

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

the effects that courts can have on children. Through her work in juvenile justice, she earned the respect of members of the national and local judicial communities. Judith S. Kaye, a retired Chief Justice of New York, said of the Chief Justice, "She was outstanding in many ways, but for me most of all on the vexing issues concerning juvenile justice. The Chief Justice's ideas and initiatives drew my attention even before she became Chief Justice." Sue Bell Cobb, the Chief Justice of Alabama, also praised Chief Justice's work on juvenile justice. "Children," she said, "do not vote and do not have a voice in arenas in which public policy is made. In Louisiana, Chief Justice Kimball has been their voice."

In Louisiana, former Louisiana Chief Justice Pascal Calogero said, "Justice Kimball's contributions to the juvenile justice system, as well as the Judicial Leadership Institute, and other progressive judicial matters, were immeasurable. When she became Chief Justice, I knew that she would become one of the most active and respected chief justices in the history of the court." I could not agree more. Chief Justice Kimball has made her mark in history for many reasons, but especially for her work in juvenile justice.

The Chief Justice's accomplishments are of equally important significance for women pursuing legal careers in Louisiana. My sister Madeleine became a State court judge in 2001. When I asked Madeleine what Chief Justice Kimball's career has meant to her, she said, "When Chief Justice Kimball took her seat among her six white male justices, it had a huge impact on me as a woman lawyer. The grace and dignity and excellence with which Chief Justice has held herself has shown us there are no limits to where we can go. It made such lofty goals not as scary to us anymore." Chief Justice Kimball always strives to reach her full potential and encourages others to do the same.

Among Chief Justice's endless list of accomplishments is her creation of the Judicial Leadership Institute in Louisiana. She recognized the important leadership role of a judge as both an employer and as a member of a community. She saw the value of judges of every level being in a room together and learning together. So she took the initiative to organize a training course which meets 7 days a year. This exemplifies so many of Chief Justice Kimball's great qualities—her devotion to the justice system and to the future of our state, her humility and her ability to be a strong leader while simultaneously being part of a team.

As the Chief Justice prepares to retire, I commend her for her years of service to our State and for her unwavering commitment to the Louisiana Constitution. Although she will step down at the end of January, the impact she made on the nearly 4.6 million citizens in our State will live on beyond her retirement, just as the people in that courtroom in New Roads, LA will

never forget the day they saw Chief Justice Kimball make history.

#### RECOGNIZING BERNETTE JOHNSON

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a trailblazer and role model: Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson. On February 1, 2013, Justice Johnson will become Louisiana's first African-American Chief Justice and only the second female jurist in Louisiana history to hold that office. It is fitting that the first woman elected to the Civil District Court of New Orleans—a woman who has devoted so much of her life to working as an advocate for social justice, civil rights and community organizing—would achieve this historic milestone.

Justice Johnson's commitment to civil rights began in the 1960s, when she began working as a community organizer with the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund. She worked with community groups in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Louisiana, disseminating information about recent school desegregation decisions and encouraging parents to take advantage of newly desegregated schools. Justice Johnson brings a unique perspective to the bench that is informed by principles of justice and equity.

An alumnus of Spelman College in Atlanta, Justice Johnson received her Juris Doctor Degree at the Law School at Louisiana State University, where her portrait now hangs in the Law Center's Hall of Fame. While in law school, she worked at the U.S. Department of Justice examining cases filed by the Department to implement the 1964 Civil Rights Act. These cases primarily concerned discrimination in public accommodations. Following law school, Justice Johnson became the managing attorney with the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, where she provided legal services to over 3,000 clients in socio-economically deprived neighborhoods.

Justice Johnson worked in the Federal and State District Courts advancing the rights of the poor, the elderly, and the disenfranchised, and in the Juvenile Court advancing the rights of children. In 1981, she joined the City Attorney's staff, and later became a Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. There, she attained extensive trial experience in the Civil District Court and U.S. District Court defending police brutality claims and general tort claims filed against the City of New Orleans. Her experience fighting to protect the rights of the under privileged undoubtedly prepared her for service on the bench.

Justice Johnson began her judicial career in 1984 as the first woman elected to serve on the Civil District Court of New Orleans. There, she took the initiative to establish a system to refer custody, alimony, and child support

issues to mediation conducted by certified social workers of the Children's Bureau and Family Services, prior to court appearances. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 1994 and re-elected in 2000. She serves on the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Council, and has served on the Court's Legal Services Task Force, as well as the National Campaign on Best Practices in the area of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

This is a truly a moment to be remembered, not just for the people of Louisiana, but for Americans all across the country. From advocating with the NAACP, to helping implement the 1964 Civil Rights Act, to becoming Louisiana's first African-American Supreme Court Justice, as she has now, Bernette Johnson's life and career is a testament to the spirit of the civil rights movement and the countless Americans who fought tirelessly to open the doors of equality. I congratulate Justice Bernette J. Johnson on a stellar legal and judicial career and thank her for her fighting spirit, commitment to equality, and deep respect for the dignity of all citizens. I have no doubt that she will continue to serve the people of Louisiana well.

#### RECOGNIZING LEAH CHASE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 90th birthday of the "Queen of Creole Cuisine," Mrs. Leah Chase of New Orleans, LA.

Mrs. Chase was born in Madisonville, LA on January 6, 1923, and moved to New Orleans as a teenager to attend high school. It was in New Orleans that she developed her love for food and feeding others. Mrs. Chase married her husband, Edgar "Dooky" Chase Jr., in 1946, and they took over the family business—one of the best-known and most culturally significant restaurants in New Orleans, Dooky Chase's.

Mrs. Chase has cooked for jazz royalty, like Duke Ellington; for heads of state—among them Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama; and for the civil rights movement's greatest champions, like Justice Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And though she is well-known for having catered to America's history makers, perhaps her greatest achievement is having quietly created a community where people are taken care of, no matter their situation in life. Mrs. Chase always takes care of those in need. She makes it a point to know not only the names of her patrons, but also their stories. And that feeling of a closely knit community where people look out for each other is why New Orleanians have been dining with Mrs. Chase for three generations. They are family to her, just like her four children, sixteen grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Chase has received too many awards to mention. Among them are the 1997 New Orleans Times-Picayune