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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep us from disappointing You. Inspire us in all we say and do to glorify You. Empower our Senators to strive to please You in their every thought and action.

Lord, we acknowledge that You are our rock of safety and our fortress during every season of distress. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to honor Your Name in their work, entrusting You to take care of all their tomorrows. Set them in a safe place because of Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO TOM HARKIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, long before he was sworn into the U.S. Senate, my former colleague, Tom Harkin from Iowa, served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. He and I represented Iowans for 30 years together here in the U.S. Senate.

Six years ago, I came to the floor to wish my friend well in retirement, and

I used these words: [So that he could] enjoy the blessings of hearth and home.

Now, I am not so sure that he took my advice to heart. I recently learned that Tom has been moonlighting in retirement as an intrepid crew member sailing the icy waters of the North Atlantic. In fact, he joined the crew of 59 North Sailing for five voyages. His most recent adventure found Tom aboard *Ice Bear* navigating gale force winds in and around the rugged coastline of Newfoundland.

They say you can't take the farm out of an Iowa farm kid. The same must be true for a lifelong sailor and the sea.

Tom recently celebrated his 81st birthday in November. Barbara and I wish him many more trips around the Sun and as many adventures at sea that his heart desires.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, some Senators indicate they may attempt to move a privileged resolution to disapprove of the administration's proposed sale of advanced armaments to the United Arab Emirates, a critical partner in our fight against terrorists. It is a little baffling to suggest that now, of all times, a protest gesture with no chance of obtaining a veto-proof majority is of valuable use

of the Senate's time. But above and beyond that, the strategic realities dictate that Congress should not stand in the way of this sale.

In August, the UAE reached the first of the Abraham Accords, the landmark peace deal with Israel, brokered by the Trump administration, which Bahrain soon went on to reprise. That step, the first normalization of relations between the Arab nation and the State of Israel in nearly 30 years, cemented an important new chapter in the UAE's international relations and its close relationship with the United States.

Of course, it is a key American objective to preserve and protect Israel's quantitative military edge. Fortunately, Israel's Ambassador, Defense Minister, and Prime Minister have all made sure they are comfortable with this deal.

Senators considering this sale need to consider a reality we cannot escape. A significant competition for influence in the Middle East is underway, and China and Russia will be more than happy to meet the demand for advanced capabilities if the United States simply takes our ball and goes home.

If our colleagues make the Senate vote on this measure, I urge all my colleagues to vote against it.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ENZI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate are, to put it mildly, an impressive bunch. It always makes it a challenge to pay adequate tribute when one leaves our ranks.

But even by the high standards of this place, the course charted by the Senator, whom I have to send off this morning, stands out. The senior Senator from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ENZI, has accomplished enough in one career to fill two. He seemingly glided from business success to military service, to local government, to State politics, to the U.S. Senate, where he has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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built a remarkably productive legislative record.

MIKE's prolific career began in a small town. In fact, Gillette, WY, was so small when MIKE and his wife Diana arrived and stood up the family business, the town still carried the less-than-flattering nickname of "Dirt."

But new discoveries in the American energy business were in the course of changing everything. A major oil and gas boom meant more people. More people meant more sales at MIKE's NZ Shoes store—that is the letter "N" and the letter "Z."

MIKE could have just sat back and cruised, but MIKE saw Gillette struggling to keep up with the growth, and basic services were lagging. Nearly everyone who encountered him in town or in the junior chamber of commerce meetings concluded this up-and-comer had real leadership talent. I understand the final prod into public service came from no less a Wyoming statesman, our own former colleague, Al Simpson.

They had crossed paths. Alan had heard MIKE speak. He took the promising young man aside to tell him rather pointedly that his town sure did need a good mayor. To be precise, MIKE tells us the phrasing was typically blunt Al Simpson: "Put your money where your mouth is."

Our future colleague took it under advisement. But MIKE almost didn't survive long enough to announce his campaign. The way he told it on the floor last week, when he worked up the courage to relay that suggestion to Diana on their long drive home, she almost swerved right off the road. Fortunately, they were unharmed, and the more they talked, the more they liked the idea of making a difference.

So, at the ripe old age of 30, this up-and-coming businessman ran for mayor, and he won. On his watch, what could have been a municipal disaster became an economic golden age for Gillette. It didn't take long for the town's fortunes to become the talk of political minds around Wyoming.

After a few years off, the former Mayor ENZI was representing his neighbors as State representative and then as State senator. And just like water seeks its own level, talent tends to seek its best outlet. So, after squeaking out a close primary victory over his now-fellow Senator from Wyoming, JOHN BARRASSO, MIKE packed his bags for Washington in late 1996, and this body gained, at that time, its only trained accountant.

Now, MIKE knew that if he was going to properly serve his beloved State, he would need fellow Wyomingites working alongside him—people who shared his no-nonsense affection for careful planning and thrift in government.

