

debtors themselves in order to collect accurate data, the way the Harvard study actually did.

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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN TILLIE FOWLER

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today with a very heavy heart. And I know the devastation and deep sadness I feel are shared by many in the Capitol, in Washington, and throughout America. For with the passing of former Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, America has lost one of her most accomplished and dedicated public servants, and I have lost one of my most precious friends.

Tillie's remarkable record of public service is well known to many of my colleagues. It began over three decades ago, when she worked as a legislative staff member here on Capitol Hill. Her talents soon attracted the attention of Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs. It was there that Tillie and I worked side by side and bonded as lifelong friends.

Following her marriage, she and her beloved husband, Buck, moved to Florida, where they would raise two wonderful daughters—Tillie Anne, and my goddaughter, Elizabeth. Tillie also devoted her talents and her enormous energy to her community as a volunteer serving in numerous leadership positions. She was President of the Jacksonville City Council—the first woman ever to hold that position, and the first Republican to preside over the council in more than a century. This, despite the fact that the Council consisted of 16 Democrats and only 3 Republicans. Clearly, Tillie's intelligence, integrity, and leadership skills were respected across party lines.

In 1992, Tillie ran for the United States House of Representatives. Her popularity was so great that the incumbent Congressman decided to retire rather than run against her.

As those who served with her know, Tillie quickly earned a reputation as one of the hardest working and most effective Members of Congress. She was recognized as one of the 1 most thoughtful and visionary members of the House Armed Services Committee,

and the 8 years she spent in the halls of the Capitol were full of accomplishments.

She became the highest ranking woman on either side of Capitol Hill, when her colleagues selected her as Vice Chair of the Republican Conference.

Term-limiting herself, she retired from Congress, but not from public service. Time and again she was called on by our Nation's leaders to serve in important and sensitive assignments. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld named her Chair—the first female Chair—of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee, and he appointed her to lead the seven member panel created by Congress to review misconduct allegations at the Air Force Academy. He turned to her again for a blue-ribbon panel to provide independent professional advice on Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

Tillie Fowler was a role model of what a servant of the public should be. And she was the finest friend that one could have. Loyal and caring, she was like a sister to me—always there, always reaching out, always searching for ways in which she could help.

Poet Robert Frost wrote: "As dawn goes down to day; Nothing gold can stay." Tillie was pure gold. She will live forever in my heart.

Bob and I send our strongest support, our love, our prayers to Tillie's family.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from North Carolina to speak about our great loss, the loss of a great friend, the passing of Congresswoman Tillie Fowler of Jacksonville. Tillie was taken from us suddenly yesterday, passing from this Earth to a better life, and we are sad and shocked by this terrific loss that the State and the Nation has suffered.

In every way, Tillie was a great lady. She had such a unique combination of strengths that she has been referred to as a "steel magnolia." She was ever gracious and kind and a gentle soul, but at the same time she was firm in her convictions. Even though Tillie had left the House of Representatives, people in the highest levels of Government, as pointed out by my colleague from North Carolina, continually sought her advice and counsel.

Most recently she had served on the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee, which provides counsel to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld on policy and strategy.

I relied often on her sound judgment and advice. Most recently we were talking about the Mayport Naval Base in Florida and the USS *Kennedy*, and what the Florida delegation should do in order to ensure the long-term viability of Mayport. She was an instrumental adviser to Governor Jeb Bush on the BRAC and BRAC process.

Tillie was a great friend and personal counselor to me. It was only about this time a year ago that she and I were standing near the St. John's River in Jacksonville and she announced her

support for my candidacy for the Senate. I am so grateful for her support, and so proud to have had the faith of Tillie Fowler in my candidacy. Her wisdom will be missed, but her legacy is firmly in place.

Tillie Fowler began her life as a public servant shortly after earning her law degree from Emory University. She came to Washington to work for 3 years as a legislative assistant to Representative Robert Stephens of Georgia, and shortly thereafter she went to work at the Nixon White House in the Office of Consumer Affairs.

