

He has climbed nine Himalayan peaks. He has climbed Mount McKinley. He has climbed 99 of the highest summits in Colorado, and that is the place where we have the great Rockies. Those are big mountains. He once attempted to scale Mount Everest but was stopped by a severe storm. Some of us, while we were waiting to finish our work on Saturday, told me they were hoping to go skiing on Sunday.

I said: Where are you going to go skiing?

I don't know the name of the place.

How high is that place?

Eight hundred feet.

In the Sierra Nevada mountains where I am from, and the Rockies, that is not a mountain. We have mountains in Colorado and Nevada.

MARK UDALL once attempted to scale Mount Everest and was nearly there when one of the most violent storms came. Using good sense, he decided they shouldn't do it, and it was the right thing to do. People die by saying they are stronger than nature. He understands his limitations, and his limitations are not very much. MARK is a tremendous athlete. He could do anything athletically. He has the genes of his dad, Morris Udall, whom I had the good fortune of serving with in the House of Representatives. Morris Udall is the only person to have played professional basketball being blind in one eye, couldn't see, but he was able to adjust his perceptive qualities with a basketball hoop to play professional basketball.

We all felt MARK'S loss when his brother Randy was found dead. He was found dead in the place he loved more than anyplace else, the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming. That is where Randy loved to go. That is where MARK loves to go. People told Randy he shouldn't go alone, but he went alone and it appears maybe he had a heart attack while he was out there. They found him several weeks later in the mountains he loved, dead. It was real tough for MARK, who looked up so much to his brother. MARK, though, has met many mountains and done many great things.

He served in the House of Representatives where he was stellar. But it is the work in the Senate where his greatest feats have been accomplished. In 2013 there were storms in Colorado and there was catastrophic flooding. It was very bad. Lives were lost, homes washed away. The people of Colorado needed help, and MARK would not stop. He held up legislation until the people of Colorado got what they deserved. He helped secure nearly \$1 billion in Federal assistance for the people of his State, money to rebuild homes, bridges, roads, and reestablish lives.

While he dedicated himself to protecting the people of Colorado, he also was committed to safeguarding the constitutional rights of all Americans. Who has done more in exposing what has been going on with the invasion of people's privacy? No one has done more

than MARK. He has done this in a number of different ways. But as a member of the Intelligence Committee, his work sounded the alarm about the National Security Administration's bulk data collection program. He fought to end the CIA's detention and interrogation program, and together with Senator FEINSTEIN has pushed to make public the committee's study of the CIA's torture program.

People have said: Perhaps if MARK had not been so concerned about individual rights, about the bulk data collection, about the torture, maybe he would have been reelected. But that is not MARK UDALL. He comes from a family with a long tradition of public service, as I have indicated. His uncle Stewart was Secretary of the Interior, after having served in Congress for many years representing the State of Arizona, as did his dad Mo Udall. Mo Udall was one of the most recognizable Congressmen in the entire 20th century, having run for President, and he had a sense of humor that was really quite remarkable.

Here in the Senate MARK has cousins. It has been interesting. During the last few years, we have had a lot of cousins: MARK, TOM, MIKE LEE, Gordon Smith—all cousins, first cousins. How did that come about? MARK would, as he did just a day or two ago, look and kind of smile and say: It could have been polygamy. And it was. But they are a very, very close family, a very close family.

In spite of the closeness of TOM and MARK—two brothers could not be closer than these two men. They climb mountains together. I have talked to them about putting on crampons, these spikes you put on your shoes to climb the ice. These are adventurers.

So we are going to miss MARK. But he has forged his own path and his own legacy.

Now, as his time in the Senate draws to a close, he will carry that legacy to other endeavors.

I wish MARK all the best. It has been such a privilege to serve with him. He will be deeply missed.

TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 627, which is H.R. 5771.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 627, H.R. 5771, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VIVEK HALLEGERE MURTHY TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFOR AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS, AND TO BE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

NOMINATION OF DANIEL J. SANTOS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

NOMINATION OF FRANK A. ROSE TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE)

NOMINATION OF SARAH R. SALDANA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF ANTONY BLINKEN TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Massachusetts, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service; Daniel J. Santos, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board; Frank A. Rose, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance); Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security; and Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MURTHY NOMINATION

Mr. BARRASSO. I rise today to oppose the nomination of Dr. Vivek Murthy to be Surgeon General of the United States. The Surgeon General is known as America's doctor. Americans have great respect for this important position. They expect their Surgeon

General to be someone who has substantial experience in helping patients, in helping improve their health, and in helping them reduce their risk of illness and injury.

