

the role of this body. This is one of them. I understand it may annoy, it may displease the President for there to be a speed bump put in the way of interference with the special counsel. But this isn't just about the current special counsel; this is about taking Department of Justice regulations and making them statute. This is about providing a small modicum of protection for the groundless removal of a special counsel.

This is something that, as my colleague has said, deserves prompt attention on the floor. We have a few weeks between now and the end of this Congress, time when we could be taking up and confirming nominees, time when we could be taking up and moving other pieces of legislation, but you have heard a very clear position by my colleague that we won't be moving forward nominees in the Judiciary Committee, and if just one more colleague joins him, we might well begin to prevent nominations from moving on the floor as well. To what end? Simply to get a vote on the floor. Simply to get an opportunity to be heard and for there to be a vote taken on this important piece of bipartisan legislation.

I am grateful to my colleague for his work on this and for his stand today, and I look forward to continuing to work tirelessly with him on it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, next week will mark what would have been the 100th birthday of my predecessor, Senator Claiborne de Borda Pell, who was born on November 22, 1918. This year, appropriately enough, the date falls on Thanksgiving.

We lost Senator Pell nearly 9 years ago after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease, which robbed him of his mobility but not his spirit. He was sustained by the love of his wonderful family, especially his beloved wife, the late Nuala Pell.

A person who dedicated his life to selfless service to Rhode Island and the Nation, Senator Pell would not want a showy commemoration of his centenary. He was not one to seek the limelight. Moreover, for him, his birthday—November 22—became a somber day for remembrance and mourning the loss of his dear friend, President John F. Kennedy.

But at a time when differences seem more striking than our common cause and when there is a question of whether America's role in the world community should be guided solely by nar-

rowly defined self-interest or by our democratic ideals, it is helpful for us to recall the example and standard Senator Pell set—both his accomplishments and the civility he maintained throughout his career.

He was born into a family of great wealth and privilege, yet Claiborne Pell never exhibited a sense of entitlement. At a defining moment in the history of our country and a defining moment in his life, Claiborne Pell demonstrated that privilege and wealth was not a way to avoid the rigors of life. Rather, for him, they offered the opportunity and responsibility to meet the challenges of the times with vigor and wisdom and optimism.

As World War II approached, Claiborne Pell, with family connections, poor eyesight, and a high draft number, could have easily secured a sinecure, a safe posting to ride out the war. Instead, before Pearl Harbor, he decided on his own to enlist in the Coast Guard and eventually sailed the dangerous North Atlantic convoy runs. Significantly, Claiborne chose to enlist not as an officer but as a seaman so that he could get a chance at sea duty.

The complete lack of regard for status or pretense, which he showed in his World War II service, would continue to mark his public service and endear him to generations of Rhode Islanders. For 36 years, Claiborne Pell did not simply represent Rhode Island in the U.S. Senate; he represented the ideal of what a public servant should be.

He said that his motto or statement of purpose was to “translate ideas into action and help people.” And that is what he did. One hundred years after his birth and 58 years after his first election to the Senate, millions of Americans continued to be helped by his ideas translated into action.

He believed that government had a critical role in providing opportunity, particularly the opportunity for a good education for every American, and he knew that there were unbounded horizons for the initiative, invention, and innovation of these well-educated sons and daughters of America. Truly, they would continue and enhance the great endeavor that is America.

He authored the legislation that established the Basic Education Opportunity grant, now known as the Pell grant. Today, roughly 7.5 million students rely on Pell grants to help pay for college.

He wrote the legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. To this day, these agencies support artistic, educational, and cultural programming in communities large and small across the Nation, fulfilling Senator Pell's commitment to strengthening and preserving our national cultural heritage for all Americans.

He led the effort to establish the Institute of Museum and Library Services, helping libraries and museums across the Nation transform their com-

munities through access to information and opportunities for lifelong learning. According to the Institute, people visited libraries over 1.3 billion times in 2015, and 55 million student groups visit museums each year.

The vision he articulated in the early 1960s for high-quality passenger rail service connecting the major population centers on the east coast into a megalopolis led to the creation of Amtrak and the Northeast Corridor. Decades later, it is interesting to see not only how much of his vision has been achieved but also how much of his vision is now reflected in ideas like Elon Musk's “hyperloop.”

Touched by the death of two members of his staff who were killed by drunk drivers, Senator Pell authored the first Federal anti-drunk driving bill in 1976—4 years before the founding of advocacy group MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Senator Pell's legislation became the model for Federal policy efforts to combat impaired driving by giving the States strong incentives to toughen their laws.

