

aside, for a moment, our party affiliations, political interests, and personal ambitions in the service of a larger cause, because that is what he did. For all his cynicism, he still believed the Senate could reach that higher calling.

Deep in the middle of his final speech on the Senate floor were these words: "I hope we can again rely on humility, on our need to cooperate, on our dependence on each other, learn how to trust each other again, and by doing so, better serve the people who elected us."

If we are to truly honor the life and the service of JOHN MCCAIN, let us do that. Let us do that.

JOHN MCCAIN put out a few final words. Today I think some of his staffers put them out. I would like to read just two paragraphs of that and then ask unanimous consent that they be put in the RECORD:

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good times or bad times, for the best of anyone else's.

Finally, he concluded with this:

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

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

My fellow Americans, whom I have gratefully served for sixty years, and especially my fellow Arizonans,

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for the rewarding life that service in uniform and in public office has allowed me to lead. I have tried to serve our country honorably. I have made mistakes, but I hope my love for America will be weighed favorably against them.

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good or bad times, for the best day of anyone else's.

I owe that satisfaction to the love of my family. No man ever had a more loving wife or children he was prouder of than I am of mine. And I owe it to America.

To be connected to America's causes—liberty, equal justice, respect for the dignity of all people—brings happiness more sublime than life's fleeting pleasures. Our identities and sense of worth are not circumscribed but enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves.

'Fellow Americans'—that association has meant more to me than any other. I lived and died a proud American. We are citizens of the world's greatest republic, a nation of ideals, not blood and soil. We are blessed and are a blessing to humanity when we uphold and advance those ideals at home and in the world. We have helped liberate more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before

in history. We have acquired great wealth and power in the process.

We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe. We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down, when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been.

We are three-hundred-and-twenty-five million opinionated, vociferous individuals. We argue and compete and sometimes even vilify each other in our raucous public debates. But we have always had so much more in common with each other than in disagreement. If only we remember that and give each other the benefit of the presumption that we all love our country we will get through these challenging times. We will come through them stronger than before. We always do.

Ten years ago, I had the privilege to concede defeat in the election for president. I want to end my farewell to you with the heartfelt faith in Americans that I felt so powerfully that evening.

I feel it powerfully still.

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the U.S. Senate, indeed, our entire Nation, is mourning the loss of a great leader, an American patriot, our colleague and friend, Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

I first met JOHN MCCAIN when I was a young staffer in Senator Bill Cohen's office and JOHN was serving as the Navy's liaison officer. As a fellow Senator for the past 21 years, I knew him as a trusted colleague, a courageous legislator, and a close friend.

JOHN was a true American hero who devoted his life to serving his country. Courage and character were the hallmarks of his military service as well as his work in Congress. In the Senate, he was a consequential leader on the most critical issues facing our country. JOHN MCCAIN was one of our Congress's most respected voices for a strong national defense and for good government. His word was as much his bond in Washington as it was to his brothers in arms in Vietnam.

I would like to share with my colleagues a story, I believe, that demonstrates the essential character of JOHN MCCAIN.

In November of 2010, JOHN was part of a congressional delegation on its way to a security conference in Nova Scotia. Bad weather caused their flight to be diverted to Bangor, ME, where I live. I shortly received a phone call to come to the airport, and I went and welcomed JOHN and my colleagues on their unplanned visit.

As it happened, the Troop Greeters of Maine were at the airport at the same time. This legendary group of citizens has greeted more than 1.5 million servicemembers either leaving to go overseas or returning home since 2003; never missing a single flight, even in bad weather or the middle of the night. The Presiding Officer, I believe—who also has served her country so well, Senator ERNST—was one of those who was greeted by the Troop Greeters in Bangor, ME.

Rather than fly out when the weather cleared, JOHN and the others in the delegation agreed to stay and join me with the long line of these patriotic Troop Greeters to await the arrival of the airplanes.

I remember when I told JOHN that there was a plane that would be arriving shortly and then there was another one in a couple of hours, he said: Of course, we will stay.

Well, you can imagine, having gone through the gauntlet of Mainer's greeting and welcoming the troops back home, hugging them, cheering them, giving them cell phones, thanking them for their service, that all of a sudden the troops realized they had just shaken hands with JOHN MCCAIN; the legendary JOHN MCCAIN, who was so popular with servicemembers. I saw them literally do a double take when the first group went by, shook his hand, and then turned around and said to each other: Wasn't that JOHN MCCAIN who just shook our hands?

They then came back and of course posed for pictures and chatted with him and held up the rest of the line, who were very eager to see JOHN.

I will never forget how thrilled these troops were to be greeted, when they

were first setting foot back on American soil, by a true American hero, JOHN MCCAIN; someone who had served our country with such courage and character.

