

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

because, unbeknownst to you, we would break into your house often, sir. When you were back in Montana, yes, I have been in your home and done things in that home that will be in my next book.

(Laughter.)

Dylan, I can't get you fired because you are leaving anyway now at this point.

I want to end by saying this: I have stories to tell about JON TESTER. I have charges to file about JON TESTER. I have a lot of language that has been expanded in my vocabulary because of JON TESTER. And I thought that I would come down tonight and write an original poem. I was very excited about the chance to rhyme "JON TESTER" with "Uncle Fester." I thought it would be great. I had this incredible poem that I wanted to read. But I, instead, want to end with this poem.

I watched JON TESTER do something that was extraordinary. He chose to run again—a guy that I knew how he felt about Washington but decided to do something recklessly audacious. Most Senators, when they see the odds are against them and their chances of winning are slim, they decide to retire. JON didn't go quietly into the night. He ran an election.

And so many people on both sides of the aisle actually believed that if anybody can win in a State that Donald Trump won by 20 points, where there are probably as many vegans in Montana as there are Democrats, he chose, because of the love of his State, to run again, run an election. And by golly, the people I saw pouring their heart into this fight—it was extraordinary.

It was an election to me—and in talking to Dylan on so many days—that was one of the more exciting ones because I really felt like he was from a movie like "Braveheart" or the men in "300" in Thermopolis. He was running one of the most extraordinary fights in this place. And because the world believed that—oh, my God—JON TESTER could pull off the greatest upset in American politics, he drew fire into that State. You talk about campaign finance reform. Literally, tens if not well over \$100 million that would have probably gone to Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona, everybody was pouring into this fight. He drew so much fire and went down in an election, to me, that was a testimony to his character.

So instead of reading an original poem, I just thought I would read a poem by a man that I have known all my life. And now I have to say this poem most describes the man I don't like, JON TESTER. It is by a guy named Rudyard Kipling. It is entitled "If."

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you; if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too; if you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise; if you can dream—and not make dreams your master; if you can think—and not make

thoughts your aim; if you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same; if you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools; if you can make one heap of all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, and lose, and start again at your beginnings and never breathe a word about your loss; if you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"; if you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch; if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you; if all men count with you, but none too much; if you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours—

JON TESTER, yours—

is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Mr. President, I have served with a lot of people in a lot of levels of government. JON TESTER is a man and one of the greatest ones I have known.

I do not like JON TESTER, but, God, I love the man. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, no one wants to follow that, but I just thought that I should say a few words, as a classmate coming in together—many of us sitting in this back row for so long—back, the class of 2006, 17 years.

And I am going to miss JON TESTER. I am going to miss the bubble gum in his desk that I always steal. I am going to miss when his name shows up when he is calling, how it makes me smile because I know he is going to say something funny, no matter what is going on. And we are all going to miss him.

So I remember JON and I sitting kind of here—but I think we were over there—in one of our first speeches in the U.S. Senate, and Trent Lott—remember this?—was talking about ethics reform. JON and I had run on ethics reform. And Trent Lott was saying: If this stuff passes, we are going to be left with nothing but our bathrobes in the Russell courtyard. That was exactly what he said. And JON and I were sitting in the back. And at the time, they had us in trailers in the Russell courtyard. And I remember we looked at each other and said: Well, so what. It couldn't get any worse than where we are now. Like, that is what we are doing now.

And that was the old days when to even get any of these ethics rules passed, it was really hard.

And what Senator BOOKER was saying about you being brave and ahead of your time—from the moment you got here, you were ahead of your time about what this job meant.

Then I remember Sharla. I am looking for her up there. Right up there; there she is. The very first official, big

event I ever did with JON, I was following him up on the podium. And I remember he got up there, and he said: You know what, I have been traveling all over the country, and I am going to win this race.

This was 2006.

I am going to win this race, I know I am; but right now, I haven't seen my wife Sharla for 3 weeks, and I have a beer sitting at the table, and I am going to just go back and sit with my wife and have that beer. Thank you.

And he got a standing ovation for that speech. And it was just an example of JON: to the point, all the time.

My favorite note that I am going to save forever in my desk, it was during the impeachment hearing. Many of you remember SHERROD would always be kind of talking out of turn. But we would have a lot of mentions—I see our friends down there remembering this—of the Founding Fathers at the time. So I have a note that I wrote to BOB CASEY that said: As it approaches midnight and we keep hearing about the Founding Fathers, I start to think that you look like a Founding Father, BOB. Your hair looks like a Founding Father. But TESTER, not so much.