Senator Pell was also deeply committed to America's role in securing world peace. His notion of a powerful America leading the world—not standing apart from it—and his notion that our values, our system, and our commitment to human decency would prevail in the face of totalitarianism were wisdom of the ages. In his service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he espoused those views, seeking to remind us that our destiny would take us far beyond what simply a military operation or our economic power might because of our ideals and commitment to creating a world community.

Senator Pell's approach to legislating was unfailingly kind and civil. In his farewell speech to the Senate, he laid out his guiding rules. In his words: “First, never respond to an adversary in ad hominem terms.”

In his six campaigns for the U.S. Senate, Claiborne Pell never ran a negative ad or attacked his opponent personally. Rhode Islanders rewarded him with an average vote of more than 60 percent for each of his elections.

“Second, always let the other fellow have your way.”

For Senator Pell, winning an ally to achieve a legislative victory was more valuable than getting exclusive credit.

“Third, sometimes half a loaf can feed an army.”

He lived by those rules, but he feared that our politics and our media were pulling us in the opposite direction. That is why he used his farewell speech to urge us to stay true to a practice of politics worthy of our Democratic tradition, saying:

If I could have one wish for the future of our country in the new millennium, it would be that we not abandon the traditional norms of behavior that are the underpinning of our democratic system.

Comity and civility, transcending differences of party and ideology, have always

been crucial elements in making Government an effective and constructive instrument of public will. But in times such as these, when there is fundamental disagreement about the role of Government, it is all the more essential that we preserve the spirit of civil discourse.

Those words ring very true and relevant today as they did when he gave them in his farewell address.

Following in Senator Pell's footsteps, I am one who is in awe of his presence and accomplishments and feel a deep responsibility to continuing his legacy. He forged an enduring bond with the people of Rhode Island. He put ideas into action to help people. He was always civil and ready to find common ground.

As we celebrate Senator Pell's 100th birthday, let's take inspiration from his spirit of service and collegiality. Let's translate ideas into action and help people.

Mr. President, I know my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE is here. Mr. WHITEHOUSE is someone who knew Senator Pell well, and he continues in the image and spirit of Senator Pell by being someone who brings his great talents and skills to serve the people of Rhode Island and the Nation with dignity, civility, and great energy. With that, Mr. President, I would like to yield to my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking my senior Senator, JACK REED, for calling us to the floor to reflect and memorialize a truly splendid Senator who represented the State of Rhode Island, our friend and a great Rhode Islander, Claiborne Pell.

I think my senior colleague has done an exemplary job of following in Senator Pell's footsteps of decency, civility, and quiet determination in the seat that Senator Pell once held. I cannot claim to hold the seat the Senator once held, but I can claim to have the desk at which Senator Pell once sat. If you look here right under where it says "Pastore"—a Rhode Island Senator—in carved letters, you see in very small letters "P-e-l-l" and then "R.I."—like anybody needed to know that Claiborne Pell was from Rhode Island.

Claiborne Pell was very important in my political life. He spent years—in fact, decades—refusing to get involved in primaries. "It is up to the party," he would say. When I ran for attorney general the first time I ran for elected office, I was in a three-way primary, and Claiborne Pell, for the first time in his career, endorsed me in that primary. He more than endorsed me; we went to a little park near his house in Newport, and he allowed me to film myself walking with him and conversing with him for my first commercial. Well, you can imagine, in a State like Rhode Island, when a legend like Claiborne Pell in the Democratic Party suddenly appears in your commercial in a primary—let me just say it was

not a good day for my primary opponents. It was incredibly generous of Claiborne Pell to break a multidecade tradition on primaries in order to launch my first political effort, and I hope I have conducted myself since then in such a way that I never gave him or his family cause to regret it.

As Senator REED pointed out, one of the significant lessons from Claiborne Pell's career here in the Senate—and it is one that I think of all the time—was that he looked beyond the scrum of the moment. There is always something going on here in the Senate. There is always some fight or some issue that is on the front page of the Washington Post and on the news channels. That is always, always, always going on, and that bright, shiny object very often attracts an enormous amount of attention in this body. I suspect that Senator Pell paid less attention to that daily scrum than almost anybody who has served in the Senate. He had a much more patient soul and steadily and quietly and modestly worked away at his priorities.

He used to make fun of himself for his interest in "choo-choos." He would say "choo-choo." Well, we have Amtrak in large part because of Senator Claiborne Pell's work. The Pell grant is named after him because of persistent leadership making sure that such a grant existed. Over years of work, he finally got it done. It was ultimately named for him, and it remains today an important part of how many young people here in the United States actually get to college and move toward their dreams.

