockaway beach; Coney Island; Fire Island to Montauk Point; Gilgo and Robert Moses beaches; and Asharoken Village.

As was said throughout debate on H.R. 1, disaster funding is also about prevention. It is essential that the Army Corps conduct a comprehensive flood protection study of the New York Harbor region. I hope they will get to work immediately once the bill becomes law.

H.R. 1 will also build a bridge back to profitability for our small businesses. Thousands of small business owners were inundated by Hurricane Sandy endured total destruction or interruption of commerce for days and weeks. Like we have in other storms, the community development block grant funding provided in H.R. 1 should be used for a small business relief program to boost the region's ailing posthurricane economy. I will be watching to make sure that New York small businesses who need assistance receive it.

H.R. 1 will allow for the hardening of New York's Electric Grid. I believe it is

critical that drastic rate increases are prevented. The Long Island Power Authority and Con Edison need help elevating substations, installing smart grid sensors, and building stormproof poles. The duration of power outages in New York was one of the worst catastrophes of Hurricane Sandy, and we hope that these funds will mean New Yorkers never have to experience that again.

H.R.1 also will protect and improve the gasoline infrastructure in New York Harbor. Hurricane Sandy's wrath destroyed unprotected gas terminals and pipelines in New York harbor and gas shortages brought whole communities to their knees. Federal mitigation funding should and must be used to protect our gasoline infrastructure from the next storm by providing backup power and booster systems for facilities like the Buckeye pipeline.

H.R. 1 includes \$10.8 billion for public transportation. New York has one of the largest public transit systems in the country and suffered over \$5 billion in damage from the storm. Experts have said that much of this damage could be prevented in the future with new mitigation techniques H.R. 1 provides to ensure that our transit systems build subway seals, erect flood gates in tunnels, and establish advanced drainage systems.

H.R. 1 also includes \$200 million for the Department of Health and Human Services. I hope that at least \$150 million will be provided to the National Institutes of Health for repair and recovery of New York University's medical research program. The Smilow Research Center is one of NYU's three animal research facilities, and because of Hurricane Sandy, an untold amount of medical discovery and hard work has been lost. According to NYU, an estimated 10 million gallons of water poured into the ground and the basement of the institution, bending 3-inch steel doors in half, washing away walls as well as sandbags, and destroying everything in its wake.

Because of a power outage, the animal labs went dark where the best and brightest researchers search for cures and treatments. The center held specimens critical to NYU scientists' research in heart disease, cancer, and neurodegeneration. Dr. Francis Collins, the head of the NIH, said this: "The damage is truly appalling. The infrastructure has been essentially obliterated." I appreciate how much assistance the NIH has already provided to NYU's researchers, and I will continue to ensure that NYU can be rebuilt.

H.R. 1 also includes Federal funds through FEMA and through the HHS social services block grant to help New York's hospitals. Hurricane Sandy caused 36 health care facilities to be closed completely, including 4 hospitals, 17 nursing homes, and 4 health clinics. It is essential that FEMA and New York State do everything they can to help our health care facilities get back on their feet.

In the blink of an eye, the Atlantic Ocean turned from our greatest natural resource into a nightmarish monster, but with the Senate passage of H.R. 1, New York is on its way to recovery.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

RICHARD LUGAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of my friend and colleague Senator DICK LUGAR, who is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year.

Senator LUGAR has been a good friend to me in the decade we have served together. As the Chamber's most senior Republican he has been a mentor to me, and when I first came to the Senate he was also my Chairman on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have been proud to work with him on a number of foreign policy issues, including those affecting the United States as an Arctic nation like the Law of the Sea Treaty.

We have also worked together on energy issues. Senator LUGAR's Practical Energy Plan is a thoughtful bill to strengthen our energy security. On this bill, as on all other issues throughout his Senate career, Senator LUGAR worked to develop practical solutions to the challenges we face regarding energy.

Senator LUGAR is the longest serving Member of Congress from his home State of Indiana. He graduated first in his class from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis and after attending college, he began his service to our country as an intelligence briefer in the U.S. Navy. He later served as mayor of Indianapolis, on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and as President of the National League of Cities before beginning his 36 year Senate career.

