

continually focused on impact. There are those individuals—such as the occupier of the Chair right now—who have served on the Armed Services Committee with Senator MCCAIN, and the Presiding Officer knows, as I know and as anybody else who has served with him knows, he was always for the underdog—always for the troops out in the field. I think the Senator from Maine articulated that very well. They were the people he had compassion for. He would always take care of the soldier, sailor, airman, and marine.

He articulated this, by the way, in one of his books, “Faith of My Fathers.” He was talking about his father and grandfather. This quote says it better than any of the rest of us can say it.

An officer’s obligations to enlisted men are the most solemn of all. An officer must not confer his responsibilities on the men under his command. They are his alone. He does not put his men in jeopardy for any purpose that their country has not required they serve. He does not risk their lives and welfare for his sake, but only to answer the shared duty they are called to answer.

That was Senator MCCAIN. He looked after those individuals who were under his command.

He was a ferocious opponent, but the key thing about Senator MCCAIN was that he was willing to take on those tough debates, which have become more and more rare in this Chamber. We don’t see them as we used to, but JOHN would relish the debate, earning the respect and admiration of everyone.

I can remember—there are so many areas because of all the years we served together, not just on the Senate Armed Services Committee but also his time in the House and my time in the House. We had differences of opinion. I think I am a little bit stubborn sometimes too.

I remember there was a commissary issue, and that got pretty violent before it was over. We took each other on. There was the BRAC issue. He wanted another BRAC round in this Defense authorization bill, and I didn’t want one because I thought that if there was anything we shouldn’t be doing, it would be closing down missions that we may be needing as we are rebuilding. So we had an honest difference of opinion.

I remember, in 2003, back when everyone was jumping on this whole global warming thing, that was going to be everyone’s ticket to the White House. I remember when JOHN had the McCain-Lieberman bill. I remember that lasted for 3 days of debate—3 days of debate—and I had hardly any Senators come down on my side of the issue, but we won anyway. After that was over—and that was one JOHN had his heart in—he came over to me and said: Good job. You won; I lost. That was it. There were no hard feelings. That is the kind of person JOHN MCCAIN was, one whom we will never forget.

A lot of people look at Arizona and think it has always been a Republican State. It wasn’t. In 1994, I ran for the

U.S. Senate. It was kind of interesting because it was a Democratic State. It was kind of interesting because this guy who was kind of the darling of the Democratic Party was my opponent. Nobody would come out and help me. Only three Senators came out and helped me during that race. They were Senator GRASSLEY, Senator Bob Dole, and JOHN MCCAIN.

JOHN MCCAIN came out. I will always remember this because we had a lot of things in common, but I hardly knew the guy. He came out not just once; he came out twice. The first time he came out because he had a background in aviation and I have a background in aviation. I remember I had a nice, air-conditioned, twin-engine plane, but I had lost an engine the night before so I had to fly my kid’s plane. It was very hot. It is called a little Grumman Tiger. It doesn’t have any air-conditioning. It was in the 90s and got close to 100 that day.

I wrote down the different places we went to—Oklahoma City; then we flew to Shawnee, where he and I visited the Vietnam Memorial. Then we flew to Lawton. Lawton happens to be the home of Fort Sill, the No. 1 area in the whole world for artillery, and we did our thing there. All the time, he was campaigning for me, a guy who couldn’t win.

We went to Altus Air Force Base. That is still actually one of the top training bases. We now train C-17s and KC-135s. In fact, because of JOHN and some of us on the committee, we will be flying the KC-46. Of course, this happened long before that. Anyway, we ended up in Bartlesville, hosting a fundraiser for me with the NRA.

I guess he wanted to spend more time in that plane because he came back 2 weeks later, and we did the same thing. There was no reason for him to do that because we hardly knew each other when we started. We got to know each other a lot better up there in all that heat. Nevertheless, he was there. You always remember the people who help you when nobody else will.

