

business and medicine before he got here. TOM served as president of the school of business student council while getting his accounting degree at Oklahoma State University. Later he went back to law school—excuse me, that was a Freudian slip he wouldn't be happy with. Later he went back to medical school, where he trained to become a physician and served as president of his class at the University of Oklahoma medical school.

TOM has a lot to be proud of about his service in the House and in the Senate. But, again, like all of us, he is most proud of his family. He has been married to the former Miss Oklahoma for nearly 50 years, and he and Carolyn have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Meanwhile, in his career as a physician, he has delivered more than 4,000 babies, which perhaps explains the vote totals in some of his elections, because I am sure many of them have grown up to vote for him.

The things that I mentioned are only a few of TOM COBURN's long list of notable achievements. Knowing TOM and his work ethic, I have no doubt he will be giving 110 percent right up until the last minute he serves in the 113th Congress on January 3, 2015.

I wish TOM and his family the very best as they enter the next season of life.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

MARK PRYOR

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in just a few moments one of my best friends in the Senate is going to give his farewell address. Senator MARK PRYOR of Arkansas, a former State legislator, former attorney general, and two-term Senator, was caught in this tidal wave in the last election that caused those of us in the Democratic Party in the former old Confederacy, now known as the South—and of course parts of the South these days don't look anything like the old Confederacy. As a matter of fact, my State of Florida is a good example. It is a compendium of people from all over the United States because folks from all over the country have moved to Florida, and thus it is a microcosm of the country.

Arkansas is a State where the Pryor family has served with great distinction and enormous public service for decades. Although it temporarily comes to an end with Senator PRYOR leaving the Congress in January, that is not the end of his public service. His mom and dad served so ably for years

and years in the Governor's mansion, as well as the Senate, serving the people of this country and Arkansas. MARK and his family served our country so ably over the years and that public service will continue.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

I reflect back just a few days ago when Senator ROCKEFELLER gave his farewell speech. He is another extraordinary public servant who has demonstrated selfless public service. He is a Senator who, because of his family heritage, could have done anything he wanted, but he chose—after a life of privilege, growing up as a young man, and after having spent time abroad—to go to one of the poorest States in the Union. He first was a volunteer to the poor and later developed a distinguished record of public service that included secretary of state, Governor, and now a five-term Senator. I will speak later about other colleagues who are leaving.

These are just two examples. Senator ROCKEFELLER and my seatmate Senator PRYOR are extraordinary public servants who when you talked to them and when you looked in their eyes, if they gave you their word, that was it. You didn't have to worry about it.

Some say it is a throwback to the old days. The old days is a throwback that we ought to go to, when if a Senator gave you his or her word, that was it, when there was civility among Senators, when there was not an avalanche of outside money that came in to try to define you with statements that were not true.

We see what has happened to our politics in America today with exceptional millions of dollars coming into a State, buying up television, to create a statement in 27 seconds often that is not true and that fact checkers say is not true, factcheck.org and Politifact.

Yet when we talk to the TV stations and the broadcast stations and show them the fact checkers, they will still run the TV ads. But rather than talk about the mistakes that were made with the Citizens United Supreme Court case and missing by one vote in this Chamber several years ago—we had 59 votes and we needed 60 to cut off debate so we could get to the DISCLOSE Act, a DISCLOSE Act that did not counter the Supreme Court decision, it just said if you are going to spend all this money, you are going to have to say who it is that is doing the contribution.

Of course, if we had been able to pass that, then all of this money would not be flowing because it is hiding behind this masquerade of the Committee for Good Government or the ABC committee for whatever. So they masquerade behind that veil to spend all of that money in order—for their ultimate purposes.

It caught a number of our people. Just look at what happened in the runoff election this last Saturday. Look at the imbalance of the spending on TV that occurred since the general elec-

tion and the runoff in the State of Louisiana.

I will speak about Senator LANDRIEU, Senator UDALL, Senator BEGICH, and Senator KAY HAGAN later.

I wanted particularly to talk about Senator ROCKEFELLER, our chairman of the commerce committee, and Senator PRYOR, one of the finest public servants I have ever had a chance to serve with.

#### “ORION” SPACECRAFT

Mr. NELSON. I want to speak about a very uplifting topic in more ways than one. Friday morning I was at the Cape. We call it the Cape. It is technically known as the Kennedy Space Center. America is going to Mars. The first test flight, the spacecraft *Orion*, put upon another rocket—in this case, a heavy-lift rocket called the Delta IV—twice orbited around the Earth. On that second orbit it was boosted up way beyond low-Earth orbit to 3,600 miles, and then with a ballistic reentry simulating 80 percent of the forces, the stresses on the spacecraft, the Gs, as well as the heat shield heating up to 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a spacecraft totally instrumented to check out the integrity of the spacecraft and the effectiveness of the heat shield as part of it—an ablative heat shield that burns off upon reentry—and it was a fantastic success.

