

three-quarters of our problems would vanish. Poof.

Is that impossible? Not at all. Most of us claim to have a Judeo-Christian faith, so why not apply what we know to be true? The first step in this process is another one of Jesus's admonitions—forgive one another.

I know each Senator, from time to time, feels betrayed, let down, slighted, or somehow wronged. We need to forgive one another and let the healing begin.

I am not trying to combine religion and politics, but I think most everyone in the world agrees that Jesus is one of the greatest moral teachers of all time. He has a lot to say about how we should treat one another.

There are and there will be 100 Senators. Healing the Senate and getting it to function as it did for two centuries is up to each individual Senator. That means doing the right thing but also persuading others to do the right thing. It is not about us, it is about our country, our children, and our grandchildren. It is about being good stewards.

In closing, let me say I loved my time with you. I will always remember you with fondness and I will always be cheering for you. I expect great things from you because I know you are capable of doing great things. God bless the Senate and the work we do, and God bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. NELSON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for not longer than 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTES TO MARK PRYOR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to give a tribute to Senator PRYOR, whose remarks we have just heard.

Through nearly a quarter of a century of dedicated public service, Senator MARK PRYOR has established a strong reputation as the voice of reason.

From an Arkansas legislator and attorney general to a U.S. Senator, Senator PRYOR has always put the people first. To me, he has been an admired colleague, a great collaborator, and a treasured friend. Working with Senator PRYOR during his service in the Senate, I know that he acquired his voice of reason the old-fashioned way: He is such a good listener.

All of us are pretty good talkers, or we wouldn't be here, but Senator PRYOR has the distinction of being a good listener. Whether debating colleagues on the Senate floor or interacting with his guests on his Pryor-Side Chats back home, he has consistently demonstrated that he is one of those special individuals who can disagree without ever being disagreeable. He always sticks to his principles, yet he respects the principles of those with whom he disagrees. He is well informed but always open to new information.

It has been a particular pleasure to work with Senator PRYOR on the homeland security committee for many years and on the Committee on Appropriations. His work ethic, his attention to detail, his willingness, once again, to listen to alternative views have been great assets in addressing the challenges we face in our country.

He has been a diligent fiscal watchdog for the Nation's taxpayers. To me, Senator PRYOR's approach to public service is best defined by the crucial role he played in ending the government shutdown in the fall of 2013 and as a member of the Gang of 14 in 2005. In each case he worked closely with me and with other Members to end a crisis and to achieve a responsible, common-sense solution. In each case he listened and he led.

As a charter member of our Common Sense Coalition last year, Senator PRYOR stepped forward to restore both government operations and help to restore some modicum of citizen confidence in our Senate, in our government.

These certainly were not the only times that Senator PRYOR's bipartisan approach and concern for the well-being of Americans had been evident. In 2007, after a large number of recalls following injuries and deaths that caused parents throughout America to be concerned about the safety of their children's toys—especially those manufactured overseas—he once again stepped forward to lead. After an extensive investigation in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator PRYOR worked with those of us on the Republican side on a bill to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission so that we can now better detect and counter threats to our children's health before these threats even reach the store shelves, and eventually homes, schools, and daycare centers.

From restoring trust in government to protecting our children, Senator PRYOR has proven over and over again that bipartisanship works. It is so significant that his message to us today is that the dysfunction and hyperpartisanship that have characterized the Senate cannot stand.

That is a wonderful parting message, and it is typical of Senator PRYOR that rather than talking about all of his accomplishments, he instead is beseeching the Senate to work together in the interests of all Americans—whether we

are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Greens, or not affiliated with any party at all.

The 2014 election did not produce the result Senator PRYOR had hoped for, but it did reveal another aspect of his extraordinary character. His message to the people of Arkansas and to the new Senator-elect on election night was genuine and it was gracious. To the people of Arkansas, he simply expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve. But may these words, spoken that evening to us in the Chamber, which he echoed today, be his legacy. He said that night:

The biggest and most serious problem we are facing in this Nation today is the dysfunction of our political system in Washington. We have incredible potential, but we won't reach it unless Washington starts to work again for all of us.

MARK PRYOR has been an extraordinary individual who always did what he believed was right. He has contributed enormously to our country and served his State well.

I commend him for his service and I thank him for his commitment, his integrity, and, most of us all, for his friendship.

Thank you, MARK.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the great Cesar Chavez once said: "If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him . . . the people who give you their food give you their heart."

That is true. Sometimes they give you more than that. Sometimes they give you an adventure in eating that you will never forget.