He has clearly served the people of Indiana well. Just last month, the Indianapolis Monthly Magazine published "By the Numbers: Richard Lugar's Legacy," which listed many of Senator LUGAR's accomplishments. The article noted that Indianapolis gained 57,000 jobs during Senator LUGAR's tenure as mayor and 7,500 nuclear warheads were deactivated as a result of the Nunn-Lugar program. According to the article, Senator LUGAR has cast more than 13,000 votes in the Senate and worked with 7 different Presidents. He has been recognized for his service with the Guardian of Small Business award, the Spirit of Enterprise award, the Watchdog of the Treasury award, and more than 45 honorary degrees from colleges and universities in 15 States and the District of Columbia. The American Political Science Association got it right when they named him an Outstanding Legislator, and he won his last general election with 87 percent of the vote.

I will miss Senator LUGAR's friendship, commonsense approach to getting things done, and commitment to the

people of Indiana and the people of the United States. I will miss his always congenial personality and his gracious and respectful manner towards others. I will close by noting what I think may be the biggest accomplishment noted by Indianapolis Monthly Magazine, his 56-year marriage to his wife Char. I wish them the best in the coming years.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague and friend from the State of Texas, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, as she prepares to retire from the Senate after almost 20 years serving her beloved State. I have been honored to serve with Senator HUTCHISON and will truly miss her presence and the guidance she has shared over the last 10 years.

Senator HUTCHISON is a Texan through and through. She is the descendant of Texas pioneers, which might account for the fighting spirit she has displayed here in the Senate. She is a trail blazer, and in finding her own path broke barriers and overcame the challenges she faced early in her career. She was one of only 13 women in a class of nearly 400 who graduated from the University of Texas Law School in 1967. After graduating, she faced a harsh reality of the time as no law firm in Houston would hire a woman; however she did not let this break her spirits. In 1972 she became the first Republican woman elected to the Texas State House, where she learned the value of bipartisanship, working across the aisle to address the inequities and stigma that rape victims faced in the legal system—and carried legislation which would become a model for states across the country. This is one of the many reasons I have come to respect and admire the senior Senator from Texas—her ability to bring people together to benefit those we serve.

After being elected Texas state treasurer in 1990, she again made history in 1993 by becoming the first, and only, woman to be elected to the Senate from Texas. Here in the Senate, she has been a champion for our military forces, serving on the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, and as chairman and ranking member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. In those roles she has worked to ensure our servicemembers and their families have the support they need. She has also made major contributions through her work to expand science and education, consistently advocating for needed improvements so that our students stay competitive. Her commitment to education has led her to play a role in creating a program at the National Science Foundation which will expand training for math and science teachers of tomorrow, and she was a driving force in establishing the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

In addition to her legislative accomplishments, Senator HUTCHISON is to be

recognized for her efforts to keep the Senate schedule workable for families. KAY's children are now 11 years old and many of us have watched as they have grown. One of my favorite pictures is of Senator HUTCHISON, the only woman in a sea of men, holding the hands of Bailey and Houston as toddlers. Whether it was late nights or flights to catch, KAY reminded the leaders that we have an obligation to our families as well.

Throughout her career Senator HUTCHISON has tackled challenges with grace, resilience, and perseverance. As a tireless advocate for her State, we can learn a lot from Senator HUTCHISON's example of what a public servant should be, and she certainly leaves an impressive legacy here in the Senate. In her book, *American Heroines*, which chronicles some of the first American women trailblazers, she wrote that she believes America is the best place on earth to be a woman that—the opportunities are endless. These opportunities are due to Senator HUTCHISON and women like her, women whose independence and integrity have set an example for those who will follow in their footsteps. I thank Senator HUTCHISON for her leadership and her friendship, and wish her the best.

OLYMPIA SNOWE

Mr. President, I rise to recognize my colleague and friend, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, as she plans to retire from the U.S. Senate. Her nearly four-decade career in Congress has been one of distinction and unwavering public service to Maine and the United States.

Senator SNOWE's achievements are numerous. In 1978, she became the youngest Republican and first Greek-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1994, when she was first elected to the U.S. Senate, she became the fourth woman to serve in both Houses of Congress. She also has the distinction of being the first Republican woman to secure a full-term seat on the Senate Finance Committee. In total, she has won more Federal elections in Maine than any other person since World War II—a testament to how loved she is by her constituency.

