

denounced the violent assault on this Capitol. But I believe history will record that the truest, bravest words spoken that night were from Senator MITT ROMNEY of Utah. He said:

In light of today's sad circumstances, I ask my colleagues: Do we weigh our own political fortunes more heavily than we weigh the strength of our Republic, the strength of our democracy, and the cause of freedom?

Senator MITT ROMNEY is a man of deep faith and considerable accomplishments: a successful businessman, the rescuer of the 2002 Olympics, a Republican Governor in a deep blue State, and his party's nominee for President in 2012.

After he had been here a few months, I went up to him on the floor, and I said: The more I get to know you, MITT ROMNEY, the more I wonder why I said all those things about you in that Presidential campaign.

He laughed, and I did too.

He is a conservative, but he is a man of conscience and character. We would all do well to ponder his question and emulate his courage.

I will miss Senators BROWN, TESTER, CASEY, and ROMNEY, and our other departing colleagues, and I join a grateful nation in thanking them for all that they have given, sacrificed, and contributed to us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I actually rise to the floor to follow, I think, one of the Democratic leaders, my dear friend from Illinois, to probably make pretty similar comments about some of our retiring Members. And, you know, the work we do in this body sometimes is frustrating. Sometimes, it is inefficient. It is critically important.

But one of the things that makes it worthwhile is the relationships and friendships that we develop with colleagues all across the political spectrum, from both sides of the aisle. And I am sure I am going to echo some of the comments that have already been made by the senior Senator from Illinois. So let me talk about some of these comments. I want to highlight their accomplishments one by one.

TRIBUTE TO JON TESTER

So let's take a quick trip across the country and start in Big Sky Country, in Montana, where my friend JON TESTER oftentimes started his day as early as 2:45 a.m., just to make sure he would be able to get back to DC in time for votes.

Now, on many dark, freezing Montana mornings, he took an hours-long drive and then a plane and then another plane to get to the Senate to fight for Montanans and veterans across the country. Most times, it took 11 to 12 hours. And as the Presiding Officer knows, that was only the case when it wasn't snowing.

But week in and week out, he did it, and he fought hard for Montanans in the Senate. And then reversed that

same long commute at the end of the week to make it back to the farm with his wife Sharla.

And amongst all of it, I am not sure if there is anyone else in this body who still is operating as a citizen legislator and literally having another full-time job trying to farm his ranch in Montana.

I have been guilty, as I said the other day on the floor, of sometimes complaining about this job. I have to always take a deep breath and realize I am a guy who lives 20 minutes away and was lucky enough to come into the job with some financial resources—not totally dissimilar from the Presiding Officer.

When I think, though, about sacrifice, when I think of people who are here for all the right reasons—no matter how hard it is, no matter how long it takes—I think, first and foremost of my friend JON TESTER.

When I think of public servants—and I have had people ask me this, not dozens of times but hundreds of times: Whom do you most respect? How do you put up with this? All of the vagaries in this job—I always tell them the story about JON TESTER. He has done it. He is a man who has done it all to serve the people around him—a former band teacher; long before it was cool, an organic farmer; and an incredibly effective Senator. JON has lived a life of service and devotion to the country, all while having fewer fingers than many of us.

He helped us negotiate the infrastructure law. He single-handedly led the passage of the PACT Act, one of the most significant expansions of benefits to veterans ever. He did it all without complaint, without asking for much attention, and with enough time to travel home 12 hours at the end of the week, as I said, to be with family and continuing to produce food that feeds America.

JON is the consummate public servant. He is a phenomenal farmer and friend. And he will be deeply missed here in the Senate.

I can't think of anyone—as we think about the political activities these days, we often talk about, you know, who is authentic or not, the most outrageous criticism of JON TESTER never included any sense that he wasn't a real Montanan, that he wasn't authentic. And he never strayed from what brought him here in the first place.

TRIBUTE TO MITT ROMNEY

Mr. President, now, let's move slightly down from Montana to Utah, where the Senate is again losing an incredibly principled leader in MITT ROMNEY. In his 6 years in the Senate, when MITT ROMNEY gave his farewell speech, again, he acknowledged he is still just a freshman Senator.

