

love of nature, which is easy when you live in Wyoming. Mike was an accomplished and avid fly fisherman. In fact, in August of 2015, he achieved every fly fisherman's dream. He completed something known as Wyoming's Cutt-Slam. This is a Wyoming Game and Fish Department program, which increases appreciation for our native cutthroat trout.

Yet Mike would tell you the achievement that he was most proud of, of course, is family. He is survived by his wife Diana; his children Amy, Emily, and Brad; and his grandchildren Megan, Allison, Trey, and Lilly.

When he retired earlier this year, Mike said: "None of this would have happened without Diana. The best thing that ever happened to me," he said, is when she said she would marry him.

Diana is a wonderful person. She used to host an annual Christmas cookie party here in the Senate. She did it to say thank you to all of those whom she called the real workers: the janitors, the cleaning crew, the electricians, the police officers, the food service workers, and her staff. Every year, Diana and her friends baked hundreds of dozens of cookies. My wife Bobbi often joined in the cooking of literally thousands of cookies of all varieties and all made with loving care. It was so popular around here that people used to walk up to Diana and Mike in the hallway and ask: When is the party?

It had been a tremendous privilege for my wife Bobbi and me to serve for 13 years with Mike and Diana, representing Wyoming in the U.S. Senate. The people of Wyoming will always be extremely grateful—grateful for his decades of faithful, tireless service.

May God bless the memory of Mike Enzi. May God comfort his family during this extremely trying time. And may God continue to bless the State of Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. President, today, Wyoming mourns the loss of a gentle giant, Mike Enzi.

Mike spent his life working to make Wyoming a better place while creating opportunities for our people. As the mayor of Gillette, a State legislator, or as a U.S. Senator and senior statesman, Wyoming had no greater champion than Mike Enzi. He always put Wyoming first and worked harder than anyone to serve his constituents.

Growing up, Mike's dad would say: I don't care if he is a doctor or a lawyer or a ditchdigger; I just want him to be proud of what he does. If he is a ditchdigger, I want any darned fool to be able to look at that ditch and say: That is a Mike Enzi ditch.

That creed became commonplace in Mike's Senate office.

I will echo Mike's former chief of staff, Coy Knobel, by saying: I think it is a pretty good ditch.

Mike was a soft-spoken leader, but the many legislative wins he delivered

attest to the impact of his service. At a time of increasing political incivility, Mike Enzi managed to tactfully and graciously navigate the upper Chamber, producing results that will be felt for generations to come. His retirement left a hole in the Senate, and his death to this world leaves a hole in our State and in our hearts.

Throughout Mike's career in the Senate, he came up with multiple plans to address our debt and deficit. As an accountant by training and trade, he knew how to balance a budget and make it through the lean times. He wanted to set our great Nation up for success for his children and his grandchildren.

My prayers are with his wife Diana; his children Amy, Emily, and Brad; and his four grandchildren at this very difficult time. I know they are proud of the powerful legacy he leaves behind. We all are, and we have every right to be.

To me, personally, he was more than just our senior Senator. I have known Mike since the early 1980s, and over the last 40 years, he has been my personal friend and, as JOHN BARRASSO said, mentor. We first worked together when we were both in the Wyoming State Legislature. Then we served together in the Wyoming State Senate. Finally, when he came to the U.S. Senate, I followed him a few years later to the House of Representatives. I always joked that I was just following him around like a puppy dog my whole life.

Mike taught me about legislating, but he also taught me about life. He had a rock-solid faith. His faith was his guiding light. It is something that my late husband had, too, and I take comfort in knowing that Mike is peacefully at home in Heaven with his Lord and Savior. I am Lutheran, and in Martin "Luther's Small Catechism," it says that Christians like Mike and me and John are redeemed so that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

I note that because Mike was such a servant leader. He gave his earthly life to public service, and as Heaven is an everlasting service of the Lord, I know that no one is more prepared for that than Mike. He was a servant leader on Earth, and I know he will be a servant leader in Heaven.

I will say one last thing. Mike's unexpected death is a reminder that you can never say thank you to the ones you care about and appreciate too soon or too often. I, along with John, was blessed to be able to pay tribute to Mike's lasting accomplishments and impact on Wyoming just last week when JOHN BARRASSO and I recorded a tribute to him and his service to Wyoming's mining community. At this event honoring Mike Enzi, at which he was in attendance in his hometown of Gillette, he joked, he had fun, and he got to enjoy the camaraderie of the people in the State he loved so very much.

I am grateful, John, that you and I got to say thank you to him one last time like that.

I am heartbroken that Mike has passed away from this life. For selfish reasons, I will miss him terribly. He was a beloved, kind Member of the U.S. Senate. He was an accomplished, quiet leader. He was Wyoming's friend. He was my friend.

God bless you, Mike. We will see you down the road. Happy trails.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to join with my colleagues from Wyoming and my other colleagues here in the Senate and express my sorrow at the news received this morning that our former colleague Senator Mike Enzi had passed away.

Mike was a cherished colleague and one of the finest human beings you will ever meet. A former Budget Committee chairman, he was, in many ways, the conscience of the Senate on spending issues, always reminding Members that Federal dollars are not unlimited and that every dollar we add to the debt is a burden we are placing on our children and grandchildren.

