

I was listening closely—as many Americans were—yesterday to the interview of President-elect Trump on “Meet the Press.” President-elect Trump stated in an interview yesterday that he now wants to “work something out” to protect Dreamers. My ears perked up. After 23 years, I am ready. Then, he went on to say that Democrats have made it a very, very difficult thing to do.

I just want to say to President-elect Trump—and I have said it to his face, and I will say it again: Anytime, anywhere, let’s sit down; let’s start talking about these hundreds of thousands of young people who are doing their best to lead a good life and to help America, who just want a chance for a future.

I am ready and willing to negotiate in good faith with my Republican colleagues in the Senate, too, and the President-elect to finally provide Dreamers with a pathway to citizenship, which they deserve.

But there is reason to be skeptical, if not cynical. Last term, President-elect Trump walked away from four different bipartisan compromises with Democrats to solve the DACA crisis. Democrats were willing to provide billions of dollars at one point for President Trump’s unpopular border wall in exchange for a bipartisan Dream Act. But we just couldn’t seem to reach a positive answer.

I am not giving up on this quest, because I am not going to give up on these DACA students.

Madam President, you know them, too. You have met them in your State. We all have. They are wonderful people, waiting patiently, hoping the day will come when they get a chance to prove their commitment to this country.

Just this year, President-elect Trump demanded congressional Republicans to reject a border deal that was bipartisan. And I thought it was a good bill. When the bill finally came to a vote, the vast majority of Republicans voted against it.

So President Trump has in his power the ability to bring around many Republicans on the issue of immigration. I hope DACA and the Dreamers become the exception to some of the rhetoric we have heard.

The President-elect has pledged to pursue mass deportation on day one. He has threatened to use the military for that purpose. He has announced the appointment of some hardliners in his Cabinet.

We can all agree that any undocumented immigrant found guilty of a serious crime should not be allowed to stay here. I am a Democrat, and I just said that. And I think I speak for my caucus. Virtually all of them agree with what I just said. If you are a danger to this country, we don’t want you here, and we don’t want you to find entry into our country to lay some claim to citizenship. That is very basic.

But the last time the President-elect was in office, it wasn’t just criminals

who were deported. We saw parents separated from their children, causing permanent trauma. Amazingly, sadly, some of those kids have never been reunited with their families.

We saw meatpacking plants and other workplaces raided. This was a raid not targeted to criminals or even those without citizenship status. At some of these raids, we saw U.S. citizens detained for hours.

We saw Dreamers like Foday deported, immigrants who were pillars of their community.

So once again I come to the floor and say: Would America really be better off with an outstanding public servant like Foday gone from this country? I think not.

Would our county be better if we lost farmworkers who have contributed to America for decades or if the military was used to round up hard-working immigrants with no serious criminal backgrounds? The answer is, over and over again, a resounding no.

Most Americans agree. Nearly 65 percent of Americans, regardless of party, support a pathway to citizenship for longtime undocumented immigrants. And a majority oppose the use of military to conduct mass deportations.

At tomorrow’s hearing, we will examine the need to protect taxpaying, hard-working Americans like Foday, and we will discuss the cruelty and chaos that will inevitably result in mass deportation without some thought.

Immigrants like Foday deserve stability and certainty, not fear. I stand ready to work on a bipartisan basis to protect families like Foday’s and provide them with the security that they deserve.

I am not sure if you were in the Senate when we considered comprehensive immigration reform. It was a bipartisan effort. We brought it to the floor, and the bill passed with 68 votes. And what it basically said, if you are undocumented in America, we want to hold you accountable. You have got to come forward and identify yourself, where you live, where you work to our government so that there is a record of who you are and where you are.

As I said earlier, if you have a serious crime that you committed or committed once you are here, you are ineligible, as far as I am concerned. If you are a danger to this country, we don’t want you; and you should know better than to try to become a citizen of America.

But the vast overwhelming majority of people we are talking about don’t have criminal records. They go about their lives every day, and we don’t know the difference. They are the same people who are in the nursing home taking care of your mom. They are at the daycare center taking care of baby boys and baby girls every single day. We see them at banks. We see them at grocery stores. They are everywhere. They sit next to us in church, and they are undocumented.

Should they be deported from the United States simply because of this? I think not. I think the reality is that they can make a great contribution to this country. I think the starting point for our conversation on this subject should be that comprehensive immigration bill that we passed on the floor.

