

will tell you, you cry when you look out there. You see a couple hundred people who have come to this country, gone through the system, studied the history—and I would suggest those people up for naturalization probably know the history much better than people who are born here in this country. They learn the language. They go through all these things, and finally they become citizens of the United States. That is the legal way to do it. What are their thoughts right now after all they have gone through and the doors are open for anyone to come through? Is that compassion for those people? I don't think so. Compassion is acknowledging and respecting the millions who adhere to our laws and achieve citizenship.

But here is the thing. When you stop being a nation based on the rule of law, you are at the mercy of one man and his whims. It sounds exactly like something our Founding Fathers were looking to avoid and escape. I think that is the problem we have. I have people asking me: Why is the President breaking the law with regularity? Does he not have to obey the law the same as we do?

Well, as you know, there is a lawsuit that is being processed over on the House side. But we also know this: Anyone who comes who has 2 years left in his term knows if something is starting the process to determine whether action is legal, it would be probably 5 or 6 years before that case would be decided. By that time he is long gone.

I want to mention one thing that is specific. People say: Well, how can you say the President is breaking the law? He does break the law. He breaks it all the time. One of the things I have been concerned about for a long period of time is keeping the installation named Guantanamo Bay—called Gitmo—keeping it open. It is the only place that we can keep the type of terrorists we have down there. It is one, I think, that has worked out well. But somehow there is the obsession that this President has—he wants to close Gitmo, Guantanamo Bay.

Knowing that, I put an amendment on the Defense authorization bill in 2014. If anyone wants to look it up, it is section 1035(d) of the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA. It specifically states—anticipating that the President would start releasing these people from Guantanamo Bay without authority, we put into law that the President shall notify Congress not later than 30 days before the transfer or release of any Guantanamo Bay detainee.

What did we find out? The President, without notifying anyone, released probably the five—in fact, not probably, certainly the five very worst of the terrorists who were being kept down there. In fact, one of their names was Mohammad Fazl. One of the Taliban commanders, whose name is Mullah Salem Khan, made this state-

ment—this is right after the President released the five terrorists. We do not know where they are, whether they are killing Americans, where they are right now.

He said, “Mohammad Fazl, his returning is like pouring 10,000 Taliban fighters into the battle on the side of Jihad. Now the Taliban has the right lion to lead them in the final moment before victory in Afghanistan.”

So that is another issue altogether. These people are released to come back and kill Americans. But the point is, that law was aimed specifically at the President that he cannot do that. He did it. So when I see these things happen, I think I have never seen this before.

I am not a real student of history, but certainly I have read an abundant amount of the history of this institution as well as the President and what is going and what should go on in Washington and what our Founding Fathers envisioned. Our Founding Fathers never envisioned they would have a President who would blatantly break the law, specifically break the law.

That is what is happening now. That example is just one of many I could give. So enjoy the speech tonight. I think you are going to see that another one of our laws looks as though it is going to be broken. That would be our immigration laws that are on the books now.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DENZEL MCGUIRE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about a staffer I will be very sad to lose tomorrow. Denzel McGuire is one of the most genuine people you will ever meet. She always has a smile on her face and a ready joke, and she is the only Senate staffer I know of who can plan on—listen to this—a personal birthday song from Speaker BOEHNER every year. She also has a determination that is as strong as steel. She is a master at negotiating. And all Members—even the Speaker—have learned it is wise to stay in her good graces.

Denzel has worked for some of the most respected Members of this body, including Jon Kyl and Judd Gregg. She has taken on some of the thorniest issues over her more than 20 years here in Congress.

In this job you get accustomed to hearing bad news, but what I tell people is that if I have to hear bad news

from someone, I would rather have it come from Denzel. She always has a plan moving forward, and there is usually a joke slipped in there as well.

Denzel is too modest to say so herself, but she has been in the middle of a lot of big legislative battles around here. She has been in the mix on pretty much everything you could imagine that has to do with budgets and government funding issues—in other words, pretty much everything. She has also worked a lot of late nights. She has plenty of war stories, but she has never lost her optimism or her good humor. Now, that is no mean feat.

I am really going to miss Denzel, but she has more than earned a break, and I wish her nothing but the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. I am sure she will be a great success.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would also like to say a quick word about Chris Doby, the Senate financial clerk, who will be leaving us soon after more than three decades of service.

Chris came to the Senate in 1983 after graduating from Radford University. He was a junior auditor back in those days. Today he has a broad range of duties. He has weathered a lot of storms. He is also one of the most popular guys in the Senate because he is responsible for making sure everybody gets paid. But Senators' staffs are not the only ones who have nice things to say about Chris. His colleagues praise his sincerity, his steady hand, his confidence, and his friendliness.

Chris is the consummate family man. He has three daughters: Colleen, Caroline, and Courtney; a grandson he adores; and a wife of 31 years, Cathy. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with all of them. He is probably looking forward to the end of his daily commute too. It is a 2-hour trek from the District to his home in Virginia. That is 2 hours each way, every day. I understand that Cathy has a to-do list for Chris that is a mile long, so we know he will have a lot on his plate when he leaves here. But we thank him for his long and dedicated service in the Senate.

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. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KENNEDY

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to my former chief of staff, Michael Kennedy. In my 38 years as a Senator, I have

seen many talented staffers come and go, but few have left such a lasting impression as Michael. He is someone for whom I have a deep appreciation and much respect. That is why it was so difficult for me when I learned Michael would be leaving my office to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. I had come to rely so much on his counsel, his leadership, and his savvy. It was very difficult and hard to let him go. I know I speak for everyone on my staff when I say Michael will be sorely missed.

