

important to Kentucky's maritime jobs, America's waterways play a crucial role in supporting the economy, transporting goods and people from point A to point B, and supplying communities with drinking water.

As the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator INHOFE understands just how critical our waterways are and the importance of maintaining them. That is why he has been working with Ranking Member BARBARA BOXER to craft the bipartisan 2016 Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA.

This responsible water resources bill authorizes more than two dozen Army Corps projects from the east coast to the west, and it is expected to save taxpayers \$6 million over the next decade. It is also completely paid for. The projects authorized in this bill range from strengthening our waterways' infrastructure to helping support safe and reliable drinking water sources. They also invest in priorities each of us cares about, such as improving public health and safety, enhancing commerce, and supporting America's ecosystems. Here is what I mean: By investing in flood control projects, dam maintenance, and drinking water infrastructure, this bill will enhance public health and safety. By investing in ports, harbors, locks, and dams, it will strengthen commerce. By investing in restoration and revitalization projects, from the Florida Everglades to the Los Angeles River, it will support America's natural ecosystems.

I am also pleased the bill supports several projects in Kentucky that are important to me, to my constituents, and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One will transfer aging infrastructure along the Green and Barren Rivers in Kentucky over to State and local entities so they can determine the best use of this infrastructure. Another will help my constituents in Paducah better protect themselves from flooding from the Ohio River by helping complete repairs to the city's flood protection infrastructure.

The bill also includes an important coal ash provision that will give States the authority to create their own coal ash permitting requirements and systems to ensure that coal ash is recycled and reused in a safe and effective way in accordance with current EPA guidelines.

To quote Senator INHOFE, the top Republican on the committee, this bill will "support our communities and expand our economy."

To quote Senator BOXER, the top Democrat on the committee, it will provide "a perfect vehicle to upgrade our water infrastructure."

I appreciate their work across the aisle to move this important water resources bill forward. Its passage will represent another bipartisan win for American transportation infrastructure. It is another example of what has been possible with a Senate that is back to work for the American people.

I look forward to its passage later today, and I would encourage our House colleagues to take action soon so we can send the bill to the President.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one final matter. I would like to say a few words about Tim Mitchell, who has hit a significant milestone in his Senate career this week: 25 years of service.

As the Democratic leader has noted on several occasions, Tim's love for baseball—and the Red Sox in particular—is hard to miss. How big a fan is Tim? Well, a few years back when the Sox won the World Series, the Democratic leader gave a shout-out to Tim when he offered the resolution honoring the team. "[I]f it were in order," he said then—which it wasn't, as Tim would be quick to note—"I would ask that . . . this resolution be passed with the name of 'Tim Mitchell' on it. . . . I consider myself a fan of baseball," the Democratic leader continued, "but I have never known a more rabid fan of a baseball team than Tim Mitchell, whom we depend on so very, very much to help us work through all we do in the Senate."

I have to say that this is an area where the Democratic leader and I absolutely agree. Tim has been a staple around here for a quarter of a century, working his way through some of the most difficult jobs in the Senate as part of the floor staff. To paraphrase Laura Dove, the Secretary for the majority, the work of Tim and his floor staff colleagues could be compared to that of a duck gliding through a pond. Above water, the duck appears to be moving through the pond effortlessly, but if you take a look below the surface, you will see its feet working—putting in difficult and often unrecognized efforts—to keep it afloat.

Tim certainly does so to keep this place afloat—coordinating with his majority counterpart Robert Duncan, sifting through heaps of paperwork, and putting in long hours that turn into late nights. Even on those late nights, Tim makes it a priority to not only make it home for family dinner but to prepare it too.

Tim, from what I hear, it is takeout night at your house. I would imagine tonight's dinner will be a little more special than usual, and I know your wife Alicia and your son Ben couldn't be prouder. Your Senate family is proud of you, too, and we thank you for these 25 years of dedication and service.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate those remarks of the Republican leader regarding Tim.

People have heard me talk about baseball and how I fell in love with baseball as a little boy, listening on the radio and the game of the day. I so wanted to be a baseball player. As time went on, as a young man in college, I realized I wasn't big enough, fast enough, or good enough to be the baseball player of my dreams, but that didn't take away my love for baseball.

Living in Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, we had a team, the Dodgers. We listened to the games and watched the games. In the Reno area, Northern Nevada, the team was the Giants. We in Southern Nevada didn't like the Giants. The days of Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Claude Osteen—those were the days of real baseball. Games were 2 to 1, 3 to 0, not these slugfests. We didn't have those then.