We are going to miss your barber, wherever he is. And he is back in Montana, I am sure.

But I remember some of JON's first ads where he had his barber in those ads. And it just was him, and it is him now. And he looks exactly the same with his haircut as he did when he first started running.

There has been a lot of talk about his incredible leadership, many things he has done, worked with us on competition issues, trying to make sure that we still have small farms in this country. And it means something. But for me, the most meaningful thing, JON, was that PACT Act and how, when our veterans signed up to serve, there shouldn't be a waiting line, and when they come home to this country and they have a healthcare problem and they want to get in to get healthcare at the VA or they want to get coverage, there should never be a waiting line in the United States of America.

JON did that—JON's leadership—working across the aisle, like he has done on so many other things.

We are going to miss his Montana rural work ethic, his sense of humor, his 40-pound suitcases of meat that he butchered himself, and, yes, even his musical talents. Because in addition to us losing a tireless champion for Montana, we are also going to lose the Senate's only trumpet player and, certainly, the Senate's only seven-fingered trumpet player.

So, Mr. President, I join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to celebrate JON TESTER and to know he is not going to be far away—the flattop dirt farmer who went from Havre, MT, to the U.S. Senate and never forgot where he came from.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I will be brief, but I just want to add a word.

A lot of us in this body sometimes complain about this job, whether it is the schedule or whether it is the lack of resources, the amount of time. And what has always struck me about JON TESTER—I mean, a lot of us in this business, we wonder about authenticity. So there isn't any Senator, either side of the aisle, who is more authentic and more true to who he has been and will be and will always be than JON TESTER.

The fact that we have also—to echo what CORY said, I have not invaded Dylan's house, but I have invaded JON and Sharla's house a number of times. And whenever I would think about the challenges of this job, bitch and moan, I always came back—and I talked to other Senators on this; I have talked to many folks around the country. When I think about somebody who defines public service in the 21st century, there is one person that comes to mind—somebody who was a teacher, a musician, a farmer; somebody who had to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to drive a couple hours to get on not one plane but two, to shlep back here for sometimes a week of nothing votes and then climb back on that flight to go back and still maintain that farm—I can't say that, as a guy who lives 20 minutes away. I can't say that in terms of somebody who doesn't have the kind of personal financial resources but never raised a word of complaint through his years of service.

So echoing what others said and will continue to say, any time I doubt my commitment or any of our commitments, I ask you all: Think who defines public service. I think that person is JON TESTER.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I know something about failed Presidential campaigns. I made an assessment that President Biden was not going to go the distance. So I approached three Democrats and suggested they ought to run for President. I just heard from them. One was CORY BOOKER. One was MARK WARNER. One was JON TESTER.

Now, why did I approach those three men—not just once, but multiple times—and say, “You ought to run for President”? Not because I agree with them. I disagree with them on almost every issue. It is because I happen to find these three men—and JON TESTER is the one I am looking at right now—to be men of character, integrity, of honesty, of purpose, who hold fast to the values that made America the hope of the Earth.

I know that, over the years, policy comes and goes, and, sometimes, I have read history and I find my party is on one side of a policy position and changes, and now we are on the other

side. I recognize the country can handle bad policy. We have. Heaven knows there have been times when your party has been in charge, and we suffered through it. You would say the same is true of mine, and that is probably the case.

But what we have not suffered is a lack of character. Going from the very beginning of our country until now, we have had men of great character. And, someday, we will have women of character, as well, in that great Office.

I wanted JON TESTER to be the next President of the United States because he is a man of extraordinary character. He is as honest as his hair is short and as strong as his physique is imposing.

I learned something about that character when we worked together. He mentioned the infrastructure bill that I had the privilege of joining him on to help negotiate. There was a time, toward the very, very end, when I made a beginner's mistake. I am just a freshman Senator, after all. I was about to do something which would be as harmful for my political career and my welcome back home and might even be helpful to the opposition forces. And everybody was telling me: Don't worry about this. We can paper it over later. Don't worry. Don't worry.

JON TESTER stood up and said: No, this is going to hurt MITT. It is not fair. We have to fix this.

I didn't know that. But he stood up for me and convinced the other Members of our group to do something that was not in their interest, not in his interest, but in my interest, because he is a man of character and a friend.

