

Finally, Majority Leader McCONNELL blocked the inclusion the bipartisan DETER Act, which I introduced with Senator RUBIO to deter future Russian interference in U.S. Federal elections. The DETER Act sends a clear message to Russian President Putin or any other foreign adversary: If you attack American elections, you will face severe consequences. Leader McCONNELL blocked this measure from the NDAA, even though the Senate unanimously passed a resolution in the fall instructing the NDAA conferees to support its inclusion. In addition, Republican leadership removed a related provision in the House-passed NDAA imposing sanctions on Russian sovereign debt in response to interference in U.S. elections.

Leader McCONNELL's decision to block the DETER Act and the House sanctions on Russian sovereign debt effectively green-lights Russian interference in future U.S. elections. It is a gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin and a subversion of the clear desire expressed by both Chambers of Congress to hold Russia accountable for future interference. It reinforces Putin's belief that the costs of attacking our democracy are low and the rewards are great. It is a dereliction of his duty, as a representative of the people, to protect our Nation from foreign adversaries. I will continue fighting for the passage of the DETER Act. The next national election is less than a year away, and we must make clear to Putin that Russia will pay a steep price if they interfere in another election.

While I am strongly opposed to some of the provisions in this bill and disappointed by the omission of others, I believe that, on balance, the NDAA will strengthen our national security and advance other important national priorities. For that reason, I voted in support of final passage.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON from the great State of Georgia. I, like all of my colleagues in the Senate, am saddened by his retirement. His departure leaves a big hole in this Chamber that may never be truly filled.

JOHNNY is a Senator's Senator. He embodies the best qualities of a public servant. He is smart, hard-working, determined, effective. He is humble, not at all self-important, and never seeks attention for himself. He has integrity. He is a man of his word.

He is known throughout the Senate as ready to reach across the aisle to seek bipartisan solutions—one of the main reasons he is so effective. As he put it during his farewell speech on the Senate floor, "I tell you, I am big on bipartisanship." JOHNNY encourages us to take his lead and listen to and work with the other side. We all can learn from his example.

JOHNNY is kind. His heart is big. He always has a smile or greeting for the

Senate custodians, Capitol police, cafeteria workers, Senate pages. He always has the time to be kind to others.

JOHNNY is Georgian through and through and loves his State and its people. He has served them for 45 years—in both State houses and both Congressional Chambers—and is now Georgia's most senior elected official. JOHNNY is as beloved by the people of his State as he is in the Senate—and for good reason. He has worked to build Georgia's economy, its rural communities, its international trade, its harbors, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and on and on.

But JOHNNY is not only a champion for his State, he is a champion for the Nation, and he gets things done for our country. JOHNNY's legislative fingerprints are everywhere. From protecting workers' pensions, to fighting childhood hunger, to increasing affordable housing so families have a roof over their heads, to helping people with disabilities, to making sure children with rare diseases get their medications, to getting treatment for victims of the opioid crisis—JOHNNY has been working for the American people because he cares deeply and genuinely about humanity. It is not show for JOHNNY. You see what you get. He is the real deal.

It is important to thank JOHNNY for his extraordinary work on behalf of veterans. He is a veteran himself, having served 6 years in the Georgia Air National Guard after college, and veterans have no stronger champion than JOHNNY. As chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, he shepherded an amazing 57 bills through the Senate. He helped extend the GI bill so that veterans aren't met with an arbitrary cutoff to take advantage of their educational benefits. He made sure veterans have access to community- and home-based health services. And his signature VA Mission legislation ensures that healthcare for veterans is more responsive and more effective.

As I said, JOHNNY's heart is big, and he welcomes all people. Atlanta hosted the 1996 summer Olympics. Cobb County is a suburban county of Atlanta and was set to host some preliminary Olympic events. But the Cobb County Commission had passed an anti-gay, discriminatory resolution. At that time, JOHNNY was a Cobb County Republican, serving in the State senate. It might not have been the most popular position in his county, but he urged the County Commission to rescind the resolution.

One of JOHNNY's best friends is civil rights icon JOHN LEWIS. On February 25, 1996, Representative LEWIS introduced JOHNNY as the newest member of Georgia's congressional delegation, and on November 19, 2019, he gave JOHNNY a warm farewell, explaining to the House that "when JOHNNY served in the House of Representatives, we always found a way to come together, and we continued that tradition when he was elected to the Senate. . . . We always found a

way to get along and to do the good work the people deserved. Time and time again, he stood with us, he worked with us to uplift African Americans in the State of Georgia, to recognize individuals like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Jackie Robinson, natives of Georgia." At the end of the tribute, Representative LEWIS called JOHNNY his "brother," and they gave each other a long embrace.

During his farewell speech, JOHNNY said:

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. . . . We have to stand up to the evils of society today. If we don't do it, nobody will.

JOHNNY has stood up for over four decades for what he believes in. We will miss his honesty, his integrity, and his fine character. Jill and I wish JOHNNY and Dianne, their three children, and eight grandchildren the very best. Enjoy life. And we will do our best to follow your example in the Senate.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wanted to spend a few moments to recognize my colleague and friend, Senator ISAKSON from Georgia.

When I first came to the Senate in 2009—a decade ago, it surprises me to say—I was on the Banking Committee. We were in the middle of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and millions of Americans were losing their homes each month.

We held a hearing on housing, and I remember Senator ISAKSON coming to testify because, before he was in politics, he had spent several years in the private sector working in real estate. I appreciated that moment because, one, I had also spent some time in business before politics, and two, because it was so refreshing to hear from someone who actually knew what they were talking about.

Over the past 10 years, I have had the benefit of Senator ISAKSON's experience, friendship, and wisdom on both the HELP and Finance Committees.

In JOHNNY, so many of us have had a model for how to get things done even in this moment of partisan division. He was a welcome throwback to a time when people didn't come to this town just to spend every moment on cable news but to get things done for the people they came here to represent.

JOHNNY's record suggests there is nothing quaint or naive about that approach to the work because over his 15 years in the Senate, he has managed to secure quite a few bipartisan accomplishments, including several things we have worked on together.

I remember JOHNNY really digging in and getting his hands dirty on the SAVE Act, our bill to make Federal mortgage loan agencies consider the returns from energy efficiency when they determine your ability to make your monthly payments. We passed that out of the Senate, and it was a

tremendous credit to JOHNNY's determination and focus.

We passed a bill to modernize the FDA's medical device inspections and to strengthen patient access to rehabilitation hospitals in Colorado and Georgia. We passed an amendment to strengthen funding for early learning programs. And we introduced bills together to provide tax relief for AmeriCorps members who earned Segal Awards to help pay for college.

I could go on, and it is a credit to JOHNNY's broad record of bipartisan work.

JOHNNY has been a particular champion for our veterans. As a former member of the Georgia Air National Guard, JOHNNY has been a steady and effective advocate for those who have served. Last year, he was instrumental in passing a bipartisan bill to make it far easier for veterans to take their benefits to private doctors for care, among other long-overdue reforms. With our large population of veterans in Colorado, we were especially grateful to JOHNNY for his leadership.

There is a lot more I could share, but the point is, JOHNNY has used his time here well—with real results for the people of Georgia. He didn't do it through bullying or shouting or threatening to bring the Senate to its knees if he didn't get his way. He did it JOHNNY's way—with unfailing kindness, grace, humor, and dogged persistence. It would be easy to mistake JOHNNY's kindness for a lack of intensity or determination, but behind his easy smile is a fierce devotion to Georgia and a welcome impatience with the inaction of this town.

That approach is how JOHNNY leaves this body not only with a considerable record of accomplishment but with a long list of admirers on both sides of the aisle who are now wondering who is going to host the annual bipartisan BBQ. We are sad to see him go, and we wish him all the best as he returns to Georgia to focus on his health and spend time with his wife, Diane, their three kids and eight grandkids.

JOHNNY, I wish you the very best. Know that the Senate will feel your absence and cherish the example you set here.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this month we recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Meteorological Society, AMS, which spent the last century advancing the atmospheric and related sciences. The work of AMS contributed to technologies and services that expand our understanding of the world and the risks associated with our water, weather, and climate.

AMS was founded in 1919 in Milton, MA, to advance, promote, and disseminate information about these important sciences. The society now has over 13,000 members, including researchers,

educators, students, enthusiasts, broadcasters, and other professionals in weather, water, and climate. Its rigorously peer-reviewed scientific publications and scientific conferences have contributed to knowledge growth across the geosciences, especially in the prediction of environmental phenomena that has led to lifesaving services. AMS also offers nationally recognized certifications that serve the public's need to identify broadcast and consulting meteorologists who have achieved a high level of competency in communicating complex weather, water, and climate information.

AMS has been a leader in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the science, technology, engineering, and math STEM fields. Its activities in support of STEM education and development activities for K-12 teachers have positively impacted millions of students nationwide. Its leadership in education also brings AMS to the Halls of Congress, where the society supports congressional fellows, research studies on environmental policy, and policy briefings to ensure that policies are developed using the best available knowledge and understanding.

AMS has also been crucial in developing the extensive scientific evidence of manmade climate change and has helped us understand the threat it poses to society if we do not act. AMS has been an international leader in providing peer-reviewed information to support evidence-based decision making related to climate change. Congress owes a debt of gratitude to AMS for its advocacy and education on this global threat.

With the scope and size of the challenge that climate change presents, Congress and the American people will undoubtedly depend on another successful century of leadership and scientific advancements from the American Meteorological Society. We congratulate and thank AMS for its century-long effort to understand the natural world, and we pledge our continued support to the important sciences AMS aims to advance.

#### TRIBUTE TO KAREN J. LEWIS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Karen J. Lewis on her many years of service to Congress. After a 45-year career distinguished by outstanding achievements, Karen will retire from the Congressional Research Service, CRS, in January 2020 after leading the Service's American Law Division, ALD, for many years.

Karen joined CRS as a legislative attorney in 1974 after graduating from Albany Law School earlier that year. In the following decade, Karen provided nonpartisan advice to Congress on some of the most difficult legal matters facing the Nation in the 1970s and 1980s, including sex discrimination in the workplace, abortion rights after *Roe v. Wade*, and the Equal Rights

Amendment. She also advised Congress on the implementation of numerous civil rights laws, including title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, title IX of the Higher Education Act, and the Age Discrimination Act.

In 1984, Karen moved into CRS management, serving first as the section head of ALD's consumer law group before heading the Division's administrative law section. In the nearly 25 years she served in these roles, Karen helped mentor dozens of attorneys, engraining in them CRS's core values of providing authoritative and objective legal advice regardless of partisan affiliation. Any attorney trained under Karen's tutelage is well familiar with her repeated advice to rely on primary sources to ensure CRS's legal advice is trustworthy and reliable.

In 2007, Karen was promoted to senior CRS leadership, serving in a variety of capacities, including 11 years as the Assistant Director of CRS's ALD. As the head of the law division, Karen played a central role reviewing ALD's written work, helping to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and quality. She also led countless initiatives for the Service. This included helping to establish the Legal Sidebar—CRS's first exclusively web-based product line to provide succinct and timely analysis to Congress on matters of pressing importance. She also was instrumental in raising the profile of the Service's Federal Law Update, a seminar series that provides continued legal education for Congress, which tripled its average attendance under Karen's leadership. Karen also spearheaded the first major revision since 1952 of the "Constitution Annotated," the Congress' official treatise of record on the Constitution. And Karen has been instrumental in hiring some of the finest attorneys in the Federal Government to help Congress in legal debates over executive power, health care reform, immigration, and the future of the Supreme Court. Moreover, throughout her time in management, Karen served on countless advisory panels that have helped establish organizational practices and policies for CRS.

While Karen's retirement is a loss for Congress, her imprint on the legislative branch will not soon disappear. CRS and the ALD offer an invaluable service to Congress by providing members with reliable, nonpartisan information to assist the legislative process at every step. Karen spent nearly all of her professional career supporting Congress's work and strengthening CRS through her work in ALD. She served as a role model for hundreds of attorneys who can attest that her integrity, work ethic, and dedication to CRS's core values is second to none. Her legacy will continue with the division she helped build and the Service more broadly. Congratulations to Karen, and I wish her many long and happy years in retirement.