

military installations and talked with soldiers and airmen to learn about their life experiences. She made it a priority to spend time in Kansas and to learn from the Kansas people so that she could bring their thoughts and ideas back to the Nation's Capital. These personal conversations with Kansans and Kelly's experience in the Army have helped to drive meaningful policy.

She led our efforts to secure maternity leave for those serving in the National Guard and Reserve after talking with an expectant mother in the Kansas National Guard. She has also sought to increase access to suicide prevention programs and destigmatize the notions surrounding mental illness.

In addition, her experiences in serving in uniform have been instrumental to my efforts to support our veterans. Over the past year, I have continually been impressed by Kelly's leadership and professionalism. At every opportunity, she has proven herself to be an important and fully integrated member of my team, carrying the equal weight and responsibility of my personal staff. Her seamless communications and her skill in tackling issues big and small have been a great benefit to our office and the people that we serve. Kelly has exceeded all of my expectations and has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has been nothing short of outstanding.

A testament to her leadership over the past year was her promotion to major in July. It was my honor to be part of her promotion ceremony and to have the privilege to pin her new and deserving rank on her uniform.

It will be sad when she leaves our office at the end of the month, but I know she will serve the Army well next year in the Army's Budget Liaison Office, where I am confident she will be a highly effective ambassador to Congress for the Army.

Kelly is one of the most impressive military officers I have had the honor of knowing, and I hold her in the highest regard, personally and professionally. She is a significant asset to our country and to the U.S. Army. Kelly represents the best that the Army has to offer, and I know that she will continue to be a benefit to the future of our Nation. There is no group of people I hold in higher regard than those who serve our Nation, and I want to reiterate my gratitude to Kelly for her dedication and service to our country.

Once again, thank you, Kelly, for all you have done for Kansans this year and what you will continue to do for our Nation. You have been a model of selfless service and leadership. I know you will continue to do great things throughout your Army career and your life in service, wherever that path my lead you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING BERKLEY BEDELL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to an extraordinary Iowan with whom I shared a decades-long friendship—a very prominent Democrat from my State.

Over this past weekend, former Iowa Congressman Berkley Bedell passed away at the age of 98. For nearly a century of life, Berkley took his grandmother's advice to heart: "You can do almost anything within reason if you will only set your mind to it."

From an early age, Berkley Bedell set his mind to a high standard of achievement. He set an example for the rest of us. He practiced what he preached and he made a difference in this world.

As a child raised during the Great Depression, Berkley became a soldier in the U.S. Army. He was, obviously, a World War II veteran, an entrepreneur, a job creator, a philanthropist, a policy influencer, and, most of all, a devoted husband and father.

What I left out is how I got acquainted with him. He was a fellow Member of the House of Representatives during my early years and for some time after I came to the Senate. Our decades-long friendship began when Berkley and I were elected to serve Iowans in the House of Representatives in 1974. Soon after the orientation for new Members, Barbara and I developed a close relationship with Elinor and Berkley. This friendship remained for the next 45 years.

Looking back, those were lonely days for a freshman Republican House Member. That is when the Watergate scandal upended the midterm elections. Voters elected 91 new House Members to that Congress. I happened to be the only Republican in the Iowa congressional delegation. Among our so-called Watergate class of 1974, I was joined by Iowans Tom Harkin, Michael Blouin, and Berkley Bedell. We were all freshman Members of Congress. We joined then with more senior Members from the State of Iowa—Neal Smith, who went on to serve 36 years in the House, and Ed Mezvinsky. The Democrat Senators from Iowa were Dick Clark and John Culver. Berkley would go on to represent Iowa's Sixth Congressional District for six terms, from 1975 to 1987. Even though he lived about another 32 years after that, I presume he would have served a lot longer if his health had held out.

Although Berkley and I didn't share the same political points of view, we did share a common approach for representative government, meaning with dialogue and feedback from Iowans that was very necessary if we were going to represent them properly. Most

often, the forums for that were our respective townhall meetings.