I stand ready to work with President Trump and any Member of either party who in good faith wants to solve this problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Montana.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I am going to start by saying that, being 68 years of age, I oftentimes do things that may not be the smartest, and one of the things I did yesterday was play basketball due to the influence of my bald-headed chief of staff Dylan Laslovich and my legislative director Justin Folsom, who I have no comments for, quite frankly.

(Laughter.)

So if I shed a tear while I am up here today, it won’t be because I am emotional; it will be because my back is killing me right now.

(Laughter.)

Look, I have seen a number of these exit speeches. To be honest with you, they remind me of a bit of an obituary. And the truth is, this is the end of this moment in time, this last 18 years that I have spent in the U.S. Senate, but the truth is, there have been other periods of time very similar to that throughout my life.

When I went to school and high school and college, for example, it was about an 18-year period. When that time period was over with, we moved on. My wife Sharla and I cut meat for almost exactly 18 years on the farm—a custom butcher shop. When we shut that down when I got in the State legislature, that period of time in our lives was over. And now my time in the Senate is over.

By the way, every one of those time periods was wrapped around by my family and I—Sharla and I in particular—doing production agriculture on the family farm.

Now I will tell you that I expected to serve 12 years in this body when I got here. I jumped in feet first, but I realized in short order that this is a seniority-driven body and that the longer you are here, the more ability you have to get done for your State and your country, and I very much appreciate the time that Montanans have allowed me to serve as their representative in the U.S. Senate.

In the end, I was able to chair two major committees that have an incredibly large—in fact, the biggest—impact on our U.S. budget: the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. These are the two largest Agencies from a funding standpoint in the U.S. Senate. In those committees in the U.S. Senate, as a whole, I have

been able to do some good things, some long-lasting things for Montana and the United States of America, and I want to visit for a moment about why I was deemed one of the most effective Senators by a nonpartisan group from a policy perspective.

I am the product of my grandparents Fred and Christine Pearson, both who were homesteaders in North Central Montana. My grandfather Fred Pearson passed away when I was 6 years old, so my memories of him are dim, but I do remember him smoking cigars, White Owls and Roi Tans—a family tradition—and I remember him being pretty deaf. In fact, as a young kid—probably 5 years old—I remember riding in his 1953 Chevy pickup with a 235-6 in it and the motor just screaming before he shifted gears because he was deaf, and hearing aids obviously didn't work so good in those years. He also was missing an index finger on his hand. But what I found out since his passing is that he loved to work and was literally outworked by no one. Whether it was pitching bundles into a threshing machine or picking rock, this is a man who knew how to work, and he knew how to work hard.

Then there was my grandmother Christine Pearson, who emigrated from Sweden to this country when she was 16 years of age and never went back to Sweden. She passed when I was 16 years old. My memories are clear of her. She believed in a strong public education. In fact, all three of her daughters were teachers. She talked politics with my mother regularly and always had a copy of *The Nation* on her end table.

My parents Dave and Helen Tester were socially liberal and fiscally conservative. They were FDR Democrats. They were children of the 1930s Depression. They were both alive when I started my State legislative endeavor, and my mother was alive when I started my endeavors in the U.S. Senate.

David O. Tester, my father, was born in Utah—the son of a miner and a shepherd. He was raised in the Wasatch Mountains by Salt Lake City. He met my mother after the CCCs brought him to Montana. He was a horseman. He knew horses from the inside out. He knew how they thought, and he knew how to train them. He loved the outdoors, and he said the finest cathedral he ever saw was God's cathedral in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He had a fiery but forgiving personality. In that vein, he was somewhat like John McCain. In one minute, he would be mad as hell at you, and shortly thereafter, he had forgotten all about it, and he was your friend. He enjoyed life and always said: "Life ain't worth living if you can't have fun." He was a hard-working free spirit.

Helen M. Tester, my mother, was the daughter of homesteaders. She was raised on the farm that Sharla and I operate today. She loved the land, and she loved farming. She, like her dad, would taste the soil and tell you if it was ready to plant. She also loved poli-

tics. She absolutely loved John Kennedy and the Kennedy family. In fact, she was here for my first swearing-in and said it was the greatest day of her life. Of course, she was proud of my swearing-in, but she also got to meet Ted and Ethel Kennedy. She was proud of her three boys and took a back seat to no one when it came to being smart and savvy. She also believed strongly in public education.

