

Barbara and I are praying for Senator GRAHAM's family as we all grapple with the loss of a great man.

And I think we should show our appreciation for the hard work, as just 2 days before he passed, he was in Ukraine, meeting with Zelenskyy, and he was announcing that he was going to move forward with some very important legislation putting additional sanctions on Russia because of their invasion of Ukraine. And I think we can show our gratitude and appreciation of Senator GRAHAM by moving that legislation forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. I look to my right, and I see a desk which we in the Senate refer to and know as the John Calhoun desk. It is covered by a black shroud, and on top of that shroud is a bowl of white roses. That is LINDSEY GRAHAM's desk.

It is difficult to believe that LINDSEY GRAHAM is no longer here with us, that we won't run into him at a meeting today or share a joke with him at this afternoon's vote.

The halls of the Senate already feel empty without him, and I know I am not alone in that feeling. He was a friend to so many of us on both sides of the aisle. I know that I am not the only one who finds it difficult to imagine the Senate without LINDSEY GRAHAM.

The events of LINDSEY's life have been well-documented over the past couple of days: his humble beginnings in South Carolina; sharing a single room with the rest of his family, behind his family's bar; his guardianship of his younger sister Darline after the untimely death of their parents; his long service in the Air Force, the South Carolina Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve; his career in politics, first as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, then as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where I served with him for 6 years, and then in the Senate, where he was just completing his fourth term.

In the Senate, LINDSEY distinguished himself as a staunch conservative—and a fierce advocate for South Carolina—but also as someone who was willing to work across the aisle to find common ground and to reach solutions.

A lawyer by trade, he served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2019 to 2021, where he helped confirm a Supreme Court Justice and numerous Federal judges—the

kind of judges who believe in following the law and the Constitution, instead of legislating policy from the bench.

Most of all, of course, LINDSEY was known for his national security and foreign policy work. There was no bigger believer in America's role in the world. He was confident that the United States could be a force for good, and he gave everything he had to ensuring that we would be.

He was a friend and defender of freedom-loving peoples all over the world. He stood with the Ukrainian people in their fight against Russian aggression, and he died with his boots on, having just returned from a trip to Ukraine, his 10th.

He believed fiercely in the importance of a strong national defense—in ensuring that our country and our military men and women were always prepared to deter and defeat any threat.

But while there was always a lot made of his support for American hard power, he was also a big believer in the use of soft power: economic, diplomatic, and political solutions to the world's problems.

I was fortunate to travel with him all over the world, including to Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack. And I saw firsthand the work that he did to promote American security and the security of freedom-loving peoples around the globe.

And, of course, I don't need to tell anyone in this body that LINDSEY was fearless in his commitment to the causes that he espoused. It didn't matter to him whether he would catch flack on an issue. He was undaunted by the politics if he believed he was right on the principle.

Senator, warrior, patriot, statesman—words that will be written about LINDSEY. But for me, most of all, he was my friend. "Without friends"—Aristotle said—"no one would choose to live, [although] he had all other goods."

And it is difficult to count the ways in which LINDSEY's friendship made this job richer and its burdens lighter. Lindsey was as loyal as they come and a trusted adviser. I could always rely on him for straight-talking advice. He never minced words or pulled punches. I could also rely on him for a steady flow of humor and encouragement. He always could make me laugh—always.

In the last couple of years, he came to South Dakota twice, and, twice, we sat on the deck and watched the sun go down on Lake Oahe—a familiar scene to me but new to him.

And as the stars came out, you could see the Milky Way overhead, and you could hear coyotes howling and rooster pheasants cackling down below.

Lindsey's wit punctuated all of it, and I will cherish those memories for a long time to come.

If there is any light to be found in this grief, it is this: that as a Christian like Lindsey, I know that death is not the end. The Apostle Paul writes:

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Whereas another Graham once put it:

Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.

I will miss LINDSEY's friendship more than I can say. We pray for his staff and for his family, whom he loved dearly and who loved him dearly in return.