In coming back to Washington, in the many years I have been here, we had the Baltimore Orioles. I love their owner—a wonderful man—Peter Angelos. I have been disappointed that they haven't done better, but they are doing pretty well this year. I have followed them very closely. Of course, when the Nationals team came here, our attention was focused not entirely on Baltimore—because it was the only team around here—but also on the Nationals, and we divided our attention. Of course, I have been to the Nationals games, and it has been great. As the Republican leader and I have said many times, we bicker and fight on some things but never on baseball. We both watch the Nationals and follow what they do.

As everyone knows, Greg Maddux from Las Vegas is the best athlete ever to come out of Nevada. We have had some in Northern Nevada, and I recognized them also. Some of them played professional football. No one was as good as Greg Maddux, winning more than 350 games, which is unheard of today, a man of, as he would admit, average talent—average talent but a mind and such dedication and such composure and such confidence that he became one of the best of all time.

Tim and I have talked about all these things I have talked about regarding baseball. We have talked about Bryce Harper. We recognize he is not having a great year this year. They are afraid of him still. He has walked 104 times, which is unheard of in baseball, but his batting average is not as good as it was. But he was still the Most Valuable Player in baseball at age 22. He has been on the all-star team four or five times already in his young career.

Tim and I have talked about all of this, and as he knows, I like the Boston Red Sox, but I am not in the same league as Tim Mitchell. Tim is the Assistant Secretary for the minority and was for the majority, of course, during my many years as the Democratic leader. We have such a nice relationship. We can do our business when we

need to, and we do that a lot, but we have a good time talking about family and baseball.

I don't know if anybody saw his tie. He has over 100 ties that have a baseball theme on them. He has on one of those ties today. It is a little hard to see. It is one of those John Kerry ties. I think it is one of those Vineyard Vine ties from Massachusetts, but it is a beautiful tie. It is typical for Tim to wear a baseball tie. He wears one of them to work every day. I wouldn't say some of them are ugly, but some catch your attention.

He watches the Red Sox whenever he can. He goes to games, takes his dad to the games, and takes his son when he can. He watches games here and watches them in Baltimore as often as he can with his son. I wouldn't put it in a class of weird, but it is close. In his basement, he has two seats from Fenway Park. They were worn out there, but he bought them anyway, and now he watches the games in his basement on Fenway Park seats. You can't make up stuff like this.

Tim is dedicated to baseball and we recognize that and I admire him for that.

Tim, I think you and I are going through the same withdrawals in a few weeks because baseball season is ending, and for me baseball season is a tremendous respite from what we do here. Frankly, I am not much of a football fan anymore. I have become kind of addicted to soccer after baseball, but during baseball season, I can go home and watch a few innings, and it is a complete deliverance from what goes on here. It is really very nice for me. When I go home to Nevada, wow, is it pleasant because, again, I can watch a 7 p.m. game at 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

Pretty good, huh, Tim?

Anyway, we will have a little bit of depression here in a few weeks, but his team is doing well. The Nationals are doing well, and Baltimore is doing quite well so we are going to be fine.

As dedicated as he is to baseball, he is also dedicated to this institution. He has spent one-quarter of a century here. As the Republican leader mentioned, this is his 25th anniversary of working in the Senate. He started as an intern with someone I served with in the Senate, Don Riegle from Michigan. He started working for him during his junior year in college. After graduation, Tim moved to Washington, DC, and became a full-time employee of Senator Riegle. He started out as a lot of us do, answering phones, but he moved on, of course, because of his personality and talent.

Following his time on the Banking Committee, which Riegle chaired, he worked on the Whitewater Committee. We all remember that, and there are still parts of that dribbling on in this Presidential election. At that time, he worked for Senator Tom Daschle, who was one of my predecessors, as a research assistant, and later on the Democratic policy committee, which I

led during part of my tenure in the Senate.

In 2001, Tim made a move that would forever change the Senate for the better. He joined our floor staff. That was a long time ago, but he has been working diligently here ever since. He is armed with an incredible work ethic and a very keen intellect. He has worked his way up on the floor team and has become an expert on Senate rules and procedure.

Tim is a lawyer. He went to law school at night and worked here as long as he could. He missed a few classes because of working late here. During his time as a member of the Democratic floor staff, he has become someone whom the Republicans appreciate and go to for help just as the Democrats do.

In 2008, the Senate adopted a resolution making Tim Mitchell the Assistant Secretary for the majority. When the Republicans took control of the Senate, he assumed his current position.

Think about all of the important legislation Tim has helped us with—and I mean helped us with. There are a number of Senators on the floor this morning. I see Senator BOXER and Senator DURBIN.

Mrs. BOXER. Senator MURRAY and Senator SCHUMER.

