

that delivers mail and packages in a timely manner, is extremely important for our economy.

That mission remains as important as it has ever been. Let's stand together and fight to save the Postal Service, not destroy it. Let's stand together in the midst of this recession to fight and save hundreds of thousands of jobs.

I again want to thank the 23 cosponsors on my legislation. I look forward to having more, but let's go forward together to save the Postal Service.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceed to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon we have been trying to move forward on the WRDA bill—the Water Resources Development Act—and significant progress has been made. One of the issues we are trying to work out is an issue dealing with Senator LANDRIEU. She has been, more than anyone else in the Senate, concerned about what happens when places flood, and she has every reason to feel this way because of what happens in Louisiana with flooding. She is concerned about flood insurance.

I have worked with Senator BOXER, Senator BOXER's staff, I have worked with the Republicans, and it appears to me this is something that has made great progress today. The staff is going to work on this over the weekend. We will be here on Monday. I will file cloture in a few minutes, but if, in fact, cloture doesn't need to be voted on, we can always move forward without doing that. We can vitiate the cloture vote.

So I hope the good work done by Senator LANDRIEU, her staff, and other staff members here—and Senator LANDRIEU has been here, as she is now. I don't mean this in a negative sense, but she is like a bulldog. Whenever she gets hold of something, it is hard to get her to loosen that jaw. She has been here all afternoon working on this, so I hope something can be worked out during the next 48 hours on this matter.

CLOTURE MOTION

I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to au-

thorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Tom Udall, Richard Blumenthal, Max Baucus, Bill Nelson, Jeanne Shaheen, Tom Harkin, Al Franken, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Jeff Merkley, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Sherrod Brown, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Ron Wyden.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived and that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 601 occur at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 14.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING FALLEN FIREFIGHTER GENE M. KIRCHNER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today with sadness in my heart to pay tribute to a very special individual, Gene M. Kirchner, a Baltimore County volunteer firefighter who died in the line of duty. Gene was just 25 and a volunteer firefighter for the Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Department. He rushed to the second floor of a house fire on April 24 in a vain attempt to save the resident. Gene was found unconscious and was rushed to Maryland's Shock Trauma Center, but succumbed to his injuries on May 2.

Gene joined the company's ranks when he was just 14 and served as a junior firefighter for 2 years before becoming a volunteer firefighter. He came from a family of firefighters. His twin brother Will is also a firefighter and so is his sister Shelly Brezicki. Craig Hewitt, assistant chief of the fire company, said that Gene "was selfless, well-liked, funny; got along with everybody. He liked helping people."

Gene was laid to rest this past Sunday and the entire Baltimore community is mourning the death of this kind, gentle young man who laid down his life in an attempt to save another's life. His brother and sister firefighters came from as far away as New York and North Carolina to pay special tribute to this young man who understood the risks he faced, but dedicated himself to helping ensure the safety of others. Gene was posthumously awarded the Fire Department's Medal of Honor because he embodied what we, as a Nation, come to look for in our first responders—courage, selflessness, and dedication to duty.

I know my U.S. Senate colleagues will want to join me in thanking

Gene's family for giving our community such a special young man and in sending condolences to his family, friends, and fellow firefighters on the tragic loss of such a hero.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN A. SPRING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to thank a friend and a remarkable public servant. John Spring ended his second term as mayor of Quincy, IL, earlier this week.

Mayor Spring led Quincy through some of its most difficult times in recent memory. Under his leadership, Quincy weathered record floods and the Great Recession. Not only did Quincy survive these crises, the city actually came out stronger than before.

Any elected official would be proud of that record. It is even more impressive in Mayor Spring's case because he was a political rookie. He had never won public office before the people of Quincy elected him mayor in 2005. His only previous public service experience was a stint as the appointed chairman of Quincy's Police and Fire Commission.

For many of us, it takes a few tries before we actually win a race. But John is a natural. He won his first election.

Quincy, IL, is a river town. It sits right on the banks of the Mississippi River. At one point this past winter the river was so low that barge traffic was in danger of being halted.

During Mayor Spring's final weeks in office, however, heavy rains swelled the river to flood stage. When flooding threatened the city's water and wastewater treatment facilities, Mayor Spring and his team immediately put into place emergency procedures they had honed during previous floods. With leadership, hard work and a lot of sandbags, Quincy weathered the storm.

In 2008, during an earlier flood, then-Senator Barack Obama and I visited Quincy to lend support. We were inspired to see how the entire city came together to protect their homes and their neighbors' homes and businesses.

In 2010, Mayor Spring was able to welcome President Obama back to Quincy and show him how Quincy had weathered not only rainstorms, but the economic storm caused by the Great Recession.

Mr. President, the unemployment rate today in Quincy and Adams County is 6.6 percent. That rate is among the lowest in the State of Illinois, and that is no accident. Under Mayor John Spring's leadership, Quincy has continued to be the economic engine of the Tri-State area.

John Spring led the effort to lay a solid foundation for economic growth. He balanced the city's budget every year and didn't raise taxes—not even once. In fact, Quincy reduced its property tax rate in 7 out of Mayor Spring's 8 years in office.

He made tough, smart decisions that enabled Quincy to maintain adequate

funding for basic services such as police, fire, and streets. He downsized city government, reducing the workforce by more than 12 percent, implemented an early retirement program that is estimated will save the City more than \$5 million, and built up the City's reserve funds.

He worked aggressively to retain and attract businesses and good jobs, and he made transportation a top priority. Amtrak expanded service between Quincy and Chicago after Mayor Spring and others advocated for more downstate Illinois passenger rail. Cape Air, a partner of American Airlines/American Eagle, expanded its Quincy-St. Louis service, recently crossing the 10,000-passenger mark. Mayor Spring also worked with Cape Air CEO Dan Wolf and regional economic development leaders to open a maintenance facility at the airport, creating a number of good-paying local jobs.

