

basis—other than the fact that this one has more political support and, perhaps, more financial backing—to draw that distinction here. I think it is unfair to those who benefit from and will need to invoke the need for Social Security disability insurance to put it in an even less sustainable posture moving forward.

Yes, in an ideal world we would like to say no waiting period for anyone. In an ideal world we would like to not have anyone have to wait for these sorts of things, but we do have, in our government, a susceptibility to claims that are not substantiated, and we also have people who have to review them. In the absence of a perfect system, it may not be possible. It certainly isn't going to be possible for us to make this program sustainable if we can't put meaningful limits on it.

Again, I am all for finding ways to shorten that waiting period as much as we possibly can. I have yet to hear an argument that sets this condition apart from the others in this category of 233 compassionate allowance conditions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I simply note that the Senator seems to be making precisely the argument that he is denying that he has made.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. In no way, shape, or form am I making the argument that we cannot help anyone until we help everyone. That is a mischaracterization of the argument I am making.

I am arguing that if, among and between these 233 categories, we can make no principle distinction between this condition and the others, we are mistreating those other people.

Who is going to stand here for them? Today, I am going to.

On that basis, I object.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, at the Senator's desire, he may add any of those whom he wishes, and we will consider that going forward. Unless and until he does that, we are in a position that unless we are helping all of them, we will help none of them.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

#### REMEMBERING DR. ORVILLE CLARK, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Orville Clark, Jr., who was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. When Dr. Clark passed away earlier this year at the age of 92, his family chose to honor his service in uniform by burying him at one of our Nation's most sacred sites.

A lifelong resident of Pikeville, KY, Orville entered the U.S. Army in December of 1943 to fight against the forces of evil in World War II. He served as a combat medic in the European theater, and his children recounted that Orville suffered a severe injury in 1945 as he attempted to rescue other soldiers. For his courage and sacrifice on that French battlefield, he earned the Purple Heart, our Nation's oldest military award still given to servicemembers.

After the war, Orville returned to Kentucky and he married Betty Jo the next year. He built an optometry practice and was a leader among his peers as the president of the Kentucky Optometric Association. Throughout their 72 years together, the couple raised their children, Alicia and Orville, and instilled in them life's important lessons.

Later in his life, Orville would walk to a local fast food restaurant every day for a cup of coffee. Apparently he made such an impression on the staff there that, at his funeral in Pike County, the crew served as his pall bearers. The Clark family then traveled with his remains to Orville's final resting place in our Nation's Capital. On a windy day in Arlington, our Nation rendered military honors and expressed its gratitude to Orville for his service and sacrifice.

The men and women of the "greatest generation" often chose to leave the safety of home to defend the freedom of our Nation and of the world. Like so many of his comrades, Orville patriotically stood against the enemies of the United States. In doing so, he displayed the highest values of our Commonwealth and our Nation. As Betty Jo, Alicia, and Orville grieve this loss, our thoughts and prayers are with them. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the Clark family.

#### TRIBUTE TO RONNIE ELLIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when he retired last month, Ronnie Ellis closed the book on his long and proud career in journalism. A native of Glasgow, KY, Ronnie spent his professional life writing about the issues important to his fellow Kentuckians and the Commonwealth he loves. In doing so, he shared firsthand insights with his readers about the happenings in

their capital and earned a reputation as one of the most trusted voices in Frankfort.

Ronnie's first job in journalism came at the Edmonson News, a family-owned weekly publication in South Central Kentucky. He was so eager to put words in print that he even started working there before he had finished his studies at Western Kentucky University in nearby Bowling Green. He clearly had a knack for it. From there, Ronnie worked at both the Glasgow Daily Times and Henderson Gleaner, two newspapers with historic roots in Western Kentucky.

In 2005, he moved to Frankfort and joined the Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc., CNHI, giving Ronnie the opportunity to have his articles printed in papers throughout the Commonwealth. His move to CNHI also brought a change in focus. Leading the organization's bureau in Frankfort, Ronnie kept a close eye on State government and politics. In addition to his written columns, he also became a frequent guest on Kentucky Educational Television's public affairs program, "Comment on Kentucky."

Through the years, I spoke with Ronnie about the issues of the day and their importance to our home State. He never shied away from the tough questions, and his professionalism helped set the standard for other journalists.

There is good news, however, for Ronnie's dedicated readers. We aren't losing his viewpoint forever. In the new year, Ronnie plans to continue writing a regular column for CNI. I would like to take this chance to join Ronnie's audience in thanking him for his years of reporting and wishing him a fulfilling retirement. I ask my Senate colleagues to join Elaine and me in thanking Ronnie for his commitment to journalism in Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID FIELDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to my friend, David Fields, who is the Butler County judge-executive from my home State of Kentucky. Earlier this year, David announced that his time in public service would come to a close soon, ending more than a decade of leadership and success for those who put their trust in him.

After a successful career owning a body shop with his wife, Virginia, David chose to dedicate himself to the service of his community. First elected in 2006, David quickly got to work leading the county. As a former judge-executive myself, I know firsthand just how many responsibilities land on your plate, and David accomplished a great deal along the way.

In particular, David has been a wonderful ally to me here in the Senate in our work for this region. The Green River, which flows through Butler County, brings the potential for transportation and commerce. I had the opportunity to work closely with David

during our effort to transfer the ownership of the Rochester from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USACE, to the local community. The dam, which is more than 175 years old and provides a vital water supply to nearly 50,000 Kentuckians, had fallen into disrepair and its uncertain status with the USACE threatened Butler County's economic future. With David's advocacy, I inserted a provision in a recent water infrastructure bill transferring control of the dam to the local community.

Last year, I also proudly supported the Rochester Dam Regional Water Commission's application for an economic development grant to renovate the dam and secure its future for the area. With a \$3 million investment, local leaders like David can continue to help this region grow and benefit Kentuckians for years to come.

Although I am sorry to see him go, I wish David a wonderful retirement. I am told he looks forward to spending more time with Virginia, his son, Greg, and two granddaughters. I would like to thank David for his leadership of Butler County and for his dedicated service to its citizens. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating David on this remarkable milestone.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES LEWIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate my friend, Leslie County clerk James Lewis, on his upcoming retirement from public service. For more than three decades, James has worked for his neighbors in local government, earning respect throughout the county and the Commonwealth. As he prepares to leave the Leslie County Clerk's Office, I want to thank him for his tireless work and dedication to our State.

First elected in 1985, James has been a fixture of his community for more than a generation. Of the many responsibilities of a county clerk, perhaps the most important is the operation and safeguarding of Americans' access to the ballot box. Throughout his service as county clerk, James has overseen nearly 60 elections, including every office from jailer to the President of the United States. Although the technologies involved may have changed, his commitment to his office has never wavered. I have had the pleasure to work with James on a number of projects throughout the years. His passion for the people of Leslie County is apparent in everything he does, and they have been served well by his time in office.

James became a respected leader among all 120 county clerks throughout the Commonwealth. From 1994 to this year, he served as the chairman of the Kentucky County Clerk's Association Election Committee, administering election training for all other clerks for more than 20 years. Between 1999-2000, James served as the associa-

tion's president. One of the association's initiatives, which James helped found, is the Help A Veteran Everyday, H.A.V.E., Program. James spearheaded one of their projects, which involves repurposing license plates into bird houses. The finished products can then be purchased at the clerk's offices. Through these efforts, James is helping support Kentucky's men and women who served our Nation in uniform.

Whatever retirement may hold in store for James, I wish him all the best. Perhaps he will spend more time on his hobbies, like gardening or fishing. I have no doubt that he will be enjoying more time with his wife, Betty, daughters, Danika and Wendy, and grandchildren, Kelsey and R.J. As he begins his well-deserved retirement, I would like to congratulate James on a distinguished career. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking James for his remarkable public service to Leslie County and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERRY MARTIN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my privilege to salute my friend, Hart County judge-executive Terry Martin, as he completes his career of public service. Since he took office in 2005, Terry has dedicated nearly every waking hour to his constituents. As he begins the next chapter of his life, I would like to remember his lasting record of success and to express my sincere gratitude.

After graduating from Western Kentucky University, Terry spent 27 years in education. He was a teacher, an administrator, and a coach helping to guide the next generation. In 2005, Terry was appointed by the Governor to serve as Hart County's judge-executive, the leading elected official in county government. For Terry, entering public service was like joining the family business. His father, Elroy, was a city judge, a local fire chief, and a county magistrate. His brother, Glenn, was also a magistrate and part of this noble family tradition. The drive to serve his neighbors just seems to run in Terry's veins.

In the county's top job, Terry had a lot of responsibilities. With a goal to provide essential services to the residents in a fiscally responsible way, Terry consistently went beyond the typical job description. I hear he would even drive a snow plow during winter storms. As a former county judge-executive myself, I know firsthand how difficult a job this can be. Whatever challenge he may have faced, Terry consistently excelled and earned the trust of his constituents and his colleagues.

During his time in office, I have enjoyed working with Terry on a number of projects to help Kentucky. We collaborated with the Green River Valley Water District to deliver drinking water to rural parts of the county. Terry also identified the alarming frequency of collisions along Interstate 65

in the county. Together, we prioritized resources to expand the highway, promoting safety for both families and commercial travelers.

As he begins his well-deserved retirement, I am confident Terry looks forward to spending more time with his loving family. With Carmen, his wife of 40 years, they are proud parents to Lynlea and grandparents to Lyndon and Gwyneth. I wish the entire Martin family the very best as they take this next step together. Along with all those who have benefited from Terry's service to Hart County and to our Commonwealth, I would like to say thank you. He's been a good friend and a strong leader for Kentucky. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Terry Martin for a job well-done and wishing him a fulfilling retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH NICHOLSON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to pay tribute to Sarah Nicholson, a great Kentuckian who recently retired from a nearly four-decade career with the Kentucky Hospital Association, KHA. Serving as the vice president of government relations for the statewide professional trade association representing hospitals throughout the Commonwealth, Sarah earned a strong reputation for her legislative acumen and her tireless advocacy.

As the leader of the association's public affairs operations, Sarah has worked with members of the Kentucky General Assembly and the executive branch for the advancement of our State's hospitals. She was also tasked with supporting beneficial legislation at the Federal level. As my staff and I have worked with the KHA through the years, Sarah was an effective advocate for its priorities.

In addition to her diligent work for the KHA, Sarah is passionate about bettering educational opportunities around Kentucky. At her alma mater, Western Kentucky University, she served on its board of advisers, its college of health and human services advisory board, and its alumni board. Sarah was also a representative on the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Inter-Alumni Council and the Centre College Parents Advisory Committee.

As Sarah begins the next chapter of her life, I am confident that she is looking forward to spending more quality time with her family, especially her husband, retired Jefferson County District Judge James C. Nicholson, and their three children. I hope she enjoys every well-deserved time with them. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah Nicholson on her retirement and thanking her for her work on behalf of Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT REYNOLDS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later this month, one of Louisville's