

normal rules do not seem to apply. That is why on the first day I could introduce new legislation in this new Congress, I chose to introduce a package of reform measures—measures aimed at bridging that gap, bringing those two worlds together, returning us—returning Washington to the real world and reconnecting with the American people.

The American people are also concerned—rightly—about the bitter partisanship, the overly ideological tone of almost all of the debate we have here in Washington now, here in Congress.

I believe these sorts of reform measures—the four bills I have introduced in particular—can also help bridge that divide because they are not ideological, they are not partisan, they are good-government reform, things that can and should and, hopefully, will bring us together and bring us together and reconnect us with the American people. Again, it is another reason I chose to introduce this package of four reform measures, four good-government bills on the first day I could introduce legislation this Congress.

The first is a very simple and basic but fundamental idea: term limits for Members of Congress. I am honored to be joined by six other Senators right out of the gate, right out of the box in terms of cosponsoring this important legislation: Senators PAUL, AYOTTE, COBURN, LEE, RUBIO, CRUZ, and JOHNSON. I thank them for their cosponsorship and their support. This measure would limit Members of Congress in the House to three consecutive terms, a total of 6 years, and the Senate to two consecutive terms, a total of 12 years. It is a consensus measure supported by citizens groups very active and supportive of the concept of term limits. The idea, again, is simple: to reconnect Congress with the American people, to do away with the notion of legislating as a career, and to get back to the Founders' vision of citizen legislators.

When I was in the State legislature, I authored and passed term limits for the State legislature. That required a State constitutional amendment—a big deal—a two-thirds vote in each body, and then a vote of the people. But because of the people's voices rising and being heard, we achieved that. With that reform, which was voted overwhelmingly into the State constitution by the people of Louisiana, we have a regular influx now of new, fresh blood, real experience from the real world that reconnects in a very healthy way the State legislature and all of us, the citizens, whom it is supposed to represent. That was needed for the State legislature, and if it was—and it was—it is needed a thousand times more for Congress because that divide, that sea, that ocean, that difference between different planets in the eyes of so many Americans is even greater between Congress and the real world, Congress and the American people.

The second bill I have introduced is a bill to do away with automatic pay increases for Members of Congress. That is present law, that we get regular increases of pay with no proposal, no bill put in the hopper, no debate, no need for an inconvenient vote. I think that is just outright wrong. I think it helps build that distrust on the part of the American people. I am joined by a bipartisan cosponsor, Senator McCASKILL of Missouri. I thank her for her leadership and her support of this measure. Again, the measure is very simple: Just repeal, do away with any automatic pay increases for Members of Congress. If there is to be a pay increase, there should be a bill proposing it and open debate and a public vote.

The third measure is also fully bipartisan. I am introducing it with Senator BILL NELSON of Florida. It is reform of the Corps of Engineers—something very important for our two States but also for, indeed, the whole country. In Louisiana, in Florida, and elsewhere, unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers has become a poster child for a dysfunctional Federal Government, a Federal bureaucracy, a Federal system that is just bogged down, does not work. It takes 10 and 20 years to study something, never ever getting to construction. We need to streamline and reform that process, and the Vitter-Nelson bill does just that by greatly streamlining the process by which Corps projects can come to fruition, putting State and local leaders more in charge of that effort, at first on a pilot basis. Hopefully, we will expand that in the future for important Corps of Engineers projects. Again, that is particularly important for our States of Louisiana and Florida, but it is important for so many States and for the country as a whole.

Fourth and finally, I am introducing a measure that I have had before to reform Federal campaign finance law to prohibit PACs and campaign funds from employing Members' spouses or family members.

That is just a way, quite frankly, in some circumstances for Members of Congress, politicians, to pad their family income. I think that is wrong, and that leads directly to the real suspicion and low regard in which so many Americans hold this institution.

Again, this bill is simple, straightforward, but important. It would prohibit spouses and immediate family members of Members of Congress from receiving payments from that Member's campaign accounts or leadership PACs. That is a loophole and an area of abuse we must close. We must prohibit that abuse in the future.

