

Some of the biggest accomplishments of the past few years would not have gotten done without JOE's help. He was always able to reach across the aisle to help us achieve bipartisan legislation that we are so proud of in these past two Senates. Without him, we couldn't have gotten the Inflation Reduction Act done. He was persistent. He was a tiger on that one.

He and I got together alone in one week—we sat in a room, a little room. No one knew we were negotiating the IRA. JOE didn't want anyone to know because he would be besieged by people. So we sat in that room day in and day out. Then all of a sudden, the legislation, after no one knew we were doing it, popped out. As a result, so much was accomplished.

We made historic strides towards climate change in a very positive way—tax breaks to help clean energy evolve—and it has grown beyond what either of us thought. This was the first major legislation in decades that lowered the cost of prescription drugs. And there were JOE MANCHIN and CHUCK SCHUMER—close friends, colleagues with a mission—getting this done. And we did it in that little room all alone.

At the same time, Senator MANCHIN was always reminding us that deficit reduction was important. And in the IRA—which he appropriately named the Inflation Reduction Act—for every dollar we invested, we also saved towards cutting down the deficit through this bill.

Very few pieces of legislation, major pieces, have ever done that, but to JOE's great credit, the IRA did.

JOE was also an important player on a number of other key bipartisan wins, like the gun safety bill and infrastructure legislation. Under our majority, even though I had lots of disagreements, and we had a few fights—not physical, he would have clobbered me in those—JOE MANCHIN has been an invaluable partner, a dedicated public servant, and a dear friend until the end.

Of course, JOE and I didn't agree on everything, after all, who here thinks that New York and West Virginia could agree all the time? But despite these disagreements, what mattered was this: No matter the issue, I always knew that JOE would be true to who he was, to put the people of West Virginia first, and to seek consensus, even if there was just a shred of an opportunity. He was so persistent at it, and that is why he was as successful as he was. These things I will always cherish about serving with the Senator from West Virginia, but also we were just close friends, aside from politics. We talked to each other all the time. We each knew each other's phone numbers by heart. That 304 number popped up on my phone more than just about any other. And we had some great times together.

Some of the happiest times I had in the Senate were on JOE MANCHIN's boat. He would bring in great Italian

food. And then he would turn on his sound system, and we would all be singing—Democrats and Republicans—hits from the fifties, sixties, seventies. JOE would just play the first two or three notes, and then we would have to guess what the song was. We were both pretty great at it, and what great times they were.

JOE is the kind of friend who breaks the tension with a sudden joke, the kind of colleague who breaks gridlock with a helping hand, and the kind of public servant who breaks cynicism by reminding everyone that what we do here, we do for the people back home.

So, JOE, thank you for the many good years of partnership in this Chamber. As you know, I tried to recruit you, successfully, when you first ran, and you have had great service to our country since then. And I hope you don't regret that I recruited you, and you came here. I am sure you don't because you have done so much and made so many good friends.

JOE, thank you for all you have done serving our country and serving the people of West Virginia. We wish the best to you, to Gayle, to your beautiful family, which you always talk about, and to all the people of West Virginia whom you so admirably served.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my remarks before the recess.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to echo comments just made by the majority leader Senator SCHUMER, of my gratitude to the Democratic caucus for giving me an opportunity to continue to serve as the whip.

The whip, I am often asked what it is all about, what is this job.

And I say the skills that are necessary for this job I developed in the first grade, to be able to count up to 60, if needed, and to be able to count up to 41 in a position of resistance. That is an overstatement, of course, but not much.

I thank my colleagues for giving me this opportunity over the last 2 years and looking forward to the next 2.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. President, this has been one of the busiest legislative times of my time on Capitol Hill. We have been working for 4 years in the Senate Judiciary Committee to fill vacancies in the Federal courts around America. People retire; they pass away; some of them decide to do something else with their lives, creating a vacancy for what was supposed to be a lifetime position.

Over the last 4 years, working with President Biden's White House, we have filled more than 200 slots in the Federal judiciary. Over one-fourth of the existing article III judges have

been replaced or given a successor because of the work of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, and with it, the work on the floor to pass these same nominees, which requires the work of the staff, the majority leader, of course, and the whip on the floor. So I was called into action at both levels for success, and we have quite a record to show for it.

TRIBUTE TO LAPHONZA R. BUTLER

Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about two of my colleagues who will be making farewell remarks today in the Senate; first, LAPHONZA BUTLER. She succeeded Senator Dianne Feinstein as Senator from our largest State, the State of California. Dianne Feinstein was a close friend and a seatmate of mine for many years. I can't tell you how many times we sat together, considered nominees and legislation, and listened to one another's speeches. I really respected her so much, and she did an extraordinary job in the Senate.

So when she passed away and Senator BUTLER took her place, many people wondered who could step into her shoes for this period of time. LAPHONZA BUTLER was that person. She was given an extraordinary assignment. She took a slot on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, and in that position had to get into the daily combat—political combat—that took place in that committee.

I would say, with some immodesty, that it is one of the most challenging committees on Capitol Hill because it has an extraordinarily important agenda when it comes to the political issues before it and because of some of the personalities that populate the chairs of that committee on both sides of the aisle.

Senator BUTLER brought her own style and her own approach to it and did so, so well. She was able to see the old admonition is true that "politics ain't beanbag" in the Senate Judiciary Committee. She stood up for her State effectively and she articulated her positions convincingly and she was always there when needed.

