

So, folks, hit the roads this August. Make that one last trip with your family. Get out and see those sites, and for heaven's sake, swing through Iowa. Visit our Iowa-nice folks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Montana.

MONTANA

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as we are getting ready for a busy August work period, I am very much looking forward to spending time in Big Sky Country back home in Montana, away from the swamp, enjoying the beautiful State that I am so lucky to call home.

In between meetings, I am taking a few days to enjoy Montana's great outdoors, including spending 3 days backpacking in the Beartooth Wilderness with my sweet wife Cindy and a couple of our dogs. As an avid outdoorsman, I was raised to appreciate our public lands, and I can assure you, nothing beats going off the grid for a bit, where there is no cell phone coverage on top of the peaks, with my sweetheart and a couple of our pups and enjoying Montana's beauty, the fly rod with an elk hair caddis and chasing cut and sometimes even goldens in Montana's highest lakes.

I will also be spending a lot of time on the road traveling all over Montana. I get to each of Montana's 56 counties every congressional period, to every corner of our State, from West Butte down to Ekalaka, even Alzada, over in Monida, up to the northwest corner of our State to places like Libby, Troy, and even Yaak.

I will also work to get to one of my favorite places in Montana, the famous Jersey Lilly in Ingomar. This place is not well known. It is off the beaten path. But the Jersey Lilly in Ingomar, MT, is home to the best bean soup in Big Sky Country. If you ever find yourself in east central Montana, Rosebud County, you have to get off of Highway 12 and stop in. I have known the owners of that restaurant for many years—Boots and June. There is a Montana name for you—"Boots." They not only serve up great food and even better conversation, they are also yet another example of a local family business—the bedrock of our small towns and counties across Montana. The fine folks over at the Jersey Lilly are what Montana is all about. It is about hard work, family values, passion for their community, and passion for our great country. I am a proud and frequent customer of the Jersey Lilly, and I can't wait for the next bowl of bean soup.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

MISSOURI

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, first of all, I wanted to talk about everything you could be doing in Missouri in the next month or so with your family, and then I was told I have 5 minutes. That seems to be an impossible restriction for me. So let me see how many things

I can talk about here as we end the summer travel season. But there are other people traveling after the summer. Some families still have their summer vacation. Some schools start after Labor Day, some before. I am sure I will be leaving things out that I will be glad to talk about at a later time. Let me first just mention a couple of our national parks.

If you leave my hometown of Springfield, MO, and you head west, pretty quickly you get to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield park. There was a battle in August of 1861. Several thousand people fought who really weren't prepared to fight. They weren't trained. They weren't ready. It was a big battle that made a big difference in what happened in Missouri in the war.

Not too far from there, you get to Diamond, MO, where there is the George Washington Carver National Monument. It is a 240-acre park on the farm where George Washington Carver grew up. He was born as a slave but was quickly freed and raised by the older White couple who lived there. He managed to get to school there a little bit and in those years after the Civil War became a leading scientist and spokesman for agriculture in the country. This monument was established in 1943, and it was the first national park dedicated to an African American.

I have to circle back a little bit to get to Branson. With 50 theaters in Branson, there are more theater seats than Broadway. It is never too early to find a show you want to see in Branson.

In Silver Dollar City, in the summer of last year, their great park was named the No. 1 Christmas venue in America to visit.

Now back to my hometown of Springfield, which is the way this comes up on my list. It is the home of Bass Pro Shops. The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium right there by Bass Pro was named "America's Best Aquarium" by USA TODAY Travel last year. That museum has 3,000 fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibious animals there.

A park we just added to our National Park System—I will pop right up to almost St. Louis, to St. Genevieve, where you have French architecture that dates back to the 1700s. This is the first summer that there has been a full-time park person there. This park is rising out of what the community has preserved so well for so long. There are a number of houses there that reflect that early French architecture along the Mississippi River.

South of there, at Perryville, is the full-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. There have been some traveling memorials, and there are a couple of memorials that are miniature in some way, but in Perryville, MO, you can see a full-sized replica on a 47-acre family farm that Jim Eddleman and his family made possible, along with other donations. I was there not too long ago, and I was at the Vietnam Wall here not too long ago.

