

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, let me start with JIM INHOFE. A veteran of the U.S. Army, JIM has been a champion for enhancing our national security and providing our brave servicemen and -women with the resources that they need to carry out their missions.

Through his leadership of the Senate Armed Services Committee, JIM has ensured that the Senate completed its annual work on the National Defense Authorization Act, and he has made countless contributions to the military that have made our country safer.

His selection by the Association of the United States Army as its 2022 Legislator of the Year recognizes his unwavering dedication for the total Army—our soldiers, our families, caregivers, and veterans.

As a constitutional conservative, JIM firmly adheres to his principles, while always being willing to seek out bipartisan compromises wherever possible.

JIM has been a leader in strengthening the ties between the United States and the nations of Africa.

As my colleague from Mississippi has mentioned—but I am going to reiterate because it is so astonishing—Senator INHOFE has visited the continent of Africa an astonishing 172 times as a Senator.

He is particularly close to the nation of Ethiopia. It is close to his heart for many reasons, including the fact that it is the birthplace of one of his granddaughters.

He puts his faith into action through his staunch support of Project Mercy, a nonprofit organization that has led the way in helping raise Ethiopians out of poverty and extreme hunger.

The enduring friendships that JIM has made with both his Republican and Democratic colleagues here in the Senate reflect not only his ability to find common ground, but also his kindness, his good heart as well.

I deeply value our friendship and our service together in the U.S. Senate.

## TRIBUTE TO RICHARD SHELBY

Mr. President, let me now say a few words about another dear friend and extraordinary leader, Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama.

As chairman and vice chair of both the Appropriations Committee and of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, RICHARD SHELBY has dedicated himself to ensuring that the United States remains the world's most advanced and effective military force. He has ensured that our Nation's servicemembers are equipped with the tools that they need to protect and defend our country.

I know that the people of Alabama are so proud of his countless contributions to his State. He has worked tirelessly to support the servicemembers, veterans, and defense industry workers who call Alabama home. Redstone Arsenal, Maxwell Air Force Base, and Fort Rucker are all vital national hubs for various military commands and activities due to the leadership of RICHARD SHELBY.

RICHARD's legislative influence has been extraordinarily broad. He has chaired four Senate committees—Appropriations, Rules, Intelligence, and Banking, where he holds the record for the longest tenure of committee membership.

His extensive knowledge, combined with the deep bonds that he has forged with his fellow Members of Congress in both the Senate and the House, has enabled him to compile an extensive list of accomplishments.

Serving with RICHARD on the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand his command of policy and his skill as a negotiator. He truly is a master legislator, always focused on securing tangible results.

One example that stands out occurred in 2018, when he took over as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Under his leadership, the fiscal year 2019 Defense bill marked the first time that America's military had been funded on time through regular order in a decade. RICHARD SHELBY did it.

RICHARD has also played a crucial role in positioning our country as a leader in scientific achievement, advancement, exploration, and discovery. He looks to the future, placing a premium on funding innovative research in areas such as hypersonics, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence.

From the early days of the space race to today, Alabama has been a vital hub of cutting-edge research on propulsion and space systems, particularly through the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. Richard has consistently ensured that funding would be there for NASA to preserve America's superiority in the final frontier.

As their service in the U.S. Senate draws to a close, Senator JIM INHOFE and Senator RICHARD SHELBY will go down in history and long be remembered for their dedication to our Armed Forces and their determination to keep America free and strong. Their legacy will continue to inspire all of us to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I thank all of them; I thank both of them. I thank their wives Kay and Annette for their service as well. And it is a great pleasure to join with my colleague ROGER WICKER in paying tribute to two extraordinary Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make 5-minute remarks before the vote is called.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wanted to get to the floor today to say thank you to some colleagues that are truly deserving of it. There are three of them here. My understanding is that Senator SHELBY, or "The Chairman," as I call him, has not yet made his farewell speech, so I am going to reserve my laudatory comments for somebody who I will always consider "the chairman" of the Appropriations Committee, even when he is the rank-

ing member and even when he is not here. He is truly the chairman, and I have learned so much from him and am deeply appreciative for his incredible work and want to talk about that at greater length after he has made his floor speech.

