

been able to impact our court system, which got lopsided over the years, to where many laws that were passed here get into the court system and then either get overturned or get impacted in ways that did not have the original intent. We here in our own conference, I think, have addressed that imbalance, and I think here soon we will have appointed, in the 3 years that President Trump has been at the helm, the 50th circuit judge. That is impressive. We are also filling slots now that we made a change in the rules here to not only get judges appointed but also to fill a lot of the slots in our government that are vacant. So that is good news.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. President, you don't hear much about the fact that household incomes have increased more than \$5,000 a family in the 3 years since President Trump was elected. It went up a total of \$1,000 in the 16 years through the Bush and Obama administrations. That should be the banner, the headline, and sadly, we are mired in other discussions that I will address here in a moment.

I believe in the long run that, if we are going to change the dynamic, we will need more disruption in an institution that, in the year I have been here, I have been surprised how many people come here actually wanting more, not realizing that when you are running trillion-dollar deficits, that is a bad business partner. That is a business partner that I would hedge my bets and maybe find other ways to pay the way in the long run. Sadly, I don't think we are going to fix that component until we probably have a crisis or two, and then we solve it in that fashion.

So the budget which is, in my opinion, in the long run what we need to do here, if we want to be helpful to the American public, it has got to straighten itself out. Whether that will happen, I do not know.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, let's talk about some of the things that have been occupying time here, and let's talk about something that looks like, finally, it is going to get across the finish line: USMCA. We hear about trade issues. It is correct to be concerned about trade. Our focus is normally on the Chinese. I do believe this has been the time to take them on, call them out for their bad behavior when it comes to stealing intellectual property, forced technology transfers, manipulating currencies, creating gluts, dumping it on the market; no one else is doing that. Until President Trump came along, nobody else was talking about it. He was over in Europe recently, reminding our allies that, when you are running trillion-dollar deficits, you can no longer afford to be paying the bills for the rest of the world. That is business as usual, thank goodness, because we simply can't afford it anymore.

USMCA reflects arrangements between our two largest trading partners,

Canada and Mexico—many inequities there, mostly because we were kind in those original agreements, but it needed to be changed because we cannot sustain that in the long run. This is going to help manufacturing. It is going to help farmers. The number of jobs it will create, even in this low unemployment context, are amazing.

When you look at that, it finally gets across the finish line, and we now, over the next couple weeks, couple months—who knows—we are dealing with what is going to happen in one of the biggest political events that has occurred in the history of this country. All I can tell you is we will get through it.

I don't think we are going to find out any more than what we know currently, but hopefully, when we do get it resolved, we are going to give full credit due to getting tasks done like the USMCA, lowering taxes, creating more enterprise across this country, and hopefully relying less on this institution in all parts of our daily lives until it sets the example that it starts to live within its means, live sustainably. And then we start tackling issues like the cost of healthcare, where we start talking about climate, when we start talking about the issues that future generations will have to deal with and that are currently paying all the bills through the money that we are borrowing, hopefully that dynamic will change, and hopefully, we will be back on track in November 2020 with the leadership that has put us in a position to actually change things here to where we do live in a way in the future that is sustainable, setting the example starting right here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Georgia.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I always come to the well of the Senate with a purpose. I try not to talk too long, and I try to make my point and get out before I make a big mistake. When you are saying thank you to people who have done so much for you, it is almost always the time where you do make a mistake and you leave somebody out here and somebody out there and somebody out here. I am going to do a little something I have never done before. I know one thing, I will leave nobody out.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of names of my staff.

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

PERSONAL OFFICE STAFF AND INTERNS

Monica Heil, Jeremy Johnson, Jay Sulzmann, Amanda Maddox, Marie Gordon, Charles Spry, Michael Gay, Toni Brown, Jody Redding, Kathie Miller, Nancy Bobbitt, Nancy Brooks, Tommy Nguyen, Maureen Rhodes, Sheila Robinson, Andrew Blascovich, Michael Black.