Before Michael came to my office, he was living in Salt Lake City and working at Utah State University as the vice president for Federal and State relations. Under his leadership, that university developed its first professional program, secured critical line-item funding, enhanced its footprint and resource portfolio, and became a key player in facilitating the merger of two Utah schools.

Michael was also the point man for all matters related to Capitol Hill and the Utah State legislature. His reputation for hard work and integrity helped him craft strong relationships throughout the State. He knew the landscape, customs, and culture of Utah better than almost anyone. His experience and his reputation proved invaluable to me.

I know these tributes sound like eulogies with the way we talk about people as if they had already passed on. Considering how hard Michael worked, I am surprised this isn't his eulogy. His energy and work ethic always amazed me, as did his sense of style. Perhaps the only thing sharper than Michael's mind was his wardrobe. Few people can pull off a navy suit with pink lining and silver cufflinks, but Michael did so with ease. Of course, you might not know Michael was such a sharply dressed staffer because his boss usually stole the fashion spotlight, and after Washingtonian magazine named me the best-dressed man in Congress, I can only hope that some of my style rubbed off on him. However, if people knew how little I paid for my clothing, I think they might want to take back that honor.

Michael took a pay cut when he joined my staff nearly 4 years ago, and he always joked that his next job would be as an unpaid summer intern. I like to think Michael's financial sacrifice was emblematic of his desire to serve the State of Utah and improve this great country through the Senate. His willingness to serve was most evident in the way he always put the needs of constituents and staff above his own.

Michael's dedication to my staff was only surpassed by his dedication to his family, and I truly believe he owes his success to the constant support of his wife Natalie—an absolutely beautiful woman whom I have been blessed to know. Natalie and her family have been friends of mine since she was young. Natalie grew up as a friend of

my children, so naturally I felt protective and wanted the best for her.

When she announced her engagement to Michael, Elaine and I were delighted. Still, I was surprised that someone as impressive as Natalie would agree to Michael's engagement proposal. I guess to his long list of talents and accomplishments, we could add marrying out of his league.

I was very grateful that Natalie knew very well the rigors and intensity of serving on a Senate staff, having worked previously with Senator Bob Bennett. Not only was she an invaluable support to Michael, she was also there to help me in any way she could. She was wonderful.

While Michael was serving as my chief of staff, Natalie gave birth to their daughter Emily—or as I like to call her “Sweet Pea.” Shortly after her birth, Michael's family gathered in my Capitol office and gave Sweet Pea a father's blessing, as is the tradition in our faith. It was a sacred experience for Elaine and me to join Michael and Natalie and both their families for that special occasion.

Michael's family wasn't the only one to grow in the time he was with me. During those few years, we had 12 new babies and 4 spouses added to the families of our staff. Whenever there was a birth or marriage, Michael went out of his way to make sure they were taken care of. He fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie, friendship, and family friendliness that was critical for my office's ability to serve the people of Utah. People always knew he was genuinely concerned for them and their needs as they tried to adjust to the wonderful changes of a growing family.

Nevertheless, I know there were plenty of times when Michael would rather have been with Natalie than with me. One particular instance comes to mind. During the end of the 112th Congress, Michael and I rang in the new year together during an extended voting session. Michael bought a bottle of blue Powerade from the downstairs vending machine here at the Capitol, and we counted down the seconds on my Senate clock. I knew he wanted to be with his family, but I was grateful for his sacrifice in staying with me.

This intense dedication was the norm for Michael Kennedy. Every night that I left the Senate, Michael would be there to wish me a safe drive home and continue his work for me late into the night. Whenever I traveled, he was always by my side and ready to help. Together we spent a lot of time on the road, visiting each of Utah's 29 counties. We drove from meeting to meeting across beautiful western landscapes and had many memorable conversations. Though road trips can often be long and tedious, Michael's sharp intellect and good humor made him one of the greatest traveling companions I have ever had.

I have been extremely fortunate when it comes to my staff. I have had the privilege of serving with some of

the most gifted and devoted people our Nation has to offer. Each of them has brought something unique and important to their service, but I have to say that even among the select fraternity of talented Senate staffers, Michael Kennedy belongs in an elite class.

I have no doubt Michael will enjoy enormous success in his new position. Success has been the defining characteristic of every endeavor he has undertaken. I have had many chiefs of staff over my 38 years in the Senate, but none has ever been better than Michael.

While the selfish part of me wishes he could have stayed in the Senate just a bit longer, I have to say that I wish Michael, Natalie, and darling Sweet Pea the very best going forward.

I don't say these things haphazardly. This young man is truly one of the finest people I have known in all of my experience in the Senate of the United States. He was dedicated, he was consecrated to his work, and he did everything he possibly could to help my staff and me do a better job in the Senate.

Michael is a true friend, and he will always be somebody whose friendship I revere. As I said, his wife is a wonderful friend as well, and Sweet Pea—I call her “Pea” now—is one of the cutest, most darling young girls that I have ever seen.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

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

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this past Saturday, open enrollment began for the second round of State-based and Federal exchanges all across the country.

We can think about where we were a year ago today: The government was in shutdown. The Federal Web page where people went to enroll was a blank screen for many. There was frustration all across the country, and a lot of our friends on the other side of the aisle were claiming that this was proof the health care reform law could not work. They claimed it was a failure from the beginning.

Well, a year makes a big difference. It is a year later, and we have 7 million, 8 million people who have insurance on these exchanges across the country. We have lowered the number of people without insurance by 25 percent in a year's period of time. That is remarkable. In my State of Connecticut, where we run the best exchange in the entire country, we have cut the number of uninsured in half in