So what did these ancestors instill in me? They instilled Montana values, like telling the truth, like your word is your bond, like your handshake means something and that you respect people and absolutely never, never sass your elders. But, most importantly, they taught me that hard work creates luck and hard work is essential for success. Finally, from a government/ag perspective, they told me: Don't depend on farm subsidies to cash flow the farm, and don't borrow money. If you don't have the money, don't buy it.

My two older brothers—and I emphasize "older"—are Dave and Bob. Dave is a retired veterinarian. Bob is a retired chief master sergeant. They have taught me by example to always work to make your community a better place. They both, by the way, are political animals even though, most of the time, they don't care to admit it.

My wife Sharla—47 years my soulmate—has put up with me and kept me grounded, whether it was teaching or processing meat or farming. We took the farm over when I was 21 years of age and Sharla was 19. For the first basically 20 years of our marriage, we spent 180 days a year processing beef and pork. That meant that every other day of the year, our workplace put us across from one another with knives—very sharp knives—in our hands. That taught us to choose our arguments carefully.

(Laughter.)

She has always been my right-hand man or my right-hand person. Sharla has always been there, whether it was working together to seed or to hay or to harvest or even to butcher beef in miserably cold weather, and in the end, she always supported my many public service endeavors, even when she really didn't think it was a good idea.

Our kids, Christine, Shon, and then, later, Melody—I am very proud of what they have done and the causes they have advocated for, Christine in healthcare and Shon in fixing up classic cars and Melody in education. All three of them work every day to make their community a better place. They are not coffee drinkers and bitches; they are doers.

Then there are my public service influences. I guess I first got started when I was elected student body president in high school. Then, after college, I spent the next 20 years doing community service before I got elected to the State legislature. Those boards included the Soil Conservation Board in Big Sandy; the Big Sandy School Board, which was the hardest public

service job I ever had; the Chouteau County Farm Service Agency; the Executive Board of the International Organic Certification Association; and then the Montana State Legislature, which was the funnest job I ever had. If not for term limits, I would probably still endeavor to be a State legislator.

I had my share of successes and failures, but all of these commitments taught me, most importantly, that you have two ears and you have one mouth—act accordingly. You never are right all the time, and you are never wrong all the time, so listen to what people are saying. These public influences taught me how to get stuff done—in other words, how to go to work and be a workhorse, not a showhorse.

Then there were influences outside of politics—of course, our family farm. It didn't take long for me to understand that democracies don't work when you have hungry people. Over the 47 years that Sharla and I have been on the farm, we have witnessed the challenges of consolidation in land and markets and inputs and an increased dependence by farmers on government subsidies.

Public education—the great foundation of our democracy, the great equalizer, the ability for us to have the American dream—taught me a lot both as a student and as a teacher. But it was what the teachers taught me. I learned so much from them. The ones I liked I learned a lot from, and in retrospect, the ones I didn't like I probably learned more from.

If you want to know what is wrong with public education today, you have to look no further than what we are paying our teachers.

Infrastructure—something that we use every day—is the foundation of our economy. For those folks who brought themselves up by their bootstraps, their boots would have no straps without good infrastructure.

Valuing our natural resources, especially water. Water needs to be respected, not abused. The well on Sharla's and my farm is 450-feet deep, and it is saltwater; it is not drinkable. Good water is scarce, so we ought to work to protect it because water is life.

The importance of a strong, accountable military and the folks who serve to deter our enemies. I was a first grader during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember the teacher talking about the bomb shelters and where they were and instructing us to get under our desks if we were attacked. As a 6-year-old kid, that kind of stuff stays with you.

Then there was the influence from the folks, the giants I have served with—of course, Robert C. Byrd, who always called me the Mountain Man. Now, Robert C. Byrd was not at the top of his game when I came here, but he was still pretty damned good—I will tell you that—and did some amazing things during the years I served with him.

There was Teddy Kennedy—the perpetual worker, the guy who went to

Montana to campaign for John Kennedy. During the Bucking Horse Sale in Miles City, he walked up to the crowd's nest and said: Can you announce that I am here and that John Kennedy is running for President?

The announcer said: The only way we get the name "Kennedy" announced here is if you get on the back of one of those horses.

