

the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These Federal agencies are part of Rhode Island's late and great Senator Claiborne Pell's lasting legacy. They lift our spirits, tell our stories, and strengthen our sense of community. TOM's work in advancing these agencies has enriched our country and helped bring so many people together.

Thankfully, TOM has said that, while he is leaving the Senate, he is not retiring from public service. I know New Mexico and our country are better off for that. I wish TOM and his family the best as they go forward.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Madam President, let me turn now to my dear friend DOUG JONES. I have had the privilege to serve alongside DOUG JONES both on the Armed Services Committee and the Banking Committee during his time in the Senate.

DOUG has had a long and successful career helping those who need it most and doing what is right even if the price is. Yet I was still struck, time and again, by his dedication to the welfare of our servicemembers and veterans and their families—something I witnessed firsthand when we traveled together to visit servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan last year, and nowhere was DOUG's commitment to these Americans more apparent than in last year's National Defense Authorization Act.

DOUG was greatly troubled that thousands of Gold Star families were being unfairly shortchanged by certain laws related to survivor benefits. So, DOUG, like he has throughout his professional life, went to work to right an injustice. He introduced the bipartisan Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act and was the Democratic lead on the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act. I was proud to help DOUG enact these bills, which allow military widows and widowers and their children to receive the full survivor benefits they are entitled to, as part of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. DOUG's work on these issues has directly improved the lives of tens of thousands of Gold Star families who have given so much to our country.

Naturally, DOUG worked hard again this year to shape the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, and he shaped it for the better. The legislation includes a provision written by DOUG requiring a GAO audit of continuing efforts to ensure that racial and gender disparities in the military justice system are properly addressed and eliminated. He was also instrumental during the markup of the fiscal year 2021 NDAA when the committee voted to remove the names of Confederate soldiers from our military installations, and in the wake of the deadly shooting at Naval Air Station Pensacola, DOUG met with the family of a slain Navy ensign, Kaleb Watson, and subsequently fought for two specific provisions in the fiscal year 2021 NDAA

to require military installations to plan or conduct live emergency response training events to help prevent such tragic shootings in the future.

DOUG also continued his career-long fight for civil rights while in the Senate. He enacted the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act, which requires the review and release of unsolved civil rights case records to help deliver justice for the victims' families, and he has been a passionate defender of voting rights for all Americans.

DOUG has never been afraid to take a difficult vote or to speak out for what is right. We will miss DOUG's persistence and conscientiousness in the Senate. I salute him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Madam President, with respect to Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER, bipartisanship and compromise are synonymous, and they have also always been central to the success of this institution. No one has been more of a contributing factor to the successes we have had than LAMAR ALEXANDER, and he has embodied these principles during his time in the Senate.

I first had the privilege of working with him on the Joint Economic Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which he now chairs, and we have spent many years serving together on the Appropriations Committee.

LAMAR is focused more on getting things done than on making headlines. He worked across the aisle to pass landmark laws, including the Every Student Succeeds Act, the 21st Century Cures Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. He and I also worked together to enact laws that reduce infant deaths and make children's medications safer. These laws have improved the lives of countless Americans. They are a testament to LAMAR's work ethic and the influence he has in the Senate.

LAMAR has also not shied away from tackling contentious issues. I have always appreciated his willingness to take lonely positions, particularly with respect to his thoughtful work on matters such as immigration and government shutdowns.

I wish him well in the future. He has left an extraordinary legacy and example for all of us.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Madam President, PAT ROBERTS has had a distinguished career in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. His work has touched on many issues, but he has been particularly dedicated to preserving the strength of our national defense and ensuring the well-being of our servicemembers.

PAT's concern for the defense of our Nation is longstanding. He began his public service as a young man in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he has displayed the steadfast resolve emblematic of marines throughout his time in Congress.

I observed this commitment firsthand during our years serving and traveling together as part of the Senate Armed Services Committee. PAT successfully pushed for the creation of a more modern refueling and transport tanker for our Air Force. He helped secure improvements at Fort Leavenworth and created the first Senate caucus exclusively dedicated to supporting the U.S. Marine Corps.

As Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, PAT ably led the effort to build a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington, DC, and I am delighted that, after years of PAT's hard work and leadership—and I observed this firsthand during my few years as a member of the Commission—the memorial was officially opened and dedicated in September. That, too, will be a lasting tribute to PAT ROBERTS' work.

Beyond his defense work, PAT was greatly concerned with the well-being of our farmers. He is the only Member to have authored and enacted farm bills in both the House and the Senate. We also worked closely together to pass legislation upgrading our Nation's trauma centers to ensure that severely injured patients receive the best possible care.

PAT was always quick with quips and brought levity to this body. I thank him for his spirit and his lifelong service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Madam President, MIKE ENZI has long served the people of Wyoming with distinction. MIKE and I spent many years working together on the Banking Committee and on the HELP Committee, which he chaired during some of my service on that committee. I have always appreciated his decency and thoughtfulness.

He spent his time in the Senate advancing his "80-20" approach to legislating. He sought to focus on the 80 percent of issues, where both sides could come to an agreement, rather than on the 20 percent of issues where he felt an agreement was unreachable. He worked quietly behind the scenes to get things done, and he got things done.

MIKE is one of the few U.S. Senators with an accounting background, and he and I worked closely together to bring greater awareness to financial literacy issues, as well as to create the Senate Financial Literacy Caucus to help Americans develop and maintain healthy financial habits.

I am also especially grateful for MIKE's support for legislation I led in 2010 updating museum and library services to better meet the needs of Americans. As the then-ranking member of the HELP Committee, MIKE played a pivotal role in securing the law's passage.