That is what happened to me when, in January, I was invited by MARK PRYOR to be his guest at a legendary Arkansas political event. I am talking about the historic, well-known, annual Gillett, AR, coon supper.

Never heard of the Gillet coon supper in Arkansas? It is to Arkansas what TOM HARKIN's steak fry is to Iowa, only it is nonpartisan, it draws about 1,200, and unfortunately they don't serve steak.

Coon is raccoon served in large buckets. Folks just reach inside and pull out a chunk of coon, as they say in Gillett.

I was there that night with MARK PRYOR. I wanted to make sure I had my best manners as a visiting guest. I was certainly appreciative of the invitation to a packed room with the Governor and every walking politician in Arkansas. Bill Clinton had been there over and over again in his terms as Governor. He never missed that supper, and we weren't about to miss it that evening.

I watched as they put these bowls of coon and other meats on the table, and I noticed something interesting. All of the visitors like myself had bowls of coon put in front of them. All the folks

from Arkansas were eating out of the beef platter. It struck me that perhaps this was a delicacy they were saving just for guests. We asked for advice from MARK PRYOR about the proper selection of the cooked coon, and he said: Get one with a big bone because they have the least amount of meat on them.

So we followed his advice, nibbled at the corners, smiled, and said what a great dinner it was. We looked around and saw that only a handful of the local people from Arkansas were actually eating the delicacy of the evening, including one old fellow whom I went up to afterwards to introduce myself to who was wearing a real coonskin cap. He told me he shot the raccoon and this cap had been in his family for a long time. He passed it on to his daughter first, of course, and then to his grandson.

Mark Twain, another Mark, it turns out, loved roasted raccoon as well, but he always kept an open mind when it came to the issues of the day, including the issue of the afterlife.

Mark Twain once said: "I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell—you see, I have friends in both places." One reason MARK PRYOR has been such a good Senator is that he has friends on both sides of the aisle. We just heard this warm tribute to MARK PRYOR from my friend SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, and I am sure others will join the chorus on both sides.

MARK PRYOR is a man of deep faith who takes seriously the admonition from the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Come now, let us reason together."

Like KAY HAGAN and MARK UDALL in our caucus, MARK PRYOR has politics and public service in his bloodstream. MARK LUNSFORD PRYOR is the fifth generation of Pryors to serve in politics in his State. The first three generations served as sheriffs.

MARK PRYOR served 4 years in the Arkansas House of Representatives and 4 years as Arkansas attorney general. In 2002, the people of Arkansas elected him to the Senate, the same seat his father David held in the Senate for 18 years. MARK PRYOR placed on his desk the same motto that his father placed on his. It read, simply: "Arkansas Comes First."

But he made his own decisions, and he left a considerable mark in the Senate. Halfway through his freshman term, a new Member himself, MARK PRYOR was called on to join forces with the lions of the Senate—John Warner, Robert C. Byrd, and Danny Inouye—to forge a compromise over judicial nominations that averted a threat to a bigger confrontation. That compromise, MARK said, was the result of perspiration, not inspiration.

I disagree. It involved the inspiration of a young Senator from Arkansas who realized that public service often meant trying to work together and to reason together and to try to break down in your own individual fashion the dysfunction of Washington.

I worked with MARK on so many things over the years. As a whip I went to him many times, and we talked about difficult votes. I always found him to be honest, straightforward, and highly principled. We didn't always come to the same conclusion on the vote, but I respected him every time because I knew he gave thoughtful consideration to both sides. When it came to his vote, he was going to do what was right in his own heart and especially what was right for Arkansas. I knew that would make the final decision when it came to the vote.

I also want to put in a word of thanks to MARK as a grandfather of two 3-year-olds who are anxiously awaiting for the arrival of Santa Claus in just a few weeks. You see, MARK had the responsibility of reforming the Consumer Product Safety Commission. It was an assignment long overdue. That commission was grinding to a halt. It was not exercising its authority, and it wasn't keeping Americans safe, as it should. MARK stepped up, in a bipartisan fashion. He stepped up, and he ended up strengthening the Consumer Product Safety Commission through his efforts on the Senate commerce committee. That will keep toxic toys and harmful products out of stores.

Many people recognize what MARK PRYOR contributed in that effort. Parents magazine applauded MARK PRYOR as one of the three movers and shakers in Washington in the year 2005 for his work on the Consumer Product Safety Commission—work that continues to this day to keep America safer. Consumer protection has always been a hallmark of MARK's service, dating back to his days in Arkansas as attorney general and certainly as a Senator.

