

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

MARY LANDRIEU

Mr. REID. Madam President, a noted author and analyst of human behavior, Stephen Covey, said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities."

For the last 18 years, Senate Democrats were stronger because of Senator MARY LANDRIEU. Her ability to shun political labels—instead of just going the route with Democrats and Republicans and Independents, she went her route. She made the United States a better place. She made the Senate a better place.

She had good training for being a consensus builder and somebody who liked compromise. I had the good fortune to serve in the Senate with other Louisiana Senators. I served with Bennett Johnston for many years on the Appropriations Committee. He was chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations. He was a good legislator. Not only did he help Louisiana a lot, he helped the country. And then there was John Breaux. He and I came to the Senate together. He was the dealmaker. He could put a deal together when no one thought one could be put together. So MARY LANDRIEU has had good Louisiana genes with those two men, and that is one of the reasons she has been as effective as she has been.

As I indicated, MARY came to the Senate with no partisan agenda. She was not interested in representing just liberals or just conservatives. She worked to represent all of Louisiana, which meant that sometimes she and I were not on the same side of an issue, and other times we were on the same side of an issue, but one thing was always certain: She was always on Louisiana's side.

The Landrieu family's political legacy runs long and deep in the State of Louisiana. She is the oldest of nine children. She is the daughter of Moon Landrieu, and her brother Mitch Landrieu is the mayor of New Orleans. Moon was a former mayor of New Orleans from 1970 to 1978, and was Jimmy Carter's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

A number of years ago, I toured New Orleans because she asked me to, as a member of the Appropriations Committee. I said, OK, I will go, but I have to see those pumps—p-u-m-p-s. I watched this show on national public broadcasting, and they talked about these old pumps that had been there since 1900 that still worked every day pumping the water.

New Orleans is below sea level and those pumps have to work 24 hours a day. I went to see those old, old pumps. They were so clean. That place was spotlessly clean using those very old pumps.

I toured Lake Pontchartrain. I learned so much about it. Most all of the highways in New Orleans were built using the seashells from that lake. Thousands and thousands of tons of shells have come out of that lake. They recently stopped doing that, after so many years, because they thought it would be damaging to the environment. But over the last 50, 60, 100 years, thousands and thousands of tons of shells came out of that lake. We all heard about Lake Pontchartrain during that huge storm that hit.

Also, as part of the tour of New Orleans, you had to go to her home, that little home where nine children were raised. It is really a beautiful little home—but nine children, wow. Her mom and dad were there. That was the first time I had been able to meet the famous Moon Landrieu.

When we came there, unannounced, he was making peanut brittle, and I got some peanut brittle. On occasion, that good man has sent me some of his homemade peanut brittle. So I think the world of MARY and her family.

She was very quick to follow in her father's footsteps. At the age of 23, she was elected to the State legislature, making her the youngest woman to have ever been elected to that body.

After 8 years in the legislature, she became the State treasurer for 8 years. In 1996, she was elected to the Senate, becoming the first woman in Louisiana ever elected to a full Senate term.

Since coming to the Senate, MARY has chaired the Senate committee on small business, and she was really good there. She is now the chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the same full committee her predecessor Bennett Johnson chaired.

On the committee on small business, she reduced heavy Federal regulations and created tax relief for small businesses. As chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, MARY LANDRIEU fought for Louisiana's industry and jobs. Even before she became chair of that committee, she did something that was impossible. People had been trying to do something like this in Louisiana for 50, 60 years, 70 years, 80 years, but she did it—she was able to get New Orleans and the whole State of Louisiana and the gulf coast some financial benefit from the offshore drilling. She did that. That is a legacy she will always have.

She always had Louisiana's interests at heart, and the people of Louisiana have been all the better because of it. For example, in the aftermath of Katrina, she stood up to the Bush administration and demanded more disaster relief for the people in Louisiana. The New York Times called her "the national spokeswoman for victims of the hurricane."

As her time in the Senate comes to an end, all Louisianians will miss having MARY in their corner. I wish MARY LANDRIEU and her husband Frank and their children Connor—who was re-

cently married—and Mary Shannon the very best.

