

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

monitoring for violations of the Military Lending Act.

Just today, the head student lending watchdog at the Consumer Bureau resigned. He said in his letter of resignation that “it has become clear that consumers no longer have a strong, independent Consumer Bureau on their side.”

Because of Mulvaney, because of the White House looking like a retreat for Wall Street executives, this leader in the Consumer Bureau, who is fighting to protect students who have been defrauded by financial institutions, said that it is “clear that consumers no longer have a strong, independent Consumer Bureau on their side.”

We created that Bureau 8 years ago. I pushed to include that office, the Student Loan Ombudsman, because I know hard-working families struggle with enormous education loans but rarely get any help from big banks or services or even their own government. The office was meant to be an independent check on the Education Department, which is even more important now that it is run by a Secretary, a billionaire, who doesn't seem to understand or care about the struggles that so many working families face.

Right now, we have surpassed \$1.5 trillion—that is \$1,500 billion—in student loan debt in this country. That debt has ripple effects for families for our entire economy. More than 1 million Americans are forced to default on their student loan debt every year. That is 3,000 new defaults every single day. A disproportionate number of those are students who had borrowed to attend a for-profit school—schools that we know often trick and mislead Americans into taking out huge predatory loans; schools that spend way more time recruiting, marketing, advertising, and helping students get loans than they do coaching and mentoring and ultimately helping in the job search for these students when they finish. That is why we need a truly independent watchdog looking out for those students. That was the job of the outgoing Student Loan Ombudsman, but he has not been able to do his job, protecting students, because of Director Mulvaney.

In his resignation, he confirmed what we all suspected—that Mulvaney is not independent. He is working for the same special interests as the rest of this administration. Rather than letting the career staff at CFPB do their jobs enforcing the law, Mulvaney has put a bunch of political lackeys in charge of the Consumer Bureau while independent experts are forced out of the agency.

When the CFPB had an independent Director, it recovered \$12 billion in relief for 29 million Americans. They had been harmed by Wells Fargo or a payday lender or a credit bureau like Equifax. Think of that: 29 million Americans had recovered \$12 billion from these companies and these banks that had cheated them. The student

loan office was able to return \$750 million specifically to students who had been preyed upon by for-profit schools or predatory collectors.

Under Mulvaney, the CFPB doesn't do its job. That is why it is so important for the Senate to demand an independent leader to be in charge of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—not Mick Mulvaney, not his protegee, Kathy Kraninger. We need someone fighting back against these corporations that take advantage of hard-working families, not taking orders from Wall Street.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I look across the Senate and see Senator MCCAIN's desk silent, draped in black, under a vase of white roses, and it breaks my heart. I am here to say my farewell, and I have a bit of a predicament, which is that I am a very ordinary man, here to try and give tribute to a very extraordinary man.

JOHN MCCAIN was an extraordinary man—extraordinary in his suffering and resilience, extraordinary in his ideals and principles, extraordinary in his courage and devotion, and extraordinary, too, in the devotion he engendered.

We met when I was a new Senator and he already a legend. His battles for campaign finance reform and against corrupting earmarks were legendary. He could make a point here on the Senate floor with legendary drama and punch and declarative force. He could also be unreasonable, and he took a completely unreasonable liking to me. Our politics did not match. I could offer him nothing. Yet he befriended me, and, as so many colleagues know, JOHN's friendship was a treasure.

JOHN showed courage in many ways, but he showed real courage in friendship. When an attack was mounted on one of Hillary Clinton's staffers, he came straight to the floor to defend her publicly. When someone attacked the character of Senator Obama at a political event, he said: No, I know him. He is a good family man.

Loyalty attracts loyalty, and JOHN was loyal. We traveled a lot together—to Afghanistan and Iraq, to Munich, Mali, Mongolia, and Macassar, to many, many places but, most poignantly, to Vietnam.

My dad served 5 years in Vietnam. He told me about his colleague, Admiral McCain, whose son was a POW, who had been shot down and wounded terribly but refused early release. As a boy, I went with my father to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon the night our POWs returned from captivity. JOHN had left straight from Hanoi and did not pass through Tan Son Nhut, but I witnessed how frail and ill and pale and battered his fellow POWs were as they clamored out of the helicopters into the glare of the TV lights.