Fewer than 2,000 men and women have ever had the privilege of serving in the Senate. In our entire history, with hundreds of millions of people in our population, fewer than 2,000 have been sworn in to represent their States in the Senate. In MARK PRYOR we have a person who did an extraordinary job as a Senator for Arkansas and for America. He has been a great friend of mine—someone I am going to miss very, very much, but I hope he will keep in touch. We say that somewhat loosely when people leave here, but I mean it, because MARK PRYOR always brought a smile to my day. I recognize that his work in public service aspired to the highest levels and always will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

MR. CARPER. Mr. President, I came to the floor without any prepared remarks, but I want to say a few words, if I could, about our colleague MARK PRYOR.

I have affectionately called him "Hey, man," because in Arkansas, when you see one of your friends, you don't just say "hi, Tom" or "hi, Mark," you say "hey, man." For the last 12 years, we have been saying a lot of "hey, man's," and hopefully we will do so for a long time to come.

Ten or twelve days ago I was down in Honduras—murder capital of the world—and trying to figure out how to help save a nation that may be a failing nation. They have a lot of gangs down there—gangs involved in extorting money from businesses, a lot of them kidnapping people, trafficking people. Gangs have a bad connotation in Honduras, as they should—here in Washington, DC, and in the Senate, not so much.

Senator COLLINS and Senator DURBIN have talked about some of the "gangs" this Senator from Arkansas has been involved in, which I think most of us would say are doing the Lord's work, doing good work. MARK is a man of deep faith, as we know, and he has been a great role model for the rest of us.

MARK has reminded me before—and maybe some others as well—that in the Old Testament, in Proverbs, we are reminded we should always pray for wisdom—always pray for wisdom. That is something I pray for every night—not just for my colleagues, of course, but certainly for me. All I can say is the good Lord has answered his prayer.

One of the reasons he has ended up as a member of these gangs for good is because he has so much wisdom. He is a good listener. He is just a very, very wise human being.

It has been a joy serving with him. He got here in 2003. He raised his right hand here and took the oath of office in 2003. He came through orientation for new Senators, and I talked to him about it later, and I said: How was orientation, MARK? He said: Well, it lasted about that long. It was over. If you are a Democrat, we are going to put you over here, and if you are a Republican, we will put you over here, and it was just like, have at it. He and I talked about it, and we said: That doesn't make much sense.

As an attorney general and a member of the Attorneys General Association, and myself as a former Governor and a member of the National Governors Association, we had a robust orientation program for new attorneys general and for new Governors. The Presiding Officer is a former Governor of Maine, and he recalls that well. I think one of the reasons why the Governors are less partisan and more likely to work across the aisle to get things done together—and the same with the attorneys general—is because of that orientation that occurs a couple weeks after the election. We didn't have anything like that in the Senate. So Senator PRYOR, along with former Governor and Senator Voinovich, former Governor Alexander and myself decided to see if we could get some kind of orientation program here for Senators. Now when people show up a couple weeks after getting elected new Senators, they no longer get put over in one corner as Democrats and one corner as Republicans and are told to go at it. They spend some time together—maybe the most concentrated time they will have together during the

time they are here—with folks of the other party. Those of us who are Senators and spouses and chaplains and so forth go in and provide information and tell them to learn from our mistakes—those of us who have made plenty of them—and you won't make those same mistakes.

One of the things Senator PRYOR is especially good at doing is trying to connect each new Senator with a mentor—a Democratic Member and a Republican Member—and he was dogged in that. Not that everybody needs a mentor, but we all need friends. We need friends on both sides of the aisle, and you will keep those friendships for a long, long time.

I was a naval officer for 23 years. When I was a 17-year-old graduate from high school, I went off to Ohio State to eventually become a Navy midshipman. I did that for 4 years, 5 years as a naval flight officer in a hot war in Southeast Asia, and 18 in the Cold War until I retired in 1991. I started learning about leadership when I was pretty young—something I learned before I became a midshipman. But among the things I learned about leadership is that a leader should be humble, not haughty. A leader should say do as I do, not do as I say. Leaders should have the heart of a servant, and we should come here with the idea of serving. The Scriptures we read say: He who would be a leader must be a servant to all; he who would be first should be a slave to all.

A leader should have the courage to stay out of step when everybody else is marching to the wrong tune. A leader shouldn't ask what is the easy thing to do, the speedy thing to do; they should ask what is the right thing to do. And a leader, as has already been said, a leader should ask the question asked of a rabbi some 2,000 years ago. A rabbi was asked: What is the most important commandment of all? He mentioned what one was, and then he said the second one is love our neighbors as ourselves. I think that is the most important one of all. Leaders are like that. Leaders are like that.

