

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. President, Senator UDALL of New Mexico has been an incredible steward and champion of so many of the things at the heart of our country's greatness, like America's great outdoors and natural lands, a culture enriched by our Tribal nations, and an enduring commitment to democracy. America's environment, our Native communities, and our right to vote are some of the fundamental elements that make this country so unique, and Senator UDALL has faithfully served the people of New Mexico and all Americans as an incredibly gifted national leader on these issues and so many more.

I got to serve with Senator UDALL on the Commerce Committee, where during the pandemic we worked together to bridge the digital divide and expand broadband, especially for our Tribal communities, where, as we all know, he served as the ranking member, the top Democrat, on the Indian Affairs Committee.

I also was proud to serve with Senator UDALL in the Rules Committee. We worked on Native American voting rights together, but he was the lead. He was the lead on so many bills that would make our democracy better. I hope that one of his legacies is that, when he is gone, we will be able to finally put these laws into operation and get them done.

One of his great pieces of legislation was a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and one day we will get this done. So many people are tired of the money streaming into our politics, the fact that we have hidden money streaming into our politics, and his amendment would fix so much of this.

He was also cofounder of the Congressional International Conservation Caucus, where he left his mark on this country with his work to protect public lands and national parks while promoting America's leadership in conservation.

From his years as New Mexico's attorney general to his 10 years of service in the House of Representatives and his 12 years as a U.S. Senator, TOM UDALL has been literally a giant in public service. No one should be surprised. He once summed up what drove him by saying: "The thing that inspired me the most when I was very young was the idea that if you had a good idea of reforming something and you really stuck to it, you could literally change the world."

Well, I am going to miss Senator UDALL, and we are also going to miss his wife Jill, whom I got to know well. I have a fond memory of one of the new Senator orientations where Tom and Jill and my husband John and I were tasked with talking to the arriving Senators a few years ago, brand-new, in this building and giving them tips on how they operate and how they handle their first few years and how you can stay married while being a U.S. Senator. I remember it fondly because

MITT ROMNEY was sitting in the front row taking notes diligently, and I thought maybe he didn't need our advice on this.

But Tom and Jill are just an incredible couple in a town where it is not always easy to keep such a strong, beautiful relationship.

So I want to thank Senator UDALL for his work on behalf of his State, the beautiful State of New Mexico, and thank the State for sharing their extraordinary Senator with the Nation for so many years.

Senator UDALL, thank you for your service, and I know there is more to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. President, my colleagues, Senator PAT ROBERTS, as we know, is the longest serving member of Congress in Kansas history. He leaves the Senate as a giant in his home State and a true champion for the people of Kansas.

In his words, he is a Kansan "through and through," born in Topeka, earning his journalism degree from Kansas State, and representing Kansas for 16 years in the House and 22 years in the Senate.

I serve on the Agriculture Committee, and he has been my chairman. I have been proud to serve with him as a fellow farm-State Senator, where he has been a champion for the breadbasket of America, as Kansas is known.

He has also worked tirelessly to honor those legendary Kansans who came before him. Earlier this year, Senator ROBERTS was there to cut the ribbon at the dedication of the Eisenhower Memorial, a monument he has been devoted to as chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and I know he is one of the few members of Congress who can actually say he met President Eisenhower. At the dedication, Senator ROBERTS remarked that "Eisenhower understood one person's ability to chart his or her own course and change the course of the world." That is something Senator ROBERTS has done often, in a quiet manner.

I have really admired the way he worked across the aisle with Senator STABENOW every day. They didn't always agree on everything, but they found common ground. I got to work with him on a number of issues—ensuring that our wheat growers would get sorely needed relief through the CARES program, making the Tax Code consistent with how farmers finance new equipment, and protecting our food supply chain through investments in science and research.

When I think about the legacy Chairman ROBERTS will leave, I think about those investments in science and research through the creation of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

Both of these facilities will play a critical role in helping today's farmers and ranchers tackle the many challenges that they face. He has also been cochair of the Senate Rural Health

Caucus, working to ensure quality healthcare—not just in urban areas where it is so important but also in rural areas.