John Spring had big shoes to fill in 2005. His predecessor, Mayor Chuck Scholz, served as Quincy's mayor for 12 years and left a record of success. John Spring built on that record. Chuck Scholz helped bring Quincy into the 21st century, and John Spring positioned Quincy even more firmly to compete and win in this century's global economy.

I mentioned that Mayor Spring was a political rookie. He spent most of his career—nearly 30 years—as a teacher, counselor and coach at Quincy Notre Dame High School. In his final post at the school, as director of the Quincy Notre Dame Foundation, he was instrumental in the survival of this Catholic high school which is so important to Quincy.

Mayor Spring has been active in many other community organizations and efforts, from the Salvation Army to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial and exchanges with Quincy's Sister City, Herford, Germany.

In January 2010, John Spring called a press conference at which he announced with his typical honesty and humility that he had prostate cancer. He recalled that when he ran for mayor he had pledged that serving the city of Quincy was his highest priority and he said that nothing, not even cancer, would keep him from serving the city he loved. He began a 9-week course of radiation treatments—about 15 minutes every weekday morning—and reported to City Hall for work after every session.

I am happy to report that John's health is good and that he more than lived up to his pledge of putting the people of Quincy first.

Quincy's nickname is Gem City. In John Spring, they have had a gem of a mayor. I will miss working with Mayor Spring, but I know that he has earned a break from public service. I wish John and his wife Karen and their children and grandchildren all the best. And I would simply say to them: Thank you for lending the city of Quincy your husband, father, and grand-

father. He has made Quincy's future much brighter. His energy, dedication, and effective leadership will be missed at City Hall and by all of us who worked with him.

KOREA'S REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Mr. CARDIN. I thank Republic of Korea, ROK, President Park Geun-hye for her thought-provoking and heartfelt address on May 8 to a joint meeting of Congress. President Park is a testament to her nation's resilience. Like her country, she has courageously weathered difficulties and emerged as a strong leader on the global stage—her nation's first woman President.

Her momentous visit to the United States came at an opportune time to underscore the solidarity and cooperation between our two countries. Our deep ties with the Korean people stretch back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when we established diplomatic relations in 1882. One hundred and thirty-one years later, we are expanding our relationship in new ways.

This year we celebrate 60 years of the U.S.-ROK alliance, established in 1953 by our Mutual Defense Treaty. In Korean culture, which greatly respects its elders, the 60th birthday of a person's life, called a "hwang-gap," holds great significance. It acknowledges the wisdom and maturity that a person attains by the peak of a productive life.

And so, too, has the U.S.-Korea relationship proven fruitful and productive. Our relationship is more than a military alliance; it is a comprehensive partnership. Our people-to-people ties are strong; per capita, South Korea sends more students to the United States to study than any other industrialized country. We cooperate on counterterrorism efforts and on development assistance. One year ago, we demonstrated our commitment to strengthen our economies with the signing of our free trade agreement.

South Koreans have created an economic "Miracle on the Han River" out of a country once leveled by war. The country has risen from being an aid recipient to becoming a world economic power, which now lends a hand to help other nations flourish.

The Republic of Korea had a GDP per capita of \$79 in 1960; today its GDP per capita is over \$30,000. It is one of the fastest growing developed countries in the world. And we are proud to have played a role in helping our friend climb from poverty to prosperity, in contrast to its northern neighbor, whose people continue to suffer greatly from poverty.

So there is much to celebrate during this 60th year of our alliance. And President Park has attested to the strength of the enduring global alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States. This is an historic anniversary, not only of our friendship, but of the end of the Korean war.

Since the end of the war, the Republic of Korea has practiced restraint and mature diplomacy in the face of tremendous threats, continued bellicose rhetoric, and provocative actions from North Korea. This is in no small part due to the strength of the U.S.-ROK alliance and our close cooperation.

As President Park has demonstrated in her determined but flexible approach, we need to preserve stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region by acting decisively together to address both North Korea's provocations and the dire humanitarian situation there.

North Korea continues to threaten U.S. interests and the security of our friends and allies. As chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, I have been closely watching the alarming developments following North Korea's February 12 nuclear test, including its declaration that it nullified the 1953 armistice, and its decision to shut down the Kaesong industrial complex, and its repeated threats to strike the United States and our allies. And I am deeply concerned about American citizen Kenneth Bae, who last week was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in a North Korea gulag for "hostile acts" against the country and Kim Jong-Un's regime.

We must do more to reach an international solution on bringing North Korea back into the denuclearization process. It is essential to ensure the continued safety of Americans and our allies in the Asia-Pacific region and to prevent a nuclear arms race in the strategically critical Korean peninsula.

And we must not forget the humanitarian crisis that is besieging the North Korean people, as they are often imprisoned, starved, and deprived of civil liberties and freedoms at the hands of a ruthless authoritarian state.

So what more can we do? This March, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on North Korea which underscored the importance of working with the United Nations Security Council to strengthen sanctions on North Korea. The United States has intensified coordination on addressing the North Korean threat with Japan and developed a new counter-provocation plan with the Republic of Korea. In April, I chaired a Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs hearing during which we discussed ways to work with China to help change North Korea's dangerous path.

I was pleased to see Secretary Kerry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Dempsey, and Deputy Secretary Burns travel to China to seek China's help to rein in North Korea. And I welcomed the recent visit of the Chinese chairman of the six-party talks, Wu Dawei, to Washington.

It was encouraging to see China strongly support UN Security Council Resolution 2094. This resolution imposes tough new financial sanctions which will block North Korea from