

Senator HAGAN, thank you for your service and thank you for being a wonderful friend. I wish you the very best of luck in all your future endeavors.●

MARY LANDRIEU

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my friend, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, my colleague from Louisiana, during her 18 years here in the U.S. Senate.

Senator LANDRIEU was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996. Prior to serving in the Senate, she had already served the people of her State for 16 years—first as a State legislator, and later as a State treasurer. Altogether Senator LANDRIEU's service to the people of Louisiana has spanned nearly 34 years of commitment to the people of Louisiana.

MARY served her constituents with utter conviction, dedication, and persistence—qualities that her colleagues in the U.S. Senate use to describe her.

However, Senator LANDRIEU's dedication can be described in other ways as well.

In her farewell remarks last week, Senator LANDRIEU discussed how faith and family helped drive her. She draws tremendous strength from her faith, and also her large and supportive family—a family that knows a thing or two about the ups and downs of politics.

Her father, Moon Landrieu, served as a judge, State representative, New Orleans city councilman and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Her brother, Mitch Landrieu, was Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, and both her father and brother have served as mayors of New Orleans—her father during an era of renewal, and her brother during an era of rebuilding.

MARY has clearly stepped up to the plate during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the horrendous BP oil spill. Those are the kinds of challenges that none of us expect when we enter public life—but they are the challenges which show our communities what we are made of.

Senator LANDRIEU rose to both challenges. She has worked as hard as any Senator has ever worked to see that her constituents were taken care of. She has pushed hard on Federal agencies to help rebuild, and passed legislation to help with Gulf restoration. She has also fought to see that flood insurance rates remain affordable—not just for those in Louisiana, but across the country.

Her efforts have earned the respect of everyone she has worked with, and she earned the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as well as the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. I know that the issues she championed on these two committees were important to her constituents and I admire her advocacy for jobs in her State and more opportunities for small businesses.

Of course, Senator LANDRIEU's work extended beyond these two commit-

tees. For years, she worked on adoption, education, conservation, and other issues that were near and dear to her heart.

All of us will miss MARY's drive, tenacity, and willingness to work with others to get things done. She will continue to be a tough and relentless fighter for Louisiana no matter what her next challenge will be.

Aloha, MARY, a hui hou, "until we meet again."

MARK PRYOR

Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my colleague, Senator MARK PRYOR of Arkansas, who will be ending his tenure in the Senate at the end of this Congress.

The Pryor name is synonymous with public service in Arkansas. MARK's father, David, served Arkansas in the U.S. House, as Governor, and in the U.S. Senate. In fact, MARK succeeded his father in the U.S. Senate after serving in the State legislature and as attorney general.

Throughout his two terms in the Senate, MARK has been a workhorse and not a showhorse. As he noted in his farewell remarks, he is not one to attend many press conferences. But he certainly has done a lot of work on behalf of the people of Arkansas. In 12 years in the Senate he has worked to get 70 laws passed—many on a bipartisan basis.

His work improves the lives of Americans and our youth each day—from his work in consumer product safety, access to health care, veterans issues, and more. He has fought to protect Medicare, and to support Arkansas' farmers, small businesses, and middle class families.

That may be why in his 2008 reelection to the Senate he earned more votes than any statewide elected official in Arkansas history.

Senator PRYOR told us in his farewell to look inside our desks and see the names written in the drawer, to see the predecessors who have come before us. These names can serve as a reminder of what we all are here for and what large shoes we must fill, as well as how we must collaborate to get things done.

MARK has spoken about the fact that politics is about people—both the people we serve and the people we serve with.

While there are many good people serving here, we will all miss the work ethic, warmth, and charm that MARK brought to the Senate during his service.

It has been an honor serving as his colleague.

Aloha, MARK, a hui hou, "until we meet again."●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. DINGELL

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an amazing colleague from my home State of Michigan, who has served in Congress for 59 years, the longest tenure of any Member in history: the dean of the House, JOHN D. DINGELL.

In fact, his service to our Nation goes back even further: In 1938 he worked as a congressional page and on December 8, 1941, he was on the floor to hear President Roosevelt declare that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was a day that would live in infamy. In fact, a 15-year-old JOHN DINGELL helped record that speech.