This important position has been vacant since July of 2013, about a year and a half. It is far too long, and it has been completely avoidable. We have seen how the Obama administration has struggled in response to important health issues such as the Ebola crisis. America should have had a Surgeon General in the job to lead in the fight against Ebola and to take on other serious health challenges as well.

Dr. Murthy is a smart man who is very well educated. He has an undergraduate degree from Harvard, an MBA from Yale, and an M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine. These are impressive academic credentials, and I am sure he will be a fine doctor, but they are simply not sufficient qualifications for this important job.

Is Dr. Murthy a renowned expert in treating patients or researching diseases? No, not at all. Has he actually built a career teaching medicine or leading major public health organizations? No, not yet. In fact, Dr. Murthy only completed his residency in 2006—just 8 years ago. I speak as someone who has actually practiced medicine for 25 years, has been an instructor of surgery at Yale Medical School, which Dr. Murthy attended, and I saw that being a doctor is about much more than going to school. Doctors learn more and more as they progress through their careers and spend more time with their patients, listening to patients and the patients' families. Dr. Murthy has not had the time to develop these kinds of skills.

So what qualifies him to be Surgeon General of the United States? Well, in 2008, just 2 years out of his residency, he founded a group called Doctors for Obama; the purpose: to elect a President. The majority of his career has been spent not as a doctor treating patients but as an activist—an activist focused on gun control and political campaigns.

Even former Surgeon General Richard Carmona has said Dr. Murthy doesn't have the medical experience to serve in such an important position. Let me point out that Dr. Carmona is a Democrat. He wrote an article for the Huffington Post on December 4. It was entitled "In Search of a Surgeon General." I will read a little bit of what he wrote. He said:

We don't appoint doctors early in their career to be a university Dean or Chairman. Graduate business students at the top of their class don't become instant CEOs. Top law graduates of elite law schools don't get nominated to be U.S. Attorney General or a Supreme Court Justice. Why would the U.S. Surgeon General be any different?

He concludes by asking:

Is the health, safety, and security of the Nation any less important?

Is the health, safety, and security of the Nation any less important? Well,

no, the health, safety, and security of the Nation are not less important, and the job of Surgeon General is not less important.

Americans want the same thing from a Surgeon General as they want from their own doctors. People want honest and straightforward advice about medical dangers, such as cancer, heart attacks, and stroke. They don't want an inexperienced, unqualified political appointee. Patients don't want a doctor who might let political ideology get in the way of treatment and their best interest. Americans don't want a Surgeon General who might use this position of trust to promote his own personal campaign against the Second Amendment of the Constitution.

This is just another example of President Obama giving someone an important job based solely on their support of the President's political career—just like his nomination of a soap opera producer to be Ambassador to Hungary or the President's nomination of a man to be Ambassador to Norway when the person didn't know the first thing about the country. Of course, both those nominations to be Ambassadors had funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the President's campaigns. Well, those nominations were embarrassing, and so is this nomination to be Surgeon General.

This office of Surgeon General is not just an honorary title. It is not just a figurehead position. The Surgeon General commands the entire Commissioned Corps of the uniformed public health officers. There are 6,700 people whom the Surgeon General commands. It is one of the key positions leading America's public health efforts.

America has a long history of qualified and talented people filling this job. When President Bill Clinton nominated David Satcher in 1998, Dr. Satcher had already served as president of a medical school and as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. C. Everett Koop spent 35 years as a leading world-renowned pediatric surgeon. They were substantial candidates who brought serious experience to the job. The responsibilities of being America's Surgeon General require a strong, professional leader, and the American people deserve a qualified nominee. There is a long list of capable doctors who could meet those requirements. The President should pick one of them.

Over the years, we have seen that when the President has nominated qualified people for this position, the Senate has approved their nominations on overwhelmingly bipartisan votes. When President Obama nominated Regina Benjamin to be Surgeon General, she was confirmed unanimously, as was Richard Carmona when President Bush nominated him. Today, even Democrats have objected to the nomination of Dr. Murthy.

So why are we wasting the Senate's time talking about this now? Well, if President Obama thinks Dr. Murthy is

qualified, why haven't we already voted on him? He was nominated more than a year ago—more than a year ago. We had the Ebola crisis and no Surgeon General. He was nominated more than a year ago. His confirmation hearing in the committee was last February. The majority leader could have brought this up for a vote at any time in the past 9 months, but he didn't do it. Why? Because he knew this nominee—this unqualified, partisan nominee—didn't have the votes. He could not get the votes on the Democratic side of the aisle. The nomination would have been an embarrassment before the election.