Throughout our service together in Congress, party labels didn't displace our ability to work with and for Iowans. As one example, during the farm crisis of the 1980s, which was much worse than this farm crisis we have right now, we used our voices to raise public awareness and steer help to struggling farm communities in our home State. We did everything possible to shape farm policy and restore hope to thousands of farm families who were coping with double-digit inflation and with the farm debt crisis.

As a Federal lawmaker, Berkley took his oversight work seriously. Even though I take oversight seriously, I didn't do it in quite the way he did. His was kind of an unorthodox approach. He just ventured, willy-nilly, into a Federal bureaucracy here or a Federal bureaucracy over there. He took the liberty of dropping by in person at these agencies. He would go up to people and ask: What is your job? I don't know exactly the questions he asked, but in knowing Berkley the way I did, I think he probably wanted to have very calm conversations with them to determine what they did and maybe even see if they were doing it right, particularly if they were spending the taxpayers' money right. He did this to keep tabs on how these Federal employees in these various bureaucracies were serving the Nation and, particularly, serving Iowans. Now, that is what I would call an in-the-flesh gut check—a very different type of oversight from what I have done.

Berkley was born in Spirit Lake, IA. I assume he lived his entire life in Spirit Lake, IA, except for the period of time he was in the military and until he spent some retirement time in Florida. Spirit Lake, IA, is a close-knit farming community in Dickinson County. His neck of the woods is located in the Iowa Great Lakes region—a regional destination for fishing, boating, and outdoor recreation. I will bet the Presiding Officer has been there many times.

The area is fondly known as the University of Okoboji, where generations of families go year after year to vacation and enjoy life. By the way, the University of Okoboji is not really a university but is very much a selling point for that part of the State, from an economic development point of view, and it has worked very successfully.

As I just described, this is where Berkley's insatiable work ethic took root. It guided him for his nearly 100 years of life on Earth. Through philanthropic good works, he leaves behind a legacy of conservation, stewardship, and historic preservation. With his wife, he helped to launch the Okoboji Foundation more than three decades ago. Since then, the foundation has awarded millions of dollars to scores of nonprofit organizations in that lakes region of Iowa.

In other words, Berkley believed in paying it forward. He cared deeply about giving back to his community for future generations to enjoy. As you would expect an Iowan to do, he rolled up his sleeves, opened his wallet, and pitched in to make a difference. By my measure, his represents a life well lived, and he lived life well.

As I mentioned earlier, Berkley and Elinor became steadfast friends with Barbara and this Senator. We shared an abiding mutual respect, and we cherished their gracious regard for that friendship. After the Bedells moved to Florida in their retirement, Barbara and I enjoyed an annual gift from the Bedells each February. It was a very simple annual gift but one that had a lot of meaning to it—more than the material it represented. They sent us a box of oranges from their home in the Sunshine State. Just as regularly as a clock, we received these over many, many years.

Through these many years, their annual Christmas letter was something that we looked forward to. In many years, in personal notes in those very letters, they even thanked us for our friendship. Berkley also stayed in touch with a friendly Valentine note each year to Barbara, my wife. With Berkley's passing, we are saddened to know that these tokens of friendship have now come to an end.

Berkley's story is an inspiration for younger generations of Americans who are pursuing their dreams. It is never too early to dream big. This was how Berkley Bedell was dreaming as a 16-year-old: He became an entrepreneur. Berkley launched a fishing tackle business with Jack, his brother. It was called the Berkley Fly Company. I am told he started the company with \$50 from paper route money. He started tying fly fishing lures in his bedroom.

Pouring years of sweat equity into the family business boosted the local economy and created jobs in his beloved Iowa Great Lakes. His tenacious leadership developed a strong workforce for what was then called Berkley Industries. That company, which is now called Pure Fishing, is today one of the leading fishing tackle manufacturers in the world.

