

taking time to drive across all 105 Kansas counties over the years to update members of the farm bureau on issues that impact their lives and the lives of their family members in rural Kansas and across our State. KFB members always knew where to find Steve and felt comfortable seeking his help.

In addition to his service as president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Steve has led multiple boards and organizations, including the Board of the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, whose board he currently chairs. He has led trade missions, presented testimony before Congress and State legislative committees, and has championed the cause of agriculture for much of his adult life.

Steve embodies many traits we can all admire, including a deep love for the great State of Kansas and gratitude for the many hard-working families who provide food, fuel, and fiber on which Americans and the world rely. These traits have earned Steve the respect of his peers across the country. Steve has been a true public servant to agriculture, and he did it for all the right reasons. Not often do you find someone who has such good and clear intentions of service. Kansas farmers and ranchers found that in Steve Baccus in spades. He is a tremendous role model for all of us who want to make a difference in the lives of others.

Steve, we congratulate you for your service and wish you and your wife Patricia well in the next chapter of your life as you retire as president of Kansas Farm Bureau.

REMEMBERING ROSS AND MARIANNA BEACH

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, last Sunday I was at a funeral service in Manhattan, KS, because Kansas lost one of its greatest philanthropists and education advocates when Marianna Kistler Beach passed away on November 1, 2014.

Marianna and her late husband Ross Beach—who passed away in 2010—were residents of my hometown of Hay, KS, for more than 60 years before moving to Lawrence. This devoted couple was well known and well loved for their acts of service and kindness to others. Because of Marianna and Ross Beach, numerous Kansans have been inspired through the arts, and individuals with disabilities and their families have lived healthier, more productive lives.

Marianna was born on November 24, 1919, in Lincoln, KS, and Marianna learned the importance of empowerment through education at a young age from her parents. Elmer and Myrtle Kistler moved their family from Lincoln—including their 15-year-old daughter Marianna—to Manhattan, KS, in 1934 in order to give their children the opportunity for a college education during the Great Depression. Marianna graduated from Manhattan

High School and Kansas State University, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Phi Journalism Honorary, and Mortar Board.

Marianna married Ross—whom she always called Rossie—in 1941, and they were devoted to each other for 69 years until his death in 2010.

Ross Beach was a pioneer in banking, radio and television, and oil and gas, and Marianna was a support system behind all that success. Ross was the president of Kansas National Gas Company and chairman of the board of the Douglas County Bank, and with Marianna by his side Ross created economic opportunities for many Kansans. But the Beaches' business success was overshadowed by Ross and Marianna's generosity.

Marianna Beach worked hard to make certain education and the arts would be a priority of Kansans. She and her husband assisted with the formation of the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University. Marianna was a member of the Mid-America Arts Alliance, president of the Hays Arts Council, and wrote a column on art and city beautification for the Hays Daily News for more than 20 years.

For the Beaches' 50th wedding anniversary, Marianna convinced her husband to establish the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University to ensure that art is accessible to all Kansans. My wife Robba and I have had the honor to serve on the board of visitors of this museum that bears their name. We are able to witness firsthand the positive consequences of the passion and commitment Ross and Marianna had for culture and for the arts in our State.

Marianna's priorities were guided by a belief in the value of each individual, which was illustrated by her lifelong commitment to supporting and uplifting individuals with special needs. Supported by her husband, Marianna worked tirelessly to maximize the potential of handicapped individuals, serving on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation from 1969 to 1975. She was also actively involved at the local level. She did everything personally. In fact, the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas is named in her honor. The research done there focuses on disability policy, employment, family support, and early childhood services.

The Beaches' level of generosity will truly live on for generations to come.

Despite their stature in our community and State, Marianna and Ross Beach always treated every person they encountered with respect and dignity. As a young newlywed couple starting a new life in Hays, the first invitation Robba and I received was to come to Ross and Marianna's home for dinner. There was never a more gracious, caring couple than the Beaches, who wanted to make sure everyone was included.