I want to thank her for being part of the process of filling these vacancies in the Federal judiciary with the most diverse group of judges in our history. It is something that will live on long beyond Senator BUTLER and myself. So I thank her for her friendship, her smile, her determination, and her success on the Senate Judiciary Committee and in the Senate as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO JOE MANCHIN III

Mr. President, JOE MANCHIN is going to give his farewell address on the floor. The Senator from West Virginia and I have served together, and I have come to appreciate JOE's politics, and the way he handles decision making. Sometimes I disagree with him vehemently and am frustrated by his position, but I understand he represents his own conscience, his people of West Virginia, and the reality of politics in the State. Time and again, he has made a difference when needed.

I thank him for standing up for some of the judges who have come before us. We couldn't have done it without him, in some circumstances. I think he will be proud in the years ahead to reflect on what these women and men will mean to our country. I also wanted to join in Senator SCHUMER's happy memories of time off the Senate floor with JOE and his wife Gayle on his boat, which is also his residence, on the Potomac River. There were some wonderful parties there, always, always, always bipartisan. That has been the hallmark of JOE MANCHIN's career, and it really makes a positive difference in the work of the Senate.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, I rise today to discuss another topic that has become one of my major concerns throughout my Senate career, fixing our broken immigration system. As the son of an immigrant from Lithuania, my personal story exemplifies the experience of immigrants in this country and just how far the American dream can take you when you are afforded the opportunity.

That is one of the reasons why 23 years ago I introduced the DREAM Act, together with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bipartisan legislation was very simple. It provided a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who were brought to the United States as infants, toddlers, and children, allowing them to remain legally in the country, the only home they ever knew, and to have a path to ultimate legality and citizenship.

Eleven years ago, I joined some of my colleagues to form the bipartisan Gang of 8, another effort for immigration reform. We worked hard, four Democrats and four Republicans, and drafted a comprehensive immigration bill that included the DREAM Act. That bill passed the Senate with 68 bipartisan votes. Yet House Republicans refused to even consider it and debate it.

Unfortunately, we haven't made much progress since. Today, as we hear dangerous rhetoric from the President-elect about immigration, I worry for the immigrants and for the future of our country.

We can all agree that any undocumented immigrant found guilty of a serious crime should never be allowed to stay in the United States. But the last time the President-elect was in office, it wasn't just criminals who were deported. We saw parents separated from their young children, some of them still separated to this day, and we saw Dreamers, veterans, and spouses of U.S. citizens deported. They weren't criminals. Many of them were pillars in their home communities.

Next week, I will hold a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee focused on the chaos and cruelty that President-elect Trump's promised mass deportations could bring to our communities and our country.

Mr. President, I rise today to highlight one of the Dreamers whose loss

would deeply impact her community and her family. This Dreamer spent her career educating America's future leaders.

This is the 147th story of a Dreamer that I have told on the Senate floor. This young woman's name is Dulce Martinez, better known by her students as Ms. Martinez.

She was brought to the United States from Puebla, Mexico, when she was 14 years old. As a child, she loved school and dreamed of becoming a computer teacher, but when the college counselor told her she wasn't eligible for college, even with good grades, she was crushed. She felt hopeless and dropped out of school. It wasn't until Ms. Martinez started working that she realized her education meant too much to throw away. The skills she was learning on the job helped her to realize just how valuable education was to her and to everyone else.

She enrolled at the Borough of Manhattan Community College to finish her high school credits. She was able to obtain DACA, which allowed her to continue her studies at BMCC, where she received an associate's degree in early childhood education. She graduated with honors.

Ms. Martinez went on to serve as a BMCC mentor and employee, focusing on advocacy for immigrants and undocumented students. She also worked on the City University of New York Women's Centers Council.

Today, Ms. Martinez has her dream as a lead teacher at a Head Start preschool in Brooklyn. She is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood education and conducted field work in early education.

A proud mother of four, Ms. Martinez uses her own life experience to educate and inspire young people. She is the embodiment of the American dream.

Would America be better off if she is deported? No, of course not. She is teaching young children to have a future and to believe in themselves and the basic education that made her life so successful.

DACA was a program put together by President Obama to pave the way for Ms. Martinez to pursue her dreams, but DACA was always intended to be a temporary stopgap until Congress did its job and fixed the broken immigration system by law.

In Ms. Martinez's case, DACA was the opportunity she was looking for to go back to school and to kick-start her dreams. But since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to countries they do not even remember. Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts due to legal challenges from the Republican State attorneys general, and DACA recipients are forced to live with uncertainty day to day.

Last year, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal, though the decision left in place pro-

tections for current DACA recipients while the case is on appeal. Dreamers live in constant fear that the next decision will spin their lives. You and I have heard over and over again when President-elect Donald Trump came before his rallies and described the immigrants he wants to deport as murderers, rapists, terrorists, people with mental problems, and such. It goes on and on, time and again. But, of course, Ms. Martinez did not belong to any one of those categories. She has made a life in America and made America better.

This litigation that I am concerned about prevented at least 500,000 additional Dreamers from registering for the program.

During his first term, then-President Trump tried to shut down the DACA Program, but the Supreme Court blocked him. Now he has pledged to pursue a mass deportation campaign. I am going to do everything in my power to defend Dreamers from being deported from the only country they call home, and I am willing to work with anyone, including President-elect Trump, to pass legislation to give Dreamers like Ms. Martinez a chance.

I urge my colleagues to meet with these Dreamers, come to know them, and in their States, they are going to find that they are making invaluable contributions. These young people are ready and willing to help make America better. Dreamers like Dulce Martinez have earned the right to put down roots, raise families, further their education, and continue contributing to our society, without the threat of deportation hanging over their heads.

It is time for Congress to get to work on a bipartisan basis to defy the so-called experts and to pass the Dream Act and immigration reform. It is the right thing to do, and it is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

NOMINATION OF SPARKLE L. SOOKNANAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Sparkle Leah Sooknanan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.