

Member of the Missouri delegation signed the letter asking the President to grant that declaration. The assistance that would be impacted by this would be vital. It is important. We need that kind of assistance now.

I am going to continue to work—and I hope all our colleagues continue to work—to make this year's disasters and last fall's disasters eligible for the funds we appropriate for disaster coverage.

During the flood, a lot has been said about the Corps of Engineer's management of the Missouri River, and what, if anything, they could have done that might have prevented the flood this time. I think probably not. This is such an unusual flood that the locks on the Missouri were north of where the flood occurred. There was a dam that broke that would not normally have broken, and that would normally not even be part of the Missouri River management system.

The Corps has been out there trying to help figure out how to recover rather than figure out what caused this particular flood. In fact, the Corps and the permanent staff in places like the Kansas City office of the Corps understand the Missouri River better than anybody, in my view, and are helpful when they can be.

That doesn't mean the Corps, in a greater sense, isn't responsible for what has become the new normal on the Missouri River. We have had recurrent historic flooding on the river now for 15 years. Ever since the Corps asked for a new management plan in 2004 and got the new management plan, it just simply doesn't work.

At least 6 of the top 10 river crests in recorded history have occurred in the last 15 years. Floods in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011—you see the pattern here—2013, and 2019. The only reason we didn't have dramatic floods every year was we had a couple of drought years in 2009 and 2012.

This all goes back to that 2004 management plan. What changed in 2004? In 2004, the Corps started to implement the Missouri River Recovery Program in response to a Biological Opinion—"opinion" may be the key word here—Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which took the position that the existing management of the river was impacting one species of fish and two species of birds.

The ultimate result was prioritizing the management of the entire river to benefit that fish and those birds. It was above flood control. It was above navigation. It didn't consider what was detrimental to families, to farms, or the local infrastructure and was not necessary. Saving wildlife is a worthy goal, but for that goal to truly be worthy, it has to also include how it impacts families, how it impacts people, and how it impacts the economy.

We had management plans on the Mississippi River as well, but the wildlife management plans didn't become the plan that substituted for all other plans.

The Corps' management plan brought about changes to the lower river. There are six locks and there are six dams, rather, and reservoirs above the Lower Missouri that starts roughly in the place where Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri all come together. What happened was they began to destabilize the banks, constructing pallid sturgeon chutes that impacted how the water ran into the river. They no longer dredged the river like they had before. Just to understand why that matters, a 9-foot channel of the river carries a lot more water than a 6- or 7-foot channel of the river. If you are channeling the river so you can still navigate the river, they had interception rearing complexes, none of which appears to have made much of a difference, except they made it hard to control the river at flood stage.

Modifying or eliminating the river control systems eliminate the normal things in a river, such as revetments, wing dikes, and chevrons that control the river and send the water in the direction it needs to be for flood protection, and that just didn't happen.

Fish and Wildlife and the Corps of Engineers actually now know that some of the actions they were carrying out caused direct negative impacts on the river and didn't do any good. There is a high level of certainty that when you notch a dike in the river—which means you cut a hole in a structure that is designed to channel the water—that when you do that, bad things happen. That is why that structure was put there in the first place for a reason.

One of the most disappointing parts of what has happened is a relatively low level of certainty that any of these things do any good. In fact, the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife people have already abandoned the pursuit of what they constructed, pallid sturgeon chutes, which they thought would encourage the pallid sturgeon to multiply. By the way, this is a fish we happen to multiply ourselves at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, which I believe is the oldest fish hatchery in the United States. The U.S. hatchery system is in Neosho. Pallid sturgeon is one of the things they do. They didn't work, but they did encourage more flood risk.

I would have one suggestion for the Corps: If you know an action will increase flood control and you know it will harm people and harm property and you don't know whether it will help save a species, don't do it. There has to be a way you figure out first whether this is going to work, and then you might evaluate if it is so important that we are going to impact people and property.

What we had is a big experiment that turned out to be the wrong thing to do to start with. It didn't serve the purpose, and it did harm the river and people who live on the river. Flood control and navigation needs to be, once again, elevated to the top two priorities of managing the river. I look forward to

working with my colleagues to figure out how to do this in a better way.

There is no question that the Mississippi River is about to be more important than it has been in 100 years. There is also no reason that the Missouri River, as an avenue of commerce and as an avenue that people can get near and enjoy from a tourist's and traveler's perspective, can't be there, and there is no reason it can't continue to be managed in a way that benefits families, that benefits us economically, and that doesn't repeat year after year after year the flooding that did not occur under the original management plan.

We need to look at that plan. We need to have a management plan that meets the commonsense standard. The current plan does not, and we have had now 15 years to prove that the current plan does not meet it. I am going to be working hard with both the Corps, the Department of the Interior, and Fish and Wildlife to see if we can't have a plan that meets that commonsense standard.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the Senator from Missouri for his comments about the disaster. We are having a disaster in the U.S. Senate because we haven't been able to solve our emergency problem yet. It is not because of Senator BLUNT. He has done a great job, as have many Members of the Senate. We are close now, and there is a meeting this afternoon with important Senators. We are close on Hawaii, on Alaska, on Georgia, on South Carolina, on Tennessee, on Alabama, on Florida, and on the other States that have had disasters in the past year to which we have still been late on getting disaster emergency funds.

In fact, in Georgia, this is the 222nd day, in the case of one emergency, that those funds have been held up. In the agricultural season, 222 days is 1½ plants. It is one planting, one picking, and a second planting. So it is a significant part of the agriculture year. We are getting killed in Georgia. Our farmers are getting hurt badly because of the ineptitude, in part and sometimes in whole, of the U.S. Senate.

Finally, cool heads are coming together. We are getting over some arguments, and we are getting some things solved. Thanks to the help of Senator BLUNT and others in the U.S. Senate, we are going to get help to our farmers in Georgia, to those in Alabama, and to those in Alaska from the earthquake and to those in Hawaii from the lava flow and the eruptions they have had there and from all of the other disasters we have had. Finally, that money is going to start flowing.

REMEMBERING BETTY JO WILLIAMS

Mr. President, I lost two great friends in the last week—one of them a Georgian. Nobody in this room knew her. Her name was Betty Jo Williams, who was 90 years old.

Betty Jo was elected to the Georgia Legislature in 1978, which was 2 years after I was elected in 1976 to that same body. We were two scrawny Republicans in a world of Democrats in Georgia. I was one of the first people to get elected from Cobb County, which is the suburban county of Atlanta, and she was the first woman to get elected to anything in Georgia. She was one of the first to break the glass ceiling. A lot of people may ask: Where is this glass ceiling? Well, I will tell you where it is. A lot of people tried to make their way, but they were always held back by laws or custom or whatever.

Betty Jo fought for women's rights, and she fought for women's rights in the right way. She saw to it that women were equally represented and that they had an opportunity to represent themselves. She fought hard to see to it that there was no glass ceiling to hold back anybody who was trying to do the right things for the right reasons and had the right qualifications.

I loved Betty Jo. She was great. In fact, she helped me to get elected as the minority leader, as the Republican leader, of the Georgia House of Representatives in 1983. I won by one vote. It was 7 to 6. That shows you how small a caucus we had. She was one of those seven who voted for me, and I have never forgotten it. I am sure, when I have a funeral one day, somebody will come and remember on that day something I did for him. It is something you never take away.

Betty Jo was a unique person. She had a husband and three wonderful children. Her husband passed on, and she spent the rest of her 25 years of life living with another gentleman. They had his children. Between the two of them, they raised 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren—wonderful kids with wonderful opportunities. They helped those kids grow up to understand the great promise America had.

When Betty Jo served in the legislative body, even though she was outnumbered by men by 20 to 1, she was a woman who broke the glass ceiling. She also broke custom. In the Georgia Legislature back in the sixties and seventies, you didn't find people putting their numbers in the phonebook. Betty Jo was the first one. She paid extra to have her number put in there in big, bold, black letters. She started the custom by which, all of a sudden, all who were in the State legislature got the Betty Jo Williams rule applied to them. If they didn't have their numbers in the book, they weren't in touch with their constituents. She did little things like that to make a difference.

She was the first woman to be appointed to the Judiciary Committee. It was a great compliment to her, too, for she was not a lawyer. Even though she was not a lawyer, she was well respected, even by the speaker of the house, so she was appointed to the Judiciary Committee.

Speaking of the speaker of the house in Georgia, his name was Tom Murphy.

I am sure, somewhere in the walls of this room, his name has been used before. He was the toughest, most ornery, hardest working speaker of the house who ever was. He served as the speaker of the house in Georgia longer than any speaker in any house in the United States of America.

He also didn't like women representatives, and he let everybody know it. Yet he couldn't handle Betty Jo because she was sweet, kind, and she was smart, and she always got the best of him. He would be tough, but she would be sweet, and she got a lot of things done that other women couldn't do because they would cry. Betty Jo didn't cry. She just worked a little harder to get it done. Tom Murphy finally broke down and did some things for the women in the caucus and the women of the Georgia State Legislature that hadn't been done for years—they were treated more like equals in the legislative body.

Betty Jo was just one of those special, unique individuals who made my life better by my having known her. I thank her tonight for the vote she cast for me a long time ago as minority leader. I thank her for those children they raised and great-grandchildren and children. I thank her for all of the things she did in her community, for all of the things she did for women, and for all of the things she did to make everybody more equal and more served.

Most importantly of all, I thank her for breaking that glass ceiling because there are a lot of women in office today in this Senate—20 percent of our body—who wouldn't be here today if it had not been for the Betty Jo Williams of 50 years ago who broke the habits we had in America that didn't allow women to do a lot of things.

I pay tribute to her, and I pay honor to her for her service and for the great time I had in knowing her in life. I will miss her greatly, but I will always be a better man for knowing Betty Jo Williams and what she taught me about life and success.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. President, everybody in this room, everybody in this Capitol, and everybody in this country knows who Dick Lugar was. We lost Dick earlier this week. Dick Lugar was and is an American icon.

When I got elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, I came here and was put on the Foreign Relations Committee in 2006, primarily because we were one Republican short and because nobody else would take the seat. So I wasn't the unanimous choice; I was the only choice.

Dick Lugar came to me and said: Johnny, would you take this seat? I have to have somebody take this seat, and I have to have somebody be the chairman of the Africa Subcommittee.

I said: Well, Dick, I will be happy to take the seat, but I don't know a damned thing about Africa. I have never been there. I would be a bad chairman.

He said: No, you wouldn't. I will take you over there with me. We will study it, and you will be great.

Today, 15 years later, I am still on the Africa Subcommittee. I have been the chairman of it for half that time. I fell in love with it because of Dick Lugar. I have learned more about it, and America is a better country today for its being able to open doors in Africa.

I worked with Dick Lugar on the New START treaty. Dick Lugar was a quiet gentleman, but he was a giant when it came to his ability to solve problems. He was elected as the mayor of Indianapolis, IN, at a time when racial tensions were at their height. He was one of the most successful mayors in the history of the country. At the particular time that he was elected mayor, he was the most respected mayor in the country. He received awards that designated him the best mayor in America.

He was a man who held on to hope, who held on to opportunity, and fought for equality at whatever risk there was to him to see to it that it happened in his city. Later, he went on to be elected to the Indiana Legislature and then was elected to the U.S. Senate. He was the longest serving Senator from Indiana in the history of the U.S. Senate.

As I said, I served on his committee with him, Foreign Relations, but I also served at the time that Dick got beaten. You wouldn't think a guy who had served six terms in the Senate and who had been a Republican would get beaten in his own primary by the Republican Party, but it happened to us. I know the Acting President pro tempore remembers those times a few years ago when our party kind of got divided. We had tea parties and other types of parties, and people started picking on folks. All of a sudden, it was a bad thing to have served for a long time. It was a bad thing to have been a gentle giant. It was a bad thing to have been a guy like Dick Lugar. So they got some new blood in to shake the place up, and they beat Dick in the primary. It was one of the saddest days I ever had to see. A man who had accomplished so much and who was so great got beaten over things that were really inconsequential—over political rhetoric. It was just to win a point of view, not to win a case.

I went to Dick after it was over, and I said: Dick, I am so sorry you lost.

He said: Don't worry about it. I have lots to do. I have The Lugar Center. I have the Lugar-Nunn initiative.

Sam Nunn was the great Senator from the State of Georgia who, many years ago, held the seat I have. He and Dick Lugar did more for nuclear nonproliferation than any two men in the history of our country. Dick's fingerprints are on every positive nuclear deal we have ever made in this country. President Barack Obama gave him the Congressional Medal of Honor because of his efforts on behalf of peace. His efforts were on behalf of the country and nuclear nonproliferation.