

It is that kind of spirit of people working together and showing that. I think that was probably what her relationship was with Antonin Scalia. It was probably, yes, we are not always going to agree, but we are going to work together, and we are going to figure out how to make the best of this situation and move forward.

I remember that. Even though this thing had been disbanded, she still took the time—at least with the women—to say: Do you know what? We can all still work together.

Whoever said the statement “Good things come in small packages” had it down when it came to Justice Ginsburg because in that very small package came a lot of wisdom that got applied to the rights particularly of women in the United States of America with a calm but forceful voice that has moved this ball down the road. It is up to all of us to continue her legacy and get equal pay for equal work and continue to protect these rights that are well established in the United States of America.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Ginsburg family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, we know that on Saturday the President is likely to announce his nominee for the Supreme Court, and we don't know who that is going to be, but we do know a couple of things. We know, according to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that they already have the votes.

What an extraordinary thing to already know how you are going to vote on a nominee who has not yet been nominated. What an extraordinary thing to turn “advise and consent” into “agreeing in advance.” What an extraordinary thing.

There is another thing that we know about this nominee. No matter who it is, we know that this person is going to come from a list provided by the Federalist Society, an organization that has worked for decades to remake the Federal judiciary in its image. It has a long history of advancing a certain agenda of seeking to roll back progress on civil rights, diminish environmental protections, and eliminate a woman's right to choose. It is an organization that believes in the power of executive authority and advances a particular, unique, novel theory called the unitary executive, which is something that Alan Dershowitz proffered on the Senate floor during the impeachment trial.

It essentially says that the executive branch is the President and that extensions of the President's authority can only go so far because the President is a whole branch of government unto himself or herself. The Federalist Society also fights for the corporations and the rich individual donors who quietly fund their work.

As Amanda Hollis-Brusky says, who studies this organization from a non-

partisan academic perspective as a professor at Pomona College: “The idea of the Federalist Society was to train, credential, and socialize a generation of alternative elites.”

That is how we know that any nominee they put forth will have views so far out of the mainstream and far to the right of even the existing Supreme Court. So it is not a rhetorical flourish, and it is not a partisan statement to say that Trump's nominee will not be committed to ensuring our most basic and fundamental rights: the right to privacy, reproductive rights, the right to vote, the right to marry who you love, and even equal justice under the law.

Perhaps what is most worrisome is that the President has made clear that whomever he nominates to the Supreme Court will be in favor of striking down the Affordable Care Act. With the Court's hearing yet another challenge to the ACA on November 10, it is not an exaggeration to say that the law will likely be gutted. It is a real risk.

Let's be clear about what this means. The whole architecture of our healthcare system could be destroyed during the worst public health crisis in a century. This will, of course, disproportionately impact our most vulnerable communities—communities of color, low-income, indigenous, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. We are talking about repealing Medicaid expansion—the policy that allows people under the age of 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance—and, most importantly, protections for preexisting conditions.

Let's be clear about this, too: If you have gotten COVID, you now have a preexisting condition. So, if you have gotten COVID because of President Trump's inaction and then if his nominee is confirmed to the Supreme Court, your insurance company will be permitted to kick you off of your healthcare plan or at least to increase your rate so high that you will not be able to afford coverage.

Ripping away healthcare from at least 20 million Americans and denying coverage to people with preexisting conditions is a crazy and horrific thing to do in normal times, but it is particularly cruel during a pandemic that has already claimed the lives of more than 200,000 Americans, especially because, despite the recent promises and despite the endless promises from both the President and members of the Republican Party, they have no alternative healthcare plan. We cannot and must not impose this catastrophe on the American people.

In moments when our country feels torn apart, the traditional role of the Senate is supposed to be to calm tensions and solve our problems, but instead of dealing with the tough issues, the majority leader and the Republican Party are going to inflict procedural violence on the legislative branch with many Republicans pre-announcing their support for the nominee without even knowing who she or he may be.

“President Trump will nominate a well-qualified justice and we will uphold our Constitution and protect our freedoms”—the Senator from Montana.

“I will support President Trump in any effort to move forward regarding the recent vacancy”—the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

“It is critical that the Senate takes up and confirms that successor before election day”—the junior Senator from Texas.

What makes this coordinated effort to stack the Supreme Court even worse is that we heard the majority leader say specifically that he felt no sense of urgency to move on COVID relief. He felt no sense of urgency to move on COVID relief. I believe this was in May. I think it was in May when the House passed the Heroes Act. The House passes a bill, and the Republicans say it is too much. The majority leader decides: Do you know what? We are the cooling saucer. We are the upper Chamber. We are just going to chill out here during this pandemic and see how things play out economically and in terms of public health.

Well, things have played out pretty badly economically and in terms of public health; yet there has been no sense of urgency, no deal, no negotiation. Forget a deal for a second. There has not even been a serious attempt to negotiate between the parties or between the branches of government—nothing.

Yet, when a Supreme Court vacancy happens—when Justice Ginsburg tragically passes—there is a tremendous sense of clarity, a tremendous sense of alacrity, a determination to fill that seat so that, on November 10, they can take your healthcare away. That is the sense of urgency that the majority leader feels in the middle of a pandemic, and it is a shame.

I yield the floor.

(At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO ERICA SONGER

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, I want to thank Erica Songer for her service in the Senate and in particular for her service as the subcommittee's minority chief counsel. The Intellectual Property Subcommittee has been the most active subcommittee's in the Senate, in no small part due to Erica's work. We have worked in a bipartisan fashion to modernize our intellectual property system through forward-looking legislative reforms. Across numerous hearings on various aspects of intellectual property law, as well as several bills, Erica has been a vital resource to my team and me.

