

Next, I want to discuss Ms. Pitlyk's record opposing women's reproductive rights and limiting access to healthcare. Ms. Pitlyk defended a State law banning abortion at 6 weeks, she opposed the Affordable Care Act's coverage for contraception, and she defended President Trump's Title X gag rule.

The Trump administration's Title X gag rule prohibits referrals for abortion care and imposes onerous requirements on abortion clinics, among other things. The rule effectively pushed Planned Parenthood out of the Title X program, curtailing access to healthcare for millions of low-income women and families.

Ms. Pitlyk has also filed multiple legal briefs that contain misinformation. Last year, she argued without any credible evidence that "racism plays a profound role in the delivery of abortion services."

In another case, Ms. Pitlyk claimed—again without evidence—that in-vitro fertilization leads to "higher rates of birth defects, genetic disorders, and other anomalies."

I think it is disqualifying for any judicial nominee to make unfounded and unsupported claims, especially in a court of law.

Ms. Pitlyk has also made statements in her personal capacity opposing access to healthcare. Just last year, she called the Supreme Court's decision upholding the Affordable Care Act "unprincipled." Earlier this year, she said that the Supreme Court's reproductive healthcare cases have "gross defects."

These statements and Ms. Pitlyk's legal work raise serious concerns about her ability to apply the Supreme Court's important precedents fairly and impartially. I am deeply troubled by her record, her lack of experience, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing her nomination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from Politico and a letter from the American Bar Association dated September 24, 2019, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the POLITICO, Nov. 19, 2019]

SUSAN COLLINS TO OPPOSE TRUMP JUDICIAL NOMINEE

(By Marianne Levine)

Sen. Susan Collins will oppose Sarah Pitlyk, President Donald Trump's nominee to become a federal judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

In a statement to POLITICO, the Maine Republican voiced concern about Pitlyk's lack of trial experience, as well as her stance on abortion given previous comments on gestational surrogacy and past legal work.

"Her lack of trial experience would make it difficult for her to transition to a district court judgeship," Collins said.

She also cited Pitlyk's comments in a brief she co-wrote in 2017 as a lawyer for the Thomas More Society, an anti-abortion law firm. The brief stated surrogacy leads to the "diminished respect for motherhood and the unique mother-child bond; exploitation of

women; commodification of gestation and of children themselves; and weakening of appropriate social mores against eugenic abortion."

Collins said Pitlyk is entitled to her personal views on abortion, but she questioned "given her pattern of strident advocacy, whether she could put aside her personal views on these matters."

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Pitlyk's nomination along party lines in October, and a floor vote is likely in the coming weeks.

While Collins supported Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court, she has voted against several Trump judicial nominees this year.

In addition to Pitlyk, Collins opposed Steven Menashi's nomination to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Chad Readler's nomination to the 6th Circuit, Howard Nielson for the District of Utah, Matthew Kacsmaryk for the Northern District of Texas and Jeffrey Brown for the Southern District of Texas.

All of those judges were confirmed by the GOP-controlled Senate.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY,

*Columbia, SC, September 24, 2019.*

Re Nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAHAM AND RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has received a full report on Sarah E. Pitlyk and a supplemental report by a second reviewer. The Committee has unanimously determined that Ms. Pitlyk is "Not Qualified" for the position of federal district judge. I write to offer a brief explanation of this rating. Our rating is based on the Standing Committee's criteria as set forth in the Backgrounder. The Standing Committee believes that Ms. Pitlyk does not have the requisite trial or litigation experience or its equivalent. I would like to point out that based on its peer review, the Standing Committee's rating does not rest on questions about Ms. Pitlyk's temperament or integrity.

