

Durbin	Landrieu	Roberts
Enzi	Lautenberg	Rockefeller
Feinstein	Levin	Rubio
Graham	Lieberman	Schumer
Grassley	Lugar	Sessions
Hagan	Manchin	Shaheen
Heller	McCain	Shelby
Hoeven	McConnell	Snowe
Hutchinson	Menendez	Tester
Inhofe	Moran	Thune
Inouye	Murkowski	Toomey
Isakson	Murray	Udall (CO)
Johanns	Nelson (NE)	Udall (NM)
Johnson (SD)	Nelson (FL)	Warner
Johnson (WI)	Portman	Webb
Kerry	Pryor	Whitehouse
Kohl	Reed	Wicker
Kyl	Reid	Wyden

NAYS—20

Akaka	Franken	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Brown (OH)	Harkin	Paul
Cardin	Klobuchar	Risch
Casey	Leahy	Sanders
Crapo	Lee	Stabenow
DeMint	McCaskill	

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Hatch	Vitter
Conrad	Kirk	

The conference report was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no more votes tonight.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

COMMEMORATING JOHN GLENN'S "FRIENDSHIP 7" SPACE FLIGHT

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity today to recognize the remarkable achievements of a former Senator from Ohio. The State of Ohio is known as the birthplace of aviation, it is the home of the Wright Brothers and the home to 24 astronauts. I have the privilege of calling two of these astronauts, Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, my friends. Today, I would like to take a few minutes to commemorate the tremendous achievement of one of these heroes by celebrating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the historic 1962 flight of NASA's Mercury Spacecraft, nicknamed *Friendship 7*.

Fifty years ago on February 20, 1962, *Friendship 7*, piloted by John Glenn, performed 3 successful orbits of the Earth at 17,400 miles per hour, and made John Glenn the first American to orbit the earth. While in orbit, John Glenn performed a series of breakthrough experiments to test human ability to function in the weightlessness of space. He then successfully piloted the spacecraft manually after a malfunction in the automatic flight controls, overcoming severe oscillation and a dwindling fuel supply during reentry, and completing the mission by landing the spacecraft safely in the Atlantic Ocean 4 hours, 55

minutes and 23 seconds after initial launch. He returned a national hero.

His historic flight inspired scientific curiosity and national enthusiasm for further space exploration, paving the way for America's continued dominance in space operations.

In 1998 Senator Glenn again demonstrated his tremendous courage and reentered space at the age of 77, aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, to examine the effect of space flight on the elderly.

Space exploration is not, however, Senator Glenn's only remarkable achievement. He set the transcontinental speed record in 1957 for the first flight to average supersonic speed, flying at an average speed of 723 miles per hour, from Los Angeles to New York. Then in 1996 Senator Glenn set a new record, along with co-pilot Phillip Woodruff, of an average speed of 229 miles per hour in a 367-mile flight from Dayton, Ohio to Washington, DC.

In addition to these contributions to scientific exploration and NASA, John Glenn gave 23 years of service to the U.S. Marine Corps; is a veteran of two foreign wars; flew 149 combat missions; was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross five times; and retired a colonel in 1965.

Ten years later he began a career in the U.S. Senate, contributing 24 years of service as a U.S. Senator from the State of Ohio from 1975 to 1999.

In 1998 the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy at The Ohio State University was created and Senator Glenn became an adjunct professor in OSU's School of Public Policy and Management in the Department of Political Science.

Then, in 2006 the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy merged with the School of Public Policy and Management to form the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University, which prepares future generations of public servants. I myself have had the privilege of co-teaching four classes at the Glenn School and have the honor of serving on its board of advisors along with Senator Glenn and his incredible wife Annie. She has been a tremendous partner for Senator Glenn through all of these experiments we have been talking about tonight.

Senator Glenn's tremendous achievements have paved the way for future generations to follow in his footsteps by continuing to make the United States a global leader in science, technology, education, military service and public service. I once again commend Senator John Glenn on the success of his historic 1962 flight aboard NASA Spacecraft *Friendship 7*.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING KENNY BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I rise to mourn the loss of a great American veteran and a musical legend in Kentucky's own signature genre, bluegrass.

Mr. Kenny Baker of Letcher County passed away in July of 2011. He was 85 years old. Although Mr. Baker is no longer with us, his monumental contribution to the musical world will remain for many years to come.