I am not going to be here. JON is not going to be here. We may see each other sometime in the hills of Montana. He is a man who—one couldn't have a better friend than JON TESTER. The people of Montana could not have had a better friend—a man who loves the land, who loves the people, who loves the values of the people of Montana.

I am proud to have been able to serve with JON TESTER and wish him god-speed. God bless America and God bless JON TESTER and his dear family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am trying to decide whether I am heartbroken because Senator ROMNEY didn't approach me and ask me to run for President or I am heartbroken because I know almost as much about failed Presidential campaigns as Senator ROMNEY does, or something of that nature.

I appreciate so much the sentiments today that I wanted to get up. I have heard the word “virtue” used twice in the last week on this floor, once in the Rudyard Kipling poem that Senator BOOKER read and once in Senator ROMNEY's incredible farewell speech. Coming out of both places, it made me feel like, on some level, how foreign that sort of trait is in our politics these

days, but how well it fits the people that we are talking about, whether it is Senator ROMNEY or Senator TESTER.

I want to say a couple of words about Senator TESTER before he kicks us out of here, which I know he will.

First of all, I came here a little bit to demand an apology. JON knows about this but not everybody does. When I first came back here and I had been appointed to the job, I was coming over from the Hart Building to the Senate to get sworn in. My daughters were 9, 7, and 4. Susan was with us, and the three girls were with us.

Anne was the youngest, who was 4. She was sucking her thumb all the way from the Hart Office Building to the Capitol, and I was panicked because she was about to meet the Vice President. I was about to get sworn in. In fairness, I was probably more worried about my getting sworn in than her meeting the Vice President, but she was sucking her thumb. I said: Anne, stop sucking your thumb. You are in this beautiful dress. Anne, stop sucking your thumb. You are driving me crazy. Anne, please stop sucking your thumb. I will do anything.

I didn't know that JON TESTER was on the car—on the subway car with us—but we were. He watched all of this happen. But we really had not met before.

We got off the subway car, and JON TESTER, who is the size that he is, and Anne Bennet, who is this size at the time and who was looking up at JON TESTER—JON TESTER said: You know what happens if you keep sucking your thumb?

She said: No.

He whipped out his hand, and he showed it to her.

She is 20 years old, and she has not recovered from that moment ever. She cries herself to sleep every night because of what JON TESTER did on that very first day that we were together.

I will never forget it because it made me realize what an extraordinarily genuine person he is. Who else would take the risk, not ever having met somebody around this place, and do that to their 4-year-old daughter? JON TESTER would, and that is why he is a legend in our house—one of the many reasons.

One of the things I am going to miss most about JON is, for years and years and years, we traveled back and forth from the West to be on this floor, to get together with a number of Senators from the Western United States who have had to stop in Denver on their way to wherever they go. I have been very fortunate because I get to Denver, and I am a half hour from my home. JON, if he makes his flight—if he makes his connection—is hours away from landing in Montana, and then he is another hour and a half away from home, at least, depending on where he is going.

And then, as he said today, as all of us know, there are many nights when he has been working on the combine

and doing other things around his shop that have kept him up to 3 in the morning with Sharla, working on things, as he does his real job on the farm.

When the people in this Chamber barely can hold onto the one job they have here, JON and Sharla would be working two jobs, maybe three jobs, in the time he has been in the U.S. Senate—and, more important, never a word of complaint.

JON doesn't fit all that well into the plane seats going back and forth to Montana, and I never heard him complain about being on that flight ever. I never heard him complain about being on a second flight ever or the fact that he worked until 3 in the morning.

In fact, he knew it was a privilege that he had the chance to be able to do both. He had the chance to be able to serve here and the chance to be able to contribute to his community and to his family by working on his farm.

All of us should have that level of connection to the people that we represent, to the place that we represent. That is why, in my view, JON's loss is not just a loss for Democrats. It is not a loss, particularly, for Democrats, and it is not his loss. In many ways, it is a loss for the U.S. Senate because we are the ones that are poorer for JON not being here.

JON's life, I think, will be enriched by not being here. Our lives will be poorer because he is not here.

And that is because I think, when you think about what the Founders had in mind when they set up this form of representative government, they knew a lot about the worst parts of human nature. They did. They worried about it. They wrote about it. They talked about what humans could do to one another, and they worried about what despots could do in a republican form of government. They worried about what self-interested legislators could do. They worried about what parties could do.