We both come from families of newspapermen. Senator ROBERTS' great-grandfather, J.W. Roberts, founded the Oskaloosa Independent, the second oldest newspaper in Kansas. And my dad started at a Minneapolis paper as a sports reporter, where his main beat was the Minnesota Vikings. Maybe the things that we have in common stop there, but, certainly, that newspaper background is something we have talked about and shared.

I will miss Senator ROBERTS' humor, and I will miss his good work and look forward to continuing to work with Senator STABENOW and Senator BOOZMAN as leaders of the Agriculture Committee.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. President, next, Senator ALEXANDER. Senator ALEXANDER has served the people of Tennessee for more combined years as Senator and Governor than anyone else from their State. With both Senator ROBERTS and Senator ALEXANDER, we literally will be missing people who bring to this place the strong sense of commitment and long service to our government.

Senator ALEXANDER has served our country as he worked to find consensus on the issues that matter most—like education, healthcare, mental health and addiction. I saw him work day by day with Senator PATTY MURRAY, and they were able to pass so many bills to show this Chamber that, in fact, you can get little things done—yes—but you can also get big things done, including the changes that they made that were long needed to No Child Left Behind, including the changes in the work that they have done when it comes to healthcare.

As he gave advice to his successor, incoming Senator Bill Hagerty, LAMAR said, "It's hard to get here, in the United States Senate. It's hard to stay here. And while you're here you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country."

Like his many quips—and I have read his book, his red plaid book of advice—and the many things he has shared with me for advice, including running for President, which may not have worked for either of us, but you could tell the love that he brought to the people of this country and the people of his State and how he talked about them and how he approached his work.

As a former Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush, president of the University of Tennessee, and as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, we know, has worked tirelessly to ensure every child can succeed.

In addition to the work I just mentioned that he did with the Every Student Succeeds Act and the work he did on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, he has also

led legislation to help people in their youngest years as well as their senior years. I appreciated especially the work that he did on Alzheimer's and making sure that we continue to invest in our science and education.

One little fact you may not know in all the tributes that have come out about Senator ALEXANDER—and I was here for his speech—is that every summer for 25 years, he and his wife and four children have gone to the Boundary Waters to canoe and fish. The Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota is very close to where my dad grew up. In fact, it is the town that is the gateway to the Boundary Waters in Ely, MN, something that—way back when Senator ALEXANDER was going there for the first few years—my dad was writing about for the newspaper in an effort to make sure we kept the Boundary Waters protected.

I certainly hope that Senator ALEXANDER continues to spend time there and enjoy our lands and help the work that he has done—which he has seen on the Great American Outdoors Act—and see it firsthand.

We know that his red and black flannel shirt will be welcome in Minnesota. It is something we see everywhere in Northern Minnesota and throughout our State, and we hope to see him back soon.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Mr. President, next, my friend Senator ENZI. True collegiality and camaraderie have sometimes been hard to come by in Washington these past few years, and that is why I think about someone who never lets the temperature rise, who is always willing to find that common ground. As I heard him say and have heard him say many times before his closing speech here, in his words, “I always believed we could agree on 80 percent of the issues and on 80 percent of each issue, and that if we focus on the 80 percent, we can do great things for the American people.” I remember his saying that when he would work with Ted Kennedy—and their genuine friendship—and I remember he said that many times to me as we worked on bills together.

One of the first bills that I worked on a few years coming in here was with Senator ENZI, and it was about our paramedics and using the experience that they had gained serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, making sure that when they came home, they could use that experience immediately and put it to work on being paramedics in our own country because we had a shortage, and we still do, and we wanted to respect that experience—so many of them in small towns where they would have to travel then to get the final degree they needed to be able to continue working as a paramedic. MIKE and I wanted to make sure that experience they had in serving our country would be put to good use and would allow them to get those degrees faster.

I was also fortunate to work with MIKE on trying to turn the page on

U.S.-Cuba policy and forge a new path. He was always willing to work with me on that and be one of the cosponsors of my bill to lift the embargo—something that I hope will eventually get done in his honor, as he understood that the way to get to democratic change in Cuba was by enhancing our relationship and that the Cuban people did not necessarily share the same views—and many of them do not—of their government and that so many people in Cuba love America and that it was very important for us to improve that relationship.

