

bills that have the support of the majority of the majority, the only thing they are going to let happen—doesn't work, and it is bad for the country. Any major legislation passed by the House of Representatives with only Republican votes has no hope of advancing here or being signed into law by the President.

I hope the Speaker has learned his lesson from recent high-profile failures of his shortsighted Hastert rule—post office, farm bill, online sales tax, immigration. Eventually he will be forced to take up the bill we passed here or the country will be left with no immigration reform at all, which will be a bad outcome.

The Speaker should dispense with the posturing and delay and do the right thing, and he should do it now. He should take up the Senate farm bill on which Chairman STABENOW worked so hard. They should pass that bill. They should take it up over there and pass it. Farmers are waiting, and all the nutrition groups around the country are waiting. He should do that right now.

He should take up the Senate immigration bill. I say that for the second or third time today. This measure—a farm bill that passed overwhelmingly on bipartisan votes in this Chamber—the passing of the farm bill would create jobs and reduce the debt by some \$23 billion. And it is important to note that there are reforms both in the farm and food stamp programs without balancing the budget on the backs of hungry Americans. In fact, it goes a long way toward reducing our debt.

Passing the immigration bill would help 11 million people who are already contributing to our economy and our society to get right with the law. It would boost our economy and make our country safer, all the while reducing the deficit by about \$1 trillion over the next two decades.

I remind the Speaker that there is no shame in passing bills that moderates from both parties can support. Americans want their elected officials to work together to fix the Nation's problems. This is what we did in the Senate. I promise the formula will work in the House of Representatives as well. The Speaker should try that.

Sticking to the Hastert rule has prevented the House from passing legislation to reform the ailing Postal Service. Postal reform passed over here on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The Speaker refused to even consider it last Congress, didn't even take it up.

Sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a measure that would give brick-and-mortar stores parity with online competitors. We passed that on a bipartisan vote. It is heartbreaking all over America. I see it in Nevada when I go by these strip malls and see places that, if they had the advantage of not having to pay sales tax—which is what happens online—they would be in business. They would go back into business if the sales tax would have to be paid by the people

who sell their goods over the Internet. It is unfair. Why the Speaker doesn't take that up I don't know.

We already know that sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a farm bill last month and last year.

This month sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing immigration reform that would become law.

Insisting on the Hastert rule also prevented Speaker BOEHNER from reaching across the aisle to find a sensible solution to our rising student loan interest rates. Right now, what they have done on the other side is worse for students than doing nothing at all. The legislation passed by the House would balance the budget on the backs of struggling students—would attempt to balance it, at least. The House legislation is worse for students than doing nothing at all. Under the House plan, as interest rates start to rise, student loan rates will rise with them. Soon loan rates will be more than double. I met with the White House, one of the President's assistants. I said: Tell me what happens in 3 years. He had to acknowledge that the rates would be well over 6.8 percent.

To find a responsible solution to the student loan issue and every other major issue facing this Congress, the Speaker should work with us and his Democratic colleagues in the House instead of against them. He should remember that the only way to pass meaningful legislation in either Chamber is to do so with votes from both reasonable Democrats and reasonable Republicans.

I am told the Speaker is going to come out with a statement today saying: We passed our student loan legislation. Now why can't the Senate pass it?

I repeat, the Speaker's student loan legislation that passed the House is worse than doing nothing. The Hastert rule has been bad for this country, and Speaker BOEHNER should get away from it.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business and that Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the executive session at 5 p.m., with the exception of Senator SCOTT, who is giving his maiden speech today.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in a period of morning busi-

ness until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

UNLEASHING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. SCOTT. It is indeed a humbling honor to serve the great people of South Carolina in the Senate. I am so grateful for the support I have received from South Carolinians.

The success of the Palmetto State can be measured in many ways, but today, let me share the success of our economic engine. From insourcing jobs from other countries, jobs such as Otis Elevators in Florence, SC, or the high-tech boom that is happening throughout South Carolina, companies such as BMW in the upstate continue to expand. Michelin, in Anderson County expands. Continental Tires finds a home in Sumter, SC, and there are more than 5,000 new jobs on the coast of South Carolina because of Boeing. And let's not forget Aiken, SC, where Bridgestone has made a new home. South Carolina is and will continue to be a leading manufacturing engine for America.