The Backgrounder that provides guidance to our evaluation process explains that a nominee to the federal bench ordinarily should have a minimum of 12 years' experience in the practice of law. This 12-year experience guideline is neither a hard-and-fast rule nor an automatic disqualifier. The Standing Committee's criteria provide that a nominee's limited experience may be offset by the breadth and depth of the nominee's experience over the course of his or her career. Nominees with fewer than 12 years at the bar (as is the case with Ms. Pitlyk, both due to the calendar and periods of inactive status), but with substantial trial or courtroom experience and/or compensating accomplishments in the field of law, can and have been found qualified by our Committee. However, Ms. Pitlyk's experience to date has a very substantial gap, namely the absence of any trial or even real litigation experience. Ms. Pitlyk has never tried a case as lead or co-counsel, whether civil or criminal. She has never examined a witness. Though Ms. Pitlyk has argued one case in a court of appeals, she has not taken a deposition. She has not argued any motion in a state or federal trial court. She has never picked a jury.

She has never participated at any stage of a criminal matter.

The Standing Committee believes that a nominee should be professionally competent to manage and resolve the many diverse matters facing a federal judge on a daily basis. The accumulation of experience and legal knowledge that is acquired by a practicing lawyer both inside and outside of the courtroom prepares a lawyer over time to handle a broad spectrum of legal issues in a wide variety of subject matters and to manage a courtroom over which he or she will preside as a judge. The judicial system, the public, the trial bar, and the nominee are not well served by appointing to the bench a lawyer who, despite great intelligence, high character, and experience researching and writing briefs, lacks adequate trial court or equivalent experience.

While we respect the clerkship for which the nominee served after graduation from law school, her legal practice to date does not compensate for the short time the nominee has actually practiced law and her lack of litigation, trial, and courtroom experience. It is the Standing Committee's judgment that Ms. Pitlyk does not meet the minimum professional competence standard necessary to perform the responsibilities required by the high office of a federal district court judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain our rating to you.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM C. HUBBARD.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

## RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:56 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate.

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

## FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, it is an honor to be here today on what is not my last day, but everybody is acting like it.

A few months ago, I had to announce that after much consideration, to be able to continue to serve the people of Georgia as best I could in any way possible and also to keep true to the commitments I made in every race I have ever won, that when I knew I couldn't do the job, I was going to quit and let somebody do it who wouldn't be hampered. I am not hampered yet—I am pretty tough—but it is getting close. So in August, I decided to tell my wife about it, and we decided to go ahead and retire at the end of December, which I have announced and said I was going to do. The Governor of Georgia is making an appointment to take my place.

A few days from now, you might look into the history books somewhere—current history—and they might have an Isakson in the glossary, but I doubt it. You may never see this name again.

I have been here for 15 years and loved every minute of it. This is the most enjoyable thing I have ever done in my life, to be a part of the U.S. Senate. It is not because I like being a Senator but because I like to be with the people who are in the Senate.

Politicians get a bad rap in this day and time—a real bad rap. A lot of things are said about them by people they are aware don't matter, like those in some of the media and other places, but others will take potshots at people who are politicians and who serve the people in their communities. I never do that—not because I am one but because I know, because I am one, what you have to do. It is a tough job, and if it is not done right, then it is not done and it doesn't get done the way it should for the people there. So I am making sure that when I leave, the last thing I do is to leave the people of Georgia in good hands, given that I am the senior Senator from Georgia who is retiring.

Unfortunately, at lunch today, the Members gave me a luncheon and stole all of my material. Don't let this paper fool you—I threw it all away coming in here. They have stolen all of my good jokes, took over all of the things I was going to say, so I am going to make this very brief, but in the end, very brief is good.

My dad told me one time—he said: “Son, your words have more power by how few you use than how many you use.” I always remembered that. I think speeches are really important. I make short speeches. I get to the point, and I get out. I am going to give you some reasons that works.

(The Vice President assumed the Chair.)

When I knew I was going to be outshined by the other Members of the Senate at this luncheon today, I decided that I would do the best I could to honor MITCH MCCONNELL, who is the greatest leader I have ever worked for in my 45 years of public life, and people like the Vice President of the United States, who I am so proud is in the Chair. I can tell my grandkids—who are all here, by the way—I hope you remember that time you were there with MIKE PENCE, the Vice President of the United States—you could be President by then, Mr. Vice President—to hear a speech I made.