These four bills won't solve every problem out there. They won't be the be-all and end-all of important reform and good-government efforts, but they would be an important start. They would help us truly reconnect with the American people and narrow this divide, which is so vast right now, between the real world, real Americans,

and this institution. They would be important, nonpartisan, nonideological reform efforts that we can gather around, Republicans and Democrats alike, to do something positive, to do something productive, and to reconnect with the American people.

I urge my colleagues from both parties to support these measures, to come on as cosponsors. Many of you already have, and I thank you for that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and 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. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the period of morning business be extended until 5 p.m. today and that all provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "JACK" EDWARD BRESCH

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life, legacy and service of a dear friend—John Edward Bresch. Jack led a life filled with compassion. He worked tirelessly for everyone to have access to affordable, quality health care, especially needy children and families. His heart was as big as heaven.

But Jack's life was also a life of great humor. Anybody who knew him also knew his warm and infectious laugh. It was a sure sign that Jack was somewhere nearby because you could almost hear his laughter before you saw his face. And everybody was glad to see Jack coming their way. He truly never met a stranger.

Sadly, we won't be able to hear that distinct laughter again. Jack passed away on September 1, 2012, surrounded by his family after a brief and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. From the moment of his fateful diagnosis until the day he left us, we saw in him grace and courage, dignity and humility, joy and, yes, laughter—and so much love and gratitude lived out on a daily basis that, even in our sorrow, his memory will never be lost.

Tomorrow, Jack will be laid to rest in our Nation's most hallowed ground—Arlington National Cemetery—with full military honors as a decorated Naval Lieutenant who served as a Chaplain during the Vietnam war.

In his life, Jack Bresch was many things but above all, a family man, devoted to his wife, JoAnn; his children, Mary Elizabeth, James Richard, and

Jeffrey John; and 10 grandchildren on whom he doted. He also leaves behind countless friends and colleagues whose lives are enriched with memories of this gregarious, energetic, larger-than-life man. But when a loved one is gone, it is often the little things you remember most. Some of us will remember how much Jack loved neckties. Some of us will remember sharing Jack's favorite drink—a Manhattan, made with Maker's Mark, up, no bitters, with a twist of orange. Some of us will remember how often Jack quoted the 19th century German politician Otto von Bismark—"Politics is the art of the possible." And some of us will remember how proud Jack was to be at the White House when President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act for which he worked so tirelessly. A friend saw Jack on TV and sent him a text to let him know, and Jack texted back, "Just a pleasure to be here."

It was a pleasure for Jack to be anywhere. Simply put, Jack enjoyed being with people, and people enjoyed being with Jack. He was a great person to talk to—probably because he began his adult life as a Roman Catholic priest. Jack was a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, his native city, from 1966 to 1974. In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, he entered the U.S. Navy and served as a Navy and Marine Corps Chaplain in posts around the world. During his time in the service, he supervised drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and worked as a liaison with the American Red Cross. After the war, Jack left the priesthood. But in some ways, he never stopped being a chaplain, in the sense that he never wavered from his steadfast belief in social justice. He carried that belief forward in career that made the world a better place—working for Congress, the Federal Government, the Illinois Hospital Association, the Catholic Health Association, and the American Dental Education Association. Many members of Congress got to know Jack through his work as the lead lobbyist for the Catholic Health Association. They also learned quickly just how hard it was to say "no" to Jack.

While at the Catholic Health Association, Jack worked closely with then First Lady Hillary Clinton and the White House to develop a plan for reforming the Nation's health care system. While at the American Dental Education Association, he was instrumental in improving access to dental care for needy children. For more than a decade, he worked diligently to ensure that policymakers understood the value of oral health to overall health—the reason why he was invited to the White House for the signing of the Affordable Care Act. Jack lived long enough to see the Supreme Court uphold key portions of the Affordable Care Act. He knew the law wasn't perfect, but he was happy to see it move forward. Remember, he believed that "politics is the art of the possible."