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, I do want to take the opportunity, though, to thank Senator Jim Inhofe for his incredible leadership of the military affairs committee—the Senate Armed Services, excuse me, and his dedication and his commitment to our military.

In North Dakota, we have the Minot Air Force Base, we have the Grand Forks Air Force Base; so I am particularly appreciative that Senator INHOFE is, in fact, a pilot because not only is he a steadfast advocate for our military in every respect, but as a pilot, certainly, the Air Force is something that he understands, appreciates, and has provided incredible support for the amazing work that our men and women in uniform in blue do.

And as I have worked on issues related to my State at the Minot Air Force Base and the Grand Forks Air Force Base, without exception, when I have gone to Chairman or Ranking Member INHOFE for discussions and help on issues important to the Air Force in general, but certainly to our bases, he has been there and his understanding and his commitment to listen, to truly be a gentleman, to listen, and to consider what it is you are working on—he wasn't always able to do it just the way you hoped maybe it should get done, but he always made sure that he worked through the issue in a fair way and came to a good result. And in many cases, that result occurred in the near term; sometimes it took a little longer.

But I think that commitment to consider everybody's point of view and work with both sides of the aisle—his relationship with current Chairman JACK REED I think is remarkable, and I think the two of them leading our Armed Services Committee has made a big difference. Their relationship and how they approach things, which in many ways is similar, is the reason we have been able to get the NDAA legislation passed across the floor, even at times when it has been very difficult to do. They have led the way, and I know that they are working hard and will continue to lead the way again this year on the NDAA, and Senator INHOFE will be deeply missed. He is truly a friend and an advocate for our military, and his incredible devotion to them will be missed. And we thank him for it and for, as a colleague, the way he has approached every issue that he has worked on during his time here in the U.S. Senate.

## TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. President, I also want to thank and extoll for just several minutes Senator ROY BLUNT.

I think anybody who has worked with Senator BLUNT would state that he is

incredibly intelligent. He is one of those people you realize how smart he is not because of how much he says but actually sometimes how little he says, meaning he can express thoughts and concepts so cogently, and that takes a very sharp mind to actually say something profound with a minimum number of words and not in a long and rambling speech. He has common sense that sometimes you don't realize until you work with him a little bit and just listen to him a little bit.

He has played a prominent role as a member of our leadership team. I worked with him on Appropriations as well, on the Appropriations Committee with our able chairman, as I mentioned earlier. But invariably what I found is that when you talk to Senator ROY BLUNT, if what you are talking about makes common sense—common sense—he is almost always there.

He is one of the most pragmatic, well-reasoned, thoughtful Senators we have. Again, in a way, he is a master of the understatement, where, like I say, in just a few words or a cogent thought, he can get to the heart of the issues.

I want to go through just one story about him before I yield the floor. When I first came in as a Senator in 2011, after having worked as Governor for our State of North Dakota, for the prior decade, one of the things that immediately came up when I met ROY BLUNT and talked to him about issues is the Missouri River. North Dakota is on the north end and, obviously, Missouri is on the south end and we have some different ideas about how the waters of the Missouri River should be managed and utilized for the great people of our respective States and all the people in between.

As they used to say in the West and probably still do: Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting.

And we battled on every imaginable issue that you can think of on the Missouri River. Senator Kit Bond, a former Senator from Missouri, and our Senators were at loggerheads all the time on water issues relative to the great Missouri River.

So right off the bat, actually, Senator BLUNT sought me out and said: You know, our predecessors did nothing but fight on the Missouri River. Let's see if we can't figure out a way where we can work together.

And I said: Gee, that sounds good to me.

So the first thing we did is we set up a trip. We started at the north end. We actually started at Fort Peck in Montana and went all the way, starting at the north end all the way down—from the northwest all the way down to the southeast end of the river and ended up in St. Louis, MO. We stopped all along the way at all the dams and reservoirs and every place of significance and talked about the issues, tried to understand what everybody needed.