Mr. REID. They are on the same side as my bad eye, folks. We are all pretty good at what we do, but we would be lost without the Tim Mitchells and Gary Myricks of the world. We would be stumbling around here. We depend on them so very much. Tim has helped us. He has helped us on so many different things. He has helped us through the Affordable Care Act, the automobile bailout, and the stimulus. I could go on and on with all we have done, and he has been here helping us.

He has accomplished so very much, but I know—and he doesn't have to give me a long dissertation on this—his role in life is to be a good father to his 10-year-old son Ben and of course a good husband to his wife Alicia. I am sure he accomplishes that very well. Ben is a budding skier—and to no one's surprise—a baseball player. He speaks, as we all do about our athletes, about how good they are, and in our eyes, they are the best.

Alicia and Ben are here with us today. Thank you for sharing Tim with us all of these years.

I join the entire U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans, in thanking Tim Mitchell for his exceptional work for 25 years.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask through the Chair if the Senator will yield for 5 minutes, please.

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I say through the chair, I see the leadership team is here. I will represent the rank and file, to tell you what Tim means to us. There is a lot of stress around here, not that I have ever experienced nor have I been worried, nervous, or annoy-

ing to people, but through it all, Tim is with the team—and they know who they are—giving us advice, protecting us, telling us what are our rights, what we can do and what we can't do. People outside the Chamber don't understand what it means to have people like Tim.

Tim loves baseball. I grew up six blocks from Ebbets Field and saw the civil rights movement unfold with Jackie Robinson on the bases so we have something in common. If we were voting today, Tim Mitchell would be the most valuable player.

We do love you, Tim. Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you for a long time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask through the Chair if the Senator from Nevada will yield for a question.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I say through the Chair that I wish to join in. I started my career as a staffer and then as a Parliamentarian so I know what happens behind the scenes is sometimes even more important than what you see on the floor of the Senate.

For 25 years, Tim Mitchell has been behind the scenes and at the heart of the activity in the U.S. Senate. I have been here for 20 years and have relied on Tim and our great staff team that has really stepped up time and time again.

Like most people, it took just a minute or two in the Senate cloakroom to realize that Tim Mitchell is the biggest baseball fan I have ever run into. I didn't know he had 100 baseball neckties, but he does, and as Senator REID said, some are very challenging from a style viewpoint, but he is loyal to his sport and particularly to his team, the Boston Red Sox.

I watched him as he came into his glory moment when the Boston Red Sox won the World Series after a long wait. I know he is now looking for the Boston Red Sox to return to the World Series, and I have a pairing in my mind that would be perfect. It involves a former Red Sox President who came over to help the Chicago Cubs. His name is Theo Epstein, and he made history in Boston by taking the Red Sox to the World Series. We think he is going to make history in Chicago. This would be the perfect World Series for Tim, me, and for baseball.

Let me close by saying that would be a perfect World Series, you have been a perfect addition to the Senate for 25 years, and we look forward to a lot more ahead.

Thanks, Tim.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if the minority leader will yield for a moment.

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I just want to add my congratulations to Tim

for his tremendous work here. I have been here for 24 years, and every year I have been here, he has been a critical part of the work we do. Thank you, Tim, for the numerous issues you have helped us work our way through.

For me, when I was chairing the Budget Committee, which we all know is a very chaotic, long, and tedious process, Tim was there to make sure we did it right, that we were in order, and that things moved smoothly.

Tim, we could not have done it without you. Thank you for your 25 years of service and thank you to your family for allowing you to be here with us for 25 years of service, and I thank you for all you will continue to do in the future.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, will the Democratic leader yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, every organization has what they call unsung heroes. On the battlefield, they are the soldiers, in the automobile plant, they are the assembly line workers, and in the hospital they may be the nurses. Those organizations can't go on without these people. They are the heart and soul of these organizations, and they do their work quietly but proudly. If you had to pick someone who personifies the unsung hero of this body, it would be Tim. He does his job every day. When you talk to him, you can see the pride and the knowledge he has in doing his job and doing it well.

BARBARA BOXER mentioned there are a lot of moments when everybody is in a stir but never Tim. He calmly and directly gives you the right advice. He is a hero—a hero not only to those of us who are here but to every Member of the Senate.

Tim, we love you. God bless.

TRIBUTE TO KRYSTA JURIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to switch from my friend Tim Mitchell to another friend I have. Ten years ago, I was in search of a scheduler. I needed someone to help with my scheduling and work here in my Capitol office. The office is just a few feet from here and it is extremely busy. We have people coming and going all day long, including the end of the night, and so I knew I needed someone who was good and would get better. Little did I realize that the woman I would hire didn't just get better, she has been the best. Her name is Krysta Juris.