But I am comforted by the knowledge that in the end, he has just changed his address and that one day we will laugh together again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I joined several of my colleagues from the Senate and from the House at the NATO summit in Ankara, Türkiye. It was a historic meeting in terms of the future of NATO and the future of Ukraine and so many other issues that relate to that critical and important alliance.

Last Wednesday, we had a dinner that was hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye, Tom Barrack. There must have been 50 or 60 people there who all shared concerns of the summit conference. Among them were Members of Congress, Turkish leaders, and representatives of other countries around the world who had gone to that famous summit.

At the heart of that dinner was my colleague and friend Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. When I arrived that night, it was no surprise that he had been there before me and had been working the crowd. He had been speaking to each and every person who was there—business leaders and political leaders from all parts of the world—about his concerns.

LINDSEY was walking them through, one at a time, his vision on how we could end the war in Ukraine and the legislation we needed to accomplish that, which was typical of LINDSEY GRAHAM. We all shared that concern, but he was buzzing around that crowd like an aspiring candidate, convincing everybody that there was a way to end this war the right way.

Only a few days after that dinner, my friend LINDSEY GRAHAM passed away. It was a shock. I would like to take a moment to recognize his lifetime of public service both in the State of South Carolina and for our Nation.

I served with LINDSEY GRAHAM in the Senate for more than two decades, and during that time, I counted him as a trusted friend. I will tell you that my friends and supporters back in Illinois many times would just shake their heads and say: DURBIN, what are you doing with LINDSEY? You shouldn't be working with him.

They didn't know how the Senate works, and they certainly didn't know him.

LINDSEY, for many years, was the only Republican who was willing to co-sponsor the DREAM Act, a bill that I introduced over 20 years ago and had reintroduced in successive Congresses, which provided protection to undocumented immigrants who had been brought to this country as children. His support took guts. At a time when issues surrounding immigration were becoming politically toxic, LINDSEY stuck his neck out for me and for these young people. I will never ever forget it.

I will also never forget a meeting that LINDSEY and I had with President Trump in his first term in 2018. It was a meeting to discuss a possible comprehensive immigration reform package. It didn't go well at all. President Trump made what I considered to be profane comments about some immigrants, but I won't repeat them here.

LINDSEY, while sitting next to me in the Oval Office, passionately, vocally, and with real commitment disagreed with the President, arguing that America is not defined by race or color but by its ideals and of the many contributions that immigrants have made to our Nation. He said to the President, as I sat right next to him in the Oval Office, that he was just wrong; that these people who are immigrants make a difference in America. It was the story of our country, and LINDSEY said it was the story of his family.

LINDSEY spoke publicly about this interaction after it occurred, and despite the scorn that he earned from certain segments of the Republican base, he stuck to what he believed was right.

When I happened to become the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 4 years, LINDSEY GRAHAM was my ranking Republican. He sat right next to me in every session of that committee. We had our share of disagreements over issues and nominees, but I knew that his word was always good. If he told me he was going to vote for something or some person, he did—he delivered—and we had a good working relationship between us—no cheap shots, no stabs in the back.

He voted in favor of 75 percent of the judicial nominations that we considered while I was chair, and there were 235 lifetime appointments that came out of that committee. Even though they were nominated by a President from a different political party, he announced early on that, if I expect Democrats to vote for Republican nominees, I have to support Democratic nominees to show the same spirit of cooperation. And he did. He kept his word. That was who LINDSEY was. He was proud to be a fierce Republican partisan, but he never lost sight of the need to work across the aisle to make a difference in the lives of Americans.

Loretta and I send our condolences to LINDSEY's family and his legion of

friends in South Carolina and around the world.

He was an extraordinary Member of the Senate. He helped to make it work. There was never any bipartisan meeting of a gang—or however you would characterize it—during which LINDSEY wasn't within its ranks.