Now is not the right time for this nomination, and this is not the right job for Dr. Murthy. The Ebola problem and the other health crises facing our Nation are enormous challenges that require skills and talents that this nominee has simply not had time to develop and which he has so far not demonstrated in his career.

I wish to close by quoting from a letter former Surgeon General Carmona sent to all of the Members of the Senate earlier this month. He sent it to each and every one of us. I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DECEMBER 1, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR, I am writing to express my concern over the present nominee for U.S. Surgeon General whose name may be submitted to you for confirmation during the remaining Senate session. The U.S. Surgeon General is the doctor of the nation and the commander of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corp, one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. The nominee, Dr. Vivek Murthy is a physician very early in his career with great promise but no formal public health education, training, leadership or management experience.

However, he was the founder of Doctors for Obama, a partisan organization supporting the election and policies of President Obama. His partisanship and lack of qualifications for the job of Surgeon General give this nomination the scent of political patronage. In addition, the position of Surgeon General is a uniformed services position with the rank of Vice Admiral. The nominee has no uniformed service experience, does not merit this rank and his confirmation would undermine the credibility and authenticity of the Office of the Surgeon General while demeaning the selfless service of qualified career uniformed officers who merit consideration.

The public we have the privilege to serve deserves and expects a Surgeon General who, through extensive education, experience, training and service, merits the position of Surgeon General of the United States.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that if this nomination comes before you that you reject it in favor of a qualified career USPHSCC officer who merits your consideration.

Sincerely,

RICHARD H. CARMONA,
M.D., M.P.H., FACS.

Mr. BARRASSO. Dr. Carmona writes:

His partisanship and lack of qualifications for the job of Surgeon General gives this nomination the scent of political patronage.

That is from a Democrat who actually served as Surgeon General and knows what it takes to do the job well.

Dr. Carmona added in his letter to all of the Members of the Senate:

His confirmation would undermine the credibility and authenticity of the Office of Surgeon General, while demeaning the selfless service of qualified career uniformed officers who merit consideration.

That is whom the President of the United States has chosen to nominate—someone who would undermine the credibility and authenticity of the Office of Surgeon General, while demeaning the selfless service of qualified career uniformed officers who merit consideration.

Americans deserve a Surgeon General who has substantial experience in managing complex crises and delivering patient care. The American people deserve a Surgeon General who has proven throughout his or her career that their main focus is a commitment to patients, not a commitment to politics.

Dr. Murthy has time to learn, time to gain experience, and that may make him a fine Surgeon General someday, but that day is not today. I call on the Senate to defeat the nomination of Dr. Murthy for Surgeon General of the United States.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I see my friend from Wyoming, who spoke on the floor earlier and is in the Chamber, and I wish to publicly acknowledge—and I hope he will too—that we are friends, but we disagree on the nomination of Dr. Murthy to be the next Surgeon General. I will speak for a few moments about why I support him, and I hope a majority of Members will join me in supporting his nomination.

This is an indication of what can go wrong in the Senate. We received this nomination from the President of the United States to fill the post of Surgeon General, which was reported from the committee in February of this year. Obviously we are in December. It has been sitting here since February. In fact, the post of Surgeon General has been vacant since July of 2013.

The Surgeon General is supposed to be one of the leaders in America speaking to issues on public health. Can anyone think of a public health issue we have had to face since February when Dr. Murthy was reported to the floor of the Senate? Perhaps one of the deadliest diseases that has ever been recorded is being fought in west Africa, and we are being asked on a regular basis how we will respond in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control plays a major role in it but, historically, Surgeons General have played a

major role when we faced similar public health challenges.

I can remember coming to the U.S. House of Representatives years ago when President Reagan had been elected, and he had chosen C. Everett Koop to be his Surgeon General. C. Everett Koop was a controversial choice by President Reagan because he had been outspoken on some major political issues. He personally had strong feelings against abortion and had said as much before his nomination, and some other issues. It led many people to believe he was too political for the job and that President Reagan had made the wrong choice. But Koop was chosen. Despite the fact that he had been at least engaged as a medical doctor in discussing political issues, he was chosen. I wasn't in the Senate at the time; I didn't have a vote when it came to his choice, but I will tell my colleagues this: When Dr. Koop took over as Surgeon General, he made it clear he understood his obligation was to be the Nation's doctor, not the Nation's leading medical politician. He did some extraordinary things. I don't know what America would have been like if it were not for Dr. Koop's presence, pushing back on a lot of political spin when it came to public health issues—issues involving AIDS, for example.

