

are the United States of America—the United States of America. We take care of each other when we know bad things are happening in different parts of the country.

Kind of related again to this reaction, Senator MURKOWSKI and I had the opportunity to go out to the Incident Command Center. Yes, there are times when you don't feel like the different levels of government are working or coordinating. By the way, our first responders include our military, our National Guard, which does such a great job. This Incident Command Center would give any American pride because they were all there, almost like a battle, like a war, like an op center, for the military people watching. It was FEMA, it was Federal, it was the military, it was the State, and it was local, all working like this, literally working together, hand in glove.

So to my constituents, we are going to have a long road to recovery, there is no doubt about that, but people are already getting on it. There are going to be frustrations, and we have to work through those. I know people are still scared and nervous and wondering how they are going to pay for all the damage, but we are going to work through that together.

For my colleagues here in the Senate, you know, we have had a lot of natural disasters over the last few years—at least since I have been here in the Senate—throughout the country. There were hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana, and Houston, TX. California just went through horrendous wildfires that killed so many of our fellow Americans. This body acts. This body has acted with disaster relief funding.

I remember saying to a number of Senators here and to my constituents that when those big—some of those packages have been big in terms of the funding, in terms of the dollars. Colleagues said: Hey, Dan, we need your vote on this.

None of that money was going to Alaska, but I remember saying each time: You know, I am voting for these packages. Why? I think it is the right thing to do.

Also, let's face it, but for the grace of God go I and my State and my constituents. I live in a State where there are all kinds of natural disasters, such as wildfires, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis. But I think that is the attitude here in general. When bad things happen—particularly natural disasters—to other parts of the country, the vast majority of this body says: Hey, I am going to help. I am going to help.

So I am already getting the sense that my colleagues here will make sure that help comes to Alaska as we continue to assess the damage.

I also want to just mention to the American people who are watching, including Alaskans or folks from the lower 48, Senator MURKOWSKI and Congressman YOUNG and I held a press conference on Friday afternoon after talking to the Federal Government, work-

ing closely with our State leaders, to give people information. It was a national press conference—actually national media coverage—so I took the opportunity—a lot of this was still going on, including aftershocks, and we didn't know. We didn't know if there were 200 people killed. So I asked people watching to pray for their fellow Americans up in Alaska.

As I mentioned, yes, we were prepared. Yes, the building codes in Alaska are probably some of the strongest on the planet. I am so proud of our students, who were trained by great teachers. Our first responders were out there in the cold within minutes, let alone others working, and are still doing it, by the way.

I have no doubt that part of the reason we had zero fatalities, zero deaths with a 7.0 earthquake in a city of almost 300,000 people—in most parts of the world, there would not be zero deaths; there would probably be thousands. I have no doubt that part of the reason is because of those prayers. So I want to thank anyone and everyone who was praying for Alaska that day because I guarantee you, it mattered.

To my fellow Alaskans, I again want to thank you. I think that on Friday and even continuing up to today, you represent the best of America, the best of what we as Americans love to see in our fellow Americans: resilience, toughness, preparedness, and helping each other. That was on display and has been on display, and I couldn't be prouder to represent the great State of Alaska, particularly now.

We have a lot of work to do. There are going to be frustrations. It is going to take time. But be assured that we will be working here and at home—Senator MURKOWSKI and I but also with our colleagues—to make our recovery from this massive earthquake as speedy as possible.

God bless.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1200.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination as follows:

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601 to be Vice Admiral: Vice Admiral James J. Malloy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

There being no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Malloy nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING JACK MACKENZIE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on November 28, Quincy, IL, lost a legend in Coach John "Jack" Butler Mackenzie at the age of 77. Jack was the architect of an amazing soccer program at Quincy University. He led the Franciscan school's soccer program to nine National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, National Championships and 516 victories, making him the tenth all-time in NCAA history for wins, regardless of division. He did all of this while setting examples as a coach, a father, grandfather, and leader.

Jack was born on February 26, 1941, to John "Scottie" and Mary Jane Mackenzie. He attended McBride High School in 1959 and earned a scholarship to play football at the University of Missouri. After a year, Jack left to attend Washington University in St. Louis, earning both a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's in education.

Jack married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Bechtold, in June of 1962. He enjoyed telling people that he fell in love with her in sixth grade. Jack worked at Augustinian Academy in St. Louis and was on the cusp of making a big decision.

In 1969, at the urging of his best friend, Frank Longo, who introduced soccer to Quincy, Jack moved from St. Louis to run the Quincy University soccer program. QU had already won

two NAIA national championships in the program's first 5 years of existence when Jack arrived, but the QU Hawks reached new levels of success under Jack.

Jack's Hawks finished in the top three in the national tournament 12 times, including nine championships. They won five consecutive titles from 1977 to 1981. During his four-decade career, Jack won the NAIA National Coach of the Year four times. Thirty one All-American athletes came out of his program.

Jack loved the game of soccer, and soccer's popularity in Quincy exploded. The Quinsippi Soccer League formed in the late 1960s, helping young kids learn about soccer in elementary school. Jack helped teach adults who volunteered to coach the league, offered practice drills and strategies for helping boys and girls learn the game.

With QU's success, the school moved to NCAA Division I in 1984 and then to Division II in 1995, joining the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Quincy University didn't dominate as they did in the early days of Jack's tenure, but they regularly made the playoffs and had winning records.

In 2011, Jack's Hawks won the Great Lakes Valley Conference for the first time since joining the conference. It was Jack's last season coaching the team full time. It wasn't the biggest victory he had ever had, but it was one he loved like the others.

In retirement, Jack remained active in the community. He helped out with Special Olympics teams. He rarely missed a home game of QU's soccer team. Jack was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, NCAA Hall of Fame, United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, St. Louis Players, and QU Hall of Fame. Legends Stadium, where QU plays soccer, has its playing surface named after Jack.

Jack Mackenzie had a gift for storytelling and the ability to make someone's day more enjoyable. He loved his "beautiful game," the kids who learned from him, and his family. His best story was really his own. When kids play on Jack Mackenzie field, it will be remembered as a game based on love.

Jack is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sharon, and six children—Scott; Christopher, wife Leigh, and their children, Julian and Isabella; Kevin, wife Susan, and their sons, Andrew, Tyler, and Luke; Brian, wife Bonnie, and their children, Kate and Jack; Beth Hilbing, husband Chad, and their children Jake, Grace, and Sam; and Megan Henke, husband Adam, and their daughter, Genevieve.

TORNADOES IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Saturday, at least 29 tornadoes reportedly touched down in Illinois in Cass, Christian, DeWitt, Fulton, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Montgomery, Pike, Schuyler, and Tazewell Counties in central Illi-

nois. The National Weather Service is still surveying nearby areas but reports this is the biggest December tornado outbreak in the history of Illinois.

One of the touchdowns in Taylorville caused major damage. I spoke with Taylorville mayor Bruce Berry. Thankfully, no fatalities have been reported, but 20 to 30 people were injured and early reports indicate more than 400 homes and buildings were damaged. Several homes have had roofs damaged and torn off, and others were tragically destroyed.

Two days after the storm, 310 households still did not have power, and the schools in Taylorville were closed as a result of the damages. The community is busy cleaning up and utility companies are working to get electricity back on.

I am grateful for the dedication of the local first responders, who rescued residents that were trapped inside their homes due to the tornado damage. These responders still have task forces searching for anyone that might need assistance. Local officials and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency are also working to make sure communities have the resources to protect critical infrastructure and begin to repair damage, a feat that could take months. American Red Cross volunteers are also providing food, shelter, and water to those in need. Across the region, friends and family have stepped up to help those whose homes and businesses were damaged.

The Illinois delegation and I stand ready to assist in any way we can. I want to thank everyone who has been engaged in the response efforts so far, and all those who will take part in rebuilding damaged homes, businesses, and schools. Illinoisans always rebuild and endure, as we have done many times before—and we are stronger for it.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this past weekend the news that George H.W. Bush, our 41st President had died, quickly made its way across the country and around the world.

Today, I would like to honor the late President George Herbert Walker Bush. I appreciate having this opportunity to celebrate the life and accomplishments of President Bush and to mourn him. His loss will be deeply felt by all of us here in Congress, throughout the Nation, and around the world. He is survived by his five children, including former President George W. Bush, former Governor Jeb Bush, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy Bush, his 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Great thinkers, writers, and other speakers will take up their pens and try to determine President Bush's place in history, and they will debate his significance to the United States of America and his effect on the world.

For those of us who lived through his Presidency, who experienced his time as our leader, those questions and debates are unnecessary. His place in history has been determined not by what we say now, but by his actions as President, his dignity as a person, and his compassion for others. His dedication to service and humility remained at the forefront, even as he filled the role as leader of the free world.

I was serving in the Wyoming Legislature and did not work alongside President Bush in Washington, but while I did not have the pleasure of working with him personally, his career and his life speak to what a remarkable man he was. He was a dedicated husband, father, and public servant. He lived his life with honor and distinction, from enlisting in the Navy at the age of 18 during World War II to serving in Congress. He continued his tradition of public service in the executive branch as an ambassador, Vice President, and finally as President. His dedication to serving his country was exemplary.

As an ambassador and negotiator, he was a talented diplomat and powerful champion for America's interests. As President, he worked toward education reform and signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, helping to ensure disabled Americans have opportunities others take for granted.

He was a practical man who preferred prudence and what is real to the abstract and ephemeral. It was this belief in practicality and prudence that allowed him to handle some of the most challenging events in our history with calm tenacity. His pragmatic nature allowed President Bush to collaborate and befriend President Bill Clinton, once his political adversary, to help lead the relief efforts to raise funds for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

During his Presidency, the Cold War finally ended, the Iron Curtain came down, and the people of Eastern Europe chose freedom. These events left a singular super power amid a world free of major conflict, and he aimed to lead the world into an era where the world would recognize its "shared responsibility for freedom and justice, a world where the strong respect the rights of the weak."

President Bush once listed the qualities he most cherished and among them were: "family, . . . love, decency, honor, pride, tolerance, hope, kindness, loyalty, freedom, . . . faith, service to country, [and] fair play . . ." He and Barbara passed those values on to their children and lived them in front of the country. In many different ways, they nurtured the next generation of leaders whose contributions have continued to enrich this Nation.

President Bush's faith helped him through many of the more trying times in his life, through his daughter's death, through his time in war, he was a man who had not one moment but many that helped him turn to God on