I talked about this last week ahead of time just to give folks an idea of how large this is. The *Apollo* spacecraft was 12 feet in diameter. It looked like a similar kind of shape, a capsule. That was over four decades ago, 12 feet. *Orion* is 16½ feet and totally new technology, a new heat shield and up-to-date instrumentation that will carry four astronauts on our goal of our journey to the planet Mars in the decade of the 2030s.

This is what I wanted to share. Friday night after the launch with the extensive coverage that the news media gave, I was at a totally unrelated charity event for a children's hospital. I had people coming up to me and saying we didn't know that we had a space program. It is simply because they associated the shutdown of the space shuttle with the last flight of 135 flights—they associated that with the shutdown of the space program in the last flight of 2011 of the space shuttle.

They now see what has been happening behind the scenes all along, where indeed we are in a dual track in America's manned space program, the one track going to Mars way beyond low-Earth orbit where we have been for the last 40-some years. This is a low earth orbit that services the International Space Station where 6 humans are right now, about 250 miles above the Earth doing research in the program of going out and exploring the heavens. The second track of the dual track is, in fact, building American rockets, which is being done in a commercially viable way to go to and from

the space station as they are right now with cargo, but making those spacecraft safe with the escape systems for humans. That is the dual track. Therefore, as a result, we end up with NASA exploring the heavens again. We are back in the human space business.

The great Senator from the State of Arkansas is here. He does not know I have just spoken about him. It is going to be my privilege to listen to his remarks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I have to begin today by saying one thing, that is, to God be the glory. I will finish with that too. But first let me say a few words.

Since election night I have had many Arkansans come up to me and thank me for my service. I appreciate that. But I need to thank them for allowing me to do this for the last 12 years. It sounds like a cliché, but it is not. Serving in the Senate has been the greatest honor of my life. It truly has been. I have loved it. I have always done it with a cheerful heart. When I go back to my beloved Arkansas, I have to thank the people of Arkansas for allowing me to work for you. But I must confess I will miss waking up every morning and thinking, how can I make a difference for Arkansas and for America today? Those years were momentous in so many ways, for our country and for our world. I had a front-row seat to making history, and I hope I made a little bit of it myself.

On a personal level, those years were filled with family and friends, a remarkable staff, my Senate colleagues, and a whole series of rich, once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

The Lord has given me two wonderful children who are now in college. I know many of you all saw them for the first time when they were in elementary school. I am very proud, and their mother is very proud, of Adams and Porter Pryor. I am very excited about their future.

God has also brought an old sweetheart back into my life, Joi. She and I attended the sixth and seventh grades together. So when I say God has brought joy in my life, I mean it, literally.

Many of you know my parents. Of course, I would be nothing without them. Dave and Barbara Pryor have touched so many lives. They continue to do so.

For the last 8 years, I have lived with my brother David and Judith and Hampton Pryor in Washington, when I am here in Washington. I will always be grateful for their love and hospitality.

Scott and Diane and Devin Pryor in New York have been a great inspiration to me as well.

My staff is simply awesome. I love them all and they are all part of my

family too. There are too many to mention, but words such as talent, commitment, public service, effectiveness, all come to mind whenever their names come up. I have said this many times about my staff, and they keep telling me not to say it, but I am going to say it one last time: They do 99 percent of the work and I get 99 percent of the credit. So I want to acknowledge them for a job well done. They should all hold their heads high for the difference they have made. I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Lisa Ackerman, Adrianna Alley, Ronnie Anderson, Suzanne Bartolomei, Tim Bass, Frank Bateman, Jason Bockenstedt, Patrice Bolling, Cathy Bozynski, Zac Bradley, Becca Bradley, Ruth Bradley, Rachel Brown, Sonya Bryant, LaRonda Bryles, Tamara Buchholz, Britton Burnett, Margery Buzbee, Macio Cameron, Lauren Carter, Rachel Colson, Kim Cooper, Paul Cox, Laura Culver, Emily Culver, Olivia Dedner, Shiloh Dillon, Martine Downs, Wes Duncan, Michael Fangue, William Feland, Greg Feldman, Jeff Fitch, Sherry Filippo, Bradford Foley, Derrick Freeman, Conor Frickel, Bess Ginty, Terri Glaze, Andrew Grobmyer.