And he did it.

(Laughter.)

Danny Inouye—a true American hero. I can't say enough about this dude. He was the best. And I got to play "Taps" at his funeral at the Punchbowl—something I will never forget as long as I am alive.

Johnny Isakson—the Senator from Georgia and the Vets chair: a more quality man you will never ever meet. This guy had my back even when times were tough. He didn't go run to the press and trash me; he had my back, and he explained what was going on. I will be eternally grateful to Johnny Isakson.

Richard Shelby—the character, the Approps chair who understood how to get things done in the U.S. Senate, an amazing guy. When he talked with that southern drawl, it was good that you paid attention because he had information to relay that would be helpful.

Then, finally, Jay Rockefeller—the man who stood at this desk right here, who, the first time I saw him when I got to Washington, DC, walked up to me—a big man—and put his arm around me—I felt like a midget—and he said: You know, JON, we started out in different spots, but we ended up in the same place.

No truer statement could ever be said, which leads me to some of my accomplishments.

Veterans' mileage reimbursement was the first bill of significance that I got passed, and I got it passed because Robert C. Byrd helped me get it passed, and every disabled veteran in this country got a benefit from that mileage reimbursement that was long overdue to be increased.

Then we did other bills in the veterans space. The John Scott Hannon mental health care bill is absolutely critically important for our veterans, as is the Deborah Sampson women's healthcare bill. The largest growing group of people in our VA is women. Getting that done was important.

Then the last major VA bill—and we had many in between—was the PACT Act. Veterans, veterans, veterans—they all got together, and they made this the highest priority. Some of you can remember the veterans being on the swamp in July—hotter than hot—and we got it passed because of their influence. Democracy worked. It has resulted in 1 million Americans and 35,000 Montanans being screened.

In the area of conservation, you know, I believe in gold-mining, but mining gold on the doorstep of the Yellowstone National Park isn't the place to do it. There was a proposal to do

that, and we got it stopped. We also got the Rocky Mountain Front and North Fork Watershed protected for generations, and we got the Land and Water Conservation Fund fully funded—our best conservation tool in this country.

Then, banking, for community banks and credit unions, access to capital for rural America is critically important, and they are the ones that do it. We got the regulations to fit the risk.

In infrastructure, it has been talked about a number of times by a number of people who are no longer going to be in this body next year. But I got to serve with 10 Senators—some I knew pretty well; others I didn't know that well. I can tell you, after those negotiations for that infrastructure bill, which resulted in the largest investment in infrastructure since the year I was born, in the middle of the Eisenhower administration, you wouldn't have known which one of us was a Democrat and which one of us was a Republican.

I remember arguing with WARNER and SHAHEEN and agreeing with CASSIDY and ROMNEY. I mean, I am telling you, when we got done, we had turned everything inside out and upside down and ended up with roads and bridges and water and broadband, electric transmission, rails—the list goes on. It was an incredible experience, opportunity, and something that I will cherish after I leave this body.

There was a CHIPS and Science Act. You know, we have been outsourcing jobs forever, but we finally passed a bill to start bringing those jobs back home. That is what the CHIPS and Science Act did. It also resulted in a tech hub for Montana, which will allow our private sector and our university system in Montana to be an important leader when it comes to tech.

For our Native Americans—and we cannot forget about our Native Americans. We have trust responsibilities to them that are exclusive to them. So when it came to water settlements and healthcare and law enforcement, sovereignty, and self-determination, I made it a high priority. Also, we ended up getting the Little Shell Tribe recognized, something that they had worked on for literally generation after generation.

I can't talk enough about the important work. I took credit for all of this. But the Senators sitting on this floor know that the staffs are the ones who really do the work. My DC staff was outstanding, and it is outstanding. I appreciate them a lot.

I also appreciate the work of my State staff who do constituency work. I think they are some of the best in the country, and I appreciate them.

I also want to thank the committee staff—all of the committee staff but especially the Vets Committee staff and the staff on the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations. These guys are the energy that keeps the wheels of democracy moving.