Everybody, thank you for being here. I am not going to call out names because I would miss somebody, except TESTER. You can't miss TESTER. But everybody else, I would miss. I don't want to miss anybody because every one of you is important to me—the people who help us in the lunchroom, the people who help us in stores, the people who help us get in and out of the cars, the people who help us on bad days, snowy days, icy days, and every-

thing else—just everybody who helps us. It takes a lot of people to run the Senate, and only one person to mess it up.

I want to talk about one subject today and one subject alone, and it is going to be short.

There is something missing in this place. I am given credit sometimes for being a bipartisan person. In fact, sometimes newspaper people write that I am known for being bipartisan or being a softy. Some of them say worse than that, but I am not going to address that. I am a bipartisan person. I never saw people get things done by not agreeing with each other. You have to come to an agreement. I made a living selling houses. You can't ever solve a problem if you have two people and they will not agree to a price and agree to a time to move. You have to find common ground. It is the same thing with the law. You can't pass a law—you can't solve a problem, period, end of sentence. If you are one of those people who say “It is my way or the highway,” then we are all in real trouble.

I want to talk about being bipartisan and what bipartisanship really is. I don't think most of you really know what bipartisanship is. I shouldn't say that to an educated group of people like this who have been down a lot of tough trails like I have. Being bipartisan doesn't mean a Democrat and Republican talk to each other every once in a while; it means this: Two people come together who probably have differences—probably have a lot of differences—but they find a way to get to the end of the trail, where there is the possibility of a solution, and then they do the things they have to do to get to that solution. America today is built on people who found a way to get to that end of the solution, no question about it.

I hate to ask this question, but I came in the back door. Is JOHN LEWIS here yet? Where is JOHN?

JOHN, you are getting shorter.

JOHN LEWIS is one of the finest people I have ever known and a great friend of mine. I was invited to speak to the Senate a couple of days ago, and I recognized JOHN, who was there. He introduced me and said some things that meant more to people than anything anybody has ever said to me, so I said: I want you to come to my last speech because I want to say a few things about you. Because, in essence, really, JOHN—to a much greater extent than me—and I together represent how things can really change if people want them to change and are willing to do the things that let them change.

JOHN was born in the 1940s. I was born in the 1940s. JOHN lived in Alabama. I lived in Georgia for a while. JOHN got his good senses together, and he came to—Shelby was there, so he came to Alabama. He is a good guy. JOHN came there, and JOHN lived in a shotgun house. That is where there is a hole in the back, a hole in the front, and if you throw something, you don't

hit anything. JOHN was a great civil rights leader in his youth. He was the president of SNCC, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. JOHN walked the streets of Atlanta, GA, where I lived. I was part of the people whom Earl Warren—there were all these signs around Georgia. I thought he was running for office. They said “Impeach Earl Warren.” I never got that figured out until I got a little older. Anyway, Earl Warren had been a part of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The schools' separate but equal doctrine had been thrown out, and the schools were going to be integrated. Across society, the only way to prove that you were getting it done was by the numbers. So they figured how much of a percentage of how many Black people would constitute a good number to say you were desegregated and vice versa, solving the problem with statistics.

I was on some of those first buses that rode to Atlanta, GA, taking Black students to White schools, and I had some good friends who were Black. That is another thing southerners are blamed for—we always say: We have some really good friends who were Black. I have some really good friends who are Black. I still have them, and one of them is JOHN LEWIS.

JOHN LEWIS is one of my real heroes in life because I watched what he went through to help us see the light in the South, in my part of the South, Georgia. He was a hero. He was a hero to me.

When I got to Congress, one of the things I am most proud of is that JOHN introduced me to be sworn in. The Speaker of the House swore me in, and I was down at the podium. Let me tell you what happened that morning. The clerk said: We will now have Mr. ISAKSON from Georgia, who won a special election yesterday in Atlanta, GA, and has been declared the winner by the secretary of state. We would like to ask Mr. LEWIS to escort him to the front. We will give him 1 minute to make his acceptance speech, and we will go back to business.