One of my favorite memories of Mike happened a few years ago when he was a neighbor next door in the State of Wyoming. He was someone, as I said, for whom I had tremendous respect. He was always a gentleman. He had something that, I think, in politics is really rare, and that is, he would deal with big policy issues here in Washington, DC, but he always retained his common touch. He had a terrific way of connecting with people on a very personal level.

I remember I was experiencing heel pain from overrunning, which, it turns out, was plantar fasciitis, and I happened to mention it to Mike, who at one time was a shoe salesman and a shoe store owner. Well, it isn't more than a day later or so when he comes up to me and he has a solution. He had some heel inserts for my shoes, which turned out to be just exactly one of the solutions that I needed to deal with that. That was very typical of Senator Enzi. He was thoughtful. He was practical, incredibly hard-working, and very, very smart and very, very principled.

To his family—to his wife Diana, his wife of more than 50 years, and to his children and grandchildren—I want to say how much we will deeply miss him and how much we are sending our thoughts and prayers to them during this very, very difficult time.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on a different topic, last week, the Department of Education officially backed away from prioritizing radical and divisive propaganda in applications for a Federal program for civics and American history education. Score one for sanity and for American history.

The Department's original proposed priorities for program applications had

focused on aspects of so-called critical race theory and cited such dubious items as the 1619 Project. The notice the Department of Education released last week dropped this discussion and indicated that the Department would not give a competitive advantage to applications that reflect critical race theory.

The bipartisan program in question was established to strengthen American history and civics education, which is in a bad way. Just 15 percent of eighth graders demonstrate proficiency in American history, according to the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress results. A 2019 survey found that just 4 in 10 American adults were capable of passing a U.S. citizenship test. Yet the Biden administration was apparently ready to compound this problem by pushing ideas rooted in critical race theory—a radical, leftist ideology.

As it is currently being pushed, critical race theory advances the idea that America is not merely flawed but inherently and systematically evil and that fixing this problem requires tearing down our institutions.

I don't need to tell anyone that the United States has an imperfect history, and any genuine approach to American history has to examine those times when we failed to live up to our ideals as well as those times when we have succeeded. But while there are sins in our past that we cannot ignore, like the great sins of slavery and segregation, there is also greatness.

Our Founders did something that was pretty much unprecedented in the history of the world. They sat down and built a country based not on who conquered whom but on a set of principles, on a shared belief in liberty and unalienable human rights. While we haven't always lived up to those beliefs, we have never stopped trying, and we continue to hold out the promise of liberty not only to our country but to the whole world. There is a reason individuals around the globe have fled to these shores for the promise of freedom and have found in the United States the refuge they were searching for.

Critical race theory distorts the reality of American history. It sees our failures but none of our successes. More than that, it actively misrepresents our history. The 1619 Project, for example, advances the totally fabricated claim that a primary motivation for the American Revolution was a desire to preserve slavery. That couldn't be further from the truth. It is no surprise that leading historians have criticized the 1619 Project for its historical distortions and factual inaccuracies.

On top of that, by demonizing the United States, critical race theory also invites students to despise our country and ignore the tremendous freedoms and blessings that we enjoy. We are incredibly fortunate to live in the United States of America, and we let our students down when we fail to give them

the perspective to see the blessings our country provides.

By dividing the world into oppressors and oppressed, critical race theory promotes resentment and victimization. It encourages individuals to look at the world through one lens and one lens only and tends to reduce individuals to little more than their racial background.

I am glad that the Department of Education chose not to give preference to applicants with a focus on the radical ideas of critical race theory. This was good news for America's students, who deserve a balanced accounting of our Nation's history, which critical race theory does not provide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote starts.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is still a lot of reason to be concerned. The Department's reversal was cloaked in bureaucratic language, leaving room for a future flip-flop by the administration. Too many schools around the country are already considering or adopting outlandish proposals informed by critical race theory, from a math course that suggests that focusing on the right answer in math is grounded in racism to materials implying that the nuclear family is somehow inherently racist.

This is a grave disservice to students of all races, and we need to make sure that Federal education dollars are going to genuine history and civics education and not radical propaganda. We owe all American students better than historically inaccurate history lessons.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON KIM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kim nomination?

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Cornyn	Kelly
Bennet	Cortez Masto	King
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Blunt	Durbin	Leahy
Booker	Feinstein	Luján
Brown	Gillibrand	Manchin
Cantwell	Graham	Markey
Capito	Grassley	Menendez
Cardin	Hassan	Merkley
Carper	Heinrich	Murkowski
Casey	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Collins	Hirono	Murray
Coons	Kaine	Ossoff

Padilla	Shaheen	Warner
Peters	Sinema	Warnock
Reed	Smith	Warren
Rosen	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Sanders	Tester	Wyden
Schatz	Tillis	
Schumer	Van Hollen	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeben	Romney
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Hagerty	Portman	

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from further consideration of the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. As a reminder to all Members, the official photograph of the 117th Congress will be at 2:15 p.m. Senators are asked to be on the floor at that time. Following the photograph, the Senate will reconvene and resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Stone-Manning nomination. Senators should expect the vote on the motion to discharge to occur around 5 p.m. today.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:38 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:37 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).