I stand before you today on the shoulders of two very amazing Americans. One has gone home to be with the Lord. The other is my hero, my mother, Frances Scott.

Growing up in a single-parent household, my mother would have to work sometimes 16-hour days in order to keep me and my brother off of welfare. She wanted us to have a good example of someone who believed in hard work for us to follow.

My mother used to tell me all the time that if you shoot for the Moon and you miss, you will be among the stars. But I didn't always listen to my mother. By the time I was a freshman in high school, I was drifting. Have you ever noticed that you don't really drift in the right direction? As a freshman in high school, I failed out. I failed world geography. I think I am the only U.S. Senator to fail civics. I also failed Spanish and English.

When you fail Spanish and English, they don't call you bilingual. They call you bi-ignorant because you can't speak in any language.

That's where I found myself. I found myself in a very strong and hard position, but good fortune strikes. I had two blessings. One was a mother who believes that sometimes love has to come at the end of the switch. For those of you who are not aware of what a switch is, it is a motivational apparatus, and it encouraged me a lot. I will say that, along with my mentor John Moniz, who came along at the right time—I was a sophomore—I found my way back on the path. John Moniz was a Chick-fil-A operator who made such a major impact in my life over the last three decades.

John came along as I was a sophomore in high school, and he taught me some very, very valuable lessons. A couple of those lessons John started teaching me very early on were about being a business owner. John believed that you could literally think your way out of poverty. You didn't have to be an entertainer or an athlete, but you could become an entrepreneur. So John started teaching me some of the lessons of being a business owner. He said having a job is a good thing, but creating jobs is even better.

John would teach me later that in earning an income, you have done well. But if you can learn to create a profit, you have done fantastically. He taught me some other lessons about individual responsibility. John once told me: If you don't like where you are, look in the mirror. Blame yourself. John was trying to teach me some very valuable lessons about individual responsibility.

I learned very quickly from John that if you were a part of the problem, you were also part of the promise; that in fact if you saw yourself as a part of your obstacle, you may have found the key ingredient to your opportunities. It took a little time before the lessons of my mentor and the strong discipline of my mother started to germinate in my soul, but it finally did.

After 4 years of having John as my mentor, something very tragic happened. At the young age of 38, John suddenly passed away. I remember the day before his funeral as though it were yesterday. I sat down and wrote out my mission statement: to positively impact the lives of a billion people with the message of hope and opportunity—hope being my faith in Christ Jesus and opportunity being the lessons of financial literacy and financial independence I learned from my mentor John Moniz.

I decided to follow in the footsteps of my mentor John. I started my own business, and I learned very quickly the challenges of signing the front of the paycheck when you could not sign the back for yourself. Over the last two decades, as a business owner and as an elected official—whether it was as a member of the county council or a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives or being elected to the U.S. Congress—I have used as my foundation the lessons I learned from my mentor and my mother.

During my time here in the Senate I will focus on a few key issues, including education, economic empowerment, and controlling our spending addiction. As a small business owner over the last 15 years I can tell you firsthand that our Tax Code is broken. With the highest corporate tax rate in all the world, and the taxing of small and family-owned businesses at an alarming rate, we will continue to produce a slow-growth economy.

The regulatory nightmare facing our small business owners today is only worsened by the “Unaffordable Care Act,” as my good friend Congressman Kucinich said yesterday.

Further, with over 70,000 pages of new regulations in the last 5 years, the compliance cost for small business is staggering. We do not simply need a delay in the employer mandate, we need a repeal of the employer mandate.

On education, I can tell you as a poor kid, by the time I was in the fourth grade, I had already attended four schools. It is very difficult for us to fund the right school with the sometimes transient nature of poverty where you have to move a lot. I believe the system and the people closest to the child are in the best position to provide the highest quality of education for that child. So there is no way a bureaucrat in Washington, DC, can better educate a child in Lexington County than that child's parents and the teachers who are so involved in that education.

We need a national debate on education. Parents need more choices so their kids will have a chance. So let's debate it. Let's debate charter schools, let's debate public school choice, private school choice, tax credits, home schools. Whatever it takes to improve our education system should be on the table for discussion.