I said, 1 minute? I have been practicing all these years, and I am only going to get only 1 minute? I can't do anything in 1 minute.

But I wasn't going to argue with the guy on my first day at work. So I went to the back of the room with JOHN. JOHN walked down the aisle on the House side. I was not paying a lot of attention. I figured the best thing to do was to follow JOHN, so I followed JOHN. When JOHN got through introducing me, I followed him to the well, and I said thank you to everybody and named three or four people who had helped me get there and then said: Well, I am going to work, and I am honored to be here.

What they didn't tell me was, if you were in the House on that particular day, the mike for people who were Republicans was on the left, and the Republicans spoke from the right. This

dummy followed JOHN, who was smart and went to the right, where he was supposed to go. I went to the left, where I wasn't supposed to go. I noticed these eyeballs in the front row just going around and around. And some guy stepped behind me after I gave my 1-minute speech and said: "So you are going to start this fast demonstrating what a liberal guy you are?" It was one of those voices that came over the back of my shoulder, just kind of like something hanging over my head. I turned around and looked, and this other guy—his name was Tom Latham—came up to me and said "Don't pay any attention to that," and then he went on about his business.

I asked somebody later that day: What did that guy mean by that?

He said: Well, the problem is, you got labeled when you got elected.

I said: What do you mean?

He said: Well, you got elected in a Republican district, but you said nice things about Democrats.

I said: Is that wrong to do?

He said: Well, we were trying to get some way to get Boehner not to appoint you to any committee. We heard you helped write No Child Left Behind.

That was how I started out in the House of Representatives. I was a Republican in a majority Democratic House who was unwanted because I was not—in fact, Newt lost—some of you know this; I see a few faces over there—Newt lost that race by seven votes in the House. Seven Members said: We will not vote for Newt as Speaker. Tom knows this. Newt couldn't get reelected as Speaker, so he resigned.

I didn't know he was going to do that. I was going to speak at the national realtors' conference in Disneyland at a convention. I got to the hotel that afternoon, and there were 72 phone messages for me.

A guy came up and said: Boy, I hope nobody died at your house.

That is a great way to arrive at a hotel.

I said: Why is that?

He said: You have 72 messages.

I said: Well, let me see them.

The first 71 were from my wife. I called her, and she said: Have you heard?

I said: Heard what?

She said: Newt quit.

I said: Quit what?

He quit as Speaker, and he quit as Member of the House, and everybody is calling on you to run.

I said: What?

Nothing computed. Very quickly I learned a lot about partisan politics. A lot of people wanted to have somebody take Newt's place. Newt's body wasn't even cold yet, and they were picking over it. They wanted to have a person who wasn't squeamish in a war like that.

Anyway, to make a long story short, partisan politics was pretty rough in those days. It is a lot rougher now, but it was pretty rough back then. People

voted not with their heads but with a hammer—not with their hearts, either. So I learned in an era where if you were a Republican, you were a Republican, and if you were a Democrat, you were a Democrat, and they didn't ever cross. Don't work with anybody. Don't make it easy. If you have the votes, use them. And we kept getting beaten or kept getting tricked all the time because the whole game plan over there was to have enough Republicans beat the Democrats or vice versa. That is what everybody would try to do, and I thought that was stupid, but I didn't say that. Four hundred and thirty-five is a lot of people, so you don't want to get run over.

A few weeks down the line, I made a speech on the floor of the House about something very important to me and my State. It was a problem we had in the State where our State was divided, rural and urban—not Republican and Democrat but rural and urban. Because Republicans were pretty much rural back then and urban people were Democrats in the suburbs, at that time, it got divided politically anyway even though it was an economic issue, an ag issue, a shipping issue, and things like that. They divided up over parties, so by the time the issue got to the floor on some kind of compromise vote, we couldn't pass anything. We couldn't pass a kidney stone, much less anything else, because we couldn't get anybody to agree on anything. We had the parties cross each other and everybody else.