For a large portion of my life, I joined Ross and other businessmen and professionals for lunch at The Roundtable. While there was a lot of talk about sports and politics, I learned a lot about life by listening to Mr. Beach. My friendship with Ross Beach certainly opened doors for me in business and politics, but more importantly, it gave me the confidence to realize that this smalltown Kansas kid could one day be able to serve here with my colleagues in the Senate.

While my family and I are saddened by the death of Marianna Beach, we take comfort knowing that the legacy of the Beach family will endure far beyond our generation. While Marianna and Ross Beach donated their talents and treasure, it is their character and generous souls that I and many others will miss the most.

Marianna was loved by all who knew her but especially by her family. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to her daughters Mary, Terry, and Jane, as well as her brother Lee, sister Janet, and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. I know you loved your mother, grandmother, and sister dearly, and she will be greatly missed. I hope you find comfort in knowing that she and Ross are united in their Heavenly home.

We are told that to whom much is given, much is expected. Ross and Marianna Beach more than fulfilled any expectations. I am thankful for having the good fortune of knowing them for more than 40 years.

God bless Marianna and Ross Beach for their life together and let them be a role model for all of us.

Thank you, Madam President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you very much, Madam President.

There is a lot of talk here in Washington and across our country right now about how to fix a very broken immigration system. The message the American people sent us earlier this month was very clear. I don't think anybody should miss it. They want us to work together, and they want us to get things done for the country and move things forward. They know we can still do big things when we put aside partisan politics and sit down together and work in the best interests of the country.

I know that firsthand because of the farm bill. It was not easy. It was complicated. There were regional differences. There were partisan differences. There were differences between the House and the Senate. But we wanted to get it done. We stuck with it, we worked hard, and in the end, a lot of people working together made that happen. So we know how to do that.

We know how to do that in the Senate on immigration as well because a

whole different group of people across the aisle sat down with very different ideas. How do we strengthen the border? How do we have a system that works for agriculture and business? How do we create a pathway of earning their citizenship in this country? People worked in a very complicated situation, they worked together, and ultimately, after a lot of amendments and slogging it through on the floor, just as we did on the farm bill, we achieved that. We achieved that. We achieved that. We achieved that 510 days ago.

So 510 days ago we passed overwhelmingly—I believe it was 68 votes—a comprehensive immigration reform bill and sent it to the House of Representatives—510 days ago. What has the Republican House of Representatives done with that comprehensive, bipartisan bill that was sent to them 510 days ago? Nothing. A great big zero. They have done nothing. They refused to even have a vote on it. They refused to suggest changes to the bill and work on the opportunity to bring their ideas to the table. They refused to even debate the bill. Why? Amazingly—amazingly—it is because the Speaker and the Republicans and the House know it would pass if they brought it up. And the public looks at that and says: What? Are you crazy? You don't want to bring up a bill because you know it would actually pass on a bipartisan vote?

But that is exactly what is happening. In fact, that is how it is supposed to work. There was a tremendous amount of effort by this body and by leaders on both sides of the aisle, who should feel very proud of the work that was done. It was sent to the House of Representatives 510 days ago, and nothing has been done. Zero has been done.

So I have a very simple message for Speaker BOEHNER: Let the House vote. Let the House vote. The time is now. The time is now to solve this problem, and it can be solved today if people want to do that.

House Republicans still have an opportunity to show the American people that they can be trusted to do the work that people sent them to do—sent all of us to do. They can do it today. They can do it tomorrow. They can get this done before Thanksgiving. Everyone knows that the bipartisan Senate immigration bill would pass right now with both Democrats and Republicans supporting it if Speaker BOEHNER would simply let the House vote.

As we in the Senate showed over a year ago, people on both sides of the aisle want to fix this broken system that hurts families, workers, businesses, and farmers. I could tell you story after story of crops being left in the field because of a broken immigration system. This is an urgent problem, and the time to act is now.

If our Republican colleagues in the House don't want President Obama to use his authority to help fix the broken immigration system—just as every President, by the way, since President

Eisenhower, including Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, has done—all they have to do is simply vote. Just have a vote. Then we don't have to have this back-and-forth about how do we work together on appropriations or how do we get all the work done that desperately needs to be done. Just vote. It is in their hands.