Three years later he served America in Europe in the fight against Nazi Germany. He would have been in the Battle of the Bulge if he hadn't been hospitalized with meningitis. Then he joined the fight in the Pacific, making preparations to be in the first wave of American soldiers for the ground invasion of Japan—except that the Japanese surrendered before it could happen.

So JOHN DINGELL proved his patriotism long before he joined Congress in 1955, following the death of his beloved father, who preceded him as Representative for Michigan's 15th Congressional District.

It is hard to imagine, but Congressman DINGELL was a Member of Congress before Medicare and Medicaid existed. In fact, he helped vote those programs into law. When he joined Congress, the Interstate Highway System did not exist. Alaska and Hawaii were not yet States.

Congressman DINGELL is not merely a witness to history. He is a maker of it. His original family name, translated into Polish, meant "blacksmith," and this is a man who hammered out our Nation's laws, forging a stronger Union that could weather the challenges of the future.

I would like to list all of Congressman DINGELL's accomplishments, but I would be accused of staging a filibuster. For the sake of brevity, I will list only the most exceptional moments in Congressman DINGELL's legendary career.

Perhaps his most courageous vote occurred in 1964, in favor of the Civil Rights Act. Advisers told him that vote would destroy his chances at reelection, but he had more faith in his constituents—and he refused to compromise the principles of social justice.

Health care was a great passion—one he inherited from his father. John Dingell, Sr., introduced a bill for universal health care in 1943, and though it failed, he continued to fight for it until the end of his life, and JOHN DINGELL, Jr., adopted that cause from his first day as his father's successor, proposing a bill to reform the health care system in every Congress since 1955. He has always believed that every American should have access to health care. So I know that voting for the Affordable Care Act was one of Congressman DINGELL's proudest moments in Congress.

As a boy he lived through America's Great Depression, and as a Congressman he helped to overcome America's great recession.

He witnessed the rise of the automobile industry and saw how those unionized workers powered the rise of

America's middle class. Then we fought together to make sure that American autos and American workers could compete with foreign competition on an even playing field. Congressman DINGELL recognized that this was the key to a new golden age of American cars and trucks. We are seeing that today.

While scientific consensus was still forming about threats pollution posed to our air and animals, JOHN DINGELL wrote the Endangered Species Act in 1973 and the major expansion of the Clean Air Act in 1990. In 2001, he created the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge—the very first of its kind in North America—and in the years since he has worked to expand refuge protection to more acres.

He loves Michigan dearly. He understands the connection our people have to manufacturing, to agriculture and to the land and Great Lakes that power our tourism industry and our Michigan way of life.

Even during the years he spent chairing the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, when Congressman Dingell was one of the most powerful Members of Congress, you could still find him waving to the crowd from the open top of a Ford Mustang convertible at Dearborn's Memorial Day Parade or at a booth at the Monroe County Fair, always with that same big smile. As Tip O'Neill once said, "All politics is local," and local people are what JOHN DINGELL loves about politics.

The people of his district never doubted his dedication. That is why they would still put "Dingell for Congress" signs on their lawn, long after his district boundaries had changed. If a piece of Southeast Michigan was "Dingell Country" once, then it was Dingell Country forever.

And now he feels great pride—and his constituents feel great comfort—knowing that the district will remain in his family's hands. His beloved wife Deborah, who has been his closest confidant and understands him more intimately than anyone, will carry on his legacy long into the future. So if you go back to Congressman John Dingell, Sr., it means that Southeast Michigan has been under the Dingell name for 81 years—and counting.

While Congressman DINGELL will no longer be in Congress, we can still follow him on Twitter.

Even at age 88, he is constantly evolving, charging boldly into the future, driven by a very simple principle: We are put on this earth to help people.

JOHN D. DINGELL, Jr., has helped many people and yet he will insist that he has received much more than he has been given. He claims to be the "luckiest man in shoe leather," and we are lucky that he has served Michigan and our Nation, so long and so faithfully. ●

RECOGNIZING CARE CHEST OF SIERRA NEVADA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 25th anniversary of Care Chest of Sierra Nevada, an organization that supplies free medical equipment to Northern Nevadans in need. As a provider of services to underserved communities, Care Chest has long been a vital nonprofit in Nevada, and I am proud of the work they do on behalf of the Silver State.