At the White House, Tillie made one of her dearest lifelong friends, our colleague Senator ELIZABETH DOLE. Tillie and her husband Buck even named one of their daughters Elizabeth in honor of that wonderful friendship. Tillie looked to ELIZABETH DOLE as a role model for working women, as someone who could be strong without being hard edged, and she followed that example of success. I extend to my colleague my deepest condolences on the loss of your good and dear friend.

After her tenure at the White House, she and Buck moved back to Jacksonville, FL, where they settled down to raise a family. She became active in a number of community organizations including the American Red Cross and the Jacksonville Junior League. She eventually ran for the city council in the 1980s, and served for 7 years, the last year as council president. She was the first female, and the first Republican, to serve as the president of the Jacksonville city council.

In 1992 Tillie Fowler became Congresswoman Tillie Fowler and quickly rose to be one of the top ranking women in the House of Representatives. She became vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference and, for 6 years, chief deputy whip. Congresswoman Fowler served on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Transportation as well. Both committees allowed her to become a successful advocate for the city of Jacksonville and for the State of Florida. But I think Tillie will always be remembered for her great grasp of defense policy, her impassioned advocacy on behalf of the U.S. military.

In the year 2000, Congresswoman Fowler voluntarily stepped down to honor a pledge she had made to self-limit and return to private life. Without a doubt, the most important legacy left behind by our friend Tillie Fowler is her family—her husband Buck, and their two daughters Elizabeth and Tillie.

Our hearts are with you. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time.

We will miss her greatly and may God bless her.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am saddened by the passing of Tillie Fowler. My wife and I had the privilege of traveling with her overseas, and I found her to be a wonderful person.

Tillie Fowler had a sparkle in her eye, and she had a warm way about her. We enjoyed her company. I think everybody who dealt with her respected Tillie Fowler's intelligence, her compassion, and her serious interest in making good policy for the country. I respected her contribution to her State and to our country. My wife and I commented many times after that trip what a delightful time we had with Tillie Fowler. We express our condolences to the family as well.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I join my colleague from North Carolina in expressing my condolences to the family, and express how much I respected Tillie Fowler.

I had an opportunity to say hello to her a little over a week ago. She was so happy and vibrant. Her sudden passing was very much a shock to me. It reminds all of us just how fragile life can be.

I had an opportunity to get to know Tillie Fowler when I served in the U.S. House of Representatives with her. She was a wonderful person and highly respected in the House of Representatives. I do not recall one person in the whole body, whether they opposed or supported her, who had cross words to say to Tillie Fowler. She was always well prepared, always courteous, and always somebody you admired when you served with her and got to know her.

I worked closely with her on a number of defense issues because that was her life's love. I had a chance to get to know her more closely when we had an issue in Colorado with the Air Force Academy. As you may recall, when we set up a commission, which she chaired, it was called the Fowler Commission.

I reflect on the type of respect she garnered from everybody who was around her. When we put her on that commission, we knew she would do a good job. We named the commission after her because of the respect we had for her. It was a difficult task. She did it with honor. She was very hard working and pursued it vigorously. She did a great job.

I join my colleagues in expressing my condolences to the family, and express how much we all loved her. We will miss her. May God bless.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I know I will be joined by the Presiding Officer in the shock and sadness that exists because of the loss of Tillie Fowler.

Tillie was a friend of mine long before I ever got involved in politics. I have lived in Georgia for 37 years. You can't live in Georgia without knowing the Kidd family. Tillie grew up in Milledgeville, GA. Her dad, Culver Kidd, was a longtime State senator, known as "the silver fox." He was quite a gentleman and quite a legend in his own time in Georgia politics.

Tillie was a great mentor to me during my 8 years in the House, as I know she was to the Presiding Officer. As I

told her husband Buck last night, I fought many battles with her. Of all the people I was associated with in the House and in this body, there was nobody I would rather have had in that foxhole with me when I was fighting a battle than Tillie Fowler. She was a great lady who exemplified everything that is good about the Congress, and she will be dearly missed.