During this session, Erica has served the subcommittee in countless ways. From promoting women in the intellectual property field to reforming our

Nation's patent eligibility laws, Erica has been an innovator and go-getter. There were countless times throughout this Congress when the subcommittee's work would get tough and it appeared we were at an insurmountable impasse. Each time, Erica found a way forward and kept us moving towards our shared goals: a stronger intellectual property system.

While I am sad that the Senate and the subcommittee will be losing a staffer as valuable as Erica, I am grateful for her public service these past 4 years. Erica has shown that she will excel at whatever she commits to, whether graduating from Harvard Law School or making partner at one of the largest law firms in the world or serving as the chief counsel to my good friend CHRIS COONS—and I am excited for her as she steps into a new role and begins a new adventure.●

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 182, on the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 183, on the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 184, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Edward Meyers to be a Judge for the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Disabled American Veterans—DAV—organization for its commitment to serving wartime-disabled veterans since its formation 100 years ago. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am grateful for the positive impact of the DAV on disabled veterans in South Dakota and across the Nation.

Founded on September 25, 1920, the DAV has grown to become the largest wartime veterans service organization in the United States, with more than 1 million members in 1,344 chapters around the country.

The DAV helps disabled veterans and their families work through the bureaucracy of the Federal and local governments to make sure they receive the benefits they deserve. Additionally, the organization operates a nationwide transportation network, providing free transportation for disabled veterans to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics.

We are truly blessed to have the DAV organization in South Dakota and in

the United States. They give their time, talent, knowledge, and friendship to disabled veterans who need it most. We are thankful for their 100 years of service to the veteran community.

May God continue to bless the DAV and everyone they serve.

Thank you.

REMEMBERING DR. ROLF H. EPPINGER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary constituent, Dr. Rolf H. Eppinger, who passed away on August 14, 2020. Dr. Eppinger's outstanding work has saved the lives of many Americans and will save many more in the years to come.

Dr. Eppinger had a distinguished 34-year career with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA. There, he performed and led fundamental biomechanics research that resulted in the development of crash test dummies, the interpretation of their measurements, the advancement of the prevention of crash injuries, and the reduction of the severity of crash injuries.

His work has helped save hundreds of thousands of lives and many more injuries worldwide. NHTSA has estimated that in the United States, as of 2017, more than 50,000 lives have been saved by airbags, 374,000 by safety belts, and 11,000 by child restraints. Many times more serious injuries were prevented or ameliorated.

The work of Dr. Eppinger and his team formed the basis for the New Car Assessment Programs now in use worldwide.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Eppinger published more than 120 technical papers dealing with automotive safety and was the holder of two U.S. patents. In addition, he enjoyed sailboat racing and was an accomplished watercolorist, pen and ink artist, woodworker, boat builder, and general handyman.

Dr. Eppinger is remembered for his rigorous scientific medical and engineering research, integrity, decency, and humility.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our gratitude for Dr. Eppinger's outstanding contributions and our deepest condolences to his wife Karen, his children Justin and Dwight, his daughter-in-law Kelly, and his grandchildren Alice and Hugo.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LILIANE COUCKE SMITH

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mrs. Liliane Coucke Smith, a remarkable woman who served as a nurse during World War II and turns 100 on October 3.

Born in Belgium, Mrs. Smith joined the Belgian Resistance at age 20. As a wartime nurse, she entered Germany alongside the advancing Allied Forces.

Her outstanding commitment to serving others continued afterward, when she worked as part of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organization to help resettle over 10 million people displaced by the Second World War, including former slave laborers and concentration camp survivors. Mrs. Smith also oversaw the establishment of six refugee camps in the American occupation zone.

While working as a French-English translator in Naples, she met her beloved husband, Dudley C. Smith, a U.S. Naval officer. The two split their time between Europe and the United States, before settling permanently in Groton Long Point, CT.

Her tireless dedication to helping others in even the most arduous times is a credit to her generous spirit. A deeply considerate and unfailingly driven person, Mrs. Smith sets an inspiring model for all of us through her readiness to embrace new challenges and serve those in need. Her incredible legacy will be enduring.

I applaud her many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Liliane Coucke Smith on this milestone of her 100th birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINA FOLCIK

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Kristina Folcik of Tamworth as September's Granite Stater of the Month. As a survivor of domestic violence, Kristina transformed her own healing process into a way to support other survivors by hiking 100 miles nonstop across some of New Hampshire's steepest peaks. She was the first person to ever finish that portion of the Appalachian Trail in one single trek.

Kristina is an endurance athlete who has held multiple Fastest Known Times, which is a title given to individuals who have clocked the fastest time on a particular route, including hiking trails. She even raced professionally for a while, but stopped when her now-former husband started becoming abusive after she would win a race.

For the last 2 years, Kristina worked with Starting Point, a nonprofit organization in New Hampshire that helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence, to successfully separate from her abusive husband. In an effort to heal from this harrowing and traumatic experience, Kristina decided to attempt a 100-mile, nonstop hike.

In the lead-up to announcing her decision to attempt this extraordinary feat, Kristina revealed publicly on social media that she had recently divorced from her abusive husband and that she was going to complete this 100-mile trek and dedicate it to women who have been in abusive relationships.

Much to her surprise, following her announcement, many women began to share their stories of abuse with Kristina, and some even publicly shared their experiences.