

in the U.S. Congress. Having served in the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2004 and later in the Senate from 2005 until his retirement in 2019, Senator Isakson has dedicated himself to supporting longstanding, bipartisan measures. His ability to find common ground and his commitment to public service are a reflection of his adherence to Georgians' and our Nation's values. It is my honor to have served alongside Senator Isakson during the 116th Congress.

In his tenure, Senator Isakson sponsored over 130 bills—a testament to his determination and aptitude to work across party lines. Having served in the Georgia Air National Guard, Senator Isakson played a key role in passing salient legislation to aid our veterans. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he led the Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Improvement Act of 2017, which created opportunities for veterans to pursue higher education. I am proud to have cosponsored this bill in my first year in office and to have worked with Senator Isakson to unite Congress in support of our veterans, among many other bipartisan causes led by Johnny.

Senator Isakson's time in office has left a profound mark in the Halls of Congress. I am confident his courage, compassion, and celebrated accomplishments will be remembered for years to come. I thank Senator Isakson for his service and send my best wishes to him and his wife Dianne and their children, Kevin, Julie, and John.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to honor someone whom I have had the good fortune to serve alongside both in the House and the Senate.

In American political history, there are certain names that carry a legacy. There are the Roosevelts, a family of great means who nonetheless understood the deeply personal pain of the Great Depression and helped bring a nation through it. There are the Kennedys, a family that for generations has been near the center of American power and popular culture.

And there are the Udalls.

Now, the Udalls have never been flashy. They might not be the equivalent of political royalty. You are more likely to find Udalls in cowboy boots and jeans than expensive suits. But they are a family that is deeply devoted to public service, protecting the people and places of the West, and just being some of the kindest, hardest-working, most decent folks you could ever meet.

Senator TOM UDALL has certainly lived up to his family's legacy during his long career in public service. New Mexico is so fortunate to be represented by him, and I feel so fortunate to have him as a friend.

TOM, it has been such a pleasure to work with you on issues including pro-

tecting funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, ensuring that our community health centers receive full funding, strengthening rural communities, and improving services for our veterans and our work together on TSCA reform. I have been so impressed by your work on clean energy and on protecting the wild places that make our States so special—and, of course, your important work on reforming the Senate. And I am so grateful for your strong leadership on the Indian Affairs Committee and your hard work on behalf of our Nation's Tribes. You have also set yourself apart through your work on foreign relations and on keeping our Nation safe.

I will never forget our trip to Vietnam and South Korea last year. It was such a special moment when Jill organized a Passover Seder for everyone on our plane to Ho Chi Minh City. It brought everyone together to focus on our common humanity and what we are each called to do: serve others.

Whatever the future holds for you, I have no doubt that you will continue serving the people of New Mexico and this great Nation. Public service, that is what Udalls do.

TOM, congratulations on your retirement, and thank you for a job well done. You have been a true blessing to New Mexico and our Nation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor my colleague and good friend, Senator TOM UDALL, who will be retiring from the Senate at the end of this Congress. TOM has been a forceful advocate for the people of New Mexico, a champion for all Americans, and a guardian of our Nation's public lands and our democracy. It has been my privilege to partner with him, both in the House and Senate, over the past 17 years.

TOM's family roots were grown from American history. Generations ago, his ancestors traveled west and settled on the American frontier. Although centuries have passed since those early pioneers, TOM's deep connection to our country's rich history hasn't waned. He holds deep respect for the communities that treasured the American landscape long before his family arrived, and TOM has championed the cause of Tribal sovereignty throughout his career. As vice chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, he fought to ensure that our country fulfills its obligations to indigenous Tribes. His commitment to this cause reminds us, as lawmakers, that the government has a responsibility to respect the rights of all communities from coast to coast.

His personal link to the American experiment has also nourished a passion for conserving our natural inheritance. In the House, I was proud to work with him on bolstering our Nation's renewable energy infrastructure. In the Senate, I have been privileged to serve with him on the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment. He has been an advocate for supporting the Chesapeake Bay in my

home State of Maryland and helped us secure a historic increase in funding to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Senator UDALL's pioneering work in these arenas has rallied colleagues around the cause of protecting our environment, culminating this August with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. His tireless efforts to preserve America's natural heritage will live on through the clean water and clean air that he helped safeguard for generations to come. But TOM knew well that preserving our environment must go hand-in-hand with defending our planet against climate change. His landmark bill on renewable energy standards offers a model for the type of rigorous approach we can take to cut carbon emissions and address this global threat.

Senator UDALL's commitment to keeping our planet healthy has been equal in force to his mission of keeping our democracy healthy. Throughout his career, TOM promoted the notion that we need structural change in our institutions if we want to move our country forward. He and I worked together on campaign finance reform to help insulate our elections from the influence of special interests and big corporations and have fought to reform financing for Presidential elections and the FEC. In Washington, he has been a vocal critic of government inaction and proposed rule fixes to remedy congressional paralysis, both while in the minority and in the majority. His calls for change have challenged this body to act on institutional adjustments that could help us get more done for the American people.

But beyond these achievements, one of TOM's greatest contributions to the Senate is the way in which he has made this Chamber a kinder place. His warm temperament and humble nature exemplify the character of a true public servant—someone who is here to do good work on behalf of their constituents, not stroke their own ego. He has stayed grounded and honored those whom he serves, always looking to move our country forward. In his farewell address, Senator UDALL reminded us that disagreements in politics shouldn't get in the way of progress. TOM lives and breathes this bedrock principle and has always extended a hand to those across the aisle in order to deliver for the American people. Although he is now headed back West to return to the place that made him, he is leaving a lasting legacy of collaboration and success that cannot be undone.

Thank you, TOM, for your dedication to this body and to our country, and I wish you and your family the best in the years ahead.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator UDALL, for his years of leadership in the Senate, on our committee, and for his commitment and service to

our Tribal communities. It has been an honor to serve with him the past 4 years.

I want to thank Senator UDALL for his wisdom, his mentorship, and the example that he has set for us through his many years in Congress and in the Senate. I also want to thank his staff for their support of all of our work in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Senator UDALL's tireless leadership and ability to work across the aisle with Chairman HOEVEN, each Member of the Senate, and our Tribal leaders has encouraged all of us to truly work together in a bipartisan manner to find solutions on behalf of our Tribal communities.

I am particularly thankful, for Senator UDALL's leadership in helping ensure that Senator MURKOWSKI's and my bills, the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act, became law. With their passage, we are finally beginning to address the serious epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. His commitment to combatting violence against Native women and children has been crucial for their success.

Senator UDALL's achievements in the Senate stand as a testament to the spirit of the West, which we both call home. From conserving and protecting our public lands through the Great American Outdoors Act and championing the rights of Indian Country, to empowering our Tribal communities through introducing the Native American Voting Rights Act and ensuring vital coronavirus relief funds and care reach those who need it most, Senator UDALL has always prioritized the needs of western communities.

Whether it is through finding creative solutions to address the homework gap through partnering with me to introduce E-Rate Support for School Bus Wi-Fi, or fighting for quality housing through reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, his work here has led to tangible benefits for rural and Native communities in my home State of Nevada and all across the country.

I have no doubt that Senator UDALL's legacy of service here will continue to leave a powerful impact on the lives of many in our Tribal communities for years to come, so thank you again, Senator UDALL, for all your contributions.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to honor my dear friend and colleague, Senator TOM UDALL. Throughout his time in Congress, he has continued to be a staunch advocate for protecting working families, our public lands, and so much more. TOM's desire and commitment to serve the people of New Mexico over the past 20 years are not only inspiring but serve as an example of what a faithful public servant represents.

As we all know, the "Udall" name rings with great respect and honor among those involved in public service,

and TOM is no exception. As a true native of New Mexico, Senator UDALL understands the importance of protecting our public lands and the people who reside there. It has been an honor to serve alongside him in the western delegation to secure funding for environmental restoration and public lands preservation. It has been my distinct pleasure to work with him and his staff on monumental legislation such as the Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, LWCF. The LWCF provides funds for restoration and outdoor recreation opportunities in Nevada and numerous projects in New Mexico. We have also fought side-by-side to defend our public lands from those who would take them out of public hands.

Senator UDALL, your mentorship, expertise, and, most of all, your friendship will be deeply missed. You and your family welcomed me with such warmth when I began my journey as a Senator. I am so grateful to have not only a great professional relationship but a wonderful personal one as well. I would also like to take a moment to thank your wife Jill for showing my husband Larry the procedures and protocols as of being new Senate spouse. Larry and I are so happy to have you and Jilly as friends for life.

Mr. President, Senator UDALL's decades as a public servant are an inspiration for so many of our colleagues, myself included. The western delegation will continue to honor Senator UDALL's work to reduce global emissions, build a clean energy economy, and protect the public lands that we all hold so dear. It has been an honor to work with Senator UDALL, and I wish him and Jill a joyful and tranquil transition in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I want to recognize and thank Senator CORY GARDNER for his years of service to the people of Colorado. Senator GARDNER has served the people of Colorado for 15 years as a member of the State house of representatives, a Congressman from Colorado Fourth District, and as a U.S. Senator. It has been an honor to serve with him in the U.S. Senate and alongside him on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Like my home State of Nevada, Colorado is a precious treasure of the American West, famed for its soaring peaks and beautiful countryside. Senator GARDNER committed himself to protect and preserve heritage through championing our national parks and public lands with the passage of the Great Americans Outdoors Act. Senator GARDNER also understands that preserving our outdoor spaces is vital to our western economies and to the physical and emotional well-being of the people who call our State home. I must thank him for supporting our

successful, bipartisan effort to reauthorize Brand USA to promote the United States as a destination to global travelers and support workers and businesses in tourism and hospitality in our States. I also want to thank him for partnering with me on the ACCESS Broadband Act to enhance access to Federal broadband programs and deliver these vital services to our rural communities. Finally, I must acknowledge Senator GARDNER for joining Senators BURR, SINEMA, Congressman DESAULNIER, and me in introducing the Moving FIRST Act to invest in our local communities infrastructure to help them overcome local challenges and meet the needs of the future.

Thank you, again, to Senator GARDNER, for his public service. It has been an honor to work with him here in the Senate and join in his commitment to all of us throughout the region we call home.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to someone who hasn't been in the Senate very long, but whose character, compassion, and dedication to justice will leave a mark here for years to come.

Many of us are old enough to remember that awful day in 1963 when a peaceful Sunday morning was shattered by a bomb. This attack on the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, carried out by members of the Ku Klux Klan, ended the lives of four young girls: Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair.

I was just a little younger than Carole, Addie, and Cynthia, who were all 14. DOUG JONES was just a couple of years younger than 11-year-old Denise. When something so unspeakable happens to people you could have gone to school with, been friends with, and grown up with, it sticks with you.

It certainly stuck with DOUG. He got involved in organizing at the University of Alabama and volunteered on a campaign to modernize the State's courts. After graduating from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, he served as staff counsel on the Judiciary Committee for Senator Howell Heflin, whose seat he currently holds.

After time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and in private practice, DOUG was confirmed by the Senate as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama in 1997. In that position, he successfully prosecuted two of the four men responsible for the devastation on that long-ago Sunday morning. He didn't just remember those four little girls. Instead, he fought to bring their families some measure of justice and closure—because that is just the type of person Doug is.

Doug, your Future Act to permanently fund historically Black colleges and universities will help build a brighter future for students across our

country. It has been such an honor to work with you to extend funding for community health centers and to expand access to care and resources to families living with Alzheimer's disease. And millions of Americans have you to thank for a timely vote to save the Affordable Care Act and their healthcare.

Doug, you know what really matters: pursuing justice, expanding opportunity, and simply making life better for the people who sent us here.

Three days after those beautiful young girls were killed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered their eulogy. In it, he said this: “(Their deaths) say to each of us, black and white alike, that we must substitute courage for caution.

“They say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers.

“Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American dream.”

Doug, you might not know yet what your future holds, but you have been working passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American dream for your entire career. I have absolutely no doubt that in whatever you do next, Doug, you will continue to be a tireless advocate for justice and equality.

Thank you for who you are. It has been such an honor serving with you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor my dear friend and colleague, Senator DOUG JONES of Alabama.

DOUG JONES is fearless. He cuts against the grain, shrugging off critics to chart his own path rooted in deeply held principles of justice, virtue, and equality. After law enforcement had failed to prosecute civil rights cases for decades, DOUG JONES successfully brought a measure of justice to the families of the four girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. When skeptics claimed there was no chance of him winning a Senate race in Alabama, DOUG JONES stayed the course and clinched an upset victory. And despite having seen some of his own colleagues shy away from addressing controversial issues in this Chamber, DOUG JONES stood up for what he knew was right, from his very first speech in the Senate when he delivered a moving address on the threat of gun violence.