I yield the floor.

MINORITY RIGHTS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on Tuesday morning just past, we had our usual Democratic Senate caucus lunch. We discuss lots of things at those lunch meetings. But we were all struck by an appeal from our dearly beloved colleague Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, whom I consider a dear friend of long standing. I have been here over 20 years. When he rose to encourage all of us to resist subverting existing Senate rules to bypass an important process which permitted the minority in the Senate to challenge the Senate Republican majority to run roughshod over the rights of the minority, to exercise longstanding rules that permitted them a voice, Senator BYRD pleaded with us, not as a Democrat, not as a partisan, but as citizens and Senators, to fight to preserve the rights of a minority by being able to use a tactic called a filibuster as a means of protection for the minority.

We have to remember that in the recent elections for President, 57 million people voted for JOHN KERRY, and they were a minority. This Senate decides to ignore those voices and concerns of a minority of that size?

The Senators who voted against cloture recently represented 19 million more constituents than the majority. Can that be constructed as a tyranny of the minority when the Senators who were against cloture represented 19 million people more than the majority who wanted cloture? Tyranny of the minority. Outrageous.

Senator BYRD pleaded with Members to remind our Republican colleagues that such a rules change could once be at their expense, that their constituents could be deprived of their appropriate rights to a voice in legislative or executive matters.

I offer these comments as a prelude to remarks I am about to make. We have seen some ugly personal attacks recently by the Republican Party against our Senate Democratic leader, HARRY REID. He was called an obstructionist. He was referred to in sarcastic and insulting terms, as well as our former majority leader, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, and Democratic Party chairman Howard Dean.

The other side cannot beat us with the strength of their ideas. They are resorting to the same tactics they used against Senator Daschle—personal attacks on family members and attacks on character. This is shameless behavior.

Not too long ago we had an election in Georgia in which Max Cleland, a former Senator, a triple amputee, was portrayed as being soft on defense. He was being portrayed as a coward when it came to defending our country. He lost three limbs, two legs and an arm, in the defense of his Nation. And they succeeded with these shameless tactics.

We see a continuation of that. It has to stop. Whenever they are short of ideas, they are long on insults, with shameless name-calling.

Yesterday, a group calling itself the Republican Jewish Coalition attacked Senator BYRD over a historical reference he made on Hitler's rise to power in Germany. It was not an anti-Semitic remark. I resent the fact they are raising that kind of an insinuation. I am proud of my America. I am proud of my citizenship and the duty I served my country with when I wore a uniform and that I serve my country with now. I am also proud of my Jewish heritage. I resent it when any group steps up to use the shameless insinuations and challenges and insults being put forward.

Senator BYRD is known by everyone in this Chamber and people who have served for many years past as a great historian. He uses lessons from history to teach. On Tuesday just past, Senator BYRD at our luncheon issued a stern warning before we do anything irresponsible such as changing longstanding Senate rules with this notorious nuclear option which says reduce the numbers needed to object to something the majority has proposed.

That is the structure of democracy. Minority voices are to be heard. We say it in our Constitution. We say it in our courtrooms. It does not matter where.

Senator BYRD's warning came in the form of a lesson of history. He simply said that when you change the rules, you change the laws to suit your convenience, you are engaged in a tyranny. As the saying goes, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Senator BYRD talked about how a threatened filibuster in this Senate defeated FDR's plan to pack the Supreme Court. We are talking about a Democratic President. That was an option that was available according to the rules that the minority could use. Senator BYRD reminded the Senate the other day how in Germany Adolf Hitler twisted the Reichstag to pass his enabling act, the act that removed the obstructions that were blocking Hitler's plans. It was a historical lesson we should pay attention to. But now, Senator BYRD's words are being twisted by this group.

To show some of the shameless tactics they are using, look at this picture. It shows masked men, obviously suicide bombers, with a child strapped with explosives and suggesting that Democrats are responsible for this kind of a condition. It is an outrage. We will not stand silent when the Republican National Committee encourages this