They are in different places, but they are the same wall, exactly the same size, with the same names, and are the same in every way.

On the other side of our State, in Kansas City, is the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Just this week, Senator Kaine and I introduced legislation for a memorial coin to benefit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Congressmen CLEAVER and STIVERS in the House did the same thing.

While you are in Kansas City here at the end of the centennial of World War I, the World War I Museum in Kansas City was the World War I Memorial dedicated in the 1920s. It is the No. 1 place in America to visit and think about the war and the impact of that war in the 100 years that have passed since then.

If you want to go north to St. Joseph, you, of course, pass some baseball stadiums and football fields that are good places to visit if you are there at the right time. In St. Joseph, there is the Pony Express Museum. The Pony Express didn't last very long, but it became a very important part of the lore of the West, these young riders—before the telegraph—taking a message as quickly as they could ride and changing from one rider to another to go from St. Joe to California.

I wouldn't want to leave out the Mark Twain Boyhood Home in Hannibal. There was a time when Mark Twain was by far the best-read American author anywhere in the world. Hannibal is the setting for the classic American novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

We will circle right back down to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. More than 135 million people have visited the arch since 1963. It just went through a major overhaul and a 60-year renewal of the facility, better connecting it to downtown. It is the first example of what the National Park Service hopes will be the next century of the park, a true public-private partnership.

In going to all these places, we drove by lots of lakes and lots of fishing and boating. There are a lot of things to do in our State. Like many States, tourism is our second biggest industry. We look forward to people visiting us this summer and next year and the years after that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to participate today and talk a little bit about my State of Tennessee. I will tell you, as we are talking about what we are going to do and how we are going to be working across our State during the August work period and how we are looking forward to having people visit our State during that time, one of the things that strikes me so very often when people talk about Tennessee and when they hear that I am from Tennessee, they will stop and say: That is

one of the most beautiful States. Our State is beautiful, with its rivers, lakes, rolling hills, mountains, and the flatlands over toward Memphis. Indeed, it is beautiful. It is also very long, and that is also quite remarkable to people when they start to drive through the State. They say: I spent a whole day driving through the State of Tennessee. From the time they enter up around Mountain City and Bristol and make their way through to Memphis, it does really take the whole day.

I think one of the things that interest people when they cross into Tennessee as they are going down I-81 is seeing the Bristol Motor Speedway. They realize that it is truly a feat of engineering—NASCAR is very popular—and realize the innovation and creativity that has gone into creating that speedway. Then to be there on race day, I will tell you, that is something that is quite amazing, to see those cars speeding around those banked turns and realize it is people who are handling these feats of engineering.

People also appreciate, in addition to the Bristol Motor Speedway and car racing, that Tennessee is a State that is very important to the automotive industry. You have Volkswagen in Chattanooga, and you have the GM facility at Spring Hill. Nissan North America's headquarters are located in Cold Springs, right outside of Nashville. Their manufacturing plant is in Smyrna. You have the Toyota plant that is over in West Tennessee.

We Tennesseans are also excited about the prospect of having an aerospace park that is going to be in East Tennessee, up at the Tri-Cities. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I have had the privilege of working with the Tri-Cities Airport and local officials to make that a destination and to make it a reality.

A little further down in the State, as you get on I-40, you will find yourself in the middle of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited park in our National Parks System. Senator ALEXANDER and I are continuing the work to designate the Dean Stone Bridge on the Foothills Parkway there in Blount County. Dean Stone was a pillar of the community, and naming the bridge in honor of him is the perfect way to thank him for his dedication in improving the lives of all those who live and enjoy the Smokies in that part of our State.

The Smokies are second in my heart to just one Tennessee landmark in Nashville that I think everyone wants to see. They are all country music fans, and they want to see the mother church of country music, which is the Ryman Auditorium. The best singers and songwriters in the world leave their stadiums and their festivals because they want to have the opportunity to play just one song on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium. It is a wonderful place to be and to celebrate

Tennessee's creativity and to celebrate the music that fills our hearts and our lives.