By the end of the day, JOHN had spent 3 hours greeting two planeloads of soldiers. He loved greeting them and posing for pictures. It was such a heartwarming, unexpected event and a very special moment. It not only gladdened the hearts of the troops but also of the Troop Greeters, who were thrilled to have their hero with them.

It was vintage JOHN MCCAIN that he stayed even after the weather had cleared and greeted each and every one of those troops.

JOHN MCCAIN did what he thought was right, regardless of the political consequences. He had absolutely no interest in scoring partisan political points on the Senate floor. He welcomed and would listen to good ideas, whether they came from the Democratic or the Republican side of the aisle. While he was always open to new evidence, good ideas, and was capable of changing his mind, he was unshakeable when he was convinced of the appropriateness of a course of action.

JOHN was impatient. He wanted to get on with solving the problems facing our country. He had no use for the political games that, sadly, far too often are played in the Senate.

One often overlooked aspect of JOHN was his love for the environment. I once visited him at his beloved ranch in Sedona, and I was surprised when he took me all over the property, pointing out birds, naming them, and clearly taking such delight in the wildlife. Until that moment, I did not know of his interest and love for nature.

Later on, I accompanied JOHN on a trip he organized to the Arctic to see the permafrost melting and to meet with Native Alaskans. We also traveled to Antarctica, where we spent 4 days meeting with scientists who told us of the impact of global warming.

He took me on so many trips and broadened my horizons. Four times we went to Afghanistan, four times to Iraq. We went to Yemen. We went to Libya and met with Colonel Qadhafi before he was overthrown and killed. JOHN taught me so much on these trips.

The principles that guided JOHN's life are best summed up by his own words from his beautiful autobiography, "Faith of My Fathers." He said: "Glory belongs to the act of being constant to something greater than yourself, to a cause, to your principles, to the people on whom you rely, and who rely on you in return."

JOHN MCCAIN was a statesman and a dear friend who was devoted to a cause greater than himself, and that cause was the United States of America.

It has been an honor to serve alongside him for nearly 21 years in the U.S. Senate. Although he will be deeply missed by all of us, he leaves behind an

extraordinary legacy that will inspire Americans for generations to come.

I yield the floor.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, yesterday was a difficult day for me.

Before I get to that day, let me recognize the Senator from Oklahoma for a motion.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Georgia.

I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Georgia that I be recognized for such time as I shall consider.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. ISAKSON. Yesterday was a difficult day for me. I am 74 years old. I was born in 1944. Like many Americans, my youth was during the Vietnam era. The prime of my youth was the Vietnam era.

In fact, my senior year in college, I got a graduation diploma and a draft notice on the same day. They were put in the same book. Everybody was going. Everybody was being called up for the draft. There was a lottery, but so many people were eligible that almost everybody in my age group would have been drafted if they didn't join the service.

I joined. I joined the National Guard, which I am very proud of, and I am still a guardsman to this day. It also gave me the chance to serve my country in a way that would not put me at as much risk to go to Vietnam as it would if I were drafted. I consciously did that because I wanted to do everything I could to stay here and get married a few months later to my wife Dianne. I was of the age to be drafted, and I made the decision to find a way to serve that would not put me in a position of being drafted, where I lost control. I was able to do it, and a lot of people were, but a lot of people weren't. I know that. The ones who couldn't know it, and the ones who couldn't know it. The Presiding Officer knows what I am talking about, being a guardswoman herself.

I lost my best friend in Vietnam, Jackson Elliott Cox III, Waynesboro GA, Liberty County—Bird Dog Capital of the World.

Jack and I graduated from college together. Jack went off for a weekend and came back and told us all he had joined the Marine Corps, was going to OCS, and was going to go to Vietnam and fight the bad guys. We all said: Jack, don't volunteer to do that. You could get killed.

He said: No, I want to do it. It is a great country. I have had a great life, going to the University of Georgia, have a wonderful mom and dad, good friends like you all. I want to go to OCS and be an officer in the Marine Corps—and he did.

A few years later, he was shot by a sniper in the 11th month of a 13-month

stint in Vietnam. Alex Crumbley, the superior court judge in Georgia years later; Pierre Howard, the Democratic Lieutenant Governor of Georgia; and myself—we were the three best friends, the "Four Amigos," if you will. We went to 589 Liberty Street in Waynesboro and spent 3 nights and 4 days with Emily and Jack, Jack's dad and mom.

When the Marine Corps brought the body back, it was lying in state in their dining room, and we had a wake and a service for him. We stood guard. We cried. We talked about the good times. We talked about the bad times. We felt sorry for ourselves because the life that had meant so much to all of us was gone.