Senator SNOWE has worked extensively on a number of issues, including budget and fiscal responsibility, veterans, education, national security, welfare reform, oceans and fisheries issues, and campaign finance reform. It has been my pleasure to work with Senator SNOWE on the Senate Oceans Caucus, where together we have stressed the importance of ocean policy and the crucial role our oceans play in all aspects of life in our respective States and across America.

I also appreciate Senator SNOWE's leadership on the Small Business Committee, where she has been a strong advocate for small businesses in Maine and across the country.

I know that I speak for all the female Senators in the U.S. Senate when I say it is sad to see such a well-respected female colleague retire. Senator SNOWE

deserves the highest accolades for her service to this Nation. This is a woman who has done remarkably well by the American people, by her constituents in Maine, and by her colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

I personally admire her efforts to work—always—in a bipartisan manner. Her moderation and willingness to listen to all sides of an issue are examples for us all. I am encouraged that she intends to continue her efforts to advance good public policy by working to help elect those who are unafraid to stand in the middle and work to build consensus.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I thank Senator SNOWE for her dedication to her country, and I congratulate her on her retirement. I also want to recognize her husband Jack, who has also been an amazing public servant.

SCOTT BROWN

Mr. President, I rise to recognize Senator SCOTT BROWN's service to the Senate. While we have only had the opportunity to work together for 2 years, I have truly appreciated Senator BROWN's insight, leadership, and friendship.

Senator BROWN moved to Massachusetts as a young boy. He graduated from Wakefield High School, then joined the Massachusetts National Guard when he was 19. After attending Northwestern University and graduating from Tufts University and Boston College Law School, Senator BROWN began serving the people of Massachusetts in 1992, first as a real estate assessor and then as a selectman in Wrentham. In 1998, he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and after three terms he was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. In each of his State Senate reelection bids, he ran unopposed. As a State legislator, he advocated for children's and victims' rights as well as veterans affairs and worked to promote good government initiatives.

Senator BROWN came to the United States Senate in 2010. He quickly found his voice on the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees thanks to more than 30 years of service in the National Guard. I was proud to join more than 30 of my colleagues in cosponsoring his Stolen Valor Act, which would make it a crime to knowingly misrepresent military service if a person wanted to profit from his or her lie.

Senator BROWN also worked on good government initiatives in the Senate, leading bipartisan efforts to repeal a provision of law requiring Federal, State, and local governments to withhold 3 percent of payments due to contractors. I was proud to cosponsor his bill to avoid making infrastructure improvements more costly and business more challenging for healthcare professionals who accept Medicare payments.

I have also been proud to work with Senator BROWN on another common-sense initiative in this Congress, the Prompt Notification of Short Sales

Act. Our bill would improve the housing market by requiring banks to provide a written response to an short sale offer within 75 days of a request from a homeowner. There are neighborhoods across the country full of empty homes and underwater owners who have legitimate offers, but unresponsive banks, and I commit to Senator BROWN that I will continue to work on this issue in the coming year.

Clearly Senator BROWN has served the people of Massachusetts and the people of the United States well, and he will be missed. I wish the best to him, his wife Gail, and their daughters Ayla and Arianna.

JEFF BINGAMAN

Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of our most distinguished Senators as he prepares to retire from this body after five terms. Senator JEFF BINGAMAN has earned the reputation of being a strong and effective leader during his time in the Senate. He has achieved what all of us try to achieve as advocates of our States—getting results in Washington while staying closely connected to our constituents who sent us here to represent them. I have admired his intelligence, courage, pragmatism, and willingness to solve problems with bipartisan solutions.

Senator BINGAMAN and I have worked together on many issues and projects, and I have never questioned his steadfast commitment to do what he believes is right for New Mexico and this country. During his 30 years in the Senate he has worked tirelessly on a number of committees, including the Armed Services Committee, the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which he currently chairs.