When I was a Member in the House, I worked tirelessly for several years and fought for the unanimous passage of the Music Modernization Act. That is something that fixed a lot of loopholes that were in U.S. law that adversely impacted our songwriters as they were facing copyright many times.

Upon coming to the Senate, I worked with Senator FEINSTEIN, continuing the fight on behalf of our songwriters to close the loopholes that exempt broadcast radio from paying royalties to music creators.

Tennessee is also known for some other wonderful music, a little bit further down I-40, and that is the blues. You can't leave the State of Tennessee without going through Memphis and having a visit over on Beale Street, right there on the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

The Mississippi River is our Nation's original superhighway, if you will. It is vitally important, not only to river but to rail, air, and highway transportation networks. All of these have found their way along West Tennessee's river lands.

Shipping and logistics giant FedEx has its corporate headquarters in Memphis. Memphis is the city of their founding and their headquarters location, and that takes advantage of Memphis International Airport and their cargo operations center.

All that being said, one of the things that individuals repeatedly comment on when they talk about Tennessee is how nice the people are in Tennessee, how welcoming they are, and how they engage you and want to make certain that you come back.

You will find in Tennessee a very diverse community. Yes, we are the home to artists and athletes. We are the home to engineers, to farmers, to doctors, to soldiers, and to veterans. It is, indeed, one of the best places on the face of the Earth to call home and, indeed, a certain not-to-be-missed destination for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

ALASKA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. My colleagues have been to the floor here for the past little bit talking about various road trips in their State and destinations, including their favorite destinations. When you think about where your favorite place is, it is like saying which son is your favorite son. We all have our favorite places all around our State.

I got to thinking about road trips. I thought, well, road trips in Alaska perhaps take a little bit of a different meaning than in other States. We all

know the State I come from because we talk about it a lot. Senator SULLIVAN and I come from a big State. We have over 663,000 square miles, but within those 663,000 square miles, we don't have a lot of roads. Over 82 percent of the communities in the State of Alaska are not connected by roads. We are not part of the road system. So traveling in Alaska can be a little bit of an adventure. Flexibility is always key.

More often than not, when you are in a big State, you move around from town to town, and you rely on the commercial carriers. You rely on Alaska Airlines. You rely on Ravn. You rely on some of the others. We pretty much move around by air.

But sometimes it is impossible to get around by air all the time. Sometimes we have what I call "forest road trips." It is not that I don't want to be on our roads, but once you get on the roads, you are on them for a fairly long time. Sometimes the jets don't fly. Sometimes the jets don't fly because you have bad weather. Sometimes the jets don't fly because you have a volcano that goes off.

I was holding a field hearing in Fairbanks and needed to get down to Anchorage, and Pavlof blew. Pavlof is one of our more active volcanos, and it shuts down the air space. What was going to be a 45-minute trip home turned out to be a 359-mile drive home—7 hours—that evening.

We had another trip going out of Valdez to Anchorage, and we needed to get back to Anchorage that night, but the fog and the wind in Valdez said there are no planes coming in to take you out, and they might not be there the next day and they might not be there the next day after that. There is bad weather. The pass is shutting down so you better move now. When that happens, you get in a car and 300 miles later—5 hours later—you are in Anchorage.

I had Senator MANCHIN with me just over the Fourth of July break. We were headed from Anchorage to King Salmon to attend a ribbon-cutting for a National Park Service facility. We got fogged out in the morning and waited for hours in the airport, and then we got word that the fog had lifted, and we were getting ready to get on a plane and they called a mechanical. If there is a mechanical, I am with you, and we just don't fly. Senator MANCHIN turned to me and said: I know it is a long way, but can't we just drive there?

That was my opportunity to turn to my colleague in another learning moment and tell him: No, this is one of those 82 percent of our communities where there is no road. So JOE, we are not flying.

Aviation really is our lifeline here. If you are not on Alaska Airlines, you are on one of our many bush carriers. This is a picture of a pilot I had an opportunity to fly with, Eric, who is the pilot and owner of Arctic Backcountry Flying Service. This is his Cessna 206. More often than not, these are the type