Founded in 1990, Care Chest began as a grassroots effort to reuse and recycle medical equipment. Today, this organization helps improve the quality of life for those who otherwise could not afford the rising cost of health care supplies. Twenty-five years later, Care Chest has served over 100,000 people in Northern Nevada. Last year alone, Care Chest served nearly 9,000 Nevadans and distributed over 16,000 medical items. Free of charge services provided by Care Chest include emergency prescriptions, diabetic supplies, respiratory items, and liquid nutritional products. Care Chest has dedicated its efforts to the underserved communities in Northern Nevada, as 69 percent of its clients in 2013 were uninsured while 55 percent were below the poverty line.

As Nevada's unemployment rate remains one of highest in the Nation and as health care costs continue to rise, I recognize the unique role that Care Chest has played in working to address the needs of its local community by offering health care services to those in need. As a lifelong Nevadan and member of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Special Committee on Aging starting in the 114th Congress, I am proud of the work Care Chest does on behalf of the Reno community and its senior citizens.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Care Chest of Sierra Nevada, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. I am humbled and honored to recognize Care Chest, and I wish them the best of luck in their 25th year of service to the State of Nevada. ●

RECOGNIZING THE WELLS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate the Wells, NV, Future Farmers of America chapter for winning a national title in the Western National Rangeland Career Development Event. As a lifelong Nevadan and advocate of agriculture education, I am proud to celebrate this victory for Wells and for the Silver State.

As a rancher, I recognize the role the Future Farmers of America organization plays in preparing students for a future in agriculture. The Western National Rangeland Convention, hosted in Elko, NV, brought 14 teams from five States to compete in various categories including plant identification, rangeland biodiversity, habitat evaluation,

and stocking management. With nearly 6 million acres of farmland in the Silver State, these are invaluable skills for future Nevada farmers.

I am especially proud to recognize team members Wyatt Gibbs, Deseret Johnson, DeMar Gale, Chelsea James, and Justin Sorenson for representing the Wells community as leaders in rangeland farming techniques. Under the leadership of adviser Don Noorda, the Wells Future Farmers of America chapter proudly brought home Nevada's first national title. As ranch owners, my wife Lynne and I understand the importance of agriculture education. Management of our State's rangelands has been one of my top natural resources priorities in the U.S. Senate. Recently, I was instrumental in the enactment of the Grazing Improvement Act, which will provide much needed security to livestock producers all across the West.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Wells Future Farmers of America, a group of driven young adults dedicated to Nevada's agriculture and rangeland. Their commitment to Nevada's agricultural future is commendable, and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors. ●

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JAMES CLEVELAND "JESSE" OWENS

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, the Senate adopted S. Res. 226, with its preamble, as amended, as follows:

S. RES. 226

Whereas James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens was born on September 12, 1913 in Oakville, Alabama;

Whereas Jesse Owens, the youngest of 10 children of sharecroppers and the grandson of a slave, moved with his family at the age of 9 to Cleveland, Ohio as part of the Great Migration;

Whereas as a student at Fairmount Junior High School, Jesse Owens broke junior high school world records for the high jump and the broad jump;

Whereas Jesse Owens attended East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio where, as a member of the track team, he placed first in 75 of the 79 races he entered during his senior year, set the world record in the 220-yard dash, and tied the world record in the 100-yard dash;

Whereas Jesse Owens, the "Buckeye Bullet", matriculated at the Ohio State University in 1933 after attracting national attention as a high school athlete;

Whereas while attending classes, training, and breaking a number of track and field records, Jesse Owens worked various jobs, including as an elevator operator at the Ohio State Capitol, a waiter, a gas station attendant, and a library employee;

Whereas due to his race, Jesse Owens was barred from living on campus at the Ohio State University, denied service at restaurants near the University, and forced to stay in segregated hotels;

Whereas on May 25, 1935, in a 45-minute period during the Big Ten Track and Field Championships in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens, competing with an injured back, tied the world record in the 100-yard