So I decided then, if I am going to be in this thing, at that age—I was about 60, I guess—I am not going to spend the rest of my life down here arguing about silly and stupid things. And there were some silly and stupid things said over there. I am not going to say who was saying them, but you know who they were. They were from both parties. It was bipartisan. That was the first bipartisan thing I saw—the stupid statements.

To make a long story short, we had some real battles, but finally I decided that I was going to be an example of what we really need to be like. I tried to find every way I could to be bipartisan, which to me meant that I did what I thought was right. I think that is the way to do it.

Mark Twain said:

When confronted with a difficult decision, do what is right. You will surprise a few, but you will amaze the rest.

I tried to start amazing everybody. I voted for some things. They would send somebody over to see me from the whip side. They would say: What did you do? Did you get confused?

No, I didn't get confused.

Finally, they realized they had somebody they could deal with, which is the good part of bipartisanship. The first time the partisan people figure they have somebody they can deal with, they come deal with you. The next thing you know, you are sitting at a table with the guys who were making fun of you, and they are not.

That is the way you go with bipartisanship. That is the way I did it on my own, going through 6 years in the House of Representatives and 15 years in the U.S. Senate, trying to find that little thing that could bring two people together, notwithstanding what party they were in. I never look at the party first. That is the last thing I look at.

CHUCK SCHUMER said some nice things today. One of the nicest things he said was that he liked the kindness part of it. He said I was a kind person. My wife might differ with that, and some other people might differ with that. I try to be a kind person. I try to be someone who somebody would like to sit down with because you can't get a problem solved if you can't sit down across the table from somebody you have a problem with. You can then build everything that way.

I hope this Senate and this Congress—all of us—in the years ahead—we have some big problems. Let's start having a main goal personally that we are going to do everything we can to be a part of the solutions and the decisions that are going to have to be made. If you don't want to do it, don't do it, but you are going to find out, if you figure it out, that if you try to do it, others watch you do it, and you start making decisions and solving problems, you are going to be more popular than the other people.

This is not a popularity contest. Governing is not a popularity contest. This is a will of minds. Bipartisanship is a state of being. It is a state of mind.

There are people in the U.S. Senate whom I work with and I love working with every day—I am looking at some of them right here in the eye. They have an attitude that I like. I know I can go sit down and talk to them. If they say no, I will take it, and I will not stick my tongue out at them or call them bad names or anything else, but they know I will be there tomorrow to ask them to do something for me.

The best way to get somebody to do something for you, when you hadn't done something for them the day before, is, well, maybe if I help them out, I will get some help on my side. It is a quid pro quo—well, that is a bad term. I am glad I remembered that joke. But those are the types of things you have to do, even in levelling the playing field.

My words to you today are these: When you are fortunate enough to see a JOHN LEWIS from Georgia, or someone like him, step out of his comfort zone and do what he thinks is right, and somebody tells you "He is wrong; don't do that," judge your conscience and your heart, not some TV commentators or somebody who is loyal to hate.

We still have some people in the United States of America who will play the hate card. We have some politicians who will dance around the issue of hate. They will not use the buzz words, but they will get awful close to it. They did it in Charlottesville. I have

had people in the basement of my house from law enforcement from time to time because the issues get pretty tough, whether it is college scholarship admissions or whatever it may be. We have to stand up to the evils of society today. If we don't do it, nobody will.

I decided I was going to tell you what I really believe, and that is, America, we have a problem, just like Apollo had. Our problem is we are not going to repeat ourselves. We are not going to exist much longer.

We live in the greatest country on the face of this Earth. There is not anybody any better than the United States of America. Everybody is trying to break in. Nobody is trying to break out.

We are always passing laws, not because they are breaking out; they are all trying to break in. Why? Because it is the safest, happiest, richest place in the world. We have the best people to protect that wealth and that happiness. We have enough people go in the military on a voluntary basis. Less than 1 percent of our population serves in the military. It makes us the strongest defender of freedom and opportunity in the world.

If we ever lose that—if we ever lose the club or the two-by-four that the mule gets used to, we are going to lose our coverage of ethics, standby support, and all the other things we love and things we do. We are that close.

