

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.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN  
BERGERBEST

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a long-time Senate staffer who recently retired, Nathan Bergerbest.

Many Members and staff who have worked on judiciary, military and veterans, homeland security, public safety, foreign relations, intelligence, or Native American issues and national and international disasters likely had the opportunity to work with Nathan during the 16 years he served the people of Alaska and the Nation. I am sure that many can share stories of the help Nathan offered, ideas he pushed to fruition, and wise counsel he provided. My statement today will offer just a slice of the many contributions this accomplished man has made in the lives of so many.

Nathan began his interest in good public policy and politics at a young age growing up in New York City. I believe he once said that he got involved in his first political campaign in elementary school because he was searching for the candidate who could improve his neighborhood. His quest for what was right, what was fair, and what was useful public policy has never subsided.

An attorney, Nathan has been a litigator, represented an Alaska Native regional corporation, and worked at FEMA. He started in my office in 2003 as legislative assistant and retired as senior counsel and deputy chief of staff. Throughout his service here in the Senate, Nathan was the quintessential Senate staffer—working late, knowing his subject cold, understanding the ways of the Senate and navigating them brilliantly.

His portfolio was huge, complex, and important. Yet he never shirked from pitching in where he could be useful. Nathan served not only as a mentor to young staffers in my office but as the conscience of Federal agency employees, military personnel, and elected leaders—constantly challenging us to do better, to be better versions of ourselves.

While a tribute from a former employer is always gratifying, Nathan made a lasting impression on so many who have worked here in the Senate over the years. I would like to share some of their stories. Several of the military fellows who have served in my office and worked closely with Nathan shared these words:

Nathan was part of the original group that came to be known as the Fairbanks Tiger Team, leading the red-shirted charge with the Fairbanks community against the Air Force's proposed plan to remove the F-16 Aggressor Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base. He rallied community leaders, helped leverage the effort on the Defense Appropriations Committee, and ultimately helped the Alaska delegation save Eielson. Then, only a year later, he worked to support the Alaska delegation's strong push to bring the F-35 to Eielson. In just over a year, the delegation was able to take Eielson from a near-shuttered installation, to one that will soon have

the most capable fighter aircraft in the world, with significant infrastructure investment to support it.

The Tiger Team still meets over telephone or in person every other Friday to discuss housing and other local community issues related to the military. The team has evolved over the years with new members joining and old members retiring or moving to different lines of work. Nathan will be missed on these calls but his legacy will be forever forged in the Fairbanks community and the national defense of our country.

New commanders coming to Washington, DC, for their Hill visits would often ask my military and veterans affairs liaison in Anchorage for advice about how to prepare. The advice they received was "Don't try to BS Nathan, because he'll be able to sniff it out." Several of these commanders were relieved when the meeting with Nathan was over.

But Nathan would bend over backwards to help the military or a service-member. "A Colonel who served in Alaska attributed Nathan for saving his career. He didn't give any details. Only that he owed him everything." That is just like Nathan—to do good for an American and move on to the next task.

Nathan was a true friend to the Alaska National Guard as well, very close to the Adjutant Generals, and always quick to help support their needs or tout their accomplishments.

Nathan was extremely proud that Alaska boasts the highest rate of veterans per capita and worked to ensure strong representation of the Total Force military and veteran communities, always working to advance veterans' rights and benefits. His efforts helped lead to improvements in VA hospitals in Alaska as well as advances in telemedicine and other support to veterans in remote Alaskan communities.

Public safety and support for law enforcement were always priorities for Nathan. He helped to lead collaborative efforts among the Federal agencies and State and local law enforcement to keep drugs out of Alaskan communities, and he never missed honoring the fallen at the National Fallen Officers Memorial ceremonies. He cared deeply for all those who put themselves in harm's way.

While he was a policy expert in so many areas, Nathan was never one to ignore a plea for help from an individual Alaskan. There are countless examples of "casework" that he took on in addition to his legislative duties. From arranging military honors for veterans' funerals, persuading the Canadian Border Security Agency to reinstate 24-hour border crossings between Hyder, AK, and British Columbia, ensuring Alaskans' concerns were heard by the Navy prior to Northern Edge exercises, protecting National Guard members from retaliation during an investigation of sexual misconduct complaints, improving the standard of care at VA medical facilities, or any number of efforts, Nathan started with the question "What does the individual need?" and went about getting it done. In many instances, Nathan would help

my staff in Alaska navigate the bureaucracy to help solve an Alaskan's problem.

A former attorney for FEMA, Nathan was also the Alaska delegation's go-to staffer whenever disaster struck. After the November 2018 earthquake struck Anchorage, Mat-Su, and the Kenai Peninsula, Nathan helped disentangle municipalities, school districts, business owners, and individuals from the byzantine red tape that often characterizes FEMA. In call after call, Nathan translated FEMA's language and policies for Alaskans and worked with FEMA officials to do a better job assessing and responding to the damage. When FEMA sought to respond to a flood in Galena but lacked a sense of the challenges of rural Alaska, Nathan helped prod and guide the agency in improving the response.

Nathan took the same sense of dedication to his work on Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian issues. Leading Alaska tribal rights attorney Lloyd Miller called Nathan "one of the most knowledgeable and talented lawyers to ever work on the Hill. He combined an unmatched mastery of Alaska Native legal history with a deep sensitivity to Alaska Native issues gained from working inside one of the major Alaska Native regional corporations. And while his background before coming to the Hill was predominantly with Alaska Native corporations, he was equally knowledgeable about the unique challenges confronting Alaska Native Tribes, and the importance of supporting the critical role that Alaska Tribes play alongside their corporations. Nathan's remarkable intellect and sage advice will be deeply missed."

Over the years, as protestors filled the halls of Capitol Hill and individual offices, Nathan would stay late to talk with those who visited my office. He would sit with them for long periods and talk about how they can best navigate the issues, and how they, as advocates, could best approach offices for meetings and how they can present their issues in such a way that they were truly being heard on both sides of the aisle. On at least one or two occasions, I have seen him go and literally sit on the floor with protestors outside of my office for an hour or two—just listening to what they had to say so that he could ensure I understood the concerns of Americans who are so passionate about the important issues of the day.

No matter what the time of day or day of the week, Nathan made himself available to me, to other members of my staff, and to Alaskans. As my constituent services director in Anchorage put it, "I remember one time in particular in 2011 where he and I each took 12-hour shifts around the clock so we could help Alaskan constituents after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck in the Pacific Ocean off the northeast coast of Japan. A massive tsunami was triggered that flooded Japan's coastal