I remember when John McCain and he led the Republican side of an immigration reform effort, and I was part of that on the Democratic side. After months—literally months—of negotiating, we brought a package to the floor, which passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, showing that we could do things like that and that we should still be able to. For those things to occur, it is not just a matter of having a good idea; you need good people who are willing to be respectful of one another and to work hard to find common ground. LINDSEY was one of those people.

#### NATO SUMMIT

As I noted, Mr. President, our trip last week to Türkiye was an effort to discuss some of the war and peace issues of our time. Lindsey knew the stakes at play in Ukraine and the importance of standing up to Russian tyranny. This topic was top of mind for all of those who attended the NATO summit, which concluded in Türkiye last week. I attended the summit with a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, MIKE ROUNDS, CHRIS COONS, and Congressman MIKE TURNER. Senator GRAHAM joined us as part of the visit as well.

With the war in Ukraine entering its fifth bloody year, the timing of this event was important, as tides begin to turn in Ukraine's favor. Not only did Ukraine repel the initial invasion by one of the world's largest armies, but it is increasingly showing progress in winning this conflict. Russia has been unable to seize additional land and is suffering staggering, staggering losses—losses that no political leader can sustain for a war of folly. Ukraine has also increasingly taken the conflict to Russia, weakening its energy and military infrastructure and turning Russian public opinion against the war in Ukraine. And unlike Russia, Ukraine is careful not to strike civilian targets.

I am happy to report from the NATO summit that the alliance remains determined to see Ukraine defend itself from Russia. Most of the 32-member bloc—formed from the ashes of World War II—have notably increased their defense spending. They are contributing more funding, equipment, and personnel and are reminding one another of their commitments to and the importance of this historic alliance.

I was glad that President Trump attended the summit. He and President Obama were right to push our allies to pay more of their fair share for the cost of NATO. But President Trump's constant rhetoric of belittling the alliance and his dreams of conquering Greenland and other follies have been

ill-timed, boorish, and counter-productive. They send exactly the wrong message to President Putin about American resolve and commitment. They put countries such as the Baltic States and Poland at even greater risk of future Russian aggression.

Already, Putin is testing the alliance through sabotage, hybrid attacks, misinformation, and assassinations. And with the war turning against Russia, Putin may lash out further. This is not the time for President Trump to show Putin any weakness.

So I was heartened by the incredible solidarity and resolve on full display at the NATO summit. Quite simply, NATO is alive and well, as is allied support for Ukraine. Congress continues to show strong bipartisan support for NATO, including through funding, troop level requirements, and the Baltic Security Initiative. But we can do more—notably, by helping Ukraine with desperately needed air defense. We should also continue to keep U.S. troop deployments as part of NATO efforts in frontline NATO member states. And we can, at long last, pass one of two bipartisan Ukraine bills pending in this Chamber—one of them being a sanctions package that LINDSEY GRAHAM worked with Senator BLUMENTHAL tirelessly to build support for. I understand that Lindsey had finally arranged for this measure to be introduced even this week. I hope we will still go forward with the bill without delay.

#### HUNGARY

Mr. President, lastly, after the NATO summit, we had a chance to visit Hungary, one of our NATO allies.

There was a recent election in Hungary that unseated Viktor Orban after 16 years—a period that included democratic backsliding and being a thorn in the side of European efforts to help Ukraine.

I want to congratulate the Hungarian people on this peaceful transfer of power and decision to play a more constructive role in European security, including standing with Ukraine. Theirs is a welcome choice that we should support here in the Senate, something I will do in my remaining time.

#### IRAN

Mr. President, on a separate subject, last week, President Trump declared that the cease-fire with Iran was over, after the United States launched a wave of retaliatory strikes in response to Iran's firing at commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz. I wish I could say I am surprised by this, but I am not. President Trump started this war with a genuine destabilizing regime without thinking it through. As I have said over and over again—a cliché which happens to be accurate—it is a lot easier to get into a war than it is to get out of it, as we are learning in Iran every day.

Iran's response—striking U.S. and allied targets in the region and holding the strait and global economy hostage—was equally foreseeable. The Iranian regime, much like Vladimir Putin