Let me close with this. If we create a competitive Tax Code and a fair, sensible regulatory environment, as well as a world-class education system, we will create the best economy known to man, as we have in times past. You see, the best and the brightest days are still ahead for America. Our strongest moments, our strongest stands, are still in our future. I believe in the greatness of America because I have experienced the goodness of her people. In America, an ordinary guy like me can be blessed with an extraordinary opportunity like this. Thank you, and God bless America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I congratulate our good friend from South Carolina on his maiden speech and the opportunity, obviously, to learn more about his inspirational early life and the bilingual nature of his beginning and the way he interpreted those lessons both from his mother and from his mentor into the extraordinary success he has had both in the private sector and the public sector. I wish to say, on behalf of my colleagues, it is an honor to serve with him.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to join the Republican leader in expressing my appreciation of Senator SCOTT today, not just for his maiden speech but because we have new pages on the Senate floor and so it is their first time, and I see the bright eyes of these young people looking up to the Senator as he gives his maiden speech as he talks about the next generation.

I was thinking a bit, because I saw an editorial the Senator had written pub-

lished Sunday a week ago—“IRS targeting scandal shows need for reform”—and so I was happy to hear the Senator talking about some of the things happening there, because he talks about responsibility, accountability, and the kinds of things we heard in his maiden speech today. He writes in a concise way, also a courageous way, so I want to join the Republican leader in welcoming the new Senator and his comments, and I look forward to working with him for many years to come.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating our recently arrived colleague from South Carolina on his maiden speech. It strikes me we all want the same thing pretty much. We want an opportunity and we want to make sure our kids get the best quality education so they can compete in a global economy. But to be honest about it, we do have different approaches on how to achieve those goals, it strikes me, across the aisle.

There are those who believe the government should play a bigger, more expansive role, and they have their own ideas and approach; and there are those of us who believe in limited government, and that that is most consistent with individual freedom and the opportunity to strive, to work hard, and to succeed. It is that notion of earned success. So we have a different approach, and I know the Senator from South Carolina agrees with that.

I also believe the Senator from South Carolina has been a tremendous addition because of his background and his upbringing. Some people might say we don't need more lawyers in the Senate, and he certainly is not one of those, but he is somebody who has succeeded in the private sector, been marvelously successful now both in the House and here in the Senate. So it is great to have him as part of the Senate and contributing his unique perspective and being able to articulate as he does so well how small-government, limited-government principles apply to that concept of earned success that all of us want not only for ourselves but for our families as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in complimenting the Senator from South Carolina, No. 1, because of his work ethic. I have the privilege of being the ranking Republican member of the committee that has maybe the broadest jurisdiction, the most diversity of any of our committees—Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—and I have observed how hard Senator SCOTT has worked and how well prepared he has been in his first several months as a Senator. He has spoken out on labor issues, he has made a major contribution to the debate we had on whether we need a national school board or local control on

elementary and secondary education. When other Senators are doing other things, he is right there at the committee hearings. So he has made a quiet, effective, principled, studious contribution to the Senate, in my experience, these first few months, and I am delighted to have him here.

He has done so well I have invited him to come to Tennessee on Friday to speak to one of the largest gatherings we have annually in the State, and he has agreed to come, and we are grateful for that.

Finally, I would compliment him on one other thing. Sometimes I like to tell stories about the person for whom I came to the Senate to work—Senator Howard Baker. When Senator Baker first came in 1967, I would say to the Senator from South Carolina, the Republican leader was his father-in-law Everett Dirksen. Senator Baker made his maiden speech, probably from a back row about like Senator SCOTT is making his, and his father-in-law was sitting right where Senator MCCONNELL sits, listening to the whole thing. It went on, and it went on, and it went on for nearly an hour. After it was over, Senator Dirksen came over to Senator Baker, and Senator Baker said to his father-in-law: Well, how did I do? Senator Dirksen, the Republican leader, said to the new Senator: Maybe, Howard, you should occasionally try to enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.

So I congratulate Senator SCOTT for his succinct maiden address. He is not only effective, studious, and diligent, he knows how to speak his words clearly and succinctly, and it is wonderful to see him.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Senator.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ROBERT A. PIERCE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, my colleagues and I are often at odds when trying to solve some of our Nation's most pressing and difficult problems. However, one thing we can all agree on is that the men and women who wear our Nation's uniforms are selfless heroes who embody the American spirit of courage and patriotism. We must continue to honor the sacrifice and service of our troops who have fought to protect and defend our freedoms. Today, I am here to pay my respects to Army SPC Robert A. Pierce, an Arkansas soldier who gave his life while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Pierce graduated from Mansfield High School and spent his free time perfecting his steak cooking abilities at the Bulldog Diner in Greenwood, AK. A former coworker described these as "the best steaks ever."