I ask unanimous consent to have their names printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Dylan Laslovich, Justin Folsom, Tony McClain, Sarah Feldman, Pam Haxby-Cote, Susan Cierlitsky, Corine Weiler, Alyssa LaTray, Anneliese Slamowitz, Brittany Adams, Christopher Bowman, Claire Rogers, Eli Cousin, Elizabeth Hague, Kasha Bradford-Adams, Laura Peterson, Lindsey Huber, Maddie Alpert, Michael Eck, Nate Zobrak, Olivia Oo, Rachel Jakovac, Ryan McManamen, Veronica Chase, Abby Roubal, Carlos Fuentes, Dahlia Melendrez, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Faye Fernandes, Jackson Haney, Janko Mitric, Katie Adams, Liz Timmons, Tess Wrzesinski, Weston Haycock, Bill Van Saun, Rob Leonard, Brigid Kolish, Abby Grace, Gabriella Armonda, Katy Hagan, Kimberly Segura, Laura Forrest, Mike Clementi, and Ryan Pettit.

Mr. TESTER. So you may ask what do I see as my greatest accomplishment. As a U.S. Senator, I see my greatest accomplishment as a citizen legislator, having a real full-time job outside this body, in my case, as a farmer. This is what our forefathers had in mind: trips home every weekend, not only preparing the seedbed and seeding sometimes until 3 in the morning or haying, plowing down peas, getting the equipment ready but also traveling the State, having meetings with my constituents, doing my job as a Senator. I loved every minute of it, most days.

I was asked to go on codels and almost always declined because I went on a codel every weekend back to Montana.

Moving forward, I would ask this body to please focus on public education. It is a great equalizer. It is the foundation for our democracy and our economy.

Continue to work for healthcare that everybody can afford when they need it.

In family farm agriculture, work to put more competition in the marketplace. This is ultimately what will result in less reliance on farm subsidies.

Work for a fair tax code. Work for equity. Stop these damn carve-outs of our Tax Code.

Continue to address the funding challenges in defense, climate, hunger, education, and housing.

Capitalism works if there is competition, so address the consolidation the best you can in agriculture, energy, and finance.

Work to grow the middle class. The problems with income disparity are absolutely real.

Address the defense budget in ways that keep us safe while holding our military and our contractors accountable. China, Russia, Iran, North Korea—those threats are real. They are doing some god-awful stuff, and we need to make sure that we have a military that will deter. Hopefully, we will never have to use it, but if we do, we win. Put some sideboards on AI, maintaining creativity and protecting privacy and freedom while stopping AI's potential to ruin humanity.

And last but certainly not least—and please listen to me. I have just been

through this meat grinder. We need to do some campaign finance reform. Because of our campaign finance system in this country today, we have more division than ever. We are more paralyzed as a body to do policy than we ever have been before. Campaign finance reform would be good for democracy. And let me tell you something, it has to be solved with bipartisan solutions. It needs to happen.

One of the frustrating things that happened was our conservative Supreme Court made the finance rules. Whether it is Citizens United or McCutcheon or whatever it is, I despise these rules. I think they are horrible. I think it allows candidates to stay underground and not go out and talk to people. But I will follow the rules, and I will go by the rules. Then I get criticized by the same people who voted to put those folks on the Supreme Court. Crazy.

Now, for the staffs that we take for granted, I want to thank the folks who are on the rostrum, whether it is the Parliamentarian, the bill clerks, the reading clerk—did I forget anybody? The truth is, the work you guys do is absolutely amazing and sometimes way, way, way too late at night.

The Sergeant at Arms and the employees under you, thank you very much for keeping us safe in this building.

For the policemen out on the street, man, I have never been around a police department that does a job as well as them.

To the cloakrooms, thank you for keeping us on task.

Some things we don't think about, like the wood shop, the metal shop, and the painters. These folks are artisans. They do amazing work. You don't think about it, but these chairs, they are hand-built. Most of the furniture we have in our office is hand-built by some of the best people—woodworkers, metalworkers, the painters—you can imagine.

To the janitors, thank you very much for keeping this place clean. You guys are all the lubricant that keeps this place operating.

Look, I spent 2 days a week for 18 years on airplanes. I was served by United and Delta, so I want to thank them, too.

And the press—my God, the press. Look, your job is to hold us accountable. Do it. If any of these folks don't like it—and occasionally, they won't—just remember that democracy and accountability go hand in hand. You need to be able to do your job, and thank you for doing the job you are doing.