Mr. Baker was most widely known for his innovative style of fiddle playing that many have referred to as "long bow fiddling." He would use every inch of the bow, from tip to tip, to produce a sound unlike any other in the world of bluegrass music. Mr. Baker picked up the fiddle at the young age of 5 years old and went on to write an astonishing 92 musical numbers throughout his lifetime.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was assigned to a destroyer escort ship in the Pacific theater. But once the Navy learned of his musical ability, he was quickly transferred from his station to entertain troops in the South Pacific. After honorable service to his country in the Armed Forces, Mr. Baker returned to Letcher County and found work in the coal industry of eastern Kentucky but his musical journey was far from over.

Kenny Baker started playing the fiddle professionally in 1953 and played in the company of musical greats such as Don Gibson, Bobby Osborne, Josh Graves, and famous bluegrass innovator Bill Monroe. After taking a few years to get acquainted with the world of the music industry, he finally settled down and found a permanent home in the band Monroe's Blue Grass Boys.

On Mr. Baker's extensive musical journey, he regularly played at the Grand Ole Opry, recorded hit albums, played numerous concerts, and even had the distinct honor to play the fiddle for President Jimmy Carter at the White House. However, his greatest achievement came when he was named to the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor in 1999.

Mr. Baker spent his final years teaching children the value and importance of music in their lives. His generosity and love for music and music education will be greatly missed, not only by his wife Audrey Baker; his sons, Johnny Lee and Kenneth Junior; and many other beloved family members and friends, but also by generations of fans and fans to come of bluegrass music, as well as the residents of the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

So, Mr. President, I would like to ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Kenny Baker not only for his service to our country but also for his great contributions to the creative field of music. The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article recognizing Mr. Baker's incredible life. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, July 12, 2011]

KENNY BAKER

(By JenniBy Hewlett)

When Kenny Baker played the fiddle, the notes flowed out like honey pours from a jar—smooth, thick and wide, according to his friends.

"All your great fiddle players in Nashville, when they heard Kenny, they knew there was a lot more to be had with a fiddle, a lot more to learn," said Ronnie Eldridge, a close friend.

"He was the best at hoedowns. Nobody could touch him on the waltz. He was a singer's dream," Eldridge said.

Mr. Baker, 85, a Letcher County native who spent many years performing with legendary bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, penned 92 instrumentals and tutored many others in his "long bow" fiddling style, died Friday, just a few days after his last jam session. Mr. Baker, who lived near Gallatin, Tenn., died of complications from a stroke.

Mr. Baker first picked up a fiddle when he was 5, according to his son, Kenneth Baker Jr. of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Baker's father had been an old-time fiddle player.

Mr. Baker later turned to the guitar, but he eventually went back to the fiddle. He grew up inspired by jazz, his son said.

After joining the Navy during World War II, Mr. Baker was soon transferred off a destroyer escort ship to entertain troops in the South Pacific. After military service, he returned home to Letcher County, got married, worked in coal mines and played at barn dances on weekends.

He started playing the fiddle professionally with country musician Don Gibson. In 1953, Mr. Baker went from playing Western swing and dance-band tunes to bluegrass music, performing with Monroe, who is known as the father of bluegrass music, beginning in 1957. After a few years, he went back to the coal mines in eastern Kentucky. He returned to Monroe's Blue Grass Boys band in 1968 and left again in 1984, but he was reunited with the band in 1994 at Monroe's Bean Blossom bluegrass festival.

Monroe's well-known "Uncle Pen" album features Mr. Baker on the fiddle.

"He was just absolutely the backbone of that band," Eldridge said.

"They were at the White House one time. Bill Monroe's group was invited by Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter," Kenneth Baker Jr. said. "He liked to say when Rosalynn had a request, she came to Dad."

Many people went to bluegrass music festivals to hear Kenny Baker play the fiddle as much as they went to hear Bill Monroe sing, bluegrass music great Bobby Osborne said.

Many great fiddlers, past and present, are indebted to Baker, said Osborne, who performed with Mr. Baker and shared a dressing room with him at the Grand Ole Opry.

"I couldn't single him out as the top player of all time, but a lot of people would," Osborne said.

Mr. Baker's son said technique and a great memory made his father stand out.

"Dad would use the bow from tip to tip. That made his fiddling so smooth, and that was something different in the bluegrass world," Kenneth Baker Jr. said. "It was all by ear, and he had a tremendous ability to recall just about any song that people asked for—hundreds of songs."