MITT led with an unshakable, tireless adherence to his values. It is not too hard to stand up for what you know is right if you agree with the rest of your team. But if you are bucking your party—and I have done that more than

once—it requires tremendous bravery and sometimes enduring a deeply loneliness and isolation.

Even when it was hard, even when it was lonely, even when he endured harsh critique, MITT never backed down from his principles—and I say this with deep admiration, even for the times when I disagreed with him. And there were many.

We worked closely together on all of the bipartisan “gangs”—the effort to bring about the final COVID package under then-President Trump, the infrastructure bill, the CHIPS bill, the notion of the Electoral Count Act. Time and again, MITT was right there fighting for his values, but also realizing you have got to get to “yes” if you are actually going to make things happen.

The infrastructure bill, in particular, is an incredible achievement that is going to bring millions of homes in Utah to the broadband they deserve, the kind of road, rail, and other services that are essential. And during every step of these negotiations, as I said before, MITT never wavered from his strong conservative beliefs.

He can read a balance sheet. He is part of a very small minority—I will include the Presiding Officer, probably less than double digits in this Senate—who can read a balance sheet. I count myself as one of those. He knows when numbers don't add up. And he will fight to make it right.

Our Nation is stronger because of his smart, principled leadership. And, again, while I understand that he and Ann have got other things to do going forward, he will still be involved in our community. We are going to miss him here in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO KYRSTEN SINEMA

Mr. President, I am going to go a little bit further south, to MITT's southern neighbor, Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA. Senator SINEMA is also departing the Senate after a storied 6 years.

KYRSTEN also worked together on all of these bipartisan efforts, particularly the infrastructure bill, where she and her friend Rob Portman were the leaders of our group and on so many other notable compromises—yes, compromises—over time in Washington. KYRSTEN was a former social worker, an incredibly fast runner, and a tireless independent advocate for Arizonans. Senator SINEMA always made a splash and often, at the end of the day, won her battles.

But for all the ink spilled on KYRSTEN, what I think a lot of people failed to see is her incredible ability to talk and build relationships with everyone. There have been so many times—not just on the big bills, candidly not just at the behest of Democratic leadership, but candidly on the behest of some of our Republican friends, to say this Senator is being particularly challenging on this bill or on this issue. I think there was probably no one who got sent into those kind of negotiations or “Can you work to get this Senator or that Senator to release their hold?”

She has worked with folks all across the political spectrum. And when talks broke down, as they often do in these negotiations, she had an incredible ability to keep reaching out and engaging with everyone and anyone. I will deeply miss her ability to reach across the aisle and get things done for Arizonans.

TRIBUTE TO JOE MANCHIN III

Mr. President, now, while we are on the topic of reaching across the aisle, I would be remiss if I didn't speak on the incredible career of my great friend JOE MANCHIN and maybe the only person I can say that I had a direct role in personally bringing to the Senate.

JOE and Gayle and Lisa and I have been friends since we were Governors together. And I remember how when Senator Byrd had passed, to fill the vacancy and he thought about running, I encouraged him, like, come on up, JOE; we can get things done. And I knew, because of his incredible position of putting points on the board for West Virginians and his ability to stick to his guns, that he would get things done.

And much like MITT, JOE is also a tireless defender of what he believes in. Folks like to speculate how he would vote or what he would do. But I never thought it was all that hard to figure out what JOE MANCHIN was going to vote for or where he was going to come down. All you had to do was listen to what he said. And if he thought it was in the best interest of the folks in West Virginia, he would be for it, no matter how much grief he took. It was always as simple as that.

You know, it was a bit of a common refrain in this town for a while, the joke was JOE was one of the most powerful people in America. You know, it worked as a joke because it actually had a lot of truth to it. Bill after bill, JOE got a lot done on the infrastructure law and all these bipartisan deals. I remember his relentless fight for making sure that America would stand up and keep the promise made by Harry Truman to our miners in terms of their pensions. I was very proud of being one of his wingmen on that.

But what he is going to be, I think, at the end of the day, remembered for—and boy, did he get a lot of grief on this as well—was passing one of the most seismic energy laws in our country's history. Getting that bill done is not only about our energy in our country, but he literally helped move the rest of the world toward a cleaner, carbon-free environment.