I just wish to say that I think my friend, "Hey, man," also known as Senator MARK PRYOR, personifies that kind of leader. God knows we need more of them. He has demonstrated by his own character and behavior what he believes.

I am tempted to say we are going to miss him, but we are still going to see a lot of him. In the Navy, when somebody has done a great job, we say two words: Bravo Zulu—Bravo Zulu. So I say that to my friend.

We also have this admonition. The Navy has the tradition of hailing farewell on a ship or submarine or aircraft carrier, whatever squadron you are on. When people come in, we have an event called a hail and farewell party. When it is over, for those who are leaving, we say: Farewell and a following sea.

So I would say this: Farewell and a following sea, and we will see much more of you in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER for those good remarks, and I think they reflect the quality and the character MARK PRYOR has displayed as a Member of this Senate.

I have been asked: Who are some of your favorite people across the aisle, Democratic people whom you respect and like? MARK PRYOR has always been at the top of that list.

We have both served as attorneys general of our States. We have a number of things to talk about. I have been able to commiserate with him over Arkansas football in recent years. We kind of keep up with those things a lot.

I just would wish to say something that I basically said at the National Prayer Breakfast several years ago. Senator PRYOR and I were cochairmen, and I was able to say, with great confidence, that MARK PRYOR is one of the best people I have ever served with in the Senate. He is a man of faith and integrity, and his ego is under control—not always so around this place, and it makes it run better. He is collegial, willing to work with people across the aisle, work within his own party, and not one who has had difficulty making decisions. He has done what he thought was right year after year here in this great Senate.

We had the opportunity to lead the Senate Prayer Breakfast and then the National Prayer Breakfast twice, and it was a special time. MARK really did a great job and spent a great deal of time meeting with people from all over the world. I think the depth of his faith is quite obvious.

To MARK I wish to say that you are special to me. Your service in the Senate has been very special. You have always done what you thought was right for your State and done so in a way that is so pleasant and collegial to work with. I know you will have some great adventures ahead. It looks even like the Razorbacks are coming back. They may give Alabama and Auburn a real hard time next year—who knows. Hope springs eternal. They did pretty well at the end of this year, I have to say. A monster may be arising in Arkansas—who knows.

We do have a great Senate, with less than 2,000 people having served in this body. We have people of talent and ability throughout, but there are people over the period of years that touch you as the genuine article, people whom you respect and admire, and, MARK, you are one of those. God bless you and Godspeed.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I join my colleagues today in all the good words that are being said about my friend Senator PRYOR. I got to know Senator PRYOR best in the commerce committee, where early on he scored a major victory for the children of this country. That was at a time we learned that toys and children's products that contained lead were being brought in from all over the world. We actually had a young child in Minnesota whose mom went out and bought a pair of Reebok tennis shoes, and with the tennis shoes came a little charm. That little child swallowed that charm, and that little child died. He did not die from choking on the charm; he died over a period of days when the lead went into his system. That is just one example. Senator PRYOR was heading up the consumer subcommittee, and we took a major vote to change the standards of lead in children's products, including jewelry and toys, and it was a huge bipartisan vote, a very important bill, what was called one of the most important pieces of consumer legislation in decades. Senator PRYOR got that done.

Later, while he was head of that subcommittee, we had a little girl in Minnesota named Abigail Taylor who died in a swimming pool. All she was doing was playing in a kiddie pool, and she happened to be sitting in the middle of the pool. The pool drain malfunctioned and basically sucked her insides out. She survived for a year. When MARK PRYOR came to Minnesota, he met with that little girl and her dad. She later died after a surgery to try to save her life.

We worked after that to get the bill passed—named after Howard Baker's grandchild, who had also died in a similar circumstance—to make sure that all these public pool drains—from apartments to YMCAs; you name it—were checked. There has been a decrease in the number of deaths. We do not hear about them on the news like we used to, and that is because of MARK PRYOR's work in the Senate subcommittee.

So I know the Taylor family—that was my proudest moment, standing back in the cloakroom and calling them. They believed after they met MARK PRYOR that it would be easy to pass this bill, that we could get this done. It wasn't quite that easy. It took a few months. We had to end up putting it in the Energy bill to get it done. But being able to call Scott Taylor, who never gave up believing Congress could get something done—that is just one more example of the work Senator PRYOR has done. So I thank him for that.

STOP EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I am also here today to address something entirely