I was ready to revere any man who had been through that, and to find that

this man was so friendly and cheerful and feisty and irreverent—that put me irrevocably into the MCCAIN fan club. I noticed I was not alone. One telling measure of a man is his staff. JOHN attracted people of exceptional talent and ability, who became so devoted they would walk through fire for him.

JOHN attracted the admiration of foreign leaders, not just from great powers but from remote and struggling countries. When we traveled in Libya, JOHN was received like Lafayette. He had been there when it counted, when freedom there was in the offing. He was beloved in Ukraine. He had spoken at the Maidan when freedom there was in the offing. He spent an icy New Year's Eve with Ukrainian troops on their frontline.

In Vietnam, JOHN was revered. I don't know any celebrities, but I do know what traveling with a celebrity is like because I have traveled with JOHN MCCAIN in Vietnam. The statue that stands in Hanoi by the lake where he was shot down calls him an air pirate, but he was treated everywhere as a hero. And you had to know he liked the air pirate thing.

Wherever we went in the world, he wanted to meet with prisoners, with the opposition, with whoever was pursuing freedom for their country. JOHN MCCAIN was America's most vigorous and loyal ambassador of freedom.

He was fiercely proud that one place he was not welcome was Russia. Putin had banned him. “No more holidays in Siberia,” JOHN laughed. Mark my words, one day even Russia will turn toward freedom, and when it does, JOHN MCCAIN will be revered there.

JOHN made a big difference in a great many ways, but the one I want to close with is the Senate.

Senators are often stuffy. JOHN was not. If there was ever a Senator entitled to take himself seriously, it was JOHN. Yet he didn't. He effervesced the stolid Senate, to the occasional annoyance of some of our colleagues. Here, too, JOHN engendered lifetime loyalty and affection and respect. Lindsey and Joe and Kelly were his great amigos—none greater than Lindsey, but many of us loved him well.

Millions of Americans saw JOHN MCCAIN give the famous C-SPAN thumbs down that put an end to repeal and replace. They probably did not see what happened next. Having just cast what was a devastating vote for many of his colleagues, he went back to his seat. From my seat here across the Chamber, I saw JOHN's colleagues gently start moving toward him. They may have hated his vote, but there was nevertheless this gentle flow of bodies moving to stand around and near him. His friend DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska was one who came down from the back row just to stand near JOHN in the aisle. Hate the vote; love the man. This place can be complicated.

JOHN could be annoying. In Munich, accepting an award for JOHN, his beloved Cindy said: “I love him—most of

the time." His temper could be explosive. I read once of a man nicknamed for a South American volcano because he "constantly fumed and regularly erupted," and I thought of JOHN. He loved a good fight and was eager to pile in. "A fight not joined is a fight not enjoyed," he would say.

An extraordinary man is not a flawless man, and in his full humanity, JOHN gave the rest of us mortals hope. You need not be perfect to try to be extraordinary. Well, he was extraordinary. I think we all found in him qualities of affection, principle, courage, and drama that were extraordinary. And at the end of the day, as compass needles turn toward true north, you knew where he would be pointing.

I will quote some of his last public words here:

Though the true radiance of our world may at times seem obscured, though we will suffer adversity and setbacks and misfortune—never, ever stop fighting for all that is good and just and decent about our world and each other.

I will never forget and will always treasure our friendship, but what I will revere is the way JOHN MCCAIN pointed true north at what was good and just and decent about our world and each other.

His hero, Robert Jordan, in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," said, as he died, "The world is a fine place and worth the fighting for and I hate very much to leave it." We hate very much, JOHN, that you have had to leave it. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Johnson nomination expire at 10:40 a.m. on Tuesday, August 28.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LITTLE VILLAGE, CHICAGO FIRE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday, a fire ravaged several homes in

Little Village, Chicago. It was the deadliest fire the city has experienced in a decade. Today, we mourn the tragic loss of eight lives taken by this disaster.