I see things happening—which I am asked about by people—that scare me. I have heard some people I know say some things that terrify me. We are better than the hate and the vile statements that some people make. We have to do better than that. We have to talk not over them or under them, but we have to talk to them. We have to sit down and say: Why did you say that? What is your problem? If we have a problem, let's get it out in the open and talk about it.

This is the best country in the world. The strongest country in the world cannot succumb to crushing itself inwardly if we look the other way in the challenges of life. The challenges of life today are America's changing. It is changing for lots of reasons.

There are a lot of people who are big internet people and all that, and they have all the solutions. I think the solution is right here. It is in their heart.

I am telling you from my heart that after 45 years in elected office, raising three children and eight grandchildren—and my kids have done a great job of raising them, living in a great community and working, attending a great church, and doing the things I have done—I see some of it slipping away. Churches don't have the memberships they used to have, and it is significant. School curriculum is getting a whole lot tougher than it used to be. I was chairman of the board of education for the State for a few years. A lot of the traditional things we all love and believe in, like God and country, like school curriculum, reli-

gion, Sunday school, and things like that—they have their challenges.

I am going to roll up my sleeves and do whatever I can with the life I have left. I said I am going to leave on December 31, but it is not because I am leaving you. I am not leaving you. I am going to be with you a lot longer than I thought I would because of what I am doing. I want to be here for you, and I want to be here when that bell rings to say: America, we don't have a problem anymore. We solved it. You helped us do it through our tax policies, through our Federal policies, through our education policies, and how we treat people. We helped you do it. Let's not get back in that shape again.

We have the people and the spirit of JOHN LEWIS and other people I know in this room who are willing to do it. Some think this is all just a bunch of Sunday school folly that somebody who is leaving believes in. Don't believe that. I will be back to make a speech again sometime and give you a progress report. We need some progress.

Now, the last thing I want to talk about—the best thing—the example to me of what bipartisanship means is a picture taken of JOHN LEWIS and me last week. Bipartisanship doesn't mean one is Black and one is White—could be one Black and one White, could be. But JOHN is Black and I am White, and we are different about other things.

When JOHN and I were addressing the House at a tribute to me, unfortunately for everybody else, I liked it. We had a great time. When JOHN's time to speak came, he made a beautiful speech too. It was very meaningful to me because we know what the buzz words were. We know what we said to make it sound like we were really liberal or positive. We knew we really weren't.

JOHN knew. JOHN knew who deserved cover and who didn't, which takes as much guts as somebody who knows what is right and what is wrong. So JOHN made this beautiful speech, and I said: You know, this is my time to pay JOHN back. All these years he has helped me out with so many things I have done.

I went to his 75th birthday because I am 75, and I wanted to see what I was going to look like. I looked in the mirror, and I didn't look like me.

JOHN and I turned out to be really good friends. I went to JOHN and said: JOHN, I thank you for that speech. That was the best I ever heard.

I opened my arms and hugged him, not for show and not for display and not for any purpose except to hug him because I love him. I know what he has done for me and this country, as well as so many other things.

But JOHN hugged me, and it got pretty long there for a minute, and that didn't bother me. But the TV people went crazy, so the best picture you could have seen last week among the popular pictures in magazines and the like was JOHN hugging me on the floor of the House.

TOM GRAVES and all the others from the Georgia delegation are here. I am sorry I haven't called out everybody's name; I haven't been able to see everybody. But they all came up and said: Thank you for doing that. I hope everybody back in Georgia sees that.

I said: That is what you are going to tell them. Here in the Senate at a luncheon next Tuesday, we all need to be seen doing the things they don't expect us to do. We are doing what is right for a change, and I just want them to feel good.

Politics doesn't need to be a feel-good business anymore. It needs to be a do-the-right-thing business. I tell you, I am big on bipartisanship. Whether you are Black or White, Republican or Democrat, whatever it might be, find a way to find common ground. Give it a chance to work, and if it doesn't, be a future friend. That is my slogan. When I started my business and people wouldn't buy a house from me, I would shake their hand and say: Thank you for looking for me, and when you buy your next one, call me, and I will do a better job because all I have are customers and future customers. I addressed everybody as a future customer, and I got some.

