

former prosecutor, I have greatly admired his work to improve our criminal justice system from top to bottom—not just by strengthening law enforcement, but by addressing systemic challenges of reentry and recidivism.

JIM, it would be impossible to do full justice to your legacy in a single statement. So instead allow me to end by saying this: The Commonwealth of Virginia is better because of your leadership, and so is our country.

You will be missed in the Senate, but given everything you accomplished before you were elected—as Secretary of the Navy, as an Emmy award-winning journalist, as the author of nine books—I'm confident you will find some way to occupy your time in retirement. I know you will continue to find ways to improve our great country and give back to the State you love so much. Thank you, Senator WEBB. I wish you the best.

SCOTT BROWN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my gratitude to SCOTT BROWN, with whom I have enjoyed the privilege of serving for the past 3 years. During that time, Senator BROWN and I served together on the Homeland Security and Government Services Committee, which I have chaired, as well as the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he and I have worked closely together as chairman and ranking member.

Senator BROWN's life story is a testament to our power to overcome any obstacle. His aptly titled memoir, "Against All Odds," describes how despite suffering through a childhood in which he had to steal in order to help feed his sister and in which he was the victim of abuse, he rose to attend college and law school, serve in the Army National Guard, and eventually be elected to the U.S. Senate. Senator BROWN should be a role model to every young American who looks at themselves in the mirror and wonders whether they can overcome the obstacles in their path, because he has.

Senator BROWN has been an invaluable Member of the Senate and the committees on which he has served, lending a voice of reason in an ever more partisan time. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator BROWN played a critical role in the debate on whether to repeal the military's don't ask, don't tell policy, grilling witnesses at the committee's hearings on the issue throughout the year. Senator BROWN was forthright in his view that the law should not be changed until Congress fully understood any possible risks associated with acting on the issue, but after he had studied the report issued by the Defense Department's working group tasked with reviewing the issue, he lent his strong voice in support of repeal. For that, I am grateful, as are the tens of thousands of gay and lesbian servicemembers who no longer serve under the threat of separation because of who they are.

In the 112th Congress, Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Airland, he and I were responsible for overseeing the tactical aviation and land power programs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. It was a great pleasure working with SCOTT on these important matters, and I always benefitted from his experience as a guardsman when reviewing these programs.

As a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator BROWN fought for and achieved passage of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, STOCK Act, a bill that forbids Members of Congress and their staffs from profiting in any way from the information they obtain as part of the job that is not public. It is a testament to his service in the Senate that one of SCOTT BROWN's most notable accomplishments was a bill to uphold the standards of the ethical behavior of Congress. It was an honor to work with Senator BROWN on this important effort.

As ranking member on the Federal Financial Management Subcommittee, SCOTT BROWN joined his chairman, TOM CARPER, along with full committee ranking member SUSAN COLLINS and me to introduce the bipartisan 21st Century Postal Service Act, which the full Senate endorsed on April 25, 2012. This bill reflected many hours of tough negotiations in which SCOTT played a key role, and set out a balanced plan to get the Postal Service's finances back in order.

Senator SCOTT BROWN has enriched the work of the Senate and the lives of his colleagues over the past 3 years. He brought to the Senate not only his considerable talents but a great sense of humor, which was particularly helpful in the 3 tough years he was here. I wish him and his family all the best as he opens a new chapter of his own life and know that he will continue to serve our country in ways that really matter.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I came to the floor before I heard the announcement that apparently we are closing in, thankfully, on something which I don't have all the details of as yet. So I can't simply say hooray, this is exactly what we ought to do. I think neither side is going to be able to say this is what we wanted to do.

But in recognition of the fact that we are careening now—hours are ticking—hours away from a devastating impact on Americans all across the country, every taxpayer—Senator LIEBERMAN announced the statistics relative to the impact on the average family in his State, and the same is true for Indiana and for all 50 States, to impose the massive tax increases which will occur on every taxpayer at midnight tonight, without addressing that, it is just simply unacceptable.