While most of my work with JEFF has been on energy issues, working with Senator BINGAMAN on the Senate HELP Committee was also a great pleasure. He has been an excellent partner, for example, on issues that are important to our American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native constituents, who often live in communities that face multiple challenges. There have been many times in the HELP Committee when it has been necessary for me to explain why a proposed solution won't work in Alaska. As I begin to explain about the Federal trust responsibility, or tribal sovereignty, the lack of health care and basic infrastructure, or how difficult it is to get and keep teachers, nurses, and others in those communities, there have been times when I have seen my colleagues think—here we go again, the "It is different in Alaska" speech. But whether we have been discussing education, health care, job creation, or any one of the innumerable challenges Americans face when they live in Indian Country, JEFF BINGAMAN gets it. He and I have been able to speak with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle with one voice about what will

work, what will not work, and why. We can explain the complexities of the Federal trust responsibility and tribal sovereignty as a bipartisan team because whether our constituents live on a reservation in New Mexico or a remote village in Alaska or in one of our larger cities, the challenges they face are often the same, and what will work in other places in America often won't work in our Native communities. That partnership has been so important in making sure that the good work we are trying to do for all Americans works for America's first peoples in every State.

In addition to our work on HELP, our strongest collaboration has been while working together in our leadership roles on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Senator BINGAMAN has been tireless in ensuring that our Nation has the energy resources it needs to meet our growing demands well into the 21st century. He was a leader in the development of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, both major blueprints for the expansion of all forms of renewable energy, especially biomass, geothermal, and marine hydrokinetic power. I am happy to have had the chance to work closely with Senator BINGAMAN in those efforts. In 2008 and 2009 we also worked to pass a package of major public land legislation that will be a legacy for the Senator for decades to come.

When Senator BINGAMAN announced he was retiring from the Senate, I took note that he vowed to finish out the remainder of Congress with substantive achievements. Since then, he has affirmed this promise and has again driven productive discussions on several issues that will last beyond his time here, such as his efforts to move forward our Nation's program on spent nuclear fuel. The legislation that he introduced is indicative of months of thoughtful and productive discussions aimed to address the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle. I congratulate him on constantly moving the conversation forward and putting a marker out there toward reaching an equitable goal.

Senator BINGAMAN should be very proud of his nearly four decades of public service as New Mexico's attorney general and U.S. Senator. From fighting for our energy future to standing with the people of New Mexico through difficult economic times, Senator BINGAMAN has been a trusted leader for the people of his State. He has been a champion for his constituents, a powerful voice for Native American concerns, and a leader on science research and energy tax policy.

He has been unfailingly and personally considerate to me, and I extend my gratitude for his service and thank him for his gracious aid on issues of concern to me and my home State. I wish him and his family good health and best wishes in the future and great happiness in whatever he and Anne

now decide to do. The Senate has been a better place due to his civilized manner, his wit, and his intelligent solutions for the Nation's problems. We will miss Senator BINGAMAN's presence here in the Senate.

HERB KOHL

Mr. President, I come to the floor to recognize Senator KOHL as he prepares to retire after 24 years in the U.S. Senate.

Senator KOHL was born and raised in Wisconsin, the State he tirelessly represents to this day. He attended public school in Milwaukee and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before obtaining his MBA from Harvard University in 1958. His business ventures proved incredibly successful and he was acting President of Kohl's grocery and department stores for nearly a decade. In 1988, he took his business and education experience to the U.S. Senate.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator KOHL on the Appropriations Committee for the past 4 years. His bipartisan cooperation is outstanding and together we have worked on numerous hearings and bills. He has been an asset on the committee and we will miss his dedication, intuition, and eagerness to work with others to find solutions.

As a mother of two and former PTA member, I also appreciate Senator KOHL's zeal in advocating children's issues. He authored legislation to expand the school breakfast program, strengthened child nutrition programs, and has worked to meet the growing demand for child care. His work on the Appropriations Committee ensured the continuation of important programs such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Families and Schools Together Program. This hard work did not go unrecognized. In 2010, Senator KOHL received the Best of Congress Award from Working Mother Magazine and Corporate Voices for Working Families. I will always admire Senator KOHL for his hard work on behalf of families and children across the U.S.

Senator KOHL's charitable endeavors will also remain an important part of his legacy. In 1990, he established the HERB KOHL Educational Foundation Achievement Award Program. This program provides annual grants to 200 graduating high school seniors, 100 Wisconsin teachers, and 100 schools in his home State.

I cannot thank Senator KOHL enough for his service over the past few decades. I am honored to have worked by his side and wish him the best.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION
SIGNED

At 2:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 925. An act to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence.