

that I can't talk about right now because it is too hard, but I want you to keep fighting for those shared dreams, for those dreams you shared with me, for those ideas that you had that will move this country forward. I want you to continue to dream and to continue to believe.

When I came here, I once came to a Member, and I said: I have this really great idea. I told him about it, and he said: Yes, that is a really good idea.

I said: Let's work on it.

He said: It will never happen.

I said: It is a good idea, right?

Yes, it is a really good idea, but it will never happen.

I said: We have to get out of the shared culture of failure, believing it can't happen. It can happen. We can do really big and great things when we believe we can, when we refuse to accept failure, and when we refuse to believe that we are somehow limited. No one is tying you. No one is limiting you. You are a U.S. Senator, and, collectively, you will make a difference.

I want to also thank other people. The first is the Capitol Police. Jokingly—only it is not a joke—some of my best friends here are Capitol Police. Some of the nicest people you are going to meet serve you in the dining room. Some of the greatest people are painting the walls out there here. Say hello. Don't just walk by them. They serve you, and they are proud. They are proud of the work they do. They are wonderful people, and I want to thank them for their friendship.

I want to thank so many more people who cared about this place.

I also want to thank my staff, who are all here. Many of them are amazing people, and they are going to go on to do amazing things.

When I sign things, I say: Go do great and good things.

You can do great things, but they may not be good things. We have seen that throughout history.

I say: Go do great and good things.

And they will. They are amazing. They have given so much.

I know you all think you have the best staff. Unfortunately, I do. A lot of them are available, I just want to say. I want them to take what they have learned into their future endeavors. I want to make sure that the legacy that we leave is a legacy of service, of whom we serve and whom we stand for.

Finally, I want to thank my family: my husband Darwin, who is toiling in the clinic as we speak; my daughter Alethea, my son Nathan, and my six brothers and sisters, who are fairly famous all across North Dakota. I would like to just say that they have been my rock.

Finally, I want to thank my mom and dad because they taught me and my siblings to stand up for what is right, to have our voices heard. I know they are watching me from above, and I want to thank them for raising a rowdy, boisterous, and determined crew who remain each other's best

friends. My mother and my father made us strong, and I hope I have made them proud.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from North Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for comments on behalf of my friend from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Senator HEITKAMP and to thank her for her service on behalf of the people of North Dakota, as well as the people of this great Nation.

We have served together for the past 6 years, not only in the Senate but also on the Agriculture Committee, the Indian Affairs Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee.

We have been able to work together on a variety of issues important to our home State, and we have been able to make progress on behalf of the people of North Dakota, as well as the country.

Ag is still North Dakota's top industry. As members of the Ag Committee, we have had the opportunity to craft good, long-term foreign policy that will make a difference not only for hard-working farmers and ranchers in North Dakota but across the Nation. In fact, we have just released the conference report with our Ag Committee leadership, Senator ROBERTS and Senator STABENOW. I commend them for their hard work as well.

Good farm policy benefits every American, every day with the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. Certainly, as a fellow "aggie," Senator HEITKAMP understands that.

I think it is really important that we continue to point out that a good farm bill isn't just about farmers and ranchers. As I said, the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world, thanks to our farmers and ranchers, benefits every single American every single day.

I know Senator HEITKAMP will continue to work, along with our entire delegation, to get the farm bill approved by the end of this year so we can provide certainty and security for our great producers.

As chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, I have appreciated Senator HEITKAMP's commitment to help empower our Tribal communities and to improve the quality of life in Indian Country. Senator HEITKAMP has been an advocate for Native communities. She was able to pass bipartisan legislation to establish a commission on Native children. Additionally, the Senate recently approved Senator HEITKAMP's Savanna's Act, which is legislation to bring greater awareness regarding

tragic cases of missing and murdered Native American women.

She has helped to bring awareness to these issues. We will have a hearing on the issue this week as well. We appreciate her insight and work as a member of our committee.

These are just a few examples of the issues that we have worked on together to advance. While we may be on opposite sides of the political aisle, there is one thing we have always agreed on—that it is an honor—an incredible honor—to serve the great State of North Dakota.

In closing, I want to wish Senator HEITKAMP the best going forward and to thank her again for her service on behalf of North Dakota—a place that we are both blessed to call home.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I also rise to honor my Senator next door and my great colleague Senator HEITKAMP.

As you could see from her beautiful remarks, she is a person of true courage and strength and a friend to so many. We saw this strength when she was running for Governor while battling breast cancer. We saw it when she stood up for the people of North Dakota as their attorney general, and we see that courage every single day in the U.S. Senate, as she fights for the people of her State and the values that have defined her as a public servant.

She is simply one of the best and one of a kind. Going forward, I hope that people will listen to the speech that she just gave about those seven generations, because that is service.

HEIDI has always been true to herself and as mavericky as her red hair. When I walk into a room filled with dark suits and I see that red hair in the middle of it, I know where to go and exactly what I will find. There is her joy and her optimism, so much of it coming from growing up in a family of seven kids. There is her sense of humor, which I love, even when it is mixed with some serious trash talk, even when it is directed at my State next door. There is that friendship, which I treasure above all else. There is the example she sets of what one person can accomplish when you combine so much heart and fierce determination.

We saw it with the human trafficking legislation that she talked about today. We saw it with her work on energy. We saw it with her work for her farmers. Thanks to leaders like HEIDI, we are making progress on so many issues.

I will never forget the trip that I got to take to Mexico with Senator HEITKAMP and Cindy McCain on human trafficking. One of the most memorable moments was when we visited a shelter of girls who had seen unspeakable tragedy. We met a little girl named Paloma. That means "dove" in Spanish. That girl, unlike the other

ones, didn't say a word. All she did was cry. That is all she did. It made me think of what a refugee once said. She said that what she had seen in her life would make "stones cry."

I saw the tears going down HEIDI's face as that girl was just sitting there crying. HEIDI just doesn't watch that happen. She comes back, and she takes those tears and puts them into action. That girl had no voice. HEIDI was her voice. She has done that time and again.

As she mentioned, everywhere you go in North Dakota, you practically meet a member of her family, and somehow they all look the same.

There is also her wonderful husband Darwin, whom I adore. One of my favorite Darwin stories was the time when we took the first all-women Senators trip to Africa, and HEIDI and I were sitting next to each other with some people out in the countryside, with the elders. On one side were all the women, with the women Senators, and on the other side were all the men. I turned to HEIDI—because all of the elders were wearing these incredible hats and outfits—and I said: Who is the guy at the end with the baseball cap?

She said: That is Darwin.

There he was. He was always there, always there for her.

So that is HEIDI.

I will end with one story from that trip; that is, when we were in a hut in the middle of nowhere, and there was a woman who lived there, a widow, with her kids. We went into that hut, these women Senators, and started asking that woman who was so proud of everything she had done—all that was in this hut was one solar panel that she got for her work and one thing on the wall, which was a chart that showed all of the huts. It showed her with a star in the middle, and it showed how she had helped to make sure they had good hygiene and if they got baby care, as she was in charge of that.

One of us asked this woman, who we had learned had walked every day, an hour and a half each day, to get water: What is your biggest challenge?

This woman looked at these Senators and looked at this Senator with red hair from America and said: I have no challenges. I am a leader.

That is HEIDI HEITKAMP. She is a leader. Whatever challenges she has overcome in her life—health, representing a State that isn't always easy when you look at it politically for a Democrat, the challenges she had bucking our own party, taking things on—every single moment, she overcame those challenges because HEIDI HEITKAMP is a leader.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as I listened to Senator HEITKAMP's farewell remarks to us today, I could not help but think of the fact that she used her final speech on the Senate floor not just to talk about her accomplish-

ments, of which there are many, but to inspire us. It was a call to action. It was a call to the better angels of ourselves to work together in the interests of our country.

Maine and North Dakota are separated by a great distance, but the people of our two States have in common the qualities of hard work, of respect for tradition, balanced by a spirit of innovation and a belief in personal responsibility, always tempered by compassion.

During her years in the Senate, HEIDI HEITKAMP has demonstrated those qualities time and again. She is passionate, as we heard today; she is energetic, as we have seen in her work; and she is a committed public servant who has worked so diligently for her State and for our country.

Senator HEITKAMP has a remarkable record of public service. As her State's attorney general, she fought to protect the people of North Dakota against drug dealers, to defend seniors against abusive scams, and to keep sexual predators off the streets.

Senator HEITKAMP has continued those causes, that fight as a Member of the U.S. Senate. Among the many issues on which we have worked together, Senator HEITKAMP's determined leadership on efforts to support victims of human trafficking and to prevent youth homelessness stand out. She and I led the charge to increase Federal funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

She has also been such a strong advocate for children, as you all heard today. She has worked to help teenagers who find themselves without a permanent home or on the street.

I was proud to stand with her in helping to forge the bipartisan path forward on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which became law and includes Senator HEITKAMP's provision to give safe harbor to victims of human trafficking. She has also shed light on the role healthcare providers can play in identifying and protecting the victims of human trafficking by authoring the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Act—the SOAR Act—on which I was proud to be her lead Republican.

Senator HEITKAMP has been such a valued leader in strengthening our agriculture. In fact, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee was just talking about the absolutely vital role she has played working with both the chairman and the ranking member. She knows that when we strengthen agriculture, we sustain our rural communities.

The Next Generation in Agriculture Act that she authored and I cosponsored will ensure that new farmers and ranchers have the support and guidance they need.

It has been so rewarding to work with Senator HEITKAMP on so many bipartisan issues, such as improving

school nutrition, increasing access to healthcare in underserved areas, and expanding mental health services for our rural vets. She was also instrumental in the success of the Common Sense Coalition in preventing a lengthy government shutdown earlier this year.

Senator HEITKAMP has been an effective and courageous colleague, but most of all, she has been a dear friend. Our friendship transcends party lines and is rooted in mutual respect and trust.

To my friend, I say thank you for your service to our country and thank you so much for your friendship. I am so grateful that we served together, and I wish you all the best.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to talk for just a few minutes about Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, but first I want to start by talking a little bit about why North Dakota is so important to me.

My grandfather and grandmother lived in Argusville, in West Fargo, and moved to the place where I farm in about 1910, so I have always had a kinship with North Dakota.

Before I came to this body—even before I got into the State legislature—I always looked at North Dakota with envy because they had two U.S. Senators by the names of Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad. I thought they were incredibly effective people, and when I got to this body, I found out that in fact they were. Byron used to talk about Rosie the Riveter and trade and Kent used to talk about the budget.

Then there was this lady by the name of HEIDI HEITKAMP, who decided to run when Kent hung up his cleats. I remember sitting in caucus as the campaign unfolded in 2012. As a candidate, especially in a tough State like North Dakota or a tough State like Montana is, you always worry about different issues as they are coming down the pike and how you were going to deal with them and how you were going to message them. Healthcare was a big deal in the 2012 election. I saw one of the ads HEIDI had offered up. She didn't step away from the issue. She laid into the issue. That was a sign of what was to come when she got into this body.

I remember the night she got elected and, as she pointed out, she wasn't supposed to get elected, but she did because she is a special person and a special candidate. I remember driving home the next morning, and I called Kent Conrad. I said: Congratulations. He said: You are going to love HEIDI HEITKAMP. She is an incredible person. I remember he also said: What you are going to love about her the most is that she is normal. In this body, that says a lot—because HEIDI HEITKAMP is normal. She is somebody who sees the world as it is. She sees rural America as it is. She has leaned into every issue. They have been well documented

here today. She has been incredibly effective in this body, but most importantly—and most of what this body is going to have to compensate for when she goes—every issue she brought up today revolves around rural America.

Not many people live in rural America anymore. We have all moved to the coast or we have moved to the bigger cities. She is right; Fargo is the big city. In Montana, people have moved from the rural areas to the big cities like Great Falls and Billings and Missoula. Those people and their challenges in those rural areas are real. HEIDI HEITKAMP brought those challenges to the floor, brought them to committee every single day. I can't tell you how much I appreciate that, being a child of rural America.

So as we move forward, as HEIDI has given her last speech on the Senate floor and laid out the challenges we need to take up in this Senate—and the challenges she laid out are real and they will not get solved by one party or the other, they will only get solved, as she knows, by working together. I will say this. You have been an incredible friend, an incredible ally, somebody who is normal, and I wish you Godspeed moving ahead. I am sure we haven't heard the last of HEIDI HEITKAMP.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Montana for his comments and those of Senator KLOBUCHAR, as well as my distinguished colleague and friend from Maine.

Normal; maybe "supernormal" would be a better term. Every time HEIDI HEITKAMP came into our committee room—I had the privilege and the honor of being the chairman of the sometimes powerful Senate Agriculture Committee, along with my distinguished ranking member, Senator STABENOW, whom I will yield to in just a moment. Every time she came into the committee room, it might be a little bit late, but it was like a ray of sunshine came in and a ray of commitment.

HEIDI, thank you for that speech. Thank you for those marching orders, if you will. This marine will cease parade rest and come to attention and do the best I can following your example.

I want to say something to HEIDI's staff. I don't know if the Senate cameras will do this—they obviously have me on there—but it would be a good idea to pan these young people over there.

Senator Frank Carlson, a long time ago—one of my mentors, my first boss from Kansas—said there are no self-made men or women in public office. It is your friends who make you what you are. I relate to that, saying friends, people, staff. We all think we have the best staff on the Hill, and if we don't think that, something is wrong. You have had the privilege of working for a

lady who has great admiration from both sides of the aisle, who has accomplished so much. This time is so special for you, and thank you for what you have done for HEIDI. Thank you for getting her prepared, ready. You didn't have to do too much because she does that on her own, but during this special time, see if you can take this step and then the next step in your life—and it prepares you for that next step—and shine. Represent HEIDI well. Represent yourself well.

I think you have had a rare privilege to work for somebody like HEIDI HEITKAMP. She has been a good friend to me and a good friend to so many here.

We aren't going to miss you because you are going to be back in some capacity—maybe taking time off from what you are doing in your home State of North Dakota. Everybody who knows you knows you are going to be back in public service in some capacity.

I think I will stop right there and yield to my distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to someone who has made a really big impression from the day she set foot in the Senate.

It might be her infectious laugh; I dare you not to smile when you hear it. It might be her hugs, which I know many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will miss. Or it might be her ever-present iced coffee, no matter how cold it is outside. I might be biased, but I think it is the hair.

Saying goodbye to Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP is hard for many of us, especially the members of the Senate Red-head Caucus. After all, we are losing a third of our membership.

In all seriousness, I will miss HEIDI, and I know I am not alone. I have had the chance to get to know her from the very beginning, back when she was first running for the Senate. I campaigned with her in North Dakota, and the thing that really struck me was her passion for the people of her State and for agriculture.

We have had the opportunity to work closely together during our time on the Agriculture Committee and especially as members of the farm bill conference committee. I can tell you that HEIDI has been instrumental in getting this deal done and in making sure that North Dakota's farmers and ranchers are well-represented.

Thanks to HEIDI, we have taken huge steps forward in trade with Cuba; it is her language in the farm bill.

She wasn't afraid to go her own way in order to stand up for North Dakota. Even when we didn't agree on issues like conservation easements, HEIDI fought for her farmers and got it done.

I would like to think her passion comes from her red hair, but in reality,

I think it is her oversized heart. Whether she was listening to the struggles of women farmers during our women's agriculture CODEL in Africa, or shining a light on the epidemic of missing and murdered Native American women, or sharing her own story of surviving breast cancer and the need to protect people with preexisting conditions, in a city where spreadsheets rule, HEIDI threw her heart into this job, and her State and our Nation are better for it.

HEIDI, thank you for your friendship, your leadership, and for putting your whole heart into fighting for North Dakota.

I join my great friend Senator ROBERTS, first of all, in indicating what a huge difference you have made on the Agriculture Committee. From the day you walked in, you hit the ground running and have made an incredible difference.

As you were talking today about some parts—and we could go through every single chapter—you made a difference. The Tribal provisions are in there. But you mentioned Cuba, and this is very historic. It took work on the Senate floor to be able to move it through. It took work for us in the conference committee. It is because of you that it is in there and opportunities for farmers are in there.

I also greatly appreciate that when we had differences—like conservation and easements—you pushed hard and were successful in getting changes for North Dakota that needed to happen. It was you who did that. Others took credit, but you did that.

When I think about our traveling together to Africa and think about the impact you have had on women and children—whether it is Native women and children, whether it was what we were doing overseas, whether it was what you have done every day for all of our children—I am so grateful.

Most importantly, I am grateful for your friendship. I am going to miss you greatly. I wish you Godspeed while you determine the future. I know it will be bright, and hopefully in some way we will all be benefiting from it.

God bless you.

Mr. ROBERTS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring and paying tribute to my friend and mentor, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP.

I am particularly and profoundly grateful for both her trailblazing work mentoring women who want to run for public office and her remarkable ability to get things done across party lines in the Senate.

For years, Senator HEITKAMP has been at the forefront of mentoring other women and encouraging them to enter public service, recognizing that balanced representation is vital to our country's success. In fact, HEIDI HEITKAMP and I first met through a program that she helped start to encourage and prepare women to run for

office—to do more than just tell us it was possible but to help us understand that there were ways to prepare for it, to run in our own way, to be our own people. She helped demonstrate that even though you may experience setbacks—including her own setback battling breast cancer—you still have what it takes to serve your communities and to make a difference. I am incredibly grateful for those lessons, I am incredibly grateful for her efforts because they have helped inspire women all across the country.

All the issues that HEIDI just talked about in her farewell speech—there are now armies of current and future public servants who will take those issues and challenges as their own because she has helped prepare them to do that.

Then there is Senator HEITKAMP's work in the Senate. During the time we served together in the Senate, I have been so impressed by Senator HEITKAMP's ability to stand up for her priorities and her values, while also working with anybody else here willing to step up to get results, particularly on issues such as fighting for rural communities, standing up for our country's veterans, strengthening our Nation's healthcare system, and, yes, reminding our colleagues that there is a northern border that needs to be secured and attended to.

Serving together on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I saw firsthand her capacity to be constructive and to find compromise. In doing so, she earned the respect and trust of her colleagues, while also building a record of bipartisan accomplishments—accomplishments we all know last because of their very bipartisanism.

Above all, Senator HEITKAMP was relentless in fighting for what she believed. Just ask any of the witnesses who testified before her on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

It has been truly an honor to serve with Senator HEITKAMP, and all of us need to continue to work to emulate her example—the example that she has set of listening to others and being productive, her commitment and her recognition of the importance of getting things done while always doing the right thing for the people we serve.

Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP's voice in this Chamber will be sorely missed, but I also know that she will keep fighting to make a difference and that she will continue to do just that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I think all of us here watching Senator HEITKAMP today give her farewell address were tremendously moved. I come away, first of all, with, this is a person of character, a person we have served with who cares about doing the right thing, a person who cares deeply about the issues that are before this august body and someone we will miss very much.

By the evidence of the Republicans who turned out to listen here on the floor—and I am sure many others were listening in their offices—I think they may miss her more than Democrats because she worked with them so much. She cared about reaching across the aisle. She wasn't worried that it was going to hurt her back home because she was going to be solving problems.

One of the things I think of when I think of HEIDI HEITKAMP is that I have known HEIDI—she is my friend. She reminds me: Don't call me your oldest friend in the Senate. But she is my longest standing friend. I go back to the early 1990s with HEIDI, when we were attorneys general together from two small States—New Mexico and North Dakota—and we have been very, very good friends since then.

HEIDI is a leader of principle. She wants to do the right thing, no matter what. That is pretty special in this institution we are in. She wants to do what is right by North Dakota and do what is right by our country. She always follows her conscience, and she gives the citizens of her State and this great country her very best judgment. That is really the spirit of a true public servant—to do what is right and let the chips fall where they may. A couple issues we have had recently are good examples, and I will talk about one back when we were attorneys general together.

The Kavanaugh vote was a big vote for the Senate. I think it was probably a tough vote for HEIDI, but I think she came to it with the idea that she was going to do the right thing. She had the courage to stand up for victims—victims of sexual assault, victims of sexual harassment, all of the permutations of that. I know that for the better part of her career—whether she was an attorney general, whether she was a U.S. Senator, or whether she was working in other capacities both in and out of government—she was always working for victims. I think one of the things that helped HEIDI understand that so well was that her mother was sexually assaulted as a teenager. Knowing that—HEIDI learned from that. She learned about the prevalence of it, that it was out there and it was deep and it was hidden in a lot of ways. So I saw early on, as a State attorney general, that she was a champion—a real champion—for victims.

Shifting from the example I just gave with the vote on the Supreme Court, another example of her persistence to do what is right—nobody had ever taken on the tobacco industry, this huge industry. People talked a little bit and would say: It is so bad that people are addicted to smoking. But the attorneys general of our country in the 1990s filed a lawsuit against the tobacco companies because they were targeting our children. We found research that showed tobacco companies knew that if you get young people addicted at a very young age, they are going to smoke for life. For them, it

was all a profit motive. If you get a young person addicted, you know you are going to have a smoker for life; you know you will have somebody who is going to buy cigarettes for life. We knew that.

She was one of the leaders in the attorneys general's effort to bring this horrible, horrible scourge under control. We filed our lawsuit. The tobacco companies saw what was coming. We did our discovery. They didn't want this case in court—there was no way. They were going to lose big. So we had what was the biggest civil settlement in the history of the country. After we knew we were going to have a settlement, the smaller States knew we had to have a tough negotiator to represent us because we were afraid that larger States—California, New York, and others—would get more of the money than we would. We all felt we had participated equally. So whom did we select? We selected HEIDI HEITKAMP to be our negotiator, and, boy, did she do a good job for the smaller States.

Just to remind everybody, this year, \$34 million from that settlement flows to the State of North Dakota. It was settled several decades ago, but the money is still coming in to do prevention, to help out with tobacco addiction, and to do what is really important there.

The other quality I want to mention—and I know we are going over in terms of where we are supposed to be in our caucuses—there is a remarkable trait—and we saw this today, with everyone who turned out, and our staff knows this—HEIDI HEITKAMP is one of the most well-liked U.S. Senators by both sides of the aisle. She was so well-liked that President Trump—convinced he needed somebody in his Cabinet who was well-liked and respected—recruited HEIDI HEITKAMP to be his Secretary of Agriculture. I really think what the President was doing cozying up to her was trying to make friends in the Senate. He figured that if he got her, she was going to make a real difference, and he was hoping that her popularity would rub off on him.

I will never forget when President Trump invited her up on the stage at one of his political rallies in September of 2017. He invited her up to the stage and said:

Everybody's saying, "What's she doing up here?" But I'll tell you what: Good woman.

"Good woman." Do you know what I say? No, Mr. President. She is a great woman. She is a great woman.

I could go on forever, but I just want to comment—and HEIDI commented about her commitment to Native communities, to Native women and to Native children. She worked as a State attorney general, she worked in the Senate, and she worked in other elected offices on this. She didn't give up. She is working in the Senate until the very end to make sure we get Savanna's Act passed, which is going to protect missing and indigenous women.

We have already passed it through the Senate Indian Affairs Committee,

and she is intent on making sure it gets passed this session, and I am going to work with her on that. She has worked on VAWA reauthorization. Heidi has always broadcast the core principles in our relations with Native communities—Tribal sovereignty, Tribal consultation, strong government-to-government relations—and she has always tried to make sure Senators who don't have Native communities understand the situation we are facing.

My friendship with HEIDI has made me a better public servant and a better person. Before we came here to serve, we had already known each other for many years—since the 1990's when we both served as State attorneys general. At that time, there was only a handful of women serving as their State's attorney general. HEIDI herself was a trailblazer, serving as North Dakota's first female Attorney General.

It was then I saw the first of the innumerable examples of her commitment to serving the people of North Dakota and the public interest.

A number of attorneys general, including HEIDI and I, initiated groundbreaking lawsuits against big tobacco. Those lawsuits were met with skepticism. The disease and terrible health impacts caused by tobacco products had cost States precious resources. The tobacco companies were working to lure underage youth to buy their harmful products through targeted advertising. Like so many other times in her life, HEIDI's work helped us beat some long odds.

Our lawsuits proved highly successful. North Dakota is still reaping the benefits, having received a \$34 million tobacco settlement from those efforts just this year.

In the years since, I have seen HEIDI continue her dedication to public service and achieve great things, not least of which was 6 years ago when she became North Dakota's first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

Although she has come far from her humble beginnings, she has never forgotten her roots. She fights for the working people of North Dakota and across the Nation.

While HEIDI is highly accomplished, she remains plain spoken, straight shooting, and down to earth.

I have been privileged to serve with HEIDI on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs—a committee she knew from the get-go that she wanted to be on. She came to Washington ready to fight for Native communities in North Dakota, to make sure they weren't being left behind.

She is a fierce defender of tribal sovereignty and demands that the federal government meet its treaty and trust responsibilities and engage in meaningful consultation with tribes when Federal action impacts tribal interests.

HEIDI has worked tirelessly on behalf of North Dakota's five tribes and all of Indian country.

Just like when she was attorney general, I have seen her laser-focused on

protecting and empowering those most in need of a champion—like children and domestic violence survivors.

The very first bill HEIDI introduced was to tackle the systemic problems facing Native children by establishing a National Commission.

With more than one in three Native American children living in poverty, suicide rates 2.5 times higher than the national average, and one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country, she knew we must do more—much more—for our Native youth. It was no surprise to me that she got that bill passed in short order before the end of her first Congress.

For decades, HEIDI has been on the frontlines of protecting victims of domestic violence. As attorneys general, we worked to implement the Violence Against Women Act after it first got passed in 1994.

We continued the fight together here in the Senate. In fact, one of the first things we worked on was to help pass the 2013 VAWA reauthorization. That reauthorization was hard fought. We wanted to protect key provisions that restored tribal jurisdiction to domestic violence crimes committed by non-Indians on reservations. Those cases were falling through the cracks.

At the time, opponents claimed that tribes didn't have the resources or expertise to enforce the Act. Thanks to the tireless work of HEIDI and many of my colleagues on the Indian Affairs Committee, the provisions remained in the bill, and President Obama signed it into law in March 2013.

Five years later, we know for a fact that those opponents were wrong. According to a report this year from the National Congress of American Indians, since VAWA of 2013 was enacted, 18 tribes have once again begun exercising jurisdiction over domestic violence crimes. NCAI is collaborating with 50 other tribes to develop best practices. There have been 143 arrests of 128 non-Indian abusers, with 74 convictions.

HEIDI has always prided herself on working across the aisle to get things done—whether she is tackling domestic violence or working to improve public safety.

She partnered with my good friend John McCain to make sure that Indian Country is part of the AMBER Alert child abduction warning system. That bill was signed into law last April.

Just last week, the full Senate unanimously passed one of HEIDI's bills—Savanna's Act. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind—a member of the Spirit Lake tribe, 22 years old, and 8 months pregnant—was brutally murdered in Fargo last year. The sad truth is, reportedly more than 80 percent of Native women will experience violence in their lifetime. HEIDI is determined to do something about that.

Her bill would improve law enforcement tracking of and response to the growing crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. HEIDI has been an incredible voice combatting this cri-

sis—working to make sure these women are not invisible. I have been touched by her commitment to this fight.

I am inspired by HEIDI's work for Indian Country and am committed to carrying on her work so that tribes in North Dakota and across Indian Country know that. Even if one of their strongest defenders is moving on to the next chapter, her mission will not be lost.

The list of all HEIDI's accomplishments is as long as her heart is big. She has worked for the people of North Dakota for decades. She has been an independent voice in the Senate, not tied to party or ideology but committed to doing what is right for the people of her State. She will always roll up her sleeves and work with all sides to solve problems. She will always fight for the little guy.

On a personal note, she is one of the most loyal friends anyone could ask for.

She never shied away from the hard votes—approaching every single one with conscience and courage. I admire HEIDI for her conviction.

All of us here will miss HEIDI tremendously. I know that her work is not done—not even close. Like so many here, I look forward to her next challenge and to seeing what more she accomplishes for her State and the Nation and the countless lives she is sure to touch.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to echo what my colleague from New Mexico said about our friend and colleague Senator HEITKAMP. I can say that everything he just said—there is strong bipartisan agreement on that front. I want to emphasize a couple of points he mentioned about Senator HEITKAMP. Certainly, she is one of the most well-liked Senators, optimistic and upbeat.

As Senator UDALL just mentioned, I think there is a certain element in the Senate—whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, if you are a former attorney general, you come to this job with a little bit of the same viewpoint, the same experiences.

I want to emphasize what Senator HEITKAMP mentioned in her remarks and Senator UDALL mentioned in his remarks, which is her strong dedication to two issues that I think really matter—certainly, they matter to my constituents, and they matter to most Americans—and that is her relentless advocacy and fight with regard to combating the big problem we have in America with sexual assault and domestic violence—it is a very big, difficult problem in my State, and I know it is a problem in many other States—

and her commitment to the Native peoples of our country.

One example is a bill that Senator HEITKAMP and I worked on together called the POWER Act. The whole focus is to get more legal representation for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. When we were working on this bill together, she was obviously a huge advocate, but she came back to me and said: We need to make this especially focused on the Native communities. That was her idea. That was in the bill. The bill was passed in the Congress and signed into law 2 months ago. I have no doubt that bill, for which she was the strongest advocate, is going to make lives better for women throughout our country who have gone through horrible experiences, particularly in the Native communities, whether in North Dakota or Alaska or New Mexico, and that was because of her hard work.

So I want to echo what so many others have said. In those areas and so many others, it has been my honor to serve with Senator HEITKAMP. I know she is going to continue to serve her community, State, and country in important ways. My best to her.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

MORNING BUSINESS—(Continued)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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.

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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 3:45 p.m. today, the Senate vote on adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes, of South Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kobes nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Alexander | Gardner | Paul |
| Barrasso | Graham | Perdue |
| Blunt | Grassley | Portman |
| Boozman | Hatch | Risch |
| Burr | Heller | Roberts |
| Capito | Hoeven | Rounds |
| Cassidy | Hyde-Smith | Rubio |
| Collins | Inhofe | Sasse |
| Corker | Isakson | Scott |
| Cornyn | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Kyl | Thune |
| Cruz | Lankford | Tillis |
| Daines | Lee | Toomey |
| Enzi | McConnell | Wicker |
| Ernst | Moran | Young |
| Fischer | Murkowski | |

NAYS—50

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Harris | Nelson |
| Bennet | Hassan | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Reed |
| Booker | Heitkamp | Sanders |
| Brown | Hirono | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Jones | Schumer |
| Cardin | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Carper | King | Smith |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Coons | Leahy | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Udall |
| Donnelly | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | McCaskill | Warner |
| Durbin | Menendez | Warren |
| Feinstein | Merkley | Whitehouse |
| Flake | Murphy | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Murray | |

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the 115th Congress is drawing to a close, and it has been a good 2 years. Our goal 2 years ago was simple: to make life better for American families—which is exactly what we have done. We knew that

a huge part of making life better for American families was in the expanding of opportunity and putting more money in their pockets, so we passed a historic reform of our outdated Tax Code that slashed tax rates for families and removed barriers to economic growth.

It is already producing results. Since we passed tax reform a year ago this December, we have seen unemployment drop to its lowest rate in almost 50 years, and we have seen job openings reach a record high. For the past 7 months, there have been more job openings than there have been Americans looking for work. We have seen company after company dispense raises or bonuses or boost benefits for their employees. We have seen the best wage growth since the great recession and more.

Most importantly, the economic benefits of tax reform are reaching the people who need them the most. During the Obama administration, what economic prosperity there was tended to be concentrated in large metropolitan areas, but under Republican government, growth and prosperity are reaching small cities and rural families and communities. Thanks to tax reform, a lot of families are finding it easier to pay their bills and to put a little bit away for the future.

Yet, of course, tax reform is far from the only thing we did in this Congress to improve the lives of the American people. Along with the White House, we lifted burdensome regulations. We enacted legislation to improve career and technical education programs. We passed legislation to make it easier for Main Street banks and credit unions to lend money to small businesses and farmers and ranchers. We passed the largest pay increase in nearly a decade for our men and women in uniform.

We delivered real reforms for our veterans through the VA MISSION Act. This legislation streamlined the VA's community care programs to help ensure veterans receive efficient, timely, quality care. Once fully implemented, it will also expand caregiver assistance to disabled pre-9/11 veterans—an overdue benefit for generations of our heroes. We also modernized the Veterans Benefits Administration's appeals system to develop a quicker, more responsive system for veterans.

On the national security front, we have reinvested in our Nation's military to ensure that our troops are equipped not only for today's missions but to meet the threats of the future. A recent report from the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission outlined how dangerously our military superiority has eroded—to the point at which it would be difficult for us to win a war against two major powers. This alarming reduction in our military's readiness is why Republicans have made rebuilding our military such a priority in this Congress. There is no better way to ensure peace for our country than to make sure that the