It is hard for a lot of us to swallow how little we did in addressing the

larger fiscal issue in this country in order to get past this imposed deadline on something I did not vote for and did not support because I could see it coming to this end, and it was absolutely the wrong way to legislate and the wrong way to govern—pushing us toward this fiscal cliff, laying that dark cloud of uncertainty over every business in America, every household in America.

Everyone who had any interest in investing or was trying to plan for the future kept saying: I can't make a decision. I can't make plans. I don't know what you are going to do. Are we going over the cliff? Are my taxes going to rise? Are regulations going to increase? What is the future? And if the future remains uncertain, I can't plan ahead. If it is bad certainty, I can work around it. I might not like it, but I can make the adjustments necessary.

So, as a result, we have a stagnant economy as a result of all this.

I am hoping that when we learn the details of what we have finally arrived at, which we will be learning very shortly, I am hoping it is something we can swallow hard and accept, knowing—knowing—this fiscal cliff is nothing compared to the real fiscal cliff. The real fiscal cliff is the continued excessive borrowing and spending of over \$1 trillion a year that is driving this country into a serious fiscal situation for the future. And it is not just something our children and grandchildren are going to have to pay for years down the line. It is something we are all paying for now. It is something that is keeping people from getting back to work, keeping companies from expanding.

We have an obligation to our generation and all future generations to address what I believe every American who is paying any attention whatsoever understands—and certainly everyone in this body and in our corresponding House down the hall understands, whether they are a Republican, a Democrat, liberal, or conservative—is just simple math. It is not even algebra or calculus. It is third grade math. You cannot raise \$2.2 trillion a year and spend \$3.5 trillion or \$3.4 trillion. Literally, we have now added approaching \$6 trillion in just the last 4 years, and it is unsustainable. That is going to hurt everybody, and it is hurting our economy right now. That is the real cliff. That is the cliff we have to continue to address. That is the cliff we were hoping to address in the leverage of this situation, but we are coming up very, very short.

Mr. President, I didn't realize we were under a time limitation. Are we under a time limitation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. COATS. All right. I thank the Chair. I saw some angst on the face of the Chair, and I thought my time was up.

Let me just say this to my colleagues. Many of us who watched the

President's press conference—no, it wasn't a press conference; the President's speech—felt we were seeing a rerun of something that took place during the campaign. We have all been watching a lot of football, and for Republicans to sit and listen and watch that, it reminded me of taunting those people on the other team. It stops you cold. It stands over you and taunts. It got so bad that now the NFL has made it a penalty and they throw the flag. It is not something we would expect out of the leader of this free Nation. It is not statesmanship. It is not leadership. It is in your face. It was dismissive, it was insulting, it was belittling, and in the end it was sad.

Now, the natural reaction is to get angry and push back and get revenge. But that is not where we are, and that is not where we need to be. We need to set this aside. It is like the coach tapping us on the shoulder pad and saying: What was done speaks for itself; don't stoop to that level. So we need to set that aside now and go forward in the interest of the future of this country, in the interest of America and the families and people we represent in our States, and look at this very carefully.

I think every one of us is going to say we haven't begun to address the spending, we haven't begun to address what we need to do, and so that has to be our charge in 2013—relentlessly.

And I would say, Mr. President, I think people on the other side of the aisle were probably embarrassed also by that speech. It was a campaign speech, and the campaigns are over. The President doesn't need to run for office anymore. It is time to lead. So let's all get together.

We have been working together—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent for 1 more minute.

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

Mr. COATS. I want to say this: To make laughter out of this, to ridicule it—it addresses all of us because I have been working with Senators across the aisle and they have been working with us. We all take this very, very seriously. This is not a joke. This is not something to make fun of. This is not something to politicize. This is something where we should rise above politics and do what is right for the future of America even though it is difficult. This is not doing what many of us would like to do, but we have been working together, Democrats and Republicans, and I can name dozens of Democrats who think this is a serious matter and who have been working hard for the last 2 years to try to address it, as frustrated as we are on this side.