But one of the things they counted on—what they said we would be sunk if we didn't have—was public virtue. It was virtue that elected leaders would have and that the American people would have to be the glue that held together this set of rules that they were writing; that held together the aspirations they were making; that held together the assumptions they had about what it might be like to live in a place where there was no King or tyrant to tell you what to think, where you lived in a place where you actually had the freedom to think for yourself and the freedom to disagree with other people. And out of those disagreements, we wouldn't create shabby compromises, but we would create more imaginative solutions than any King or tyrant could come up with on their own. That was the whole idea.

But the whole thing relied on something you couldn't legislate across the ages, which was public virtue—the virtue of somebody who could bring his

life experience to this place and inform his colleagues about that; the perspectives of his State, the perspectives of rural Montana, the perspectives of the West.

And he never proceeded on an idea that he had a monopoly on wisdom or that he couldn't learn something from somebody else. And that is what we are going to miss, because, I think, he has set the standard—a standard that the Founders of this country imagined we would be at our very best, not just as Senators but, much more important than that, as citizens of this country.

So I am going to miss him terribly for all of that because, I think, underneath his tough exterior, there was somebody who had a huge heart for the people of Montana; for the people of his hometown, Big Sandy; for the American West; but also for what this democracy can actually be. And that is an example we can never let go of.

Thank you, JON, for setting that example while you have been here.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I just arrived from the airport, and I hurried because I wanted to be here for my friend JON TESTER. I love this guy. I love how he does his job. No one takes his job more seriously and has more fun doing this job than JON TESTER. That laughter, that commitment, that idealism was infectious.

We worked on two committees together—one I chaired; one he chaired. He still chairs the Veterans Committee, and look what we did for this Nation's veterans. I got the honor of being JON TESTER's wingman on that. I chair the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, with people like TINA SMITH. Doug Jones was once on that committee, and JEFF MERKLEY was once on that committee.

When I say how seriously JON took this job, I think just how hard it was for him to get here every week. Two years ago, he decided to run for reelection. He knew the pressure, and he knew the challenge. It takes me an hour to get to Washington. It takes JON 7 or 8 or 9 hours to get to Washington. Every week he goes home; he farms. He goes home every weekend to look out for his constituents and to represent them.

As I said, no one takes this job more seriously and has more fun doing it. He will be missed by everybody. This body will miss him for that infectious spirit that really is what this country is all about. And it was just such an honor for 18 years—we were sworn in the same day. It was such an honor to serve with JON TESTER of Montana.

(Applause.)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, JON TESTER once said he didn't know how his Senate colleagues saw him, but he hoped it was, first and foremost, as a farmer. Beyond his ability to drive a tractor or lug a container of beef raised

on his Montana ranch to Washington, we have seen in JON the best qualities of that noble occupation: hard work, resilience, and common sense.

With his wife Sharla, JON still farms the land near Big Sandy, MT, that has been in his family for more than a century. He was brought up to believe that public education, strong families, and civic engagement form the foundation of our democracy, and he has demonstrated that conviction as a teacher, school board member, and leader of the Montana State Senate.

In the U.S. Senate, JON has been an advocate of rural America and its farmers and ranchers, small business owners, sportsmen and women, and Tribal Nations. He has championed responsible energy development, improving schools, and expanding high-quality healthcare to underserved communities.

It has been a pleasure to work with JON on many issues. Maine and Montana share the distinction of having two of the highest percentages of veterans in the Nation, and we have joined together to honor America's patriots by both strengthening the benefits veterans have earned through their service and ensuring that our Armed Forces today have the resources they need to defend our Nation.

As cochairs of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in this Congress, JON and I crafted two bipartisan bills to fund our national defense priorities. In addition to countless engagements with senior military officials, Chairman TESTER held more than 20 hearings and classified briefings—more than any other Subcommittee—performing oversight of the Department of Defense. Many of our meetings were classified, held without cameras or the press. JON's focus was always on what our troops needed to keep our country safe. From investments to modernize our Nation's nuclear triad to accelerating space-based capabilities, I can attest that our work together has made our Nation's military stronger in the face of increasing threats from China and Russia.

We also served as cochairs of the Congressional TRIO Caucus and introduced the Educational Opportunity and Success Act to reauthorize and strengthen Federal programs to support underserved students. Every spring, we lead the Public Schools Week resolution to recognize the importance of education and the contributions of our teachers.

JON was among the group of 10 Senators who negotiated the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. From transportation to broadband, the most significant investment in infrastructure since the interstate highway system in the 1950s is bringing lasting benefits to our Nation.