Mr. Baker was particularly proud of the songs he wrote and recorded, his son said.

"At any of the major fiddle contests, probably a third of the tunes played will be Bill Baker tunes," Eldridge said.

Said Osborne: "The tunes that he wrote, they were so down to earth. The melodies that he put to his tunes were so easy to learn."

After 1984, Mr. Baker performed in many shows with dobro great Josh Graves.

In 1993, Mr. Baker received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1999, he was named to the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor in Owensboro.

In addition to his son, Mr. Baker is survived by his wife, Audrey Baker; another son, Johnny Lee Baker of Nashville; two sisters; a brother; four grandchildren; and several great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Burdine Freewill Baptist Church in Letcher County. Carty Funeral Homes in Jenkins is handling arrangements.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise to join my fellow Coloradans, my colleagues in the U.S. Congress and others across the Nation to celebrate Black History Month. I am honored to recognize the contributions of the African-American community in the United States and especially in my home State of Colorado.

I am particularly proud to reflect on the legacy of community involvement exemplified by Colorado's Black community, from Colorado's earliest days as a western territory to the present. There have been many community leaders, public officials, and entrepreneurs who have contributed immensely over the years to make our great State what it is today, from our historic and cultural institutions, to the farms and small businesses of our rural communities.

One gentleman named James Beckwourth, whom I have recognized in previous years as a true frontiersman, exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that led to the building of the economic foundations that supported the formation of our great State. He led expeditions into Colorado's Rocky Mountains in the 1820s and returned in the 1830s to serve at Fort Vasquez near Denver. In the 1840s, he co-founded a trading post and settlement named Fort Pueblo to serve as a trading hub for the Native Americans, Mexican settlers and other American frontiersmen along the Santa Fe Trail. This settlement eventually became the City of Pueblo and still serves as a commercial hub for Southeast Colorado.

Mr. Beckwourth exemplifies the entrepreneurship that continues to thrive in all of Colorado's African-American communities. Today, I would like to specifically recognize the importance of the continuation of the entrepreneurial spirit in Black communities throughout Colorado and share how much it has strengthened Colorado's economy and will continue to help lead our country on the path to economic recovery.

The increase in the number of minority-owned businesses has been a bright spot in our economy. According to the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), operated by the Department of Commerce, minority-owned businesses contributed \$1 trillion to the economy last year and created 5.8

million jobs. Specifically, the total number of African-American owned businesses grew to 1.9 million firms between 2002 and 2007, an increase of 61 percent. This figure is particularly impressive when compared to the employment growth in the rest of the country during that same time period, which was less than 1 percent.

In Colorado, the total number of minority-owned firms increased by 19 percent between 1997 and 2002. By 2007, this figure had increased even further as there were over 59,000 firms, employing over 74,000 workers, and the numbers continue to grow. African-American-owned businesses are an important part of this driving force in our State's economy. Along with all other minority-owned businesses, the increase in African-American owned businesses in Colorado has helped sustain our economy and stimulate job growth. The most recent data show there are more than 9,000 African-American-owned businesses in Colorado. These businesses are especially valued in Colorado because they not only provide jobs to Coloradans, they also provide essential services that meet the needs of both African-American and non-African-American communities. And as we know, successful businesses have a positive economic ripple effect throughout our communities.

In spite of the rising number of minority-owned businesses in Colorado, barriers to success still exist, and in some cases the challenges facing minority-owned businesses can be particularly difficult. This is why I was proud to welcome the creation of the Denver Minority Business Center last summer. The Denver Minority Business Center is an extension of the Minority Business Development Agency, and will further supplement our State's commitment to supporting minority owned businesses by providing the resources to develop technical skills and to access capital and contracting opportunities. Within the last 3 years alone the MBDA has helped create 11,000 new jobs nationally and helped save thousands of existing jobs at minority-owned firms by helping secure \$7 billion in contracts.

As we celebrate the diverse and profound contributions of African-Americans to our State, I hope we will remember to appreciate the positive and sustaining impact of African-American owned businesses, and I hope we will continue to support the creation of new minority owned businesses in all corners of our State. I encourage all Coloradans to join me in reflecting on the invaluable contributions of African Americans to our State and throughout our great Nation—not only during Black History Month, but every month of the year.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I wish to recognize February as Black History Month. Each February our Nation focuses on the contributions African Americans have made in shaping our Nation. This year, the Association