Jack felt a calling for the country, and he did a great service for the country. I am proud of him, and I am proud to have been his friend.

I tried to do what I could but never in the category of a JOHN MCCAIN or a Jack Cox. There were a lot people my age who didn't do as much as they probably could have or might have done, and probably from time to time have second thoughts about it, too, because the Vietnam war was so tough.

I had friends coming back who had to dress in blue jeans and khakis when they got off the troop train from wherever they were in Atlanta because people would get accosted on the street if they were in their uniform during that era. Today, we go to the airport, and if we have troops coming through who are going to fly back for duty somewhere, they will get standing ovations, and people will give up their seats to let them sit there. It wasn't like that in the 1960s and 1970s. It wasn't like that at all.

In fact, people were risking their lives—58,000 did give their lives for all of us—and in many cases, we were making fun of them as a nation. It was terrible. It messed up our politics, messed up our country, messed up our people, and messed up everybody else. But America is a great country. What I am telling you is tragic to me, and I apologize to everybody that I didn't do everything I should have done, but I think all of us owe each other a commitment to say that we are never going to let America get that way again.

Americans should always be as we were on 9/11 or 9/12 of 2001, when we all put American flags on our cars, we all sang the national anthem, and we said the Pledge of Allegiance after we were attacked. For a few months, we were the most patriotic Nation in the world. We ought to be that way every single day because every single day, just like those firemen and emergency medical people of 9/11, there are those who were in the Vietnam war, who signed up, who fought, risked their lives, and in some cases died, like JOHN MCCAIN and like my brother-in-law Rocky Davison, my wife's brother, who flew Navy A-4 reconnaissance planes in Vietnam—one of the most decorated pilots in the Navy during that era. People like him

were great. My father-in-law flew reconnaissance in World War II in the Pacific. He did everything he could to help the country during difficult times. There were so many people who did that for our country, and we owe all of them a debt of gratitude and a debt of thanks.

We need to remember that we are all Americans. To those who saved us as a country, kept our freedom when we were about to lose it, fought for us, risked their lives, and died for us, we owe it to them, at times like this, to elevate them to the appropriate place in history. That is what I am trying to do with JOHN MCCAIN today.

I want to elevate JOHN. JOHN was better than I am, and I know it. JOHN was the best of my generation. JOHN MCCAIN was and is a great human being.

I don't know what is going to be said in the next few days about JOHN MCCAIN by whomever is going to say it or what is going to be done, but anybody who in any way tarnishes the reputation of JOHN MCCAIN deserves a whipping because most of those who would do the wrong thing about JOHN MCCAIN didn't have the guts to do the right thing when it was their turn. We need to remember that.

So I would say to the President or anybody in the world, it is time to pause and say that this was a great man who gave everything for us. We owe him nothing less than the respect that he earned, and that is what I intend to give JOHN in return for what he gave me.

JOHN took me to Kosovo 20 years ago when President Clinton said that we were going to send some people over there to verify the crime sites, the ethnic cleansing. I went to Pristina with JOHN. I went to Montenegro. I went to the World Security Conference in Munich a few years after that and got to sit with Vladimir Putin. I saw JOHN MCCAIN talk to Vladimir Putin as if they were next-door neighbors but also as if they were Dutch uncles. I was so proud to be from a country that had a guy like JOHN MCCAIN, who could break the ice with the toughest of our adversaries, speak up with pride for America, and calm them down when they needed to be calmed down.

Yet JOHN and I had some problems too. MITCH MCCONNELL did me the worst favor of my lifetime when he made me the chairman of the Ethics Committee. That is a hard job, and nobody likes the person who chairs that committee because they are scared of them. But I got the Ethics Committee job at a time when JOHN MCCAIN was still on the special committee for the Ethics Committee to decide what to do on using airplanes during campaign events as candidates or for our PACs. JOHN had access to a plane, which gave him an exemption from the rules that we passed. It made it tough as heck because he didn't have to worry about the cause and effects. But JOHN took a second to understand the problems

that a normal legislator, who might not have had access to a private plane, might have had. In the end, he took his circumstances and his ability to have a private plane and applied them to the changes that were made to be sure that everybody was being treated fairly. JOHN didn't just expect things to be good for JOHN; he expected things to be good for everybody. He always did that, and I always learned a lot from him.

The other thing I learned was how to cuss. Let me tell you, JOHN MCCAIN could do a lot of things, but cussing was one of the best things he ever did. He was a consummate cusser, and he knew how to do it to have emphasis added. That is what the papers always say when they put the pound marks and things like that after some statements JIM INHOFE makes or I make.

