

with distinction in that capacity, leading the Division of Parks and Recreation for the 8 years I served as Governor, and then he went on to serve for two more Governors after me. He served Republican Governor Mike Castle before me, and a Democratic administration, for a total of four Governors.

That doesn't happen everyday in every State. When you get those kinds of opportunities it must mean you are pretty good. In his case he was very good.

He is now retiring from the post after more than 35 years of service to the people of our State. For over three decades he has been a tremendous leader and real advocate for the educational, for the mental, for the physical benefits of State parks.

He is also a devoted husband to his wife of 40 years, a woman named Sue, who is very accomplished in her own right. She recently retired as deputy director of the Delaware Division of the Arts. They have a daughter Emily, who I believe is now grown.

It is kind of interesting to see where they pull up their anchors and sail off into the sunrise. But, Chazz and Sue, we thank them for the great service to the people of our State and wish them and Emily well. Their hard work and creativity and dedication will be missed a whole lot. We will remember for many years the tremendous contributions they have made.

Since 1978, Chazz has played an active role in the expansion of Delaware's open space areas and in the development of programs that introduce Delawareans and visitors of all ages to the historical and recreational benefits of our State parks. As he steps down from the position as director of the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, we give him our sincere thanks and thank his staff too for their diligent and longstanding efforts to maintain Delaware's reputation as having one of the most dynamic and innovative park systems in the Nation.

Throughout his career, Chazz has been a visionary whose creativity and forward thinking has changed the very nature of our State park system. From the institution of zip lines to kayak rentals, Chazz has done a tremendous job of inspiring the love of nature in just about all Delawareans. He has played an important role in securing Delaware's footprint in the national park system with the recent naming of the First State national monument.

Delaware was the first State to ratify the Constitution. William Penn came to America through Delaware. One of the oldest houses in all of North America is in Lewes, DE, apparently a Dutch settlement some 275 years ago. We were the first State to ratify the Constitution. We have done a lot of "firsts" for a little State.

We do not have a national park. We have been working on it for a number of years with Chazz, and now CHRIS COONS and JOHN CARNEY have taken up the mantle.

We have a First State national monument. We are thankful for that. Thank you, Vice President BIDEN.

We have been knocking on the door for a national park. Chazz and his people have been great laborers with us in that effort.

Chazz's research, his professional leadership, and personal membership in all kinds of organizations such as the National Association of State Park Directors and the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, have also supported Delaware's natural resources and emphasized our State parks' value to Delaware's financial success.

In places such as Oregon, Senator MERKLEY, the Presiding Officer from Ohio, Senator COLLINS, who is still on the floor—their States have wonderful national parks. As it turns out, the top destination, tourist destination for people who come to the United States from other countries is our national parks. We don't have one in Delaware. We want one. In the meantime our State parks have sort of filled the gap. We have some State parks of which we are real proud. One of the guys who worked very hard to make them something we can be proud of is Chazz Salkin.

He has undoubtedly left a legacy of achievement, persistence, and passion with the members of the Parks and Recreation team that included hundreds of people over the past 35 years. We in the State of Delaware are truly grateful for everything Chazz has done to protect our State's beauty and history.

On behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, our colleague here in the Senate, on behalf of JOHN CARNEY, our lone Congressman over in the House, we wholeheartedly thank Chazz for 35 years of service to the State of Delaware. His model leadership and dedication have improved the quality of life for visitors and residents who come to our State from all over the world. We offer our sincere congratulations on a job well done and wish him and Sue and their family many happy and successful years to come.

We struggle at the Federal Government to pay for things. We struggle at the State level to have the revenues to pay for the kinds of services our citizens want. One of the things I especially admired in the work done by Chazz Salkin is a growing reliance, over time, on inviting people—could be young people, could be older people, could be retired, maybe not, could be students, could be senior citizens, but people who would like to volunteer some of their time to help in our national parks. It will be interesting to be able to look at the number of volunteer hours that have been amassed over the years in service to our national parks and compare that on a per-capita-basis to the rest of the country. I think we stack up pretty well.

One of the things we have done in our State, in no small part because of

Chazz's leadership, is to invite volunteers to come in to help out, to make our parks better than they ever were before and to benefit from that by feeling they helped us to accomplish something really good for now and for a long time in the future.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. CARPER. I will be happy to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the courtesy of my friend from Delaware. He and I have been together for 31 years and I appreciate him. I wanted to make sure Senator COLLINS was on the floor.

Mr. President, I withdraw my motion to proceed to Calendar No. 236, H.R. 3204.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2013—Continued

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair what the pending business is now before the body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 815 is now the pending question.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 815, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jeff Merkley, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall (NM), Mark Begich, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Barbara Mikulski, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want the record to reflect also that Senator JEFF MERKLEY is on the floor, who has been instrumental in allowing us to get to the point we are on the bill.