In the early hours of the morning, the Chicago Fire Department received a call that a fire had started on the porch of a home where children had been having a sleepover. The fire eventually took the lives of eight precious children, ranging in age from 3 months to 16 years old, and critically injured two others before spreading to several other homes.

My deepest sympathies are with the loved ones of those who were taken far too soon, and my prayers for recovery are with the two teenagers in critical care. Please know I am grieving with the families of Little Village as they work to remember those lost and rebuild their community.

I want to thank the Chicago Fire Department and emergency workers for their quick responses and dedication to saving lives and putting a stop to the deadly fire, as well as workers from the Red Cross and local organizations, who immediately came to the scene to provide support to residents.

I know the people of Little Village will come together to support one another, and they will be stronger for it.

REMEMBERING LEONARD AND DODY BOSWELL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to a devoted public servant from my home State of Iowa. Congressman Leonard Boswell passed away this month after a long battle with cancer. A decorated military officer, he served 20 years in the U.S. Army, a dozen years in the Iowa Senate, and 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

That adds up to nearly a half-century in service to the country he so dearly loved and served with honor and distinction. After being drafted into the U.S. Army, Leonard rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and served two tours of duty as an assault helicopter pilot in Vietnam. His distinguished service in uniform groomed him for political battles on the campaign trail and in public office at the State and Federal level.

In civilian life, as well as in both the military and political arenas, Leonard Boswell was an officer and a gentleman. He brought integrity to the campaign trail and to the halls of Congress. Anyone who underestimated Congressman Boswell failed to appreciate the gritty combination of a decorated war veteran and a cattle farmer from southern Iowa. In fact, an armed intruder who broke into the Congressman's farm home in 2011 found out right quick. At age 77, Leonard's instincts to protect his family kicked into overdrive, and he tackled the intruder to the ground.

Notwithstanding those instincts, Leonard Boswell was widely known as folksy and plain-spoken. He was Iowa

through and through. That included answering the call to help his neighbors and a local grain elevator struggling during the 1980s farm crisis. From there, he threw his hat into the ring for public office.

Congressman Boswell's funeral service was last Saturday, and unexpectedly, it became a double ceremony as his beloved wife of 63 years died just hours before the service, 8 days after Congressman Boswell passed. Leonard and Dody's life together was filled with deep faith, love of family and friends, and service, as she taught elementary school for 37 years, mainly in Lamoni. Dody's family rightly described her as spiritual, adventurous, vibrant, with a wonderful sense of humor who lived with love, tenacity, and compassion.

Although Congressman Boswell and I were members of two different political parties, we shared many things in common as lifelong Iowans, farmers, octogenarians, and outspoken champions for rural America.

On many issues of the day, we had different points of view on how to achieve a particular goal, but at the end of the day, we shared an unequivocal commitment to work on behalf of Iowans, especially farmers and veterans. From farm bills to transportation and infrastructure spending, Leonard and I largely saw eye to eye on legislation that would help Iowans weather the storms of natural disasters or downturns in the farm economy.

As members of the Iowa congressional delegation, there is an unspoken understanding that, when it comes to matters important to Iowa, we work all for one and one for all. I recall when Leonard first came to Washington in 1997, he was the only Democrat in the Iowa House delegation. Shortly after his swearing in, Congressman Boswell invited my staff and me to his office to get acquainted. We enjoyed his Iowa hospitality very much and returned the invitation shortly thereafter. After our initial meet-and-greets, it was understood that our doors and lines of communication were always open. We shared a very good working relationship during our service together in Congress.

There is one particular piece of legislation that we worked on together in our respective Chambers of Congress. I was the lead Senate Republican cosponsor, and he was the principal author in the House of Representatives. It is called the Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Act. We named the bill for an Iowan who took his own life in 2005 after returning from duty in Iraq. Our bill was enacted in 2007. It sought to improve mental health services for veterans. Here in the Senate, I will continue working to carry out our shared mission of suicide prevention for servicemembers. As a decorated war veteran and longtime advocate for the veteran community, Congressman Boswell cared deeply about fulfilling the promises made to America's veterans. The law he worked to enact has paved