He fought for years to create the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, and those institutions still exist. They are still doing great work today.

In Rhode Island, we are very proud of Sea Grant. Sea Grant has programs in all of our coastal States. Sea Grant was the invention of Claiborne Pell and Dean John Knauss, later dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island.

When you look back and think of who the Senators were at the time that Claiborne Pell served, you can go through all these desk drawers that I showed you, and there are lots of names of Senators. Many of them are ones you never heard of. They were certainly important in their day, but their day is done and their names are no longer remembered. Senator Pell is remembered. He left lasting legacies like those, and he did it by quietly and patiently sticking with his priorities, which he knew were Rhode Island's priorities and America's priorities. He might not have been on the talk shows as much as other Senators. He might not have been quoted on the front page of the Washington Post as much as other Senators. He was not as attentive to the daily scrum of Washington conflict. But, my goodness, when you look back at the legacy that he left that still operates today, it is hard to find

somebody of his era whose footprint is larger than that of this shy, quiet, patient, civil, and persistent man.

I would add to Senator REED's comments about Claiborne Pell's philosophy a statement that he made to me that he made quite often. He said:

One of the things that you must learn in politics, Sheldon, is how to let the other fellow have it your way. Always let the other fellow have it your way.

What does it mean to always let the other fellow have it your way? What I take from that is that it means you have to stand by your principles. You have to achieve the goals you have set out for yourself and for your constituents, but on the way to getting there, if you can give others credit, if you can let other ideas join yours, if you can let other people have it your way, you are more likely to succeed. To this day, I still repeat that quote to new hires in my office.

The picture of Claiborne Pell that he signed for me is still right there on my bookcase, and I see it every time I sit in the chair in my office. He was a remarkable and special individual. He was not your standard-issue U.S. Senator. The particular way he chose to go about his duties has left a larger footprint than most of his colleagues were able to leave.

I will end with a story about one of my final memories. Senator Pell was out of the Senate. His illness had caught up with him to the point where he was barely able to speak any longer. His friend Ted Kennedy, who sat in this space right here—at a different desk but right here at this spot on the Senate floor—was sailing through Rhode Island, and he called up Senator Pell, and he said: I would like to take you out on my boat. So it was arranged that Senator Pell would go out on his sailboat. That required getting a wheelchair onto a sailboat, over the tippy docks that Senator Kennedy's boat pulled up to. Sure enough, we all grabbed a piece of the wheelchair and hoisted it up and stepped over into the boat and set his wheelchair down in the cockpit of the boat. Senator Kennedy started up the motor and drove it off down into Newport Harbor and then shut off the motor and put up the sails. As the wind caught the sails, the boat heeled over, and this old coastguardman, Claiborne Pell, smiled a smile that I will never forget as the wind took the boat and we began to move out into Narragansett Bay.

The only other thing that was really fun about that was, because Senator Pell could barely speak any longer, he was actually a perfect fit for Senator Kennedy, who could basically not stop talking. There was this wonderful conversation with Teddy Kennedy and Claiborne Pell wherein Teddy Kennedy did all the talking for the both of them, and they both had a lovely time. They reflected on decades of friendship and service here. It was a real privilege to have a chance as a very new Senator to share that moment with those two

very different but mutually beloved lions of the Senate.

I particularly thank my distinguished senior colleague for organizing our chance to come here and reflect on our friend Claiborne Pell. I think nobody better than he carries on the Pell tradition.

I thank Senator REED.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I again want to thank my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE for his very eloquent words about a great American, Claiborne Pell.

Just a final comment. If you ever want to feel truly beloved, embraced by constituents, respected and admired, do what I did several times—march in a parade with Claiborne Pell and pretend they cheer for you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know the perception out there is often that bipartisanship is dead, but the bill we passed this afternoon, the Coast Guard Authorization Act, is a good reminder that we can still come together and get things done for the American people.

The bill we just passed overwhelmingly, which is headed to the President's desk, has been negotiated for almost 2 years. Portions of this bill have been discussed for over a decade. It is good to see Senators and Representatives of both parties come together in compromise on such an important piece of legislation.

We celebrated Veterans Day earlier this week. As always, it was a powerful reminder of everything we owe to the men and women who keep us safe, like the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard. This key branch of the military is responsible for defending our Nation's waters. The men and women of the Coast Guard stand on the frontlines preventing dangerous drugs, weapons, and individuals from entering our country by sea. When disaster strikes in the form of storms and hurricanes, the Coast Guard is on the scene conducting search and rescue and carrying people to safety. We owe the men and women of the Coast Guard a tremendous debt of gratitude. We owe it to the American people to ensure that our Nation's coastguardsmen have the tools and resources they need to carry out their mission.