I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 815

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, the motion to recommit and the pending amendments to the underlying bill be withdrawn; that the Reid of Nevada amendment No. 2020 be withdrawn; that no further motions to recommit or points of order be in order and the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the pending Toomey

amendment; that the Toomey amendment be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; and upon disposition of the Toomey amendment, the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; and the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 815, as amended; that if cloture is invoked, the time until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that at 1:45 p.m., all postcloture time be yielded back, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; finally, if cloture is not invoked, I be recognized.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate everyone's cooperation. This is how we should do legislation, work together. This is something we have done together and I appreciate everyone's work. It has not been easy for everyone. Not everybody is satisfied, but a lot of people are satisfied.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent we proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, until 7 p.m.

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

Mr. REID. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THANKING SENATOR MERKLEY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before the Senator from Oregon leaves the floor, I wish to thank him for his leadership on this bill. He picked up the mantle from our dear late colleague Senator Ted Kennedy. Senator MERKLEY had worked on this issue in his home State before coming to the Senate, and we have worked very closely together as this bill has been on the floor. He has been very fair and open-minded. Although we were not able to work out agreements on everything, as I would have hoped, I do believe there was a good-faith effort which was evident in the passage of Senator PORTMAN's amendment.

I am very excited that tomorrow we will be reaching final passage, and Senator MERKLEY deserves an enormous amount of credit for his leadership. I wanted to thank him while he was still present on the floor and also tell him how much I appreciated his kind words earlier today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THANKING STAFF

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, tomorrow we will take a vote on Senator TOOMEY's amendment and on cloture and final passage. There may not be time, as we are wrapping up the work on this bill, for me to pay tribute to some very valuable individuals who worked very hard on this bill; that is, the members of the staff on both sides.

I wish to particularly commend three members of my staff—John Kane, Katie Brown, and Betsy McDonnell—who have literally worked night and day to try work out amendments and procedure with a wide variety of staff on both sides of the aisle.

Our staffs are often the unsung heroes of this institution, and in this case I was receiving emails from my staff—for instance last night at 1:46 a.m.—giving me the latest updates. I just wish to publicly thank them, the floor staff on both sides, the HELP Committee staff, and everyone who was involved but particularly the three members of my staff, John, Katie, and Betsy, who have literally devoted countless hours to this bill. I know they will be very happy when we reach final passage tomorrow.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2013

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this past Monday I visited a senior center in Youngstown, OH, and met with seniors and others, talking about what they hear as threats to Social Security. They hear some of the wise people in this town, if you will—some of the people on television and the political pundits and the economists and the newspaper editorial boards—saying that we need to restructure entitlements or reform entitlements, and that scares them because they don't get very specific. They often, in those statements about reforming entitlements, don't—the people saying it and the reporters asking the questions don't really scratch underneath the surface and say: What does that really mean? It usually means cutting Social Security benefits, but more on that in a second.

I spoke with a woman named Gloria, a 70-year-old widow, currently living in

subsidized housing. She has lived on Social Security since her husband's death. Her benefits barely cover the costs of housing and groceries, not to mention health care. She told me that without Social Security, she would not know what to do to be able to get along in her life.

We owe it to our children and our grandchildren to deal with this Nation's deficit. That means everything from eliminating farm subsidies—the directed payments we are doing in the farm bill, and Senator THUNE and I wrote the language to do that. It means closing the carried interest loophole for Wall Street hedge fund managers. It means eliminating tax breaks for oil companies and stopping the idiotic—for want of a better term—practice of encouraging and enticing, through the Tax Code, companies to actually invest overseas, so that if you shut down a plant in Steubenville or Toledo and move it to Wuhan or Xi'an, China, you actually can get tax breaks to do that.

I am a grandfather a couple of times and about to be a third time. I guess as we get older, we look at the world, not surprisingly, from a different perspective. I see, because of Social Security and Medicare, that hundreds of thousands, millions of Americans get to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. That is because of Social Security and Medicare. Forty-five years ago, before Medicare, 48 years ago, half of America's seniors did not have health insurance. Today, 99 percent have it. We know that means people live longer, healthier lives. It means not just that they get to see their grandchildren, which is the pleasure and the delight of almost all grandparents, it also means they get to impart their wisdom and knowledge and values to their grandchildren.

Margaret Mead once said wisdom and knowledge are passed from grandparent to grandchild, because there is this sort of natural tension—or there might be—between children and parents, but between grandchildren and grandparents it makes for a richer society. Because of these two Social Security programs, Medicare and Social Security, we are a richer, better country.

Today, 63 million Americans receive Social Security benefits. In my State it is 2 million. Let me give a couple of statistics, because this is really a moral question of what we do with our retirement system. For two-thirds of seniors, Social Security is more than half of their income in my State and in the State of the Senator from New Hampshire, who is sitting here. In the State of the Senator from Connecticut it is not much different. No State is much different from this. Social Security provides more than half of the income for about two-thirds of seniors. For more than one-third of seniors, Social Security provides essentially 90 percent, or all, of their income. For one-third of seniors, without Social Security, they would have zero or close to zero income.