As I close, I would say this: This democracy has resulted in the greatest country that has ever existed. It is because of our forefathers' ability to compromise and think clearly about the challenges ahead and set the rules that would address these challenges. The U.S.A. exists as the greatest country ever to exist because of previous generations of Senators and public offi-

cial exhibitors the ability to make sound decisions based on facts and reality, not decisions promoting political power but realistic decisions promoting a strong future for our country and for future generations.

To say that I am worried about this country's ability to maintain the strongest economy and the most powerful military in the world would be an understatement. However, I know that a majority of people who serve in this U.S. Senate today are real legislators who want to do real legislating.

To those Senators, you need to make sure your voices are a majority of this body. If not, this country will change in a way that our children will not thank us for.

God bless you all and tally-ho.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### TRIBUTE TO JON TESTER

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I appreciate being recognized right now. But I would be remiss if I let JON TESTER leave the floor without telling some of the truth about this guy.

All the niceties here are making me a little nauseous. I want to set the record straight and say for the record, for the rest of the history of this country going forward, that I want it to be known that I do not like JON TESTER. So I want a rebuttal. I need to clear the record. He has had his piece, and I want my piece.

I came to the Senate as this kind of naive guy. I did not think the Senate would be like what I experienced. I got here in earnest. My idea for who a Senator was, was very set in stone. I watched great movies about the U.S. Senators. I saw "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." And then I met JON TESTER, who is more like a combination of John Belushi and John Wick go to Washington.

I didn't know Senators cursed until I got here and met JON TESTER. I think, if I remember the exact first quote that JON TESTER said to me, it was: BOOKER, I didn't think you were much. I thought you were a big hole—and there was a word in between that—but now I realize you are not a big hole; you are really not that big. This was the beginning of a relationship.

(Laughter.)

I have to say, I was the guy who played college football. I have some scars still from running into the likes of Junior Seau. But I literally wear physical scars because of my hitting JON TESTER.

My mom said: I think you finally got an answer to the question of what happens when the unstoppable force meets the immovable object.

Literally, he invited me to play basketball with him once. I have played some rough-and-tumble hoops before. There is a court here on the Senate grounds. What he did to me on that basketball court is illegal in six States. I have video evidence that I was planning—you know, he has cited the

speech and debate clause protects what Senators do when they are in their official capacity, but now that he is leaving the U.S. Senate, I will be filing charges against this man.

(Laughter.)

JON TESTER is mean. He is cantankerous. He is ornery. He is rough. He is truly a son of a gun.

Now, despite the fact that, again, I do not like JON TESTER, I have learned a heck of a lot from him. I was the mayor of a city, an urban place, and I hadn't gotten to know farmers in my State yet, but I came here and I met a farmer. And despite our issues and the tension between the two of us, he was willing to sit down with me and—perhaps more than any other Senator in my experience here—take the time to help me learn the urgencies about America's farm system.

You see, what I learned about JON TESTER is he doesn't give a damn who you are. Will you work with him to advance the causes of his State? I realized that, despite the fact that I do not like JON TESTER, he loves the people of Montana. Look, I hear him complain about this place, complain about how it works. But I watched him and learned from him about how you fight here to get things done; that it is not about people or personalities; it is about fighting for causes and the communities that you care about.

So JON TESTER taught me a heck of a lot. In fact, some of the things I feel most passionate about about the American food system were things that he taught me. And what he showed me was that, in this Nation, whether you live in rural Montana or urban New Jersey, we share common cause. JON TESTER showed me that we still have a common American fight and that this place still needs people who don't care about partisanship, who don't care about camaraderie, who don't care about the formalities, but just care about fighting for people.

And so I am grateful for that, but I still don't like JON TESTER.

(Laughter.)

I used to come by his office. And I just want to look at his staff right now and tell them: God bless you. I mean, the HR claims you could have probably filed against this guy are extraordinary, and it shows me your loyalty to him because sometimes I would walk in there, and there was, like, full combat staff games being played. I mean, I couldn't believe it. I mean, what was being tossed around that office sometimes was extraordinary.

But the fact that somehow he bred extraordinary loyalty from his staff members, dedication, work ethic, and people that delivered real results, in this place that is often hard to get things done, is a testimony to you and how much, in his office, he bred a sense of commitment to country. And so I thank you all for that.

And being now that there is no limit on what I can say and get off my chest, I want to thank his chief of staff Dylan