I have to say, over the last 12 years, I am not sure we agreed on every as-

pect of managing the Missouri River but the vast, vast majority—I think both of our States and the States in between have benefited from that. We have been able to do, I think, some remarkable things with the Corps of Engineers because we took that approach to see if we couldn't figure out how to work together on something of tremendous consequence not only for both of our respective States but for the country. That is the kind of leadership and that is the kind of common sense and wisdom that ROY BLUNT brought to this job every day.

So to Roy and to Abby, friends of Mikey and I, we will truly miss—our conference will truly miss and our institution will miss Senator JIM INHOFE and Senator ROY BLUNT, and we are going to miss the chairman, too, but I will talk about him on another occasion.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF FRANCES KAY BEHM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Frances Kay Behm to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She is a highly experienced jurist who will serve with distinction on the Federal bench. Judge Behm graduated summa cum laude from Albion College and earned her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. After law school, she spent more than a decade in private practice, representing a broad range of clients in business litigation, transactional matters, and probate proceedings, as well as preparing estate planning documents.

In 2009, then-Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Judge Behm to serve as a judge for the Genesee County, MI, circuit and probate courts. On the bench, she has presided over a wide range of cases—including criminal, civil, juvenile, and probate matters. As a family court judge, Judge Behm has presided over approximately 1,600 bench trials and three jury trials. Since 2019, she has presided over 16 bench trials and 18 jury trials on the general/civil/criminal division/business court.

Judge Behm has the strong support of her home State Senators, Ms. STABENOW and Mr. PETERS. In addition, she received a unanimous rating of “well qualified” from the American Bar Association. I am proud to support Judge Behm's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

#### NOMINATION OF KELLEY BRISBON HODGE

Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm another highly qualified judicial nominee: Kelley Hodge to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law, Ms. Hodge has a range of legal experience that will serve her well as a judge. Ms. Hodge has worked in the courtroom as both a public defender in Richmond, VA, and as a prosecutor in the district attorney's office in Philadelphia, PA.

And in 2017, she became the first African-American woman to serve as the district attorney for the city of Philadelphia. In addition, Ms. Hodge is an expert in juvenile justice and education policy, having served as the Safe Schools Advocate for the city of Philadelphia, acting director of the Pennsylvania Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the first full-time title IX coordinator for the University of Virginia.

Since returning to private practice, Ms. Hodge has advised clients on discrimination and harassment matters, government compliance, and internal investigations. Moreover, she has served as an adjudicator for various colleges and universities in administrative proceedings involving title IX or violations of student codes of conduct.

Given her courtroom and adjudication experience, it is no surprise that the American Bar Association rated Ms. Hodge as unanimously “well qualified.” In addition, she enjoys the strong, bipartisan support of Senators Casey and Toomey.

I support this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my floor statement on the judge we are about to vote on be completed before the vote.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Having listened already to speak about Senator BLUNT, I also want to say my thanks and best wishes to Senator INHOFE and Senator SHELBY. I had an opportunity in the EPW Committee to speak more about my work with Senator INHOFE, but to both of you, we deeply appreciate your service to our country.

#### NOMINATION OF FRANCES KAY BEHM

Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Judge F. Kay Behm, who President Biden nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Behm represents the very best of Michigan.

She and her four siblings grew up on a dairy farm in Alma, milking cows and bailing hay and driving tractors and doing all of the other tasks that life on a farm demands. During the 1980's farm crisis, her parents nearly lost their farm.

That experience changed Judge Behm forever. It led her to pursue degrees in business and law so that she could help other Michigan families.

She graduated from Alma College and the University of Michigan Law School. She worked in private practice for 15 years. In 2009, she was appointed as a trial judge in Genesee County by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

During her time as a judge, she has never forgotten her humble roots, and she has worked hard to ensure that everyone who appears before her is truly seen and heard. As a judge on the Genesee County circuit and probate courts,