JON has contributed to our country and served his state. I commend my colleague Senator JON TESTER for his outstanding service and wish him bountiful crops for many years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I will be brief because I am set to relieve you in the chair, so my time is very limited.

There are two aspects to JON's life that I would like to comment on. I experienced both. One was as a legislator and a Senator, and the other was as a friend.

And he was a master legislator. The PACT Act would not have happened without JON TESTER. That is just a fact. And there are thousands, millions of veterans across the country here who are going to benefit from that act of legislative work that it took to get that across the finish line.

I remember being here, and there were some procedural votes. We fell back; JON stayed at it; we got it done. Many of the comments today have been about JON as a legislator, as a Senator, as a model Senator, but I also want to comment on JON as a friend.

JON is one of the best human beings I have ever met. Not necessarily one of the best—I am not saying legislator, public servant, school teacher. I am talking human being. I am talking about a person who is real. My wife is Jewish. She would call him a mensch; that is somebody who steps up. He has been a friend to me throughout.

We have had innumerable dinners together. I don't think he has ever paid for one, but we have spent so much time together. And I have learned so much from JON about commitment, about honesty, about integrity, about serving the public; and I just want to say we are losing a great human being here as well as a great legislator.

And I want to echo CORY BOOKER: I love you, man. We are going to miss you.

(Applause.)

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. TESTER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate communications regarding the resignations from the Senate of Senator BUTLER and Senator HELMY, which, without objection, are deemed read and spread upon the Journal and printed in full in the RECORD.

The letters follow:

U.S. SENATE,
December 6, 2024.

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS,
President of the U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS: Please find the attached document dated December 6,

2024, officially notifying California Governor Gavin Newsom of my intent to resign my Senate seat effective Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

LAPHONZA R. BUTLER,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
December 6, 2024.

Governor GAVIN NEWSOM,
Sacramento, CA.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM: I hereby resign as Senator from the State of California, effective Sunday, December 8, 2024. As I prepare to return to private life, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the people of California for granting me the immense privilege of serving them in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

LAPHONZA R. BUTLER,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2024.

Hon. KAMALA HARRIS,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM VICE PRESIDENT: Please find enclosed my letter of resignation I transmitted to the Governor of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

GEORGE S. HELMY,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2024.

Hon. PHIL MURPHY,
Governor of New Jersey, Office of the Governor
Trenton, NJ.

DEAR GOVERNOR MURPHY: I write to inform you that I will be resigning from my office as the United States Senator from New Jersey, effective on December 8, 2024.

For well over a decade, I have devoted my professional career to serving the people of New Jersey. I had the honor and privilege to work for Senators Frank Lautenberg and CORY BOOKER. And, you provided me with the most rewarding public service experience of my life, serving as your Chief of Staff.

I am proud of the accomplishments my team and I have achieved in our brief time in office. We pushed forward important legislative proposals, including a series of bills focused on alleviating the youth mental health crisis. Additionally, we advanced a number of priorities important to New Jerseyans, including key congressional funding that will benefit projects and programs in our state.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to once again serve our great state. It was the honor of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

GEORGE S. HELMY,
U.S. Senator.

CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Bob Menendez, former Senator from New Jersey; a certificate of election to fill the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Ben Sasse, former Senator from Nebraska; and a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the death of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein of the State of California. The certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived, and

they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificates were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF NEBRASKA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR UNEXPIRED TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 5th day of November 2024, Pete Ricketts was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Nebraska a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3rd day of January, 2027, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States caused by the resignation of Ben Sasse.

Witness: His excellency our governor Jim Pillen, and our seal hereto affixed at Lincoln, Nebraska this 2nd day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

By the governor:

JIM PILLEN,
Governor.
ROBERT B. EVNEN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of New Jersey, I, Philip D. Murphy, the Governor of New Jersey, do hereby appoint Andy Kim, a Senator from New Jersey to represent New Jersey in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Senator George S. Helmy, effective December 8, 2024.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Philip D. Murphy, and our seal hereto affixed at Trenton this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

By the Governor:

PHILIP D. MURPHY,
Governor.

Attest:

TAHESHA L. WAY,
Lt. Governor/Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of California, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, the Governor of California, do hereby appoint ADAM B. SCHIFF a Senator from California to represent California in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Laphonza R. Butler, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Gavin Newsom, and our seal hereto affixed in the City of San Diego, this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor.

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators-elect and Senators-designates