Yes, he believes that there is going to be a transition. Yes, he believes you can't get rid of some of our existing sources. But without the IRA, the fundamental movement that is already going to generate a trillion dollars of activity wouldn't have happened, the Inflation Reduction Act. And, boy, he paid a price for this, in making sure that America becomes energy independent and moves to be more carbon-free and at the same time also finally put in place an ability to start negoti-

ating drug prices. That law would not be law without JOE MANCHIN.

I believe it is a transformative, once-in-a-century piece of legislation. It is saving money for seniors in West Virginia and for seniors across the country, and it all was due to JOE MANCHIN. I could go bill after bill. And Lord knows, there have been times I have disagreed with him.

And I hope, JOE MANCHIN, after all this, you will realize that, coming here to this Senate, you did make things happen; you got things done. And our country and West Virginia are better for it.

TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. President, I made a comment on this, this morning. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve on the Banking Committee with my friend SHERROD BROWN from Ohio. In SHERROD's long career in the Senate, he remained unchanged. He fought for the dignity of workers. He fought against special interests that hurt Americans. He fought always for Ohio. Deeply smart and principled, SHERROD built an incredible record standing up for working families and leading the Banking Committee with strength and a vision for revitalizing the middle class.

I particularly remember working with him back in 2016–2017 on a bitter fight to extend healthcare and pensions for thousands of miners—again, it is something I have talked about, we worked together with JOE MANCHIN—who were at risk of losing coverage. We had to threaten to block all bills being passed by unanimous consent to get it done. But we eventually secured a temporary fix and then a long-term one to protect the pensions and health insurance for American miners. Tens of thousands of miners secured lifetime coverage because of that bill.

I was always glad to fight alongside SHERROD on our shared priorities. But in addition to standing up for miners, there are other things we had in common. SHERROD's incredible wife Connie is a phenomenal writer and speaker, whom he brought down to be honored at one of our women's conferences down in Norfolk. I had the unenviable task of following her on the speaking lineup.

And let me tell you—and SHERROD probably knows—she is an impossible act to follow. She had a room of literally hundreds and hundreds of women of all races, ages, and background on their feet, literally hooting and hollering. And SHERROD, ever the supporter of Connie, was there to cheer her on. But then inspired by her performance, he brought that idea back to Ohio. And, I know, over the last 8 or 9 years, he has had his own women's conference.

With events like that and a long record of legislative accomplishments, both in the Senate and the House, a whole lot of working folks, SHERROD's legacy of work for the middle class and Ohioans and Americans will be a real tribute to him.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.

Which brings me to SHERROD's neighbor, somebody who has worked on so many bipartisan deals as well, and that is BOB CASEY.

Mr. President, as the true embodiment and spirit of Pennsylvania, BOB CASEY arrived every day in the Senate ready to fight for teachers, kids, workers, seniors. He led the charge in the Senate to cut junk fees and fought the greediness that emptied the pockets of Americans.

As chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I have grown to know and see his steadfast work at protecting America's national security firsthand. BOB approached every hearing with a thoughtful and engaged perspective—never partisan or dominating or destructive. BOB CASEY asked decisive questions, advanced important priorities, and took on the work of seriousness and dedication. Our committee was stronger for that.

And, more than anything, BOB CASEY will be remembered for being a fundamentally decent guy. He approached every problem and every interaction every day with kindness and respect for every person he encountered, not just other Senators but staffers, support personnel. And you don't see that from a whole lot of us.

We will miss BOB greatly in the Senate, and I will miss him particularly on the Intelligence Committee. My only regret is we never got a chance to play basketball.

So for those Senators and some others, I know my time is expiring. I will come back and speak about other friends like BEN CARDIN and others who are leaving. The body will be lesser for that, but I am hopeful. This is a place where, after the elections, you can't bear grudges. You have got to go back and work with your new colleagues. I hope to develop the same kind of relationships as I have had with these Senators on both sides of the aisle. I respect them all. I will miss them, but those of us who remain need to continue and fight on.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator THUNE for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am going to be brief because you don't want to stand in the way of the majority leader-elect.