

we were looking into a weekend when we were going to be here, and she, being from California, and I, being from Alaska—recognizing that probably neither one of us was going to be making it to that other coast, she would say: “LISA, let’s go to dinner.” Sometimes, we would just spontaneously make that happen, and other times, we would just make the plans. But that was that outreach to do so.

What she did as one of the female leaders in our women Senators group was she made sure that the dinners we have engaged in over the years, that those continued. She would come and say, “Isn’t it about time we have another dinner?” And she would be right, and we would organize it. It was, again, a reminder of what it means to come together as colleagues, yes, but really the more that we can do to build those relationships that make a hard job just a little bit easier. DIANNE was able to focus on that in a giving and, again, a very generous—generous—way.

I think it pained us all—it certainly pained me—in just these past months to see what I believed to be grossly unfair attacks on a woman who was in failing health. And I think for some who would focus on that, they would fail to appreciate what this extraordinary woman, what this extraordinary leader had contributed not only to the Senate but, again, to her State and to her country.

So as we speak of the beauty of DIANNE FEINSTEIN and all that she gave to this country, I hope we reflect on the words that Senator MURRAY shared with us—that her commitment to this job, her commitment to the people was so much that she would put her physical health, how she was feeling—some days, we just don’t feel like coming in, you know? Senator FEINSTEIN was here. Senator FEINSTEIN was with an institution that she cared about. She cared deeply about it. She wanted to make sure that we were the best of the best and we reflected that.

I think she would actually be really pleased with the resolution about dress. I don’t need to go into that on the floor. But Senator FEINSTEIN was a woman who was put together—put together in her presence and in her bearing. I think she wanted to see the Senate in a dignified and a respectful manner at all times.

As I walked in this morning, I thought she probably wouldn’t approve of my shoes, and I am sorry, DIANNE. But I share this because I think it demonstrates again where the commitment of this woman was. It was to the people she served, but it was also to an institution that she loved and she dignified with everything she did right until the end.

We have lost an extraordinary woman, and we have lost a friend. But they never leave. They will always be with us, as will DIANNE.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, before I begin, I also want to acknowledge others who are here in the Chamber to be part of this tribute, part of this moment—the first of many over the coming days and weeks, no doubt.

Senator SCHUMER acknowledged Speaker PELOSI, Speaker Emerita PELOSI, and Katherine in the Gallery here. We do have a good amount of the California congressional delegation here as well paying their respects—the dean, Representative LOFGREN, and so many friends from the north to the south to the east and the west of the Golden State. Up in the Gallery also is Team Feinstein, so many of the staff members who make sure the office is always performing at peak capacity, just the way DIANNE insisted. I know that personally, and I will tell you why in a minute.

But I think I speak on behalf of all of us when I say that it is with profound sadness that we bid farewell to my dear friend, colleague, and outright champion for the State of California, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

As we have been hearing today, she was a towering figure. Let me be clear. She was a towering figure not just in modern California history but in the history of our State and our Nation. Yes, she broke barriers throughout her career. You heard about that from Leader SCHUMER, how many firsts. Her leadership, though, as the city of San Francisco’s first female mayor in the aftermath of the tragic assassination of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk showcases her unique ability to lead with grace and strength in the face of adversity. And it wouldn’t be her last time.

Following her election to the Senate more than three decades ago, DIANNE’s commitment to bipartisan collaboration made her a deeply respected figure on both sides of the aisle. So my heart is full to hear the words of Senator COLLINS and Senator MURKOWSKI and others.

She understood the importance of working together to find common ground and to get things done for California, for the country, and most importantly, for the American people. Her ability to bridge divides and find that consensus, especially on the thorniest of issues, was a testament to her dedication to the principles of our democracy and the many attributes you are hearing about her today. That is the one I have admired most and have worked my damndest to try to emulate throughout my career and especially here in the Senate.

Now, long before being able to serve together here in the Senate, DIANNE gave me one of my first jobs in politics in her Los Angeles office at a time early in my career when I was looking to make a difference for my community and for our State. It is in part thanks to her groundbreaking career that a Latino son of immigrants could one day not just work for her but work

alongside her to keep up the fight for the American dream.