I have a few months to go as a Member of Congress. I have been here 34 years, and I have had some remarkable employees. I have had such loyal staff with me now who have stayed until the bitter end, but it is hard to find a description for someone who is as capable, as nice, as competent, and as smart as Krysta Juris.

David McCallum, who helps me line up staff, told me he had a candidate

and thought she was really good. He gave me her background and told me she had worked in Senator Clinton's office and on her Presidential campaign. He told me—I guess this was the clincher—she was a collegiate lacrosse player. Lacrosse is a game I have gotten to know quite well because I have grandsons who play that sport. It is a really difficult, hard game. A college lacrosse player? I understand the difference between a high school lacrosse player and a college lacrosse player. Without knowing a lot more, I said she would be perfect. If she played lacrosse, she would know how to head a front office.

As I have indicated, serving as a scheduler for my office is not easy. She, as I indicated, was a college player. She played for the University of Maryland. They have excellent athletics there, generally.

She has had a demanding schedule for at least 10 years. She incurs long, long hours. Of course, it goes without saying that quickly she became the scheduler—not the assistant, not the deputy. To put it simply, to do this job you have to be really tough and fair. My colleagues who come to that office regularly—DURBIN, SCHUMER, MURRAY, and others—know Krysta. They always know that when they call Krysta, she tells them the truth: He is here; he is not here; he can see you; he can't see you. She is tough. She is strong and unafraid. She is not intimidated by some big-shot Senators. She handles them just fine.

She has been my gatekeeper and my loyal adviser, and she has performed phenomenally. She is the best at her job that I have ever seen in my many, many years of public service and as an attorney prior to my public service. For everything I have done, as far as setting the schedule, there is no one who is a close second.

She has been in the thick of things. She has been through my ups and my downs. She has been by my side. There are many, many examples. Some of us will never forget the snowstorm of 2009. It became so tense here that one of my Republican colleagues said that he hoped Senator Byrd would die during the night so we wouldn't have 60 Senators. With his being ill and having trouble navigating on his legs and living in Virginia and coming through the blizzard, we were worried. But he showed up. I told Krysta: Try to do all you can from home, because of this Snowmageddon, as we called it. We were in session. We had to finish the health care bill, and every day meant so very, very much. No, she did not stay home. She trudged through blocks and blocks of snow and snowdrifts to be here. She never missed a day. She spent many, many long, long nights in my office. I said: We will get someone to drive you or walk with you. She said: No, I am OK. I will be fine.

During the fiscal crisis of 2012, we were in session on New Year's Eve. She was at her desk working while the rest

of the world rang in the new year. Frankly, she was probably glad she was here. She has a little dog and those firecrackers and all that noise drives her little dog crazy. So she could be away from the firecrackers and keep her dog safe. She had reasons for being here during that period of time.

When the Republicans shut down the government for 17 days in 2013, she was here every day overseeing my schedule, making things run smoothly, even though no Senate employee was guaranteed that they would be paid for the work they were doing. As my colleagues will recall, many Senate employees didn't come to work.

On a more personal note, as happens in everyone's life, there are times of difficulty. The Reid family has had a few problems. As some will remember, I was engaged in my office trying to work out a deal with health care—the Affordable Care Act—and in walked Janice and Krysta and said there was a call: Your wife has been in an accident. It was very bad. It broke her neck in two places and her back, and her face was messed up. That was a hard time for us. Krysta was there. She was there. She helped with the scheduling. We got over that. Then Landra got an extremely aggressive form of breast cancer that went on for months. Krysta balanced my schedule here with my schedule with Landra. She made sure I had time with Landra to help. I will always remember her. I didn't have to ask her to do it; she did it.

When I had my unfortunate accident, Krysta knew how I had been hurt, and I did the best I could covering how I had been hurt. My three leaders—DURBIN, SCHUMER, AND MURRAY—helped me cover my disability for a while. She took care of things. My scheduling was done. I missed very, very few things because of her.

My children know her. My grandchildren know her. It is no surprise then to say that Krysta is and always will be part of my family.

Krysta's time is ending this week. It is kind of like my service here in the Senate. I wish it would never end. I wish Krysta could be with me always. But things change and things happen. But really with Krysta it is not time for distress or sadness; it is time for happiness because I have nothing but fond memories of this very beautiful woman—beautiful on the outside and on the inside. Why is it time for celebration? Because Krysta, at the ripe old age of 32, is having her first baby. She is so excited. I remember with all her babies, Landra wore the smocks that were kind of the style at that time. We don't do that anymore, and that is terrific. She is so pretty with her pregnancy, as she is without her pregnancy. She has never missed work because of her pregnancy. She has never complained about morning sickness or afternoon sickness or asked to go home early—never. So I am happy for her. I am happy for Trevor, her good husband.