Laura Gower, Will Dent, Jack Overstreet, Gus Youmans, Elizabeth McKay, Tripp

Adams, Hanna Yu, Preston Miller, Kristine Nichols, Brad Williamson, Ryan Williams, Brooke Doss, Drew Ferguson, Connor Rabb, Taylor McDowell, Logan Purvis.

Caroline Maughon, Kate Hunter, Nyjel Jackson, Jason Maynard, Max Turner, Hannah Kitzmiller, Colleen O'Connell, Ken Ciarlatta, Seth MacKenney, Riya Vashi, Matt Sartor, Sahiti Namburur, Olivia Kelly, Frederick Severtson, Floyd Buford.

VA COMMITTEE STAFF

Adam Reece, Thomas Coleman, Reider Grunseith, Asher Allman, DeKisha Williams, Barry Walker, Leslie Campbell, Annabell McWherter, John Ashley, Brian Newbold, Lindsay Dearing, David Shearman, Patrick McGuigan, Jillian Workman, Emily Blair, Pauline Schmitt.

ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF

Deborah Sue Mayer, Karen Gorman, Cami Morrison, Geoff Turley, Madeline Dang, Shane Kelly, Katharine Quaglieri, Kelly Selesnick, Charlotte Underwood, Danny Remington, Katie Jordan, Gabrielle Quintana, Taylore Presta, Taisha Saintil, Mary Yuengert.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it contains a list of literally hundreds of people who have helped me get to where I am today in this Chamber. A few of them are in this Chamber with me right now and a lot of them were here Tuesday of last week when the Senate was very kind to give me a sendoff. In fact, I thought they were so happy I was leaving, I had done something really wrong, and I was saving them some trouble, but they were really happy because we were being happy together about the years we have had together.

I have had 15 years together with Members of the U.S. Senate, and it has been the greatest 15 years of my life. I learned as much about myself as I learned about anybody else, but I learned even more about my country, which I love so passionately.

I want to take a few minutes today to talk about a few people I want to thank for what they said about me, what they have done for me, and how they have helped me. I wish to also tell the people who may be listening to this show or watching C-SPAN today to understand there are a lot of people who make us work. We do all the mistakes by ourselves without any help, but the good things we do take a lot of help. They take a lot of strength and a lot of time and a lot of commitment.

The 100 Members of this Senate sitting here have literally hundreds of people behind them who help them do their job they otherwise couldn't do. I represent 10 million people; Senators from California, almost 30 million people; from New York, almost 15 million people. All of the States have different populations, but all of them have a lot of people who need help.

That is what Members of the Senate are there to do, along with the Members of the House, and that is to give them the help they need from the country they love and the country they were born in or became a naturalized citizen in.

I want to talk today more about the hard work—the hard work of licking stamps and envelopes when I first got

in politics. I don't do that anymore. We punch a computer key, and it says "reply all" or "distribute to all" or "send to all." Technology allows us to communicate at the drop of a hat.

The biggest challenge I have every day communicating is because of what is on television beginning at midnight. President Trump usually makes a tweet about 3 o'clock in the morning, and the news starts. We get phone calls, our staff gets phone calls, and for the rest of the day we are responding to what he said at 3 a.m., knowing the next morning at 3 a.m. there will be a new tweet. There will be a new issue, and he will be setting the pace. During the afternoon, when people respond to it, their response to it will be setting the pace. All of us are reacting in the third person or for the third time. It is a challenging job.

With communications like it is and 24/7 television like it is and the media like they are, it is really a challenge. The men and women who work for me help me to make that communication. I want to, first of all, start off by thanking them.