When I got into politics and I started asking people to vote for me, I said: All I have out there in Georgia are friends and future friends. So when we walked away from a Republican meeting somewhere and somebody had given me their right hand in the face and said, "We are not going to vote for you," I said, "I tell you what. I will give you another chance in 2 years so we can be a future friend, not less of a friend."

Friends and future friends are what it is all about. If you find anybody in business who helps you make it through life, you will make it through life and be treated that way. Life is a win-win proposition if you do it good. It is not a win-lose proposition. It is win-win. But you have to demand it, whichever side of the transition you are on.

So on a day in which I have had more nice things said about me than I deserve, it has brought clarity to me. I am going to tell you how much this place really means.

I am the happiest guy who could ever be. I am happy because I haven't cried yet. I am more happy because of all of you. I think you know what I am talking about. We can do it. We can do anything. We may be called liberal and may be called a RINO and may be called whatever it is. Let's solve the problem, and then see what happens.

Most people who call people names and point fingers are people who don't have a solution themselves but just want to make damn sure you don't solve it. We have to start doing that, and then bipartisanship will become a way you accomplish things, a way you live, a state of being. It will be the end of a bad time and the beginning of a new one, and I want to live long enough to see both.

God bless all of you, and thank you for your support and your friendship. It means more to me than I can ever tell you. I will always be there for you, whether it is buying dinner, going to church, or just listening to one of your speeches when I don't have anything else to do. God bless all of you.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, it is always a privilege to come before the U.S. Senate. I always feel humbled by that because I think of the people who have spoken on this floor since 1859. I am always measured in what I try to bring in terms of thought or whatever, but today there is a special sense of responsibility.

Senator COONS and I have been chosen to lead our colleagues in honoring JOHNNY ISAKSON today. What we just heard was historic, I believe. It is not the first time we have had a speech on this floor that addressed that topic, nor will it be the last, I will predict.

We just heard JOHNNY admonish us to judge with our conscience and our heart. With that, I feel somewhat unworthy to try to address what I feel, and what he also talked about is his heart.

Today is truly a bittersweet occasion. It is bitter because my friend, my mentor, and partner in the U.S. Senate, JOHNNY ISAKSON, is stepping down at the end of this month. For those of us who know this man, it is tough to come to grips with that. I will dearly miss him on many levels. I will miss having him come here in the U.S. Senate alongside me. I will miss his words of wisdom. I will miss his patience. Most of all, I think I will miss his example.

However, we can still find joy in this occasion, I believe. As JOHNNY and Dianne head into the next chapter of their lives with their family, all of us can take time to reflect on who JOHNNY is and what his public service has truly meant not only to us individually and not just to the constituents in our State but to America.

JOHNNY has actually meant the world to me and for longer than I have been in the U.S. Senate. When I got involved in the political process, I had never been personally elected to anything—maybe in the 8th grade. You know how that goes. But this was a radically different experience than I personally had ever had. JOHNNY helped me personally with that transition. He gave me advice. He befriended me. He introduced me to our colleagues here in the Senate. He has been the best partner anyone could ever ask for. I remember the best advice he ever gave me. I just shared this with our colleagues at lunch: DAVE, I only have one piece of advice for you. Keep your head down, your mouth shut, and don't ever vote against the farm bill.

That was his advice, and it was sage, and I listened to that.

Over the last 5 years—and, JOHNNY, it is hard to believe it has been 5 years. To Dianne, I am sure it feels like five lifetimes. In the last 5 years, JOHNNY's advice has stuck with me on many levels. A lot of people in this town know how to talk, stick around. JOHNNY has shown us how important it is to listen and learn from each other. He has shown us how to work together on behalf of, not just ourselves or our next reelection, but truly for the people who put us here. JOHNNY is a true public servant.