I can say a lot of things about JOHN MCCAIN. You heard him on the floor. You will hear more—the hero, the patriot—but what is never in dispute is that JOHN MCCAIN was a fighter who was always deeply loyal to his country, his family, his constituents. He was a patriot and always faithful. We all know that patriotism and loyalty to your country isn’t based on your words. You have to live it. Of course, he did that every day.

As a young naval officer following in his family’s footsteps—his father and his grandfather—JOHN kept the faith. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. It is interesting, he never talked about being an outstanding student and all that. In fact, he used to say: I was fifth in the class—fifth from the bottom. But he became a naval aviator.

He was deployed during the Vietnam war. He flew 23 missions and was shot

down in enemy territory. We all know the story. We know that he kept his faith. It bears repeating that he was held by the North Vietnamese for 5 years. I actually remember going there and seeing the conditions under which he was held during that period of time. Because both his father and grandfather were admirals, he had the opportunity, if he wanted, to bail out. He didn’t do that. He wanted to be there. He didn’t want to have any special kind of treatment. That was JOHN.

After the Navy, JOHN kept his faith by continuing to serve his country—this time as a congressman, then a Senator, and, ultimately, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He also kept the faith on the causes he believed were just, never wavering under political pressure.

We all grieve because JOHN has finished his race here on Earth—and on his own terms, surrounded by his friends and his loving family. JOHN served his country faithfully for 60 years. We owe him a great debt for that service.

This week, we will mourn him and honor him, and we will be celebrating the truly remarkable life of an American hero. We all have our JOHN MCCAIN story: a time when we were moved by his stubbornness, his courage, his passion—sometimes all three at the same time. I look forward to hearing these stories and tributes from my good friends.

We all grieve for Cindy and his family. They will continue to be in our prayers.

Lastly, I do believe, now that I have thought about it, that is what Timothy had in mind when he wrote: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.”

So we say thank you, JOHN MCCAIN.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, until the very end, he served his country—until the very end. “Service,” to JOHN MCCAIN, meant living something unique in all the history of the world. It meant living in service to something unique—the American idea.

E pluribus unum—“from many, one”—might seem like a quaint vestige from a more idealistic time when compared to the brutal and determined divisions of our time, but it was an idea that defined JOHN MCCAIN’s life. In and through his service, he defied categorization; frustrated the tired conventions of the way party loyalists were supposed to behave; acted against his own political interests time and again in a way that, from our vantage

point today, is nothing short of awe-inspiring; and he recognized that democracy was hard but that living in bondage to tyranny was far harder.

We talk a lot in this Chamber about freedom. No one in this city and few in American history knew as much or as vividly about the price of freedom as did JOHN MCCAIN. Our words are too often cheap and eminently forgettable, but JOHN MCCAIN paid our freight with his body and with his soul.

To our shame, he lived long enough to have to take to this Senate floor to inveigh against the rank tribalism that we have fallen into lately. He knew that giving in to our worst impulses to score pyrrhic political victories was as easy as it was dangerous and was and is a tangible threat to American democracy—a democracy to which he gave every bit of his life.

If I may, and with your indulgence, I will read from Senator MCCAIN's last speech from this room.

On July 25, 2017, while bearing the fresh wounds from his last battle, Senator MCCAIN stood in this Chamber. Thinking not of himself but of his country, he exhorted, inspired, pleaded, and cajoled all of us in an attempt to shake us to our senses in order to reject the prevailing ugliness that seized the Capitol. One last time, he was standing alone to do what was right. In a sure sign of just how desperate he was, he even appealed to our decency and to our reason—qualities that seem to have long fled Washington.

That day last summer, he said in part:

We are the servants of a great nation, “a . . . nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” More people have lived free and prosperous lives here than in any other Nation. We have acquired unprecedented wealth and power because of our governing principles, and because our government defended those principles.