But despite his tenacity, Senator JONES has never stopped leading with compassion—compassion for his colleagues, compassion for the people of Alabama, and compassion for all Americans. Like his personal role model, Atticus Finch, Senator JONES abides by the principle that in order to know someone else truly and fully, you need to “climb in his skin and walk around in it.” And it is that empathy that has led Senator JONES to champion unity

over division. My seat is near DOUG's here on the Senate floor, and we sat together during the impeachment trial. Even during one of the darkest moments in our country's history, DOUG maintained faith in our better angels. When the trial of the President came to a close, Senator JONES issued a call for unity, saying, “We must find a way to come together, to set aside partisan differences, and to focus on what we have in common as Americans.” He looked forward, past the tension consuming Washington and toward brighter days ahead. That is DOUG. That is how he works.

From the time I chaired the DSCC during then-Candidate JONES' run for Senate in Alabama, to our years together in this Chamber, I have always admired his desire to put country first, follow his conscience, and value principle over politics. He is a man of enormous integrity—someone who never forgot who sent him to the Senate, someone who always worked to get results, and someone who achieved more in just a few years than many Senators do in multiple terms.

I was proud to work with Senator JONES on the passage of the FUTURE Act, which provided permanent funding for historically Black colleges and universities. His commitment to that cause has directly benefitted the four proud HBCUs in my State of Maryland, and the bill is a step forward in the fight for equity in higher education. I am also grateful for Senator JONES's work to end the military widow's tax, which prevented military spouses from receiving the full benefits they deserved. Senator JONES was a champion for the widows who had lived for too long with broken promises. He was principled, persistent, and got the job done.

DOUG JONES is a model public servant, someone the American people can look up to and admire. His absence will be deeply felt in the U.S. Senate, but I know that just because he will depart the Nation's Capital on January 3 doesn't mean his role in this fight is over. Service is in his bones, plain and simple. It has been a profound honor and privilege to serve alongside him. Thank you, DOUG—thank you for all you have done for our country, and I want to extend my warmest thoughts and wishes to you, your wife Louise, your three children, and your grandchildren on behalf of a deeply grateful nation.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank Senator DOUG JONES for his service in the U.S. Senate and to the people of Alabama. In just 2 years, Senator JONES has become a respected voice in the Senate and built a reputation as someone who puts the interests of his constituents before partisanship or ideology. It has been a privilege working alongside him during the 116th Congress.

Senator JONES's achievements are remarkable for a first-term Senator. I

was proud to work with him on his Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act, which helps ensure that nearly 70,000 surviving military spouses receive their full benefits, as he shepherded this important legislation through Congress. He has also passed legislation to expand insurance coverage for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, helped his rural constituents navigate the healthcare system, and promoted justice for victims in unsolved criminal civil rights cases. I am proud to have worked with him on my legislation to expand workforce development programs and hands-on learning in high schools.

These incredible accomplishments demonstrate the hard work and dedication that Senator JONES brought to the Senate. He is a man with unwavering principles but a strong drive to find common ground and bring tangible benefits to the people of Alabama.

Senator JONES's legacy in the Senate is one I hope we can all remember as we look to work together for the betterment of our States and the Nation. It has been a privilege to work alongside him for the last 2 years, and I know he will continue to inspire us all as he begins the next chapter in his distinguished life.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, DOUG JONES and I came to the Senate at the same time—a class of just the two of us arriving in an off-year to fill partial terms. We were sworn in together on January 3, 2018, with each of us accompanied by a former Vice President—Walter Mondale in my case, Joe Biden in DOUG's. We shared the unique experience of arriving during an unprecedented period in the Senate's history, and I am fortunate to have spent the first 3 years of my Senate journey with a partner like DOUG by my side.

DOUG and I both joined the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and we quickly found common cause in rural healthcare. Within months, DOUG had introduced the Rural Health Liaison Act, which helped to unify Federal resources to better support the health of rural communities. This act, which became law through our collaboration on the 2018 farm bill, put the government in a better position to respond to crises like the one we are experiencing today. The foresight and compassion DOUG displayed in leading this initiative were hallmarks of his time in the Senate. Whether he was working to lower the costs of higher education, helping me bring high-speed internet to rural areas, or passing legislation to support military spouses, I could always count on DOUG to be a voice for rural communities on the HELP Committee.

DOUG and I also sat next to each other on the Banking Committee, where I have appreciated his thoughtful focus on rectifying racial disparities in income and wealth, particularly those caused by Federal policies of the past. In addition, DOUG played a key role in leading a bipartisan effort to