As chair of the Budget Committee—and one of only two accountants in the Senate—Senator ENZI has also been dedicated to addressing our deficit and debt challenges. He has long urged the Federal Government to move to biannual budgeting, something that I support, as well, and something that my friend JEANNE SHAHEEN has been working with him on.

Senator ENZI has a lot of smart proposals that he has put forward. I mostly, though, will remember his spirit—his spirit that we saw, and see, every week at the Prayer Breakfast—of course, he can still come back to that as a former Member—but also the work that he did in the Senate and how he would genuinely try to find common ground.

I have told him many times how much I love his State, having once bicycled from Minneapolis to Jackson Hole to get there—1,200 miles in 11 days with my dad—and when my husband and I, in the middle of the pandemic, decided to drive one place this summer, we drove to Wyoming and hiked in the Tetons. So I look forward and I hope to see MIKE and Diana there, and my hope for him is all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. President, Senator GARDNER. Senator GARDNER and I served together on the Commerce Committee, and throughout his tenure as a Member of Congress, he has been a champion of public lands, and, of course, with the beautiful, beautiful national parks in Colorado, I think you couldn't be doing your job for your State if you weren't such a leader on lands.

He worked tirelessly to pass the very important Great American Outdoors Act—historic legislation that invests in our commitment to ensuring our Nation's trails, public lands, parks, and open spaces remain protected and accessible for generations while also permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which, as you all know, was signed into law in August.

We have also worked together on the Commerce Committee on travel and tourism, hit especially hard during this pandemic. He may have a little bigger ski hills than we have in Minnesota, maybe some higher mountains than we have, but we both share not only a love for the outdoors but also an under-

standing of how much tourism contributes to our economy.

Together, we worked, along with Senator BLUNT and Senator CORTEZ MASTO, to reauthorize the bipartisan Brand USA bill, which was also signed into law. Since 2013, Brand USA has generated a total economic impact of nearly \$48 billion by allowing our country to pair up with the private sector to reach out to visitors, to get them to come to America, whether it is the Rocky Mountains in Colorado or whether it is the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN. Last year, Brand USA generated \$4.1 billion in incremental visitor spending, resulting in a marketing return on investment of 32 to 1.

I also have fond memories of getting to know Senator GARDNER and his wife, both at the last inauguration, at the lunch, which I will just share—not every detail, but let's say it was a memorable lunch that we had. Then, also, we, one time, got to do a humor speech together when there was a last-minute cancellation, and I had 3 hours to fill in for the Winter Gridiron Dinner, and Senator GARDNER did not find out until I got there and had to quickly change his jokes from Senator WARNER/TOOMEY. The jokes about billionaires didn't really fit my fiscal situation—or millionaires. Senator GARDNER was great, and we had a lot of fun that night as well.

We are going to miss him and miss all of these Senators. One of the reasons I wanted to do this all at once was that I think we have to remember that this Senate and this institution is bigger than ourselves, that people do come and go, and they all make their marks. You don't necessarily remember the names of everyone—nor does everyone in your State—who is there late at night either passing the Great Outdoors Act or the one who is willing to work with a freshman Democratic Senator to get a bill passed on paramedics or to be willing to take that little bit of a risk and work on some issues that maybe aren't popular in your own political party. All of these Senators in their own way have shown that courage, whether it is DOUG JONES giving his first speech on gun safety or whether it is Senator TOM UDALL, who had a decision to make in what he knew would be his last 2 years: Was he going to be the ranking member of the Rules Committee or the Indians Affairs Committee? He chose Indian Affairs because he knew that that mattered and that this was a group of people who had been so long overlooked, and he was going to spend his last 2 years helping them.

I will miss all of these Senators. I know that they know their work will live on, but it is just a reminder to all of us that maybe in 100 years they won't remember who we are, but people will be benefiting for generations to come from their work.

I yield the floor.