He went on:

America has made a greater contribution than any other nation to an international order that has liberated more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before in history. We have been the greatest example, the greatest supporter, and the greatest defender of that order. We aren't afraid. We don't covet other people's land and wealth. We don't hide behind walls. We breach them. We are a blessing to humanity.

He continued:

What greater cause could we hope to serve than helping keep America the strong, aspiring, inspirational beacon of liberty and defender of dignity of all human beings and their right to freedom and equal justice? That is the cause that binds us and is so much more powerful and worthy than the small differences that divide us.

Until the very end, he served his country.

Now, as we consider the life of this man, in stark relief to what now passes for our politics, he continues to serve as a beacon to who we are and what we can be when we are at our best.

If JOHN MCCAIN can forgive the North Vietnamese torturers, we can at least forgive each other. But that gesture of

Senator MCCAIN's was not merely a gesture of conciliation for conciliation's sake; it was reflective of a world view that saw the humanity even in his enemies, of a sometimes unfathomable decency that could overcome most any difficulty, of a deep dedication to another American idea—the idea that character is destiny—and to the eternally optimistic preference for tomorrow over yesterday.

I don't know whether Senator MCCAIN—whether JOHN—subscribed to the “great man” or “great woman” theory of history, the notion that the story of humanity is written by the actions and choices of great individuals. I don't know if he believed that, but I do know this: He lived it. I know this because it was my great honor of a lifetime to serve in this body with Senator MCCAIN as the other Senator from Arizona.

Long before that privilege was accorded me by the people of my State, I was JOHN MCCAIN's constituent. When the necessity presented itself to point up examples for my daughter and my four sons of lives lived with principle and purpose, of role models, I had to look no further than my own Senator. I have a pretty good idea that such approbation would be mocked most loudly by JOHN MCCAIN himself. I imagine he would have some choice and colorful language in response to the outpouring of love and tributes since he has left us. We know that, like all of us, the Senator was not perfect. In fact, if you are interested in an inventory of his failings, MCCAIN himself was the most eager to provide it. Yet, as a former aide of his said in the past few days, MCCAIN was not perfect, but he perfectly loved his country.

Words are a poor measure of any life, much less a life the size of JOHN MCCAIN's and the swath he cut on this Earth. Yet we must try. We may never see his like again. For the sake of the country he loved, we owe it to his memory to try to be more like him so that when the season of mourning is over, we don't merely dispense with our earnest tributes and go right back to our venality. Because the poverty of our words notwithstanding, we have lately wasted a lot of words in this town doing and being everything that JOHN MCCAIN was not.

We would do well to allow this moment to affect us in ways reflected not merely in our words but in our deeds. We would do well to reflect on JOHN MCCAIN's example today and ask ourselves if we are living up to it or even coming close. We would do well to honor him by emulating his example.

We, of course, will never have his extraordinary comic timing. He ribbed me without mercy—and with only a little exaggeration—that the only way I got elected to anything was because of my hundreds of siblings and thousands of cousins. I would have laughed harder if there wasn't some truth to it.

We will never possess his grace in both victory and defeat. We will never

have his servant's heart nor his power and clarity about the daily effort that freedom requires. JOHN MCCAIN knew firsthand the epic global struggle for freedom, and so he was freedom's greatest champion in the Senate. He also knew that history is not a straight line and that the ghosts of the great ideological struggle of the 20th century are still here haunting the 21st. As he recently told Jeffrey Goldberg of the Atlantic, “There's always a Putin somewhere in the world, and you're meant to oppose them with all the skills God gave you.”

As we say goodbye to JOHN MCCAIN, let us take up his banner. His was always the good fight. We are fortunate to have known him best in Arizona, but he was bigger than any one State. He always belonged to America and to the world, and now he belongs to the ages.

Farewell, Senator. Farewell, JOHN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, Richard C. Shelby, Cory Gardner, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Ron Johnson, James M. Inhofe, Chuck Grassley, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Lisa Murkowski, Michael B. Enzi, Roy Blunt, Bob Corker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr.