

Ministerial, the Arctic Circle Assembly held a forum in Shanghai. So think about it. We were having an Arctic Circle Assembly in Shanghai. Think about how far Shanghai is from the Arctic. It highlighted China's interest and their investment in the Arctic. So, again, the geography can say that this is not an Arctic nation, not even a near-Arctic nation, but from scientific research to economic interest in the Arctic's natural resources, China has made it very clear that it has no intention of reducing its interests in a Polar Silk Road.

What Secretary Pompeo made very clear is, look, if there is going to be investment in the region, we all need to be operating by the same rules, and the rules require transparency—transparency when it comes to investment in the region, regardless of who is making it. I would add to that notion that those who live in the region should benefit from any investment in the Arctic, as they are the ones who bear the greatest risk in any economic activity, whether it is on the shore or in the waters.

We recognize there are plenty of opportunities in the Arctic, as we are seeing the impacts of climate change and what that means to an area that is becoming more exposed, but with those opportunities come very real challenges, and we have to address those as well. That includes environmental effects that come with climate change as we see a reduced sea ice cover and the need to develop rules of the road to provide transparency for the growing amount of investment in the Far North by both Arctic and non-Arctic actors alike.

One of the underreported events of the Rovaniemi Ministerial was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council. This new agreement will provide a framework to enhance responsible economic development and build partnerships for issues of common interest and capacity building of Arctic inhabitants. Perhaps this is the first step in developing a framework for transparent Arctic investment and a new age of strategic engagement in the Arctic.

I was very honored to attend both the Arctic Council Ministerial in Finland, as well as the Arctic Circle Assembly in Shanghai. I continue to believe it is critical for us—for those in the administration, for us here in Congress—to actively engage in the Arctic. We have a lot at stake here. The region has a lot at stake, and we need to establish sound policy that will take advantage of all of our opportunities and address our challenges while ensuring that we are working to the benefit of the local residents.

I think it is so important to reinforce that we cannot assume that if we are not stepping it up in the Arctic, that means nobody else is. That is absolutely and positively not the case. There is a level of engagement and

there is a level of interest that is global. We are one of the eight Arctic nations. We have a place; we have a people in the Arctic. We have an obligation, as an Arctic nation, to behave as one.

Alaskans are more than happy to lead whenever and wherever possible, but this is not an Alaska-specific issue. This is not just Alaska. This is all of us as a country. We also need that recognition at the Federal level.

I encourage Members of this Chamber to recognize the importance of the Arctic, to pay greater attention to what is happening there, to make the region a priority in our policymaking efforts, and to help ensure that America, which is an Arctic nation by virtue of Alaska—that we, as an Arctic nation, catch up to all of the others that are looking with great interest, whether making investments or truly making an impression on the Arctic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

RECOGNIZING PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S ALL-AMERICAN MARCHING BAND.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the talent and steadfast dedication of Purdue University's All-American Marching Band, which will be performing for the 100th time at the 103rd Running of the Indy 500.

Every year, the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" attracts hundreds of thousands of fans to our State's capital. Throughout the last century, Purdue University's marching band has become an indispensable part of the annual festivities with their highly anticipated performance of traditional Indy 500 songs and other popular hits.

I commend the efforts and hard work put forth by the band's nearly 300 members. Their dedication in rehearsal is sure to pay off when they take to the famed Indy Motor Speedway this Sunday, welcoming spectators from around the world with familiar favorites, including the now customary performance of the classic "Back Home Again in Indiana."

I especially commend the Purdue University marching band directors, past and present, whose work make this tradition possible. This year, the band will be led by the acclaimed Hoosier, Jay Gephart, professor of music, and Al Wright, chair director of bands and orchestras at Purdue University. I am sure that under his direction, the All-American band will do Indiana proud.

I also recognize Purdue University's first marching band director, the late Paul Spotts Emrick, who initially forged the relationship between the University and the speedway. He directed Purdue's first performance at the famed 500-mile race in 1919, 100 years ago.

I applaud Purdue University's marching band for each year dedicating

themselves to sharing our Hoosier traditions and heritage with millions of viewers around the world. I extend my thanks to all who ensure that the tradition endures, and I look forward to another great performance this weekend from the Boilermakers. Go Boilers.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MARY NAYLOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise, accompanied by an amazing public servant who is completing 29 years and 10 months of working in the U.S. Senate—Mary Naylor, my legislative director. She is angry with me right now for tricking her into this and walking into the Chamber and seeing my whole staff, but I wanted to just say a word to honor her.

When I came to the Senate—elected in 2012 and sworn in in January 2013—obviously, hiring a legislative director was a very, very important challenge that I was dealing with, and I had a number of people who wanted to do the job. There was a wonderful Senate staffer who was about to leave the Hill to see if there was life after the Senate. She wasn't sure whether there was but was really excited to see that. Yet, as tough a negotiator as she was, she let me persuade her to stay for one more term after she had wanted to leave to do other things. She did a remarkable job for me in my first term and has done a remarkable job now into my second term in the Senate. She has been my legislative director since my first day in the body, but as I pointed out, she is now nearly 30 years into serving this institution.

Let me tell you some things about Mary.

She is from Fargo, ND. She came to the Senate in 1989, which was right after she graduated with honors—Phi Beta Kappa—from Northwestern. She first became a legislative assistant for the late Senator Paul Simon in 1991. Then she eventually became the deputy chief of staff to Senator Kent Conrad of her home State. For most of her career in the Senate, she worked with Senator Conrad. When Senator Conrad became the Budget chairman in 2001, she became the Democratic staff director for the committee, and she remained in that position for 12 years until she became my legislative director in 2013.

Some highlights of her tenure with Budget include 10 budget resolutions, the Simpson-Bowles Commission, walking us back from a fiscal cliff in 2011, and a C-SPAN debut—oh, my gosh, a C-SPAN debut—in March 2008 when she testified before the Budget Committee on the fiscal year 2009 budget.

Mary Naylor played a critical role in the Affordable Care Act. With members of the Budget Committee, she helped to iron out the fiscal details of such a monumental bill, and she captivated a lot of my staffers in the office with tales of the high stakes parliamentary maneuvering she undertook to make sure the reconciliation component of the ACA complied with the Byrd rule.

One of the things that Mary does in my office that my staff loves is the parliamentary minute. At the end of every week, after I have gone back to Richmond, she will do a parliamentary minute and put an interesting problem or challenge on the table from the past and walk my legislative staff through how we should deal with it.

In 2011, the "Washingtonian" named Mary one of the 100 most powerful women in DC, and the "National Journal" named her among the top 14 women on the Hill.

Mary has helped me out in so many ways. She has learned more about aircraft carrier refueling than she ever thought possible and has helped me overcome now two bouts of the decommissioning of aircraft.

All of my staff understands that Mary has really been kind of the brains of the operation. She is in a league of her own. Every single bill of mine that has passed has her fingerprints on it, and I guess I am getting up to—I don't know—over 40 or 50 bills. She comes up with the ideas. She makes my ideas a lot better. She builds supports for our proposals. She tells me when my ideas are bad, and she is almost always right—not always right. She is almost always right. She helps me on my committees and floor strategy. She recruits, trains, and advises all of the amazing policy staffers I have working with me and all who have worked with me over the years.

That is what Mary has done for me and for the people of Virginia for 6 years. That is what she has done for the Senate for the United States for now 30 years. She is a policy whiz. She is a dogged go-getter, and I emphasize "dogged." That is a character reference if you know Mary's love of dogs. She is a walking parliamentary encyclopedia, and her dedication has helped me to achieve much more than I would have imagined as a Senator.