I remember when MARY brought that little baby Mary Shannon to the Senate. She was a tiny little baby. Now this beautiful child has grown to be an expert horsewoman. She is one of those people who rides horses all the time. She has entered her horses in different contests and has done very well.

I have known Connor since he was a little boy. He is married, and they have a little baby named Maddox, and MARY is so proud of her grandchild. Her husband Frank is a wonderful human being. I think so very much of him. I hope we will continue seeing them. Very often MARY will bring her family to my office. She takes them out on the balcony that overlooks the Mall.

MARY has touched my heart for a number of things, but the one thing she has done, which has been unsurpassed, is her caring for children who have no parents—adoptions. She led the Senate in adoptions. Her two children were adopted. Connor and Mary Shannon were adopted. She is so involved in that program, and I know she will continue to be involved.

Here on the Senate floor we will all miss MARY, her voice of reason and moderation. I consider her to be a good friend, and I appreciate all she has done for me, the people of Louisiana, and our country.

JOHN WALSH

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is only one combat veteran of the Iraq war in the Senate, and that is GEN JOHN WALSH—Senator JOHN WALSH.

In 2004 General WALSH led the deployment of several hundred National Guard men from Montana to Iraq. He did the same thing a year later. It was a very difficult time for Americans in Iraq. General WALSH's men were in some of the heaviest battles. Many of them were wounded, and a number of them gave the ultimate sacrifice.

He led the largest deployment of Montana soldiers and airmen since World War II. For his service, JOHN was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit Award, and the Combat Infantry Badge. JOHN came to the Senate a hero, and he will leave the Senate a hero.

He treated his time in the Senate like his time in the Army—he volunteered for the most difficult assignments here in the Senate. For example, Saturday night it was late—we thought we may have to be in here all night—and he volunteered to be here all night, not having to be relieved. He agreed to be here all night. He said: That is what I am here for.

He served the people of Montana admirably in the Senate. I thank him for his service over the past year.

I thank his family—his wife Janet, his sons Michael and Taylor, and granddaughter Kennedy—for their sacrifice in supporting his work here in Washington, DC.

I wish him the very best. He was the lieutenant governor of Montana, a job I held in the past, and we talked about that.

I don't know what the next chapter in his life will be, but knowing the courage and integrity of JOHN WALSH, it will be an important chapter.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, my friend Senator THUNE and I are on the floor this afternoon to speak together about the Internet Tax Freedom Act. Before that, I wish to spend a few minutes discussing Senator ROCKEFELLER and his extraordinary accomplishments. I know that Senator THUNE, after he and I have spoken about the Internet Tax Freedom Act, will make some additional remarks. I commend the work of Senator THUNE on charitable contributions. He and I have led the effort to protect charitable donations. Neither of us consider charity efforts as some kind of tax loophole. We consider them a lifeline for the American people.

So I look forward to the remarks of the Senator from South Dakota on several issues.

TRIBUTE TO JAY ROCKEFELLER

With respect to Senator ROCKEFELLER, one of the challenges right now for some of us is to get our arms around the idea that Senator ROCKEFELLER will no longer be serving in the Senate. This is a challenge for me especially because I remember watching Senator ROCKEFELLER's work years before I had entered public life.

Right after I got out of law school, we started the Oregon Gray Panthers. I had a full head of hair and rugged good looks. We were passing around petitions for the wonderful work Senator ROCKEFELLER was doing on behalf of the elderly. He was in the vanguard even then in the health care field. I know the Presiding Officer from the State of Wisconsin has been very interested in this—in ensuring that there are more options for older people, particularly in the long-term care setting.

We were passing petitions around—the Gray Panthers back in those days—urging that Americans and the Senate all rally to Senator ROCKEFELLER's work to ensure that there were more alternatives to nursing home care. It was just the beginning of the effort to create more options for home care for seniors. Now it is an idea we pretty much accept as gospel. But Senator ROCKEFELLER, as has been the case, was way ahead of his time. That is really the time when I began to really be a charter member of what I guess I will

call the Rockefeller grassroots delegation that was sweeping the country for health care reform.