I say that next to the word "servant" in the Webster dictionary is a picture of JOHNNY ISAKSON. He is devoted to getting results, not just for the people of Georgia, but for everybody in the United States. Most importantly, he does it in a way that really is worthy of this august body.

I know this body has had controversy throughout the last 230 years. Part of what makes us great is that we have differing opinions, but somehow, in the last 230 years, we found a way to put those aside to find compromise. I made a living in business for 40 years finding ways to compromise with people who had different views than I did.

One example of JOHNNY's statesmanship was with his longtime friendship with another great Georgian, Zell Miller, who happened to be a Democrat. Zell was a former Governor of Georgia and a U.S. Senator. Last year, he, sadly, passed away. What most people forget is that early in his career, JOHNNY actually ran for Governor against the same Zell Miller who ended up being, as JOHNNY calls him, the best friend he has ever had.

When Zell Miller passed away, JOHNNY was asked to speak, and he spoke on this floor. In that speech, he said that Zell Miller was "an individual I met through politics, became one of my best friends through politics, and probably had more influence on my life than anybody else I know in public service." That is a Democrat JOHNNY ISAKSON is talking about. Saxby Chambliss and I get a little upset about that occasionally, but, JOHNNY, that is a big deal. Thank you.

It is almost hard to believe JOHNNY and Zell used to be political opponents. Despite their political differences, JOHNNY and Zell remained close friends up until Zell's death. In fact, Zell even appointed JOHNNY as chairman of the Georgia Board of Education 7 years after Zell had beaten him in that same Governor's race. We can have strong differences in rigorous debates, but we should always be civil and respectful to one another, JOHNNY says. And JOHNNY lives that out every day.

I have said before that JOHNNY ISAKSON is the Howard Baker of our time. Why do I say that; what do I mean? JOHNNY doesn't talk a lot, but when JOHNNY talks, people listen. What we just witnessed was, I think, historic. The paper that was on the podium in front of Senator ISAKSON just now was not a speech. I want everybody to un-

derstand this. It was a list of the 50 Senators who have asked to come to this floor over the next few hours to honor this man as he goes into retirement.

What we just saw was straight from the heart—better than anybody I have ever witnessed and in a way that I will always remember. Truly, when JOHNNY talks, people listen. It doesn't matter if you are a young child, a member of his staff, a colleague, or the President of the United States, not only do people listen to JOHNNY, but I will add one thing to what I have been saying for the last 5 years, when other people talk, JOHNNY ISAKSON listens. That is a rare commodity in this town; trust me.

If you need help, JOHNNY ISAKSON is always there. We all know now that JOHNNY will no longer be with us in this body every day, but we know he will still be around to help us in any way he can. I am hoping he will still call me and give those pieces of advice that have been so valuable over the last 5 years. I know he will answer my call when I call him and ask for that same advice.

But I want to leave the body with this thought today—and I think it echoes what he just said, and I prepared these remarks some time ago in thinking about today—in the new testament in the Bible, in Matthew 23, it says that the greatest among you will be the servant. And today, I want to remind everybody in this body that the greatest among us is JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHNNY, it has been a true blessing. God bless you and Dianne and your family. America will always be in your debt. Thank you for everything. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, JOHNNY. God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, it is an honor to rise and speak in tribute to my dear friend and trusted colleague, JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia.

To follow the junior Senator from the State of Georgia, something remarkable happened just before this session on the floor of the Senate. There was a bipartisan lunch in which virtually every currently serving Senator—nearly 100—gathered, not just because there was tasty barbecue, but because we were there to thank our friend and colleague JOHNNY ISAKSON for his decade of public service, for his dedication to this body, and for the ways in which he has been the glue that has helped hold so many of us together. You just heard it again here on the floor, his passion and his commitment to working across the aisle.

JOHNNY ISAKSON has been an effective, capable, and powerful Senator because he is never worried about who gets the credit for the work he does. He has kept his word. He has a great sense of humor. He is easy to be with. He is persuasive. He is persistent, and he is principled.