Specialist Pierce's friends say the money he earned at his part-time job went to fixing his truck. His love of auto mechanics led him to do most of the work himself. Specialist Pierce's family said he joined the military in 2011 to make a difference.

He served in South Korea before his assignment at Fort Campbell. He was a member of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. SPC Robert Pierce was only 20 when he gave his life for his country last month while on patrol in Afghanistan. Specialist Pierce is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to keep his wife Christian and the rest of his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I humbly offer my sincerest gratitude for his patriotism and selfless sacrifice.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. MCQUAID

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Monday, July 1, 2013, Joseph C. McQuaid was laid to rest, with full military honors, in the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO.

A proud World War II veteran, Joseph "Big Joe" McQuaid will rest beside his brother John "Hootcher" McQuaid, also a World War II veteran. Joe was one of the most unique, memorable persons I have known in my lifetime. He was also my brother-in-law.

Joe was born on March 16, 1919 in the family farmhouse near Stuart, IA. A proud Irishman, Joe always noted that his birthday was one day before St. Patrick's Day. Joe, his two brothers, and sister were born and raised in a loving, but very poor, family. His father "Willie" was a self-taught, accomplished musician, playing the fiddle and piano in local bands around Iowa.

From an early age, Joe was known as "Big Joe" because he was a big bear of a man, standing 6 feet 4 inches and tipping the scale around 240 pounds, all muscle and bone. He used to show off his strength by tearing phonebooks and decks of cards in half as if they were pieces of paper. This always impressed a lot of young kids.

Joe also liked to balance heavy, unwieldy objects, such as lawnmowers, on his chin. It wasn't only heavy objects he could balance. He is the only person I have ever seen who could balance a

straw broom on his nose. He could entertain a group of kids for hours by doing his balancing tricks.

When the Great Depression hit the Midwest, Joe's family, like so many others, was in dire economic straits. So Joe, at the age of 16, went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC. The legal age was 18, but because of Joe's size and the poverty at home, Joe said he was 18 and thus joined the CCC. Young men left home, lived in CCC camps, worked on building dams and dikes, cleared roads in winter, cleaned up after floods, and created State parks and recreation areas. CCC camps were run in a semimilitary fashion.

Joe worked at the CCC camps for 3 years and was paid \$36 a month. As Joe remembered, he sent \$30 home and kept \$6 for himself. He often said the CCC was President Roosevelt's best program.

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Joe went right down to the recruiting office and signed up for military duty. He joined the Navy and spent most of the war years as a Boatswain Mate First Class on destroyer escorts, escorting troop ships and cargo ships the United States to Russia, England, and North Africa.

His ship, the USS *Marchand*, sank several German U-boats and rescued survivors of cargo and troopships sunk by enemy torpedoes. Joe was present at Normandy on D-day, again protecting the troopships and big cruisers from enemy submarines.

After the war in Europe ended, Joe was sent to the Pacific as a Boatswain Mate on a troopship headed to the Philippines. During his voyage, Joe's ship was attacked by Japanese kamikaze planes. As the acting Chief Boatswain Mate, Joe got all the anti-aircraft guns manned, taking a 50 caliber mount himself. They brought down all the enemy aircraft, and not one hit the ship. Joe remembered how one crashed in the water so close that ocean spray and parts of the aircraft landed on the ship's deck.

Sometime after that, on their way to the Philippines, Joe ordered—through his boatswain pipe—all hands on deck for an important announcement from the captain. The captain said that after dropping two atom bombs on Japan that wiped out two cities, President Harry S. Truman said the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. There was unrestrained cheering and backslapping among the troops and sailors. Joe asked the captain if he should use his boatswain pipe to call them to order, and the captain said "No, no, let them go." They refueled at sea, and headed back to Honolulu.

After nearly 4 straight years at sea, dodging and sinking U-boats in the North Atlantic, surviving kamikaze attacks in the Pacific, "Big Joe" was back in Iowa with a chest full of medals and his beloved boatswain pipe.