As we mourn Senator FEINSTEIN’s passing, we must also celebrate her incredible legacy, her contributions to our Nation—from gun safety and environmental conservation to national security and healthcare reform and so much more—just as a reminder not just of the power of her example but the power of public service.

For Californians, so much of our public lands have been preserved thanks to her singular drive and leadership—from the redwoods of the Headwaters and the San Francisco Bay to Lake Tahoe, to the Southern California desert.

We can go on and on, but it is clearly—clearly—a tremendous impact she has had. She leaves behind a legacy of service, of leadership, and a deep love of our country and our democratic ideals. Senators have mentioned her grace, how she worked, how she carried herself—an example for us to follow.

I would be remiss if I didn’t say there was an exception to that, and that is if you were one of her staff members who came into a meeting with her unprepared. You did not want to not have the answer to her question.

She was classy, absolutely. We won’t get into the debate about the dress code. As Senator MURRAY said, she was absolutely generous. Now, I did not receive a seersucker suit. I was not here at the time. But for the decades of the relationship that we had, every time I came to Washington, I made it a point to reach out—at a minimum, a call; a lot of times, a quick meeting in her office—and I always came away with something. More often than not, it was a book. She has quite a library, her collection. Once upon a time, it was a Senate tie. There was always something.

I, too, Senator COLLINS, have a watercolor. It is hanging at home in Los Angeles—my wife’s favorite—so I don’t have it here to display. What I do have, though, is a photo, as she said, from “back in the day” that she sent me just a year ago—periodically going through her files, her archives—a picture from the San Francisco AIDS walk in 1987 but personalized—no autopen here; a personal note from Senator FEINSTEIN.

The last story I will share, which I do think is unique. Another example of her generosity is the day I was sworn in to the Senate in 2021 under the most trying of circumstances: COVID prevaccine; 2 weeks after January 6; 40,000 National Guard women and men on the perimeter of a fenced-off Capitol Complex. She honored me by escorting me down the center aisle to the rostrum and stood behind me as I was sworn in. Big day for me. Tough day not having Angela and my boys by my side.

As soon as the votes were over, the session was over, she grabbed me by the hand and said: Come with me. I am not sorry to say I had interviews lined up. We marched right past reporters to her hideaway.

She immediately wanted to continue the dialogue of, How can I help you? How can I help you? I mustered up a little bit of courage and said: DIANNE, I love you, but I want to call my wife. I have just been sworn in to the Senate.

So I called my wife. Angela answers. We immediately started FaceTiming each other. We were by the window so we could make sure the signal doesn't drop. And my boys were there. DIANNE says: Give me the phone. I have just been sworn in to the U.S. Senate, and I am watching Senator FEINSTEIN FaceTime with my kids. "So proud of your dad. When are you coming to Washington? I will buy you lunch."

That was DIANNE FEINSTEIN. May she rest in peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire us all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I follow my colleague from California, and I believe he said it correctly—the legacy of DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

Our colleagues are in shock today, even though we knew DIANNE was ill, even though we knew she was 90 years old, even though we knew she was the longest-serving woman Senator. The fortitude that she showed and demonstrated was constant. Sitting here just a few months ago in all-night vote-arama sessions, when the youngest of us wanted to crawl into our hideaways and sip coffee at 2 a.m., DIANNE was at her desk voting.

At 90, she had the fortitude, as Senator MURRAY said, to vote just yesterday. I don't know if it was the steel that was cemented into her at that moment of the mayor's assassination or the tragedy and cost of serving and knowing that you still had to move forward. No matter how disastrous the situation was, DIANNE moved forward.

I am so blessed to have served with her. But I want people to know the Nation has lost a legislative giant, women have lost a hero, and the Senate has lost a true colleague. Those of us who are out here today know when we say the word "true colleague," we mean like a true collegial colleague. Sometimes we say the word with a little more disdain, like our "frustrating colleague," or as Senator MCCONNELL said, our "good friend," when maybe in reality, it is hard to get those words out.

But DIANNE was the epitome of what the Senate is losing. Let's just face it. DIANNE, one of her most famous phrases was "I have to go home and read tonight." I bet you her family or her staff heard her say that because she meant it. She meant: I don't know enough about this subject to go just spur off. I am literally going to study and analyze and find out what it actually is all about.