JOHN and I were working on legislation. I am chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He was chairman of the Armed Services Committee. We had a huge veterans bill that we had to come together and have a meeting of the minds on in terms of healthcare. JOHN was late for the meeting. He came into the meeting. He pulled the door behind him and slammed it. For 10 minutes he laid the best cussing on me and everybody else in the room that I had ever heard.

He said: I haven't got time to put up with this anymore. Y'all just listen to what I have to say and tell me what you are going to do.

That is a tough way to convene business, but JOHN sometimes knew how to get us all to think, to get us all to talk. He would intimidate you enough so you would have to fight him for what you believe in, and you would get a better piece of legislation than if he just let it pass or if he had intimidated you to death. JOHN knew exactly what he had the capability of doing, and he knew exactly when to apply the intimidation—and the thanks and the grace. He did it at the right time every single time. Did we agree all the time? No, but I know I am a better person, our country is a better country, and the world is a better place because of JOHN MCCAIN.

In the next 3 or 4 days, as we go through and run into kids we know or relatives or my own children, whom I will be with this coming Sunday in the mountains, we are going to have a little meeting about JOHN MCCAIN just to make sure they know what I know and so I know that they know about a great American hero because I want them, when they have kids in their 40s—my kids are in their 40s today—to remember on Veterans Day, on Memorial Day, and on all other days, the JOHN MCCAINS of the world and those who will come after JOHN, who will put their life and future and fortune on the line for the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I can't think of anything more difficult

than to speak after the last two speakers. Of course, I have known them for a long time. They are two totally different, opposite people.

We have SUSAN COLLINS, who is a well-recognized moderate. She is one who understands and has great appreciation for the environment. She is not the kind of person you would associate with a tough guy like JOHN MCCAIN, who has gone out there and has done things that other people haven't done but just talked about.

Then we heard the statement from the Senator from Georgia. You know, I was thinking about that. I am a few years older than he is. We have a lot of things in common. He was talking about his being drafted; I was drafted. I will always remember, I was actually enrolled many, many years ago—I was going to be at the University of Mexico in Mexico City in an international program. At that time, I was at the University of Colorado. I did all of my finals and all that early so that I could get back in time to go to Mexico.

I got back to Tulsa, where I am from, and I got a letter from a very important person, the President of the United States. I thought, how nice of Eisenhower to remember me. It was my draft notice, so that changed my life. But it changed my life in a way that it was the greatest single experience I have ever had, and I wouldn't be doing what I am doing today if it were not for the discipline that comes from being in the military.

We will always have heroes we deal with, and we are dealing with a hero when we deal with Senator MCCAIN.

I have often said that I think Timothy, who wrote 2 Timothy 4:7, had JOHN MCCAIN in mind when he said: "I fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." That is exactly what he did.

He was kind of a mean guy. A lot of people didn't like JOHN MCCAIN. He wasn't the most lovable person to be around. But he was a fighter. He never shied away from a good fight. He was passionate for the causes that he believed in and a strong advocate for human rights and Democratic values, standing up for oppressed people around the world. That is the softer side of JOHN MCCAIN that a lot of people don't know about.

He was a fighter but not just a fighter; he was a fighter for the people of Arizona. After he returned from the time he had spent in prison, he got back to Arizona, and he started fighting again. He did that for 36 years after his incarceration.

He was shaped by his own military service and that of his father and grandfather. It has been said several times in statements about his father and grandfather—and I have done some studying on them—that is really what formed JOHN MCCAIN. Both of them were admirals in the Navy, and it was natural that he was going to be in the Navy, and, of course, he was.

During his time of leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee, he

continually focused on impact. There are those individuals—such as the occupier of the Chair right now—who have served on the Armed Services Committee with Senator MCCAIN, and the Presiding Officer knows, as I know and as anybody else who has served with him knows, he was always for the underdog—always for the troops out in the field. I think the Senator from Maine articulated that very well. They were the people he had compassion for. He would always take care of the soldier, sailor, airman, and marine.

He articulated this, by the way, in one of his books, “Faith of My Fathers.” He was talking about his father and grandfather. This quote says it better than any of the rest of us can say it.

An officer’s obligations to enlisted men are the most solemn of all. An officer must not confer his responsibilities on the men under his command. They are his alone. He does not put his men in jeopardy for any purpose that their country has not required they serve. He does not risk their lives and welfare for his sake, but only to answer the shared duty they are called to answer.

That was Senator MCCAIN. He looked after those individuals who were under his command.

He was a ferocious opponent, but the key thing about Senator MCCAIN was that he was willing to take on those tough debates, which have become more and more rare in this Chamber. We don’t see them as we used to, but JOHN would