To JoAnn and Jack's entire family, my wife Gayle and I extend our deepest

sympathy because we are part of that family. Jack and I shared four of his 10 grandchildren, but he lent all the rest of them to me, too. It is hard to think of this world without Jack being a part of it, making us laugh—and hearing him laugh—and making us care—the way he cared.

There is a wonderful anonymous quote which may well describe how we should think of Jack's passing, especially since he served so courageously in the Navy. It offers great comfort to those who grieve. And it goes something like this:

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There! She's gone."

Gone where? Gone from my sight—that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she's gone,"—there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There she comes!"

Jack Bresch was a man whose optimism could overwhelm any doubter and whose joy for life was wonderfully contagious and completely irresistible. The ancient poets tell us that "one must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been." Our day with Jack Bresch was splendid indeed.

As we prepare to honor Jack with the military honors due a decorated Navy Chaplain, I would like to end my tribute to Jack's life with a traditional nautical blessing and wish my dear friend "fair winds and following seas."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO PATTI PAGE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Patti Page died on New Year's Day this year. She was 85 years old. The Senate has not been in session for most of the time since then. I wanted to come to the floor to pay a Tennessean's tribute to Patti Page. Patti Page is best known for our State song, the "Tennessee Waltz." A few years ago, in 2007, when I met her for the first time, she told me the story of the "Tennessee Waltz." I knew some of it, but she completed the rest of it.

In 1946, a couple of Tennesseans, Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart, were driving from Memphis to Nashville. That was before the interstate highways. It took a pretty good amount of time to drive that distance. I don't know whether or not they were drinking a beer on the way from Memphis to Nashville but they were relaxed, and one of them said to the other, Why is it Kentucky and Missouri have a waltz and Tennessee doesn't have a waltz? So

on the way from Memphis to Nashville they took out a penny matchbox, which is one of these big boxes with wooden matches in it, dumped out the matches on the floorboards of the car, and on the back of the penny matchbox, between Memphis and Nashville, in 1946, Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart wrote the "Tennessee Waltz." They sang it around a few places. Pee Wee King sang it at the Grand Ole Opry. Nobody paid much attention to it. Cowboy Copas sang it. They sang it on Red Foley's show in Missouri. Nothing much happened to the "Tennessee Waltz" until 1950, and this is the story Patti Page told me. Mercury Records in New York had a new song they were sure was going to be a big hit. It was called "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus." I don't know whether it was a follow up to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," but the executives in New York were sure it was going to be a big hit so they wanted the hottest young female singer in America to record "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus" so they hired Patti Page. She flew to New York, recorded it for Mercury Records, and then in those days you always had to put a record on the back of the main record. You had to pick a song. It would be the "B" side. Just as a throwaway they put on the back of it the song by Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart, the "Tennessee Waltz."

We know the rest of the story. The "Tennessee Waltz" sold about a million copies. Nobody ever heard of the "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus" except those who bought the "Tennessee Waltz." Mike Curb, who runs Curb Records in Nashville, told me it was the best selling record ever by a female artist. Patti Page eventually sold 100 million records. She was the top selling female artist in record sales in history.

Growing up I heard her songs, "Mockingbird Hill," "I Went To Your Wedding," "Old Cape Cod." In 1952 she had a song called "Doggie in the Window." It sounds like a silly little song, but it sold a lot of records and a great many Americans remember it. When I was Governor of Tennessee I would travel to Japan, recruiting industry. In the evenings I would go to a restaurant bar with friends, and to my astonishment all of my Japanese friends, many of whom did not know much English, could sing every word of the "Tennessee Waltz." When I inquired about it, it was because it was introduced during the time of the American occupation of Japan in 1950 or so, and according to them, the Asian music doesn't have the same kind of standard that American music has. We get a phrase or a theme in our minds and we never forget it, such as the "Tennessee Waltz." So the "Tennessee Waltz" became a song that most Japanese men of that age knew, remembered, and could sing from memory.

I met Patti Page for the first time 6 years ago. It was 2007. She was about 79 or 80 years of age at the time. She told me the story of the recording of the