Our work together was of great importance, and I will miss his thoughtfulness and determination. I wish MIKE well in all of his future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Madam President, I also want to recognize CORY GARDNER. While we never served on the same committee, I had the pleasure of working with him on a number of issues.

We were able to come together with a group of our colleagues and pass a law designating 9-8-8 as a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. The designation will make it easier for people to access this critically important lifeline when they really need it. I thank CORY for his partnership and leadership on this issue.

CORY also worked diligently to secure the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act last summer. This law permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses a maintenance backlog on Federal parks and public lands. The Great American Outdoors Act is a real victory for the environment and conservation.

I thank CORY for his service and wish him the best as he leaves the Senate.

## TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, I also want to thank MARTHA MCSALLY for her service in this Chamber. MARTHA is a veteran of the Air Force and has always been a fighter. In fact, when you say "veteran of the Air Force," you are really understating her role in the Air Force. She fought to become the first American woman to fly a fighter jet in combat. She fought to become the first American woman to command a fighter squadron in combat, and she continued fighting while a Member of the U.S. Senate.

Indeed, MARTHA was a steadfast champion for the well-being of our servicemembers, military families, and veterans during her time on the Armed Services Committee. She worked to include language in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act improving the effectiveness of sexual assault investigations in the military and strengthening support for victims.

MARTHA also played a key role in helping enact over 30 provisions in the fiscal year 2020 NDAA to address the systemic crisis of privatized housing and help remedy the mistreatment of military families, and she teamed with Senators TESTER and SULLIVAN to pass legislation enhancing the tools the Department of Veterans Affairs uses to meet the mental health needs of veterans. These accomplishments are only a few examples of the important work MARTHA did here, but they illustrate her wholehearted commitment to bettering the lives of those who do so much for our country.

I attribute all of this great success and achievement—first woman fighter pilot, first woman to lead a squadron in combat, and more—to a simple reason. MARTHA was born and raised in Warwick, RI, right next to my hometown of Cranston, RI. MARTHA's close relative was the mayor of Cranston. My dad worked as a custodian in the school system. He respected, admired,

and was a friend of Jim Taft. MARTHA's father was also one of the most respected lawyers in Rhode Island, someone who was a tenacious and bright lawyer. That tradition is carried on by her brother Mark, whom I had the privilege and pleasure to know while I was practicing law in Rhode Island.

It is a wonderful family, and she has brought great distinction to not only the Senate, to not only the State of Arizona, but also to the State of Rhode Island. I wish her the very best going forward.

## TRIBUTE TO KAMALA HARRIS

Madam President, finally, while KAMALA HARRIS is not leaving the Senate entirely, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank her as she moves to her new role as Vice President of the United States and, according to the Constitution, as President of this body.

KAMALA is relentlessly determined to help and support the most vulnerable Americans. She has helped lead the charge to protect Dreamers, expand healthcare coverage, and reform our criminal justice system. KAMALA dedicated her Senate tenure to policies that make America a more equitable country and ensure equal opportunities and rights for communities of color.

KAMALA is also a former prosecutor, and she brought a prosecutor's incisiveness and grit with her to this body.

She led the case against many of the Trump administration's most harmful policies and nominees, and I know she will bring that tenacity to the Office of Vice President of the United States.

I also know that she will help guide and heal our Nation as we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish her well as she begins her new role, and I look forward to working with her and President-Elect Biden to meet the many challenges before us.

To all of my colleagues who are departing the Senate, I give you my greatest respect and admiration for your service to your States, to the Senate, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that the postcloture time on the Atchley nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, December 17; further, if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

## TRIBUTE TO LINDA BEHNKEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is getting toward the end of the week here. We still have got a lot of work to do in the U.S. Senate, particularly on a relief package and end-of-the-year appropriations. So we are working hard on that.

But I also want to take the opportunity, given it is the end of the week, to do what I consider one of my favorite activities of the entire week each week in the Senate, and that is talking about someone in my State who is making a difference, helping out our communities and making Alaska one of the best States—the best State, in my view—in the country. This is the individual we call the Alaskan of the Week.

So I want to do an acknowledgment to some of our Hill reporters who have taken an interest in the "Alaskan of the Week" each week. I think sometimes because they recognize it is finishing up the week. We are not yet done yet, though. We have a lot of work to do. But I also appreciate them reporting on it because it is just good to see stories about people who are doing good work for their State and their community.

What we try to do with this series, which we have been doing now for a number of years, is to talk about people who don't always get the recognition that they deserve, people who are making a big difference. You know, Alaska, like really every other State in the country, is experiencing serious challenges right now as a result of COVID-19, but I am confident, just like the rest of the country, we will get through this more resilient than ever.

We have a saying. I certainly love this saying: Tough times don't last, but tough people do. Americans, Alaskans, North Dakotans are tough, and we are going to get through this.

I would like to introduce our Alaskan of the Week, Linda Behnken, from the gorgeous city of Sitka, AK, in Southeast Alaska. The "Paris of the Pacific," it is called, Sitka. A fun fact about Sitka, it is the largest city in the United States by land area, encompassing over 4,800 square miles, including water. That is big. The population is fairly big for our State. It is beautiful. If you haven't been to Sitka, you have got to go. It is gorgeous.

Now, Linda—boy, talk about Linda. Linda is innovative, caring, and she has a deep and abiding commitment to our great State, her community, and to the profession that she has devoted her life to, one that is revered and so important in Alaska, and that is commercial fishing.

For more than 30 years now, Linda has been on a boat catching fish out of Alaska's waters. It is the best seafood, mind you, in the world. No doubt about that one—wild Alaskan seafood. Not only is she a successful fisherman, which is, of course, a full-time job, she has also worked to ensure that Alaska continues to have sustainable fisheries.