The lady sitting to my left—on the screen, I guess that would make it your right—Miss Amanda Maddox. Amanda came to work for me a number of years ago when I stole her from one of the House Members because I knew she was the best person on the floor of the House. She was not an easy steal because I knew she was a tough lady, but I knew I needed a tough lady and somebody who could help. She has been a tremendous help for me through a lot of difficulties we never expected, neither she nor I—health challenges that I had, challenges I had in terms of my staff, training for trips I took, going on trips I took, dealing with the media during things we took on that were tough. Every day she did it with skill and aplomb. Every day she did it right, and every day she helped me look much better than I deserved.

I look in the mirror so I know what I start out with, but when I get up and open my mouth, I can do even more damage. Amanda keeps me from doing that. She is a first-class lady.

Another lady who is not here today, unfortunately, is Marie Gordon, who is in Atlanta. Marie works under Amanda. She works for me in Atlanta, GA.

They are really my communication. You heard of left brain-right brain. This is my left brain. Marie is my right brain. They make me work, and I know how many times I owe to say thank you to them, and it is more than I could ever come to. They have been wonderful to me, and I will miss them a lot as I retire, but I know they will be here to help somebody else along the same way who will take my place and do just as good a job or better.

I want to, personally, publicly, thank Amanda and Marie for what they have done and how they made me look good.

A harder job is getting me around with my current difficulties I am having in terms of movement.

Where is Logan?

Logan is on the floor somewhere. He is my pusher. He is not the kind of pusher you are thinking about. He is my wheelchair pusher. He doesn't sell anything else but wheelchairs, but he does a great job with it and gets me in a lot of bad places I am not supposed to be able to get into, but he does it safely. We haven't had any accidents, and he makes me look good. I could not do without Logan and his talent and his willingness to get up early hours to get me in a truck or get me in an airplane or get me in my own car and get me to the places I need to go safely and on time and get me back home to see my wife if we are in Atlanta or back here to see my many supporters in the office when they need me.

He is my instant communication man. That means he is also my right brain. He is in there thinking ahead to make sure we have enough time to get where we need to go and have enough places to stop for the restroom, which when you are in a wheelchair, that is something you have to think about from time to time and all the other little parts of life you take for granted until you can't do them anymore. When somebody helps you do them, they are a lifetime friend, and Logan Purvis is a lifetime friend for me in what he does.

There is a real tall guy somewhere in the room who is good golfer. His name is Trey Kilpatrick. Trey has been with me for 10 years. He started with me in my third reelection or second reelection—one of my reelections—in the first half of this century. Sometimes elections seem like a century, not a day or not an hour but a century.

Trey has done everything. He has made appointments; he has substituted for me; and he does an excellent job of that. He has given me advice on what not to say. When he does this, I know what it means. I know what it means from my wife, too, but when Trey does it, it means to shut up, you dummy. He gets me to shut up in time and not say a bad thing. That is a valuable person.

He is also valuable because I can't play golf anymore, but I let him play in my stead, and he is a scratch golfer. For those of you who are listening or watching this, that means he will beat anybody who tries to beat him, and I hope to get half the money. If I don't get half the money, I just enjoy seeing him and his great talent.

He has his third child coming pretty soon, so he is producing some good voters for us in about 15 or 20 years from now. I appreciate that as well. I appreciate Sally, his wife, and the sacrifice she has made to let him take as much time out of his life and her life as I have taken out of their lives.

I appreciate those who have made me look good. They made me look good all the time, and I appreciate what they have done to help me along the way with my service in the U.S. Senate.

There is another person I want to talk about for 1 minute. I will do it

some more tomorrow. I will break it up, so I am not taking up all of the time of the Chair, but I want to take as much as I can right now to talk about Joan Kirchner Carr. I have a unique situation with the chief of staff. Joan Kirchner is my chief of staff. Her name is now Joan Carr. She changed her name because she married my previous chief of staff. She came with me as a deputy chief of staff and fell in love with my chief of staff, and they fell in love with each other. He is now the attorney general of Georgia. She married my chief of staff.

I actually have pretty good luck for somebody who wants to get married. If you come to my office, you will find a husband or wife or something like that. That is not a bad thing to happen in Washington, DC.

Joan has been fantastic. She wrote for AP. She covered me when I was almost a little guy. I first got elected in 1976, and she was working for AP at that time in the Georgia Legislature and wrote speeches about all the people who were in the legislature, and I was one of them. I was the minority leader. I was the minority leader of a group of 19 Republicans who had 161 Democrats opposing them. Custer had better odds than we did. We didn't have good odds at all. She was a great writer, a great reporter, and I fell in love with her—not in the physical sense but in the platonic sense—because I knew how good she was at what she did.

Over the years, she impressed me so much, I brought her along on whatever campaign I had. I brought her along to help me in the office I had. She ultimately became my press secretary, my deputy chief of staff, my chief of staff, and my best friend. When you can cover all those bases at one time, you are doing pretty good, and Joan does exactly that.

I am so grateful for all those who have helped me along the way, all those who gave a lot, all those who gave a little but mostly those who gave of themselves. Politicians are always asking for money; they are always talking about money; and they are always promising money. Money is fine, but that doesn't get you much of anything—but relationships are impossible to replace. You take a good relationship with somebody who has worked hard to help you get where you want to go, there is nothing better or more valuable in life. No contribution of money is worth anything more than just that act of love or that act of kindness or act of support that gets you where you are going.

From this one guy who is leaving the U.S. Senate under his own power, but not as much as I used to have, I enjoyed my 15 years more than you would ever know, and I want to thank all those people who helped me get here and made it possible for me, particularly those I pointed out now and will point out later in my speeches this week. May God bless them, may God bless all of you, and may God bless the United States of America.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am pleased to be on the floor with my colleagues to honor our friend and our colleague, JOHNNY ISAKSON from Georgia. I could almost tell you he is probably hating this about now, but I want to get my two cents in. I don't need to read off his impressive resume or thank him for his service in the Georgia National Guard, his successful real estate business, his extensive public service, and all that he has done and accomplished in Congress.

I want to talk about JOHNNY ISAKSON, my friend. You hear everybody in this body get up and we say: My colleague and my friend. Sometimes I am not sure we are really talking about friends, but I want to tell you, JOHNNY, I am not making this up. I am talking about you as my friend. I am not just being polite. You know me better than that.

I will tell a little story, and he has heard me tell it, but when I was first elected to the House of Representatives in the year 2000, I was walking down the aisle, probably our first vote, had no idea really what I was doing, didn't know anybody in the 435-Member body, and I must have had it written all over my face because I was wandering, and this hand reaches out, and he says: Why don't you sit down here next to me, and we can talk about what is going on.

That was my introduction to JOHNNY ISAKSON. We talked about what was going on on the floor. We talked about who his friends were. We talked about the fact that my mother's family was from Perry, GA, and I had some Georgia blood running through these veins.

JOHNNY, as we have heard, doesn't care if you have been here 20 years or if you have been here 20 minutes, he wants to be a friend. I heard him say that the other day; that he has friends and then he has future friends. I have actually thought about that a lot over the holiday weekend. He doesn't care if you are a Republican or Democrat, from the North or the South—South will probably help a little bit—East or West, he has an innate ability to put everybody at ease. He doesn't count anybody as an enemy. We have been to the Prayer Breakfast. We have shared our highs and lows together in our respective lives. He never cares who gets the credit. He just cares about getting things done. I think you have seen that through everybody's wonderful tributes to JOHNNY. He brings people together. That is hard to do, but he leads by example. He has been a great example to me. You have been a great example to me. My colleague from North Dakota, Senator JOHN HOEVEN, has called you "Mr. Congeniality of the Senate." I can't think of a better analogy. You are Mr. Congeniality, but you are also a very forceful, strong person with a steel spine to know what is right and what is wrong.

The Bible asks, "What does the Lord require of you?" JOHNNY is living that answer: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. We could use a few more humble walkers around here, I think. We could sure use more JOHNNY ISAKSONS.

You will be there cheering us on, I know, because your heart is with your many friends who are here. I will miss seeing you coming around the corner because our offices are very close. I will miss our car rides together and our golf games together. I will miss that extended hand in friendship, but I know that you will still be extending it from your home with your family and your many, many friends.

I am really happy to be here. This is happy for me because I think it is happy for you. I think that as much as you probably regret leaving and feel there is more work to be done, you can go in peace and love and know that you have happy days ahead of you and a lot of well-wishers on the way.

JOHNNY, thanks a lot. Thanks for extending that hand of friendship. It meant so much to me then, as it does today. Good luck and Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues, like the Senator from West Virginia, and pay tribute to our friend Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

It has been an incredible privilege to work with Senator ISAKSON. Senator ISAKSON and I got to know each other first through the bipartisan Senate Prayer Breakfast and then serving together on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Finance Committees. I have always appreciated his commitment to bipartisanship, problem-solving, and getting results for the people in his home State of Georgia and for people all across our country. Because of that commitment, Senator ISAKSON and I have worked together to cosponsor a number of pieces of legislation, including efforts to improve care for veterans and to make hearing aids available over-the-counter. We also partnered together to pass a resolution designating March 25 "Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day."

In addition to being kind, thoughtful, and bipartisan, one thing stands out to me about Senator ISAKSON the most: his bravery in speaking out on issues regarding human dignity. He demonstrated that bravery early on in his career as a State senator who spoke out against a local anti-gay resolution. At a time when standing up for the rights of people of all sexual orientations wasn't easy or convenient, he did. That took real courage.

In addition, I am in awe of Senator ISAKSON's bravery in sharing publicly his family's experience losing his grandson Charlie to an overdose. By opening up and sharing this tragedy, Senator ISAKSON helped reinforce that this crisis affects families from all walks of life. His public discussion has

and continues to make a real difference as we work to break down the stigma that comes with addiction. I know he has continued working here in the Senate to prevent more families from experiencing a loss like his own.

I am also grateful for Senator ISAKSON's leadership on behalf of our country's veterans. In June, Senator ISAKSON led a bipartisan Senate delegation to Normandy to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. During that visit, I saw firsthand JOHNNY's incredible kindness and commitment to our country's veterans. I also saw how quickly he dismissed compliments and thanks directed his way to ensure that others got credit for their part in his success. I know that carries over to his tireless efforts and hard work on behalf of veterans as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Above all, I appreciate Senator ISAKSON's friendship. He has represented the people of Georgia in the Senate with dignity, determination, and grit, as well as a really good sense of humor. He has made a real difference.

As Senator ISAKSON confronts a health challenge of his own right now, I am confident that he will face it with the bravery, humility, and humor he has exemplified throughout his life and here in the Senate.

Senator ISAKSON, we will all miss you terribly, but we are looking forward to traveling to Georgia to see you and to continue the many conversations that have made us all better people and better Senators and makes this country a better place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I know I am not in the right order, but since we have a gap here, I thought I would just jump in.

I am honored to be here today for the JOHNNY ISAKSON memorial tribute part two. Being the lower person in the Senate on the totem pole here, I didn't get a chance to talk last week, but I did sit through the Senators' remarks, which I found very compelling.

I have found JOHNNY ISAKSON to be very compelling. You know, there are times when you watch a movie or a TV show, and there are these special moments when two people meet, and there is one person who has that spark, who has that magic, and when they touch, when they embrace with a hug or a shake of the hands, all of a sudden, the other person realizes they are talking to somebody very special. That is JOHNNY ISAKSON. That moment is built around JOHNNY ISAKSON.

From the first time I had the chance to meet him on January 3, 2018, I knew all of those things that are being said about his bipartisanship, about his friendliness, and about how he wants to work with people and how he cares about people were absolutely true. I could tell by the first handshake and the "Welcome to the Senate, DOUG."

I will say that I think meeting me and having that spark was a real test