At 98 years young, Berkley didn't let age slow him down by any stretch of the imagination. He remained active in public policymaking and immersed in electoral politics in Iowa. Usually, at least once a year, he called on me here in Washington, in the Hart Office Building, to tell me about some legislative issue he was interested in, and we worked together on some of those legislative issues. Everything here in Washington is so political, so this may sound very unusual, and maybe it is unusual today: Despite our differences in political philosophies—he was a Democrat; I am a Republican—we both appreciated how crucial it was to engage the next generation in civic life.

Berkley's leadership and legacy will be remembered for generations to

come. I am proud to have called him a very good, good friend.

Barbara and I extend our condolences to his sons, Ken and Tom, and to Joanne, his daughter.

Your dad made a big footprint in his life's journey.

As my former colleague in the House of Representatives, Berkley later became my constituent when I was elected to serve here in the U.S. Senate. I never knew Berkley Bedell to stop advocating for his community or for the good of our Nation. It became Berkley's lifelong hallmark to leave God's green Earth better than he had found it for generations to come.

I wish Godspeed to my good friend Berkley Bedell, who joins Elinor, his beloved wife, in eternal life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was in my office and just learned, by Senator GRASSLEY's floor speech, about the passing of Berkley Bedell, and I just wanted to add my voice to his.

He was a wonderful man. I served with him in the House of Representatives. Spirit Lake was his home area in Iowa. He was a really knowledgeable man when it came to issues of agriculture, and I didn't learn until many years later that he was a very successful businessman in the fishing tackle business, if I remember correctly, and sporting goods. He had many interests.

He was a spirited, friendly, good person who worked hard at his job and was a credit to the U.S. House of Representatives, regardless of party, and I think Senator GRASSLEY's remarks reflect that.

I am going to miss his annual Christmas card. He and his wife—she passed away just recently, as well—would send a card about the comings and goings of their big, old family. It was a big oversized card, and I always looked forward to it.

I feel honored to have been able to serve with him. I thank my colleague and friend Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa for paying tribute to him.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

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

THE WORLD BANK AND CHINA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, despite the objections of the United States, the World Bank adopted a plan for lending more than \$1 billion annually to China.

China is the world's second largest economy, and its per capita income is

well above the level at which countries are supposed to graduate from needing World Bank assistance. American tax dollars should not be used, even indirectly, for lending to wealthier countries, particularly when they violate human rights.

China seeks legitimacy through international institutions for its bad practices, including for its own predatory lending through the Belt and Road Initiative. Despite what the recent World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework reads, China is not an example developing countries should follow.

To sum up on this point, China has the second largest economy in the world, and it still wants to be considered a developing country and lend taxpayers' dollars around the world in order for there to be a greater Communist influence. As taxpayers, we should not stand for that to happen.

78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. President, on another point, this past weekend marked the 78th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor—a raid that plunged the United States into World War II. Almost 2,500 U.S. soldiers lost their lives that day.

I am proud of the many Iowans who have served and sacrificed for our great country. Earlier this year, three of these people returned to Iowa to be laid to rest—Robert J. Bennett, William L. Kvidera, and Bert E. McKeeman.

I honor them and all of our servicemembers for their sacrifices in serving our people, protecting our constitutional rights and the freedom and liberties we have.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN HAHN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to take a chance this afternoon and vote for one of the President's nominees. Some of my colleagues have come up to me and said I am making a big mistake, and I hope I am not.

His name is Stephen Hahn. He is a medical doctor and an oncologist from MD Anderson in Texas, and he has been named to serve as the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner.

This is a relatively small agency by Federal standards that has a major-size impact on the lives of Americans and beyond. I think it is one of our most important agencies. It regulates so many things relating to safety and quality of life, and Dr. Hahn would come to this position at an auspicious moment in our history.

I refer, of course, to the fact that we are now battling a vaping epidemic across the United States of America.

The Presiding Officer, from Utah, and I have worked on this together, and I thank him for his leadership in this regard.

I look at Dr. Hahn and I think of all the questions that I have asked him. I had a face-to-face meeting with him in my office and then had him on the phone last night for another half hour, and he was very patient in answering my questions.