So let's understand this is not a game. This is real. Let's work together to do what we can do and then continue to address the real issues as we go forward in 2013.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, let me first of all join my colleague from Indiana in expressing my concern about where we are on taxes and spending and my hope that we get somewhere and get somewhere quickly.

We have certainly brought this down to the last moment. For months, many people on this floor talked about the importance of certainty as it relates to our economy moving forward, of certainty as it relates to family farms and small businesses and whether they can stay in the next generation of that family. So I hope we can achieve those things in the next coming hours as we finish this day and whatever it takes to create that level of certainty at the highest possible levels. How it impacts American individuals and families will be important.

The kinds of things we are hearing about the agreement—that we might be able to go forward generally—sound as though, for most Americans, they will solve problems that have been out there now for decades. Temporary tax policies—even tax policies that last for a decade, particularly when they relate to things such as the inheritance tax or the death tax—create problems that can be solved by just simply driving that place in the Tax Code and saying: This is what our policies are going to look like, and here is why they make sense for the American people. And hopefully we get there.

(The remarks of Mr. BLUNT and Ms. LANDRIEU are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JUSTICE CATHERINE KIMBALL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball, who is scheduled to retire in 2013. It was 1975 and the courtroom was packed in New Roads, LA. The people in the courtroom weren't there to hear the ruling on the salesman who allegedly scammed an elderly gentleman. They were there to see Catherine D. Kimball—the first female lawyer to argue a case in the New Roads courtroom. Catherine Kimball, affectionately known as "Kitty", later became the first female Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. She will retire on February 1, 2013 and I rise today to offer remarks about this very accomplished woman.

Chief Justice Kimball brought a diverse legal background to the bench and exemplified leadership as a Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court. While breaking the glass ceiling, she demonstrated a commitment to juvenile justice and legal scholarship. Chief Justice Kimball is truly a pioneer in the Louisiana legal community and a great legal scholar.

Catherine Kimball decided to attend law school during her freshman year of college. So in 1966, after earning her Bachelor of Arts at Louisiana State University, she enrolled at LSU law school. While attending law school, the future Louisiana Chief Justice met Clyde Kimball on a blind date. The two were married in January of 1967. By 1970, Chief Justice Kimball was graduating law school with two children and another on the way. After graduating from law school, she clerked for a Federal judge in Alexandria, LA before returning to Baton Rouge, LA to investigate construction fraud allegations in the Attorney General's office. In 1975, the family moved to New Roads where she opened her private practice in New Roads, LA.

Although Chief Justice Kimball enjoyed success early in her career, she also faced her share of adversity. At one point, she sat down with the president of the bank to discuss borrowing money for her law practice. The bank president informed her that her husband had to sign off on her loan. Chief Justice Kimball said, "Excuse me—are you not aware of the new law that just passed? My husband does not have to sign a note for me to borrow for my law office." She was committed to succeed despite all obstacles.

As a result of her perseverance, Chief Justice Kimball became the first female judge in the 18th Judicial District in Louisiana in 1983. Members of the legal community quickly recognized her talent and potential and in short order, the legal community encouraged her to run for the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Kimball hesitated, saying she loved working as a district judge too much to leave that behind. Nevertheless, she became the first woman elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1992.

Chief Justice Kimball demonstrated strong leadership skills soon after joining the court. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when then Louisiana Chief Justice Pascal Calogero was evacuated from his home in New Orleans and displaced in Dallas, he turned to Justice Kimball for support. Chief Justice Kimball served as the court's point person and worked with FEMA to get reimbursements and get the courts and lawyers back to work in New Orleans. That was the beginning of a long road ahead as Chief Justice Kimball dealt with Katrina issues for at least the next 5 years.

On January 1, 2009, she became the first female Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, she strengthened her reputation as a brilliant and tireless advocate for justice. She became known for her work to preserve the judiciary as an equal and independent branch of government and collaborated with the legislature; Republicans and Democrats alike. Most of all, she made her mark by making strides in juvenile justice.

Chief Justice's dedication to juvenile justice developed from understanding