It is no secret—it is well known—that many politicians—in both parties, for that matter—were reluctant to go into the whole issue of the AIDS crisis in America for a variety of reasons. But if my colleagues will remember, history shows that under Dr. Koop, we ended up mailing every household in America to let them know about the danger of the AIDS epidemic. That was an extraordinary act of public leadership when it came to public health, and Dr. Koop was Surgeon General when that occurred. So those who worried that C. Everett Koop was too political for the job were disabused of that notion as we watched his service to our country.

I make that point because I don't want the same mistake to be made in criticizing Dr. Vivek Murthy whom we are going to vote on later today to be our next Surgeon General. It is true that he has engaged in political activity, as any American citizen is entitled to. I hope that will not disqualify him. When I read in a few moments the groups that are supporting him, people will understand he isn't in this position of being nominated simply because of his political activity. He has extraordinary backing of individuals in the medical profession.

Now we need him more than ever. We need to fill the post of Surgeon General of the United States of America. We hope we can see an end to the Ebola epidemic, but we are not quite there. But we ought to have a Surgeon General in the United States of America. To think we have waited since February while this doctor's name has been on our calendar, and we had to use some extraordinary parliamentary

moves to even bring his name up for a vote. I think it is time for us to vote and it is time for us to confirm the nomination of Vivek Murthy as our next Surgeon General.

This past year, Americans have battled public health crises on all fronts. Here at home, parents watched while a severe strain of enterovirus spread from State to State, threatening young children. My home State of Illinois was one of the hardest hit. I heard from doctors across the State that the minute they discharged one child with respiratory symptoms from the emergency room, another came in.

Abroad, we still face the worst Ebola epidemic in history. With over 6,300 deaths and many more diagnosed with this devastating disease, now more than ever America needs to fill the spot of top doctor. It has been vacant since July—since July of last year. Dr. Murthy is that doctor, and I am proud to vote for him as the next U.S. Surgeon General. I am hoping my colleagues will join me.

Let me tell my colleagues a little bit about his background. Dr. Murthy is an attending physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an instructor at the Harvard Medical School. Part of what is extraordinary about him is that as well as treating his patients individually, he also thinks about the systemic issues affecting the health of patients and tackles those as well. He is a leading voice in public health, publishing his research on the participation of women and minorities in cancer clinical trials and top journals, including *Science*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Critics of Dr. Murthy who say he is not up to the job should look at the literature. He has published in medical research areas of great importance. He also cofounded and chairs the Trial Networks, a software company that helps clinical researchers collaborate more effectively and efficiently with drug developers to speed up drug discovery.

In 2011, Dr. Murthy was appointed to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health. Over 100 national, State, and local public health organizations have endorsed his nomination. They describe him as “a well-qualified, forward-thinking, innovative leader with a strong commitment to public health.”

Does that sound like a political hack when 100 organizations say that about this doctor?

The organizations that support Dr. Murthy include the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, and the list goes on from there.

In his confirmation hearing before the Senate HELP Committee last February, Dr. Murthy stated that, if confirmed, he would prioritize his efforts on obesity and tobacco-related disease and “make prevention and health promotion the backbone of our communities.”

This is a priority I share with Dr. Murthy. For the past 30 years, serving in the House and Senate, I have worked on the issue of tobacco and public policy. I have worked to reduce youth smoking, implement programs to help people quit, and rein in the most insidious practices of the tobacco industry. Moreover, as a cochair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, I have become familiar with the complex and arguably unjust way food is distributed and consumed in America, leaving communities—including many in Illinois—simultaneously facing high levels of food insecurity and high rates of obesity.

Obesity and tobacco-related diseases are part of a growing trend of chronic disease that account for 7 out of the top 10 causes of death in America and make up 84 percent of America's health care costs. Dr. Murthy says these are his priorities. They should be. These statistics are unacceptable.

I believe Dr. Murthy understands the importance of the national crises before him. I feel confident that his experience, his training, and his tenacity have proved that he has the qualifications needed to tackle these issues.

Not only is Dr. Murthy an outstanding doctor and public health expert, he also remains closely connected to his community and family.

Dr. Murthy was born to parents who originally were from the southern part of India. He came to the United States at the age of 3 and grew up in Miami, FL. He did very well in school. He was valedictorian of his high school, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in just 3 years, and then got a combined medical and business degree from Yale.