How many times did DIANNE stand up in caucus and say: I have been reading

a lot about this subject, but I think we need to know a lot more? And she would communicate what she knew and, as many of my colleagues know, she was always asking questions.

For me, as a young Member coming here more than 20 years ago, I was amazed and astounded at what I might call the polite pushiness of DIANNE FEINSTEIN. I don't know how she did it, but serving on the Judiciary Committee with her—and DIANNE will observe—when DIANNE's time ran out and somebody tried to cut in and debate her, DIANNE had this way of saying: Mr. Chairman, this is a really important point and I just need to make this point. And the chairman would let DIANNE go on for another 5 minutes. And I thought, How does she pull this off? Well, I will tell you how she pulled it off: because people knew she was serious about legislating. She was serious about working across the aisle.

And probably in my early days here, she forged the greatest impression of what working across the aisle was really all about. There were times, probably, when I didn't even agree with her, but she had the cache of a Senator who could put a deal together with both sides.

I saw her great work on the California Desert Protection Act, landmark legislation protecting California. I saw it on the 2007 energy bill where we raised CAFE standards for the first time in 25 years. DIANNE had a provision called Ten-in-Ten. She just evangelized every minute of the day about why we needed higher fuel efficiency standards. She thought we could improve it 10 miles in 10 years and she was right, and it became the basis of what that bill was. She never let anybody off the hook during those negotiations. She made sure that we got that done.

I saw her work tirelessly as my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI—she may not have been here yet—but she worked with Jon Kyl on water legislation until the cows came home, because Arizona and California had real water issues and DIANNE was forever adamant about trying to address this issue for the western part of the United States.

So for me, I want to thank her family for your sacrifices, for sharing DIANNE with us, letting us have her as long as she was willing to serve and for making it the dedication of her life.

Yes, that personal side of her was also so sweet. Most of us doodle, but DIANNE doodled in masterpieces. And she was always inviting people to dinner, always doing those kind little things for us, which means that you really made the Senate a more human place. That is what she really did. She just made this a more human place by just giving a little time and attention to some of the needs of your colleagues. But what sweet blessings; what sweet stories.

I want to honor DIANNE by remembering her great legacy and thanking

all of those who were part of her life because, for women, we didn't really know how to get all of this done here—how hard you push, how loud you can be, how much you can just get in here and grind away sometimes. DIANNE showed us that, yes, we can be trailblazers and do it and that the results really, really, really, really matter for people.

I hope that people will remember that legacy of hers and the kindness that went along with it and realize that this institution really does need to return to the ways of DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

And if you are from California, you should be damn proud that your Senator is going to go in the history books as a forerunner for so many other women and for policies and behavior that we should be amplifying.

I thank the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I first saw DIANNE—and I see people like the Speaker Emerita and so many of her friends and family that knew her long before Senator PADILLA—but 1992, the Year of the Woman, the national convention—my first national convention, a young lawyer—and there she was on the stage with Senator Boxer in that groundbreaking year.

When I think of DIANNE, as I have heard from my colleagues, I think about the dignity she brought to this place; about how she would dig into every single issue, the independent thought, the trailblazing.

She came into politics as a mayor and in the most tragic of circumstances. She was a city council member. There was an assassination, and there she is thrust on the national stage. As Senator PADILLA talked about, she always put California first.

I remember, at one point when we were debating and speaking out on a national election and someone said something about another candidate having been the mayor of a tough town. I remember DIANNE saying: You don't know what a tough town is until you are mayor of San Francisco.

The way she would dig into the issues was probably my most memorable moment. She invited me to stay overnight at her house after an event; and I got up early in the morning and she called me, summoned me into her room. She was sitting straight up with these big fuzzy slippers on, on a Saturday morning, reading a 200-page bill, the Patent Reform Act, and she started quizzing me—we were both on the Judiciary Committee at the time, the only women on the Judiciary Committee—on the details about the bill. That was DIANNE. She did her homework.

She came into politics at a time when there weren't many women leaders. The way she achieved her goals