One of his best decisions was persuading his longtime collaborator, the onetime town manager of Gillette, Flip McConaughy, to move to Washington and be his chief of staff. MIKE says he initially had 500 applications for that job, but none of them was the one he

wanted. The experienced salesman had to pitch his longtime friend on the opening, and it worked.

From Gillette to the Senate, Flip was MIKE's secret weapon—not just a staffer, but as MIKE tells it, a true partner in service for many years. When Flip passed away much too soon in 2016, this entire institution felt the loss.

MIKE's staff likes to say he has a whole collection of useful hats he can wear to approach Senate business: the perspective of a mayor or of a small business owner or a State legislator or an accountant or a Wyomingite. Well, that hasn't just been a winning combination for the people of Wyoming. It has benefited our entire country.

MIKE's trade secret has been what he calls the 80-20 rule. Across all the issues he tackled, he insists about four-fifths of the subject matter is potential common ground ripe for progress. He said: You just can't let the controversial 20 percent blow everything up.

Well, that approach made our colleague from Wyoming downright prolific. MIKE has been directly responsible for the passage of more than 100 bills. He has become a go-to leader on everything from budget, tax reform, and the deficit to AIDS relief and workplace safety. His sober, prudent approach—not to mention his practical experience keeping the books and making payroll—made MIKE exactly the sort of person taxpayers hope are managing their dollars.

He used budget resolutions to steer the Federal Government toward more sustainable fiscal help. He helped shepherd the first major overhaul of the Federal Tax Code in a generation. He has kept a watchful eye on the unintended consequences of legislation, such as the recent work to help relieve Main Street lenders from the one-size-fits-all burden of Dodd-Frank.

Back when Chairman ENZI was steering the HELP Committee, his Democratic counterpart was Ted Kennedy—a fastidious small-government guy from Wyoming and the "liberal lion" from Massachusetts. Call it the 80-20 rule's final exam, and they passed that exam. They worked together to create bipartisan outcomes on things like worker safety, pension reform, and mental health parity.

So, to be clear, there has been no lack of conservative conviction in MIKE's career. Just ask our Democratic colleagues about the times their debates with MIKE landed in the 20 percent, and that is when the gloves came off. This is the Senator one broadcaster in 2013 called "the Paul Revere of ObamaCare."

But MIKE never lost sight of the mission. He kept up the hunt for common ground, autism research, vocational training, and carried the torch for PEPFAR, the historic fight against AIDS in Africa.

MIKE's insatiable appetite for making a difference brought some interesting characters into his life. It turned out that quite a few high-profile celebrities

were happy to meet with one of this body's chief champions on the AIDS issue.

But let the record reflect that east coast, Washington, DC, life never spoiled MIKE. I heard from a reliable source that after wrapping up one meeting with Bono, the world-famous front man of U2 and a leader in the fight against AIDS, MIKE cheerfully offered the following parting remark to the well-established superstar: "Well . . . good luck with the band!"

If you have seen MIKE in action around the Senate—devouring details, mastering issue after issue—it is hard to imagine him making time for much of anything outside his work. But you would be badly mistaken, because one of the worst kept secrets around the Capitol is that MIKE is one of the very warmest Members of the Senate family.

As we prepare to bid him farewell, MIKE's colleagues may miss his wise leadership on legislation, but I suspect the loss will be greater for future classes of Senate pages, who will be denied the pizza and ice creams parties MIKE threw to celebrate their successes. The staff at a favorite nearby Mexican restaurant will miss a couple who, along with the Barrassos and the Grassleys, spent years ranked among their most devoted weekly visitors.

More than anything, I know the dedicated staff of the Senate, who don't get thanked enough—from the Parliamentarian's office to food services, to the Capitol Police—will miss the massive holiday cookie parties orchestrated by Field Marshal Diana Enzi.

Diana has organized the production of hundreds of dozens of baked treats every year. MIKE is more like her assistant in that endeavor. Their unstoppable tradition of giving back to our colleagues, even this year, encapsulates just what kind of hearts this couple shares.

As we know, these labors of love come on top of Diana's own important work, like her longtime focus on clearing land mines in Eastern Europe.

I don't mean any of this to guilt MIKE into staying, because MIKE always has his head on straight, his plans laid, and his priorities lined up. So he knows that even on our best days, the Senate can't hold a candle to the joys of the next chapter he and Diana have planned.

It turns out that the man whose Senate website includes a page of "Grandfatherly advice" is looking forward to more free time for delivering that advice to his own grandkids in person.

And I understand there are still several States in which MIKE has yet to cast a line. One of the Senate's most intrepid anglers will no longer have to plan around this body's schedule as he seeks to correct this oversight.