This bill will improve maritime safety, security, and stewardship. It gives the Coast Guard the authority it needs to conduct its military and law enforcement missions and authorizes the

equipment it needs to react to national emergencies.

The bill also creates uniform national ballast water and discharge standards for commercial vehicles that give industry certainty while ensuring the protection of our environment. It also reauthorizes the Federal Maritime Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's hydrographic services.

As chairman of the Commerce Committee, I have been honored to work with dedicated committee members of both parties. I would like to personally thank the members of our committee for all their hard work this Congress.

Special thanks on this bill go to Senator NELSON, the committee's ranking member; Senators SULLIVAN and BALDWIN, the chairman and ranking member of our Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee; and to Senators FISCHER and PETERS, chairman and ranking member of our Surface Transportation Subcommittee.

I would also like to thank Chairman BARRASSO and Ranking Member CARPER from the Environment and Public Works Committee and Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. They have been great partners. I appreciate everything they have done to help get this bill across the finish line.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff from both Chambers who worked tirelessly—including many late nights and weekends—on this bill. Without their efforts, the final product would not have been such a success. While everyone on the team worked hard on the bill, on my staff, I would like to especially thank Nick Rossi, Adrian Arnakis, Fern Gibbons, Jason Smith, Patrick Fuchs, Andrew Neely, Chance Costello, Alison Graab, Frederick Hill, and Brianna Manzelli.

On Senator NELSON's staff, thanks go to Kim Lipsky, Jeff Lewis, Devon Barnhart, Sarah Gonzales-Rothi, and Catherine Carabine.

From the Environment and Public Works Committee, I want to thank Richard Russell, Elizabeth Horner, Mary Frances Repko, Andrew Rogers, Christophe Tulou, and Zach Pilchen.

I also would like to place in the RECORD the names of the staffers from our partner committees in the House who played key roles in this important legislation. On Chairman SHUSTER's staff, the individuals who should be thanked include Chris Vieson, Geoff Gosselin, John Rayfield, Bonnie Bruce, Luke Preston, and Cameron Humphrey. From Ranking Member DEFAZIO's staff, thanks goes to Kathy Dedrick and Dave Jansen.

I am sure I have left someone off this list, and for that, I apologize. It underscores the amount of collective effort that went into our work here.

I could also easily expand the list to include those at the Coast Guard and at the Environmental Protection Agency who provided valuable assistance

and technical expertise. We look forward to working with them on the implementation of this bill.

As I said earlier, the Coast Guard reauthorization that we just passed is a reminder that we can work together and get things done for the American people. It is a timely reminder given the election. Last week, the American people elected a Democratic majority to the House of Representatives and re-elected a Republican majority to the Senate. If we are going to get things done in the new Congress, we are going to need to work together.

Here in the Senate, we have spent the past 2 years working on an agenda to expand opportunities for working families and to put more money in Americans' pockets. We have also worked hard to ensure that those who keep our Nation safe have all the tools and resources they need. We are going to continue that agenda in the lameduck session and in the new Congress. I really hope Democrats will join us. We can work together to grow our economy, lift up working families, and protect our Nation, but it is going to require Democrats to make a choice.

Democrats have spent most of the past 2 years attempting to relitigate the 2016 election. Losing elections is a fact of life in a democracy, but Democrats just haven't seemed to be able to let this one go. Over the past 2 years, they have focused most of their energy on knee-jerk opposition to anything Republicans or the President propose, even when they have agreed with us. They routinely delayed confirmation of the President's nominees—not just the ones they didn't like but the ones they ended up supporting. They refused to work with Republicans on an overhaul of our Nation's burdensome, outdated Tax Code even though Democrats supported many of the measures that ended up in the final bill. Obviously, there are going to be times when the right thing to do as a Member of Congress is to oppose. We have a responsibility to say no when we think a bill or nominee would profoundly damage the country. But that is not what Democrats have done. Too many of them have made opposition not a tool to be deployed when needed but their standard operating procedure.

I say again, Democrats have a choice. They can continue down the path of partisanship and opposition, or they can decide to start afresh and to work with Republicans. I hope they choose the latter.

I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues in this new Congress on the priorities that the American people sent us here to work on—to make our economy stronger, to grow at a faster rate, to create better paying jobs, to raise wages in this country, and to give future generations of Americans more opportunities at a higher standard of living and a better quality of life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.