I recognize Mary to say, like so many in the offices in this building, her persistent service to Senator Conrad, to Senator Simon, to me, to the Budget Committee, to the Senate more broadly, and to the country have really made a difference in an awful lot of people's lives.

Anybody leaving, it is always bitter-sweet. I think that she is now going to find there is life after the Senate, and she has a cool next opportunity that she can pursue.

Whenever one of my staffers goes on to pursue a new cool opportunity, I am really happy for them, and yet it is hard to imagine what it will be like walking into the office every day and

not having Mary there as the brains of the operation and a great right hand at getting good things done.

So with that, I know my whole staff is thinking the same thought right now. We want to just thank Mary Naylor for her great service and commend her.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX REFORM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, there was an article in the paper today telling us something that surprises nobody in this Chamber, really, on either side, surveying the tax packages, the proposals from Democrats and Republicans, and making the contrast, and it said the Democratic tax packages are significantly better for the middle class than the Republican tax package.

We know what happened 2-plus years ago when the Finance Committee, in the middle of the night, kept writing new language and biasing it towards the wealthiest people in the county.

We know that the Trump tax bill, voted for by the majority, opposed by all of us because over 75 percent of the benefits, over time, went to the richest 1 percent. Contrast that with our Working Families Tax Relief Act, which focuses on middle-class and working-class taxpayers, focuses on the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit under the theory that, if you cut taxes for the rich, which Republicans always do, that the money trickles down, but it doesn't trickle down. They say it is going to trickle down and help the middle class. Well, it really never does.

I heard President Trump promise a group of us in the White House that everybody would get a \$4,000 raise and several thousand dollars in tax cuts for middle-class families—it just didn't happen.

The way you grow the economy is you focus on the middle class, you cut taxes for the middle class, put money in their pocket, they spend it in local communities. You cut taxes for the rich, it goes to a Swiss bank account or wherever it goes.

So the newspaper today said what everybody already knows, that the best way to grow the economy, the best way to help this country, the best way to help the middle class is—surprise—cut taxes for the middle class. That is what the Working Families Tax Relief Act does. It helps working class kids.

The Trump tax bill pretended to cut taxes through the child tax credit. For the child tax credit, it actually left 26

million children out. Our legislation focuses on those 26 million children. They are not children of the rich. They are children of the middle class. They are working families. They are low-income kids.

So it is clear that that is the way this body should go. I understand who has the votes. I understand that the President of the United States—where the White House looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives—the President of the United States can always jam another tax cut for billionaires through this body.

But let's do the right thing and actually put our focus on working families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

S. 151

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senate overwhelmingly approved the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, known as the TRACED Act, authored by our colleagues Senators THUNE and MARKEY.

I am pleased to have been a cosponsor of this bill to help protect consumers from fraudulent, aggravating, and incessant robocalls.

The TRACED Act makes a number of important changes to our laws that will make it easier to fight illegal robocalls.

Most important, the TRACED Act requires telecommunications carriers to implement what is known as SHAKEN/STIR technology to verify whether caller IDs that appear on incoming calls are authentic.

When fully implemented, this technology will be a major advance against the illegal spoofing of calls that have resulted in successful scams.

Combating illegal robocalls has long been a focus of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, which I chair, and on which the Presiding Officer serves.

Over the past 6 years, the Special Committee on Aging has held 22 hearings to examine scams that specifically target older Americans. Scams that we have highlighted include the IRS imposter scam, the Jamaican lottery scam, computer tech support schemes, grandparent scams, elder financial exploitation, identity theft, and the notorious drug mule scam.

The number and the kind of these scams are endless in their variety. The criminals are ruthless and relentless, and they will continue to come up with new ways to defraud Americans, particularly our seniors.

These scams are often initiated by robocallers who use caller ID spoofing to perpetrate their schemes. Many of us remember back in 2003 when the Do Not Call Registry was created. At that point, what we were able to do was register our phone numbers and block those unwanted, illegal robocalls. Fortunately, back then, telecommunications equipment could not easily be