We cannot afford to wait another 510 days to begin to address this urgent problem, which is why if the House will not act the President has no choice but to act. But the good news is that we don't have to wait.

Americans didn't send us here to talk about impeachment or shutting down the government again. They sent us here to get things done. They sent us here to create opportunities for them to work hard and get in the middle class and stay in the middle class, which is harder and harder to do every day.

So I would say to Speaker BOEHNER: Let the House vote. Let's get the bipartisan immigration bill on the President's desk today. This isn't about the President waving a red flag in front of a bull, by the way—which is, frankly, a lot of bull—this is about waving the bill in front of the House of Representatives.

Yoo-hoo, Mr. Speaker, you have a bill. You have a bill. It passed with 68 votes in the Senate. It will pass in the House of Representatives. It will avoid what you say is going to be a big fight and legal challenges. Just vote. It is that simple.

Let's show the American people that we can put aside our differences, that we can work together and do what is best for the country. It is as simple as having a vote.

Thank you, Madam President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO ABDUL-RAHMAN "PETER" KASSIG

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, this is a speech I hoped to never give and one I give with an incredibly heavy heart. I wish to speak about a young man from my home State of Indiana, Abdul-Rahman Kassig, known to many who loved him as Peter or Pete. He was a Hoosier, a son of Indiana, and we could not feel more proud of him or lucky about the fact that he was one of us.

Abdul-Rahman was a son of the United States of America who served our country and also served the world. He was a man of peace and healing and caring. Abdul-Rahman was with us for 26 years, and what he gave us during his life is so much greater and so much more important than how he died. The intensity and focus and desire to make a difference was the hallmark of Peter's life, and it stands in stark contrast to the cruelty and disdain for human life of the ISIL terrorists who took Peter from us.

Every one of us is heartbroken for his parents Paula and Ed, who have lost their son in the most nightmarish of circumstances and have been the most extraordinary people during this whole situation. The world mourns the loss of Abdul-Rahman along with us. His life is one to be admired.

As one of his teachers wrote to his parents: "Peter's life is evidence that he's been right all along; one person can make a difference."

While we mourn the loss of our fellow Hoosier in America, we are rightfully angry about his murder and we hunger for justice, but we are challenged to face the fact that there are others still being held by these terrorists, and we must work and pray for those who continue to be held against their will.

Today I want to talk about Abdul-Rahman—Peter. I know his wonderful parents Paula and Ed. They are extraordinary people. I was not lucky enough to meet Peter before he headed over to Syria to help provide emergency medical care there. However, through his folks and these many months, I feel as though I have gotten to know his spirit through his words, his actions, and the many stories from those who loved him. Some stories can be told, some stories can't be told, but he is an extraordinary young man in every way.

This was a selfless, courageous young man with a big heart who saw suffering and wanted to help, and ultimately he laid down his life in service to others. If you look at these pictures, this is Peter at the ambulance that he worked on as an emergency medical technician, and all he did was try to make other people's lives better by helping them when they were injured and wounded. You will hear that when his organization ran out of money, he took his own money out of his own pocket to buy bandages, equipment, and gas for the van. That is the kind of guy he was.

He was a son of Indiana, growing up near Broad Ripple as the only child of Paula and Ed. He graduated from Indianapolis North Central High School, spending his high school days as many kids in Wisconsin do—the home State of the Presiding Officer—running cross country and track and playing his guitar. He then served in the U.S. Army with a brief time in Iraq before being honorably discharged and enrolling in Hanover College back home in Indiana.

Abdul-Rahman was described as an intense young man who was always ready to help his friends in need. One classmate from Hanover said, "From the moment you meet Abdul-Rahman, you know that he is a man that is destined for great things."

Abdul-Rahman left Hanover in 2009 for training and then certification as an emergency medical technician, followed by attending Butler University. It was during his time as a student at Butler that Pete traveled over to Beirut during spring break in 2012. While other kids were heading to Florida and