So Senators come to the floor and question this man's resume, his ability? For goodness sakes. He has an extraordinary background and that is why the President nominated him.

From a very early age, Dr. Murthy did not set out to make money, he set out to make a difference. In 1995 he co-founded Visions Worldwide, a nonprofit organization that conducts and supports HIV/AIDS education and empowerment programs in India. Until 2003, he served as the president of that organization and then board chair. He is a dedicated uncle and friend, consistently described by those who know him as humble, soft-spoken, and tireless. I know the Indian-American community across this Nation is so proud of Dr. Murthy's accomplishments, as all of us should be.

Many years ago I worked for a State Senator in Illinois named Cecil Partee. Cecil Partee used to say, For every political controversy, when you listen to the arguments, understand there is a good reason and a real reason.

What is the real reason for the opposition to Dr. Murthy? It may have come down to just one thing he said. It was alluded to by the Senator from Wyoming earlier. In an online post, he said he believed gun violence was a public health issue. Gun violence, a public health issue. For making that statement, he has been pilloried and excoriated by the gun lobby, and that may be a major reason why his nomination is controversial.

I am proud to represent the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Gun violence is a public health problem. Go into the emergency rooms—and I can give the names of the list of hospitals in Chicago to start with. Go to the emergency room on Friday or Saturday night and you tell me that gun violence isn't a public health issue. In those emergency rooms we see the victims of gun violence, many of them fighting for their lives. If we go to Mount Sinai Hospital in the Englewood section of Chicago, we can look across the street to a rehab institute. Those who have survived gun violence at Mount Sinai go across the street to the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and learn how to live a life as a paraplegic or a quadriplegic. Does that have anything to do with public health? It certainly does. Gun violence is a public health issue, no apology necessary.

I think Dr. Murthy, as has Dr. Koop, has made it clear they are not aspiring to be the leading doctor in America to engage in a political debate, but rather to engage in public health debates about obesity and tobacco and things that make a dramatic difference to the lives of so many people who live in this country.

I am supporting Dr. Murthy. I think he will be an extraordinary Surgeon General. I am sorry he and America have had to wait so long for this vote. I hope the majority of my colleagues will step up and support his nomination as well. At this time of challenge when it comes to public health issues, we need his leadership. We need his expertise. We need a person of this quality as Surgeon General of the United States.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO KAY HAGAN

Mr. REID. Madam President, North Carolina's official motto is a Latin phrase which means, simply translated, “To be, rather than to seem.” “To be, rather than to seem” means don't talk about being a hard worker—be a hard worker. Don't just pretend to be honest—be honest. If you talk about being sincere, be genuine about it. Senator KAY HAGAN, a native of Shelby, NC,

embodies her State's motto. She is as genuine and honest as anyone could be. It is no wonder that in 2008, when the country was seeking change, the people of North Carolina elected KAY HAGAN to the Senate. From the moment she arrived, she got to work. The very first piece of legislation she cosponsored was the Lilly Ledbetter Act. Having worked as a corporate executive, KAY is aware of the difficulties working women face. This legislation was personal to KAY, and she saw it through until completion. The daughter of a veteran, KAY spent her time in the Senate creating sound policies to protect and benefit members of the U.S. armed services and their families. She has done this by virtue of her position, not only as a Senator but on that important Armed Services Committee.

As a former executive of North Carolina National Bank, KAY knows all of the challenges facing businesses in her State and how women have a little different view of how difficult it is to work their way through the corporate world. She has fought tirelessly to create a better climate for small businesses to create jobs and grow. On any given issue, at any given time, KAY HAGAN has advocated her position and has done it well. She refused to give up until meaningful solutions were discovered.

While I am sure Senator HAGAN will take some well-deserved time off to think about her future, I am convinced that her service on behalf of the people of North Carolina and the American people is not going to end.

Senator HAGAN has a lovely family. We all like Chip very much. He is a Navy Vietnam veteran. She has three children—Tilden, Jeanette, and Carrie. I wish her family the very best as they transition into a new chapter of their lives.

On a personal basis, no one has impressed me more as being a hard worker. We are so disappointed that she is now going to have to find different public service. I have no inside information, but she could be back in this body. I have no doubt the people of North Carolina are going to miss her dearly.

I applaud KAY HAGAN for serving the American people with conviction, and I look forward to the great things she will accomplish for North Carolina and our country in the future.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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