

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.

LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alexander	Gardner	Nelson
Baldwin	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hassan	Perdue
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Casey	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Shaheen
Corker	Kaine	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	King	Tester
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Donnelly	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	McCaskill	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden
Flake	Murphy	Young

NAYS—28

Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Peters	Warren
Durbin	Reed	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Sanders	
Gillibrand	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—11

Carper	Graham	Manchin
Cassidy	Hirono	Murkowski
Crapo	Jones	Murray
Cruz	Leahy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week, of course, we remember and honor our colleague and an American hero JOHN MCCAIN. He embodied our most cherished values of service and sacrifice, and he understood the principles that make our country great.

One of those principles, as we know, is our First Amendment protections for a free and independent press. Something I always admired about Senator MCCAIN, even before I got to know him well many years ago, was his openness with the journalists, the workaday reporters who were doing their jobs every day and who covered him on behalf of the American people. He didn't hide from the people he served, and he was always willing to stand up for freedom of the press.

When those freedoms came under attack, he stood up and said to journalists: "The fact is we need you." He wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post in January that I would like to quote from. This op-ed was partly in response to the President's declaring several times, repeatedly, that the media are enemies of the people. JOHN MCCAIN put that to rest with these comments:

Ultimately, freedom of information is critical for a democracy to succeed. . . . Journalists play a major role in the promotion and protection of democracy and our unalienable rights, and they must be able to do their jobs freely. Only truth and transparency can guarantee freedom.

Senator MCCAIN was right. We will miss his moral leadership on this issue and his moral leadership on so many others. It is up to all of us to continue to stand up for the freedom of the press to serve and inform our communities. That is why I want to highlight, like I do every week, yet another story in an Ohio paper informing the public, reported by a journalist serving her community.

Last week, the Dayton Daily News ran a story by staff writer Emily Kronenberger on the opening of the city of Trotwood's new, renovated community and cultural arts center. The facility was in need of major repairs and had been shuttered for a decade. After this major remodeling, the center is reopening and will provide the community with art exhibits, concerts, and classes.

Ms. Kronenberger talked to the Trotwood city manager, who said the new center "will make impacts on the community and region for decades to come."

The paper also informed Miami Valley readers about a new partnership with Central State University. The school will have a satellite office in the reopened community center that will offer 4-H youth development programs on everything from agriculture to engineering to scholarship opportunities.

This kind of reporting is what journalists do every single day in Ohio, in Oklahoma, and across this country. They do their jobs: They serve their readers, they serve their viewers, and they serve their communities.

As we pay our respects to Senator MCCAIN this week, let us also recommit ourselves to the values he fought for his entire life. That includes a free and independent press.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL  
PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, Americans are getting pretty tired of how much power special interests have in this town. That is why we created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to look out for the millions of ordinary Americans who don't have armies of lobbyists. The Bureau was supposed to be an independent watchdog—a place free from Wall Street influence, which is pervasive around here pretty much all of the time.

Remember what happened last year when powerful corporations demanded that Congress overturn a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that guaranteed customers who were harmed by their bank would have their day in court? You might think protecting Americans' right to their day in court is something we would all

agree on. Wall Street is so powerful, the Vice President of the United States had to come to this Chamber in the dead of night so that he could break a tie on behalf of Wall Street to vote to repeal.

We have seen in this town a collective amnesia about what happened a decade ago. People forget that a decade ago people lost billions of dollars in wealth. People lost billions of dollars in their businesses. People lost jobs. People lost their homes. Over and over, we have heard those stories about what happened a decade ago. We saw it in our communities. I see it where my wife and I live in Cleveland. Yet the Banking Committee in this Congress, this Senate, seems to have forgotten about what happened 10 years ago. They are already going back to weakening the rules to help Wall Street, as if Wall Street doesn't have enough.

Imagine if the same people who voted to repeal the rule we talked about a moment ago were in charge of deciding whether the Consumer Bureau could start an investigation into one of the big banks or payday lenders or credit bureaus like Equifax. That is what would happen if we put Congress in charge of the Consumer Bureau's budget.

Do we think this current crowd in charge wouldn't do Wall Street's bidding, wouldn't punish the Bureau every time it tries to hold the big banks accountable? That is why it is independent. We don't want Congress to be able to cut its budget every time it goes after the bad guys.

If the Consumer Bureau decides it wants to go after a payday lender that has preyed on veterans and servicemembers outside of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, if the Consumer Bureau decides that it wants to clamp down on discrimination in auto lending, we don't want Congress at the behest of Wall Street, at the behest of the auto industry—auto dealers in this case—to be able to cut their budget. That is clearly what they do.

This year, under Mick Mulvaney, we have already seen what having a Consumer Bureau that is accountable to Wall Street rather than regular Americans looks like. Mulvaney has canceled enforcement actions against payday lenders. He has gutted the office responsible for going after discriminatory lenders. He encourages big banks to throw even more money at Members of Congress. I believe he went in front of the American Bankers Association—one of the big trade associations. He went in front of them and said: If you want to get your way with Congress, you have to put more money in, you have to give more campaign contributions.

This was the President's appointed head of the Consumer Bureau. Perhaps most despicably, earlier this month, he announced he would no longer—get this—protect servicemembers and their families from shady lenders that tried to cheat them by ending the CFPB's