Russell Hall, Beth Hallmark, Julie Hamilton, Megan Hargraves, Ruth Hargraves, Jacob Hargraves, Justin Harper, Ehren Hartz, Tonya Hass, Mary Grace Hathaway, Whitney Haynes, Brigit Helgen, Larry Henderson, Lauren Henry-Cowles, Hannah Herdinger, Carrie Hern, Tate Heuer, Gene Higginbotham, Brandon Hirsch, Emily Hoard, Sarah Holland, Greg Holyfield, Vincent Insalaco, Susie James, Mark Johnston, Louis Keller, Hank Kilgore, Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi, Shannon Lane, Stephen Lehrman, Autumn Lewis, Sam Losow, Shannon Lovejoy, Stan Luker, Scott Macconomy, Amanda Manatt-Story, Elizabeth Manney, Randy Massanelli, Eric May, Madra McAdoo, Nathan McCarroll, Lauren McClain.

Marietta McClure, Audrey McFarland, Valerie McNeese, Rodell Mollineau, Melissa Moody, Reed Moody, Brook Mumford, Callie Neel, Eric Nelson, Wayne Palmer, Allison Pearson, Mia Petrini, Brad Phelan, Jim Pitcock, Marisa Pryor, Walter Pryor, Hayne Rainey, Candace Randle, Kris Raper, Robbie Reed, Mary Renick, Erin Ridgeway, Jenny Robertson, Kirk Robertson, Bob Russell, Paul Sanders, Amy Schlesing, Kymara Seals, Kristin Sharp, Ashley Shelton, Ashley Simmons, Jason Smedley, Haley Smoot, Kate Melcher, Lucy Speed, Brandon Spicher, Jeffrey Stein, Arthur Stokenbury, Michelle Strikowsky, Kelvin Stroud, Kelsey Stroud, Richard Swan, Frances Tate, Michael Teague, Jennifer Thompson, Courtney Van Buren, Joan Vehik, Crystal Waitekus, Brad Watt, David West, Preston Weyland, Libby Whitbeck, Deke Whitbeck, Marco White, Amanda White, Quinten Whiteside, Elizabeth Wilson, Andy York, Mary Claire York, Julie Zelnick.

Mr. PRYOR. My colleagues. What can I say about my colleagues that has not been said before? Or maybe I could say, what can I say about my colleagues that they have not said about themselves before?

You know, politics is about people; not just the people out there, but the people in here, the people the people elect. I have served with some greats and some giants. Robert C. Byrd, Ted

Kennedy, Daniel Inouye, Ted Stevens are at the top of the list. But the truth is that every single Senator I have served with is a giant.

I have served with about 175 other Senators, so there are too many to single out. But I have made lifelong friendships here. We have done a lot of good things together. This is what I will remember: all the personalities, all the times when we came together to do the right thing, and all the successes we had together.

While in the Senate, I had more than 70 initiatives signed into law. Almost all of those have been bipartisan. I ask unanimous consent to have that list printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Opened a New Opportunity for the Forestry Industry. Allowed domestic forestry products to be recognized by USDA as biobased, leveling the playing field with imports and ensuring such products can be procured by the federal government and sold as a greener alternative to consumers, P.L. 113-179

Funded Critical Agriculture Needs as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. Crafted and passed \$20 billion annual spending measure that allocates funds for agriculture programs, P.L. 113-76

Ensured Veterans Could Collect Retirement Benefits without Gimmicks. Restored the full retirement pay promised to disabled veterans and their survivors, P.L. 113-76

Honored Former Senator Dale Bumpers for his Conservation Efforts. Renamed the White River National Wildlife Refuge to the Senator Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge, P.L. 113-76

Ensured Patients Have Access to Life-saving Medical Treatment. Allowed the FDA to access industry-paid user fees that had been blocked by sequestration, P.L. 113-76

Ensured Disabled Veterans are Treated with Dignity During Airport Security. Ensured the dignity of wounded and severely disabled service members and veterans during airport security screenings, P.L. 113-27

Protected Food Safety Inspections from Sequestration. Ensured USDA food inspectors were not furloughed, protecting 500,000 industry jobs at meat, poultry, and egg production facilities, P.L. 113-6

Sought Greater Employment Opportunities for Veterans. Allowed states to accept military training as fulfilling credentials or certifications for special skills required for certain civilian jobs, P.L. 112-239

Protected Consumers from International Scams. Extended the FTC's ability to coordinate investigation efforts with foreign counterparts and obtain monetary consumer redress in cases involving Internet fraud and deception, P.L. 112-203

Expanded the Safety Mission at the National Center for Toxicological Research. Allows the FDA to focus on the health and safety implications of nanomaterials, P.L. 112-144, P.L. 112-55

Kept Fatigued Truck Drivers Off the Road with Electronic Logging Devices. Required truckers to use electronic logging devices to more accurately monitor hours on the job, P.L. 112-141

Prevented Dangerous Drivers from Driving Big Rigs with National Drug Database. Established a national database of drug testing information for commercial drivers to ensure they can't bypass the law, P.L. 112-141