So, MIKE, while all of us here are sorry to see you go, I know our colleagues join me in wishing you "tight lines." We are so glad you brought

your mind and your heart here to this body. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the country you love.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I thank the leader for his kind remarks and incredible research. I particularly appreciate the comments about Flip McConnaughey, whom I worked with for 40 years before he passed away from cancer. If there was ever anybody in the United States who had a municipal problem, he would work with me as we grew Gillette, and he was able to solve a lot of those municipal problems. So he was the go-to person on the Hill for all of that.

I say to the Senator, I really appreciate those comments, as well as all of the other things you mentioned, particularly the ones about Diana. Without her, I would not have had the shoe store, I would not have been in politics, I would not have been here, nor would I have been able to do anything. I wouldn't have traveled around Wyoming. She does most of the driving so that I can work on speeches and legislation, and it is a chance for us to visit a little bit too. We don't get to do a lot of that here in Washington because of the schedules, again.

But I particularly want to thank you for your leadership during this time. It has been phenomenal, like the research that you did on that speech. The strategy that you put into legislation is incredible. You get a lot done, in spite of the differences we might have with the House or with the other side of the aisle or occasionally with the President, but you keep us moving forward. It is a talent that is hard to do under the circumstances that we work, and I really appreciate it. So thank you for your comments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to two Senators whom I had hoped to serve with longer: CORY GARDNER and MARTHA MCSALLY.

One of the first things that became clear about CORY GARDNER when he came to the Senate is that he is an incredibly hard worker. He is tireless. CORY has not only a great sense of humor; I remember back during impeachment when we were working some really late nights, he left 5-hour ENERGY drinks for all of us in our mailboxes.

I have to say, you kind of need a 5-hour ENERGY drink to keep up with CORY. Seriously, though, CORY has a tremendous amount of energy and focus and drive, and he has left it all on the field during his time in the Senate.

I think he knew when he was elected that he might not be here forever, and he has made every moment over the past 6 years count. He is a results-oriented person. He is interested in getting things done, and he has built an impressive record.

Serving the people of Colorado has been the first thing on his mind every day. He spent a lot of time working on Colorado priorities, from protecting our public lands to improving wildfire preparedness, to expanding healthcare access for veterans by ensuring the completion of the VA hospital in Aurora, CO.

He has also been a leader on foreign policy issues, specifically on the issue of holding North Korea and China accountable for their lack of freedom and their human rights violations, such as China's mass incarceration of Uighurs and its targeting of Chinese citizens who dissent from the Communist Party line.

CORY has also been a great friend to Taiwan. Among other things, he authored the TAIPEI Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, legislation that makes it U.S. policy to support Taiwan's efforts to strengthen its relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific and around the world. A free, prosperous, and safe Taiwan is in the interest of the United States, and CORY understands this well.

In addition to being one of the hardest working people you will ever meet, CORY is also one of the most pleasant. He has an upbeat personality and a contagious cheer, and committee hearings and meetings are always more enjoyable when he is around.

He has been called a happy warrior. I think it is a fitting title. He is an eter-

nal optimist. I don't mean that in a naive, wide-eyed sort of way. CORY is well aware of the challenges we face in our Nation and around the world, but he genuinely believes in our country and in our ability as citizens and as Members of Congress to make life better for our fellow Americans.

And over his 6 years here in the Senate, he has helped make life better for his constituents in all four corners of his State and for the American people. Nobody could have worked harder for Colorado over the past 6 years—nobody—and he has done more for his State in a single term than many have managed to do in twice as long a time period.

We were fortunate to have CORY here in the U.S. Senate. I will miss serving with him, but I look forward to seeing what he does next. Whatever it is, I am confident of one thing: It will be great.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, I didn't get as much time as I would have liked to work with MARTHA MCSALLY. She spent just 2 years with us here in the Senate, but she made the most of them.

MARTHA's record is well known: 26 years in the Air Force, multiple deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan, the first woman in U.S. history to fly a fighter jet in combat, the first woman in U.S. history to command a fighter squadron in combat, the Bronze Star, six Air Medals, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. And the list goes on.

I am a longtime runner, basketball player, sports fan, so I am pretty committed to exercise, and one of the places I got to know MARTHA after she came to the Senate was in the Senate gym. MARTHA was a regular there.

I have always believed that you can tell a lot about somebody by the work ethic that they bring when they are approaching physical exercise, something I saw growing up with my dad. He was a World War II fighter pilot who embodied the humility and quiet service that characterized the "greatest generation," and those traits carried over in his approach to sports. He was a basketball and track coach when I was growing up and, prior to that, the most valuable player for the University of Minnesota basketball team back in 1941.

He approached everything with humility and service. Those were the values that he emphasized the most. Your job as a member of the team was to make the team better, not to make yourself look good. And if the team needed you to make the basket, then great, but if the team needed you to make that extra pass so that someone else could make the shot, then that is what you did.

That is the way that my dad taught us, the way that he coached us, and I have always said and believed that you can tell a lot about someone by how they approach physical exercise and sporting events and that sort of thing.