As the Presiding Officer and our colleagues know, Senator ROCKEFELLER's accomplishments in a number of fields have been exceptional. They span a host of issues, from cyber security to reducing violence on television to improving our transportation system and, of course, we have all seen his leadership in reining in some of the excesses of the CIA. He is a very strong supporter of the rank and file—the thousands of individuals who work in the intelligence field who are as patriotic as it is possible to be and do wonderful work to protect our people. Senator ROCKEFELLER has said that as they do that work, they are stronger when there is vigorous congressional oversight, and we are very grateful for his work. I have sat next to him on the Intelligence Committee for many years and have watched his leadership there.

Today, though, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I wish to focus in particular on Senator ROCKEFELLER's work on that committee. I will start by noting that his service on the Finance Committee is really a family legacy. His great grandfather, Nelson Aldrich, the Senator from Rhode Island, not only served on the Finance Committee but is often described as one of the committee's most distinguished chairs. On the committee Senator ROCKEFELLER has exercised similar influence.

JAY ROCKEFELLER has served on the Senate Finance Committee for 28 years—longer than all but 11 other Senators—and his tireless work on the committee has had a profound and positive impact. He has been a leader on maintaining a strong U.S. trade policy, while thinking creatively about Asia long before it became cool. He also has been a great advocate for fairness in the tax system—something I know many of us consider a special priority at this time.

Senator ROCKEFELLER has paid special attention to programs such as the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, including the health coverage tax credit, the earned-income tax credit, and the child tax credit. That was drawn from recommendations of the National Commission on Children which Senator ROCKEFELLER, as is the case so often, ably chaired.

So I wish to speak about the common denominator in these kinds of efforts. It is really pretty direct because it captures JAY ROCKEFELLER's approach to public service and to life: Reach out to those who don't have power and clout, those who don't have a lot of political influence and political action committees, and lend a hand. Make the difference. Particularly for millions of Americans to whom JAY ROCKEFELLER gave voice, now they have an opportunity—millions of men, women, and children—to enjoy better lives and a more secure future because of JAY ROCKEFELLER's strong moral compass.

Now, as I touched on at the beginning of my comments, my first experience in watching JAY ROCKEFELLER—I am of the view that health care is the area where Senator ROCKEFELLER's legacy is going to be especially important. In a sense, JAY ROCKEFELLER always captured the notion that if you and your loved ones don't have their health, it is pretty hard to do anything else. In other words, if you aren't feeling well, if you are facing a chronic illness, how do you jump up and enjoy the wonderful outdoors of Oregon, Wisconsin, and West Virginia? So JAY ROCKEFELLER always said that health care was a special priority for him, and we see it in a whole host of accomplishments.

JAY ROCKEFELLER has been a leader in the fight against Alzheimer's and other neurological conditions. He was a powerful and persistent voice, particularly in advocating for low-income Americans in the Affordable Care Act. I am especially pleased to note that Senator ROCKEFELLER, along with my colleague and partner on the Finance Committee Senator HATCH, really played the key role in creating the Children's Health Insurance Program. This is a program I hope not only will be extended but also strengthened in the next Congress. As many Members of this body know, JAY ROCKEFELLER's work to protect and expand Medicaid is without equal.

Over the past half century, we can count on one hand the Senators who have done an extraordinary amount to improve the health care of America, and when we look at that handful of Senators, JAY ROCKEFELLER is right at the top.

I started with a personal comment about JAY ROCKEFELLER, and I wish to end with one. When Chairman Baucus chose to take the Ambassador position in China, where he is doing a fine job, JAY ROCKEFELLER was next in line to replace Chairman Baucus. Make no mistake about it, JAY ROCKEFELLER would have been an outstanding chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. But his decision to decline that opportunity and to continue his work on the Senate commerce committee allowed me to accept the position as the chairman of the Finance Committee and the responsibility that has gone along with it. That kind of approach was really characteristic of JAY ROCKEFELLER—not wanting to push himself out front. As I have indicated, I told him I think he would have been a superb chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. But I wish to note on the personal side, as I started on the personal side, my thanks to JAY ROCKEFELLER.

So I close simply by saying that now, as the chairman of the Finance Committee and in the years ahead, my goal—when we take up issues such as health care, tax fairness, and a trade policy that lets us tap global markets but works for the middle class worker—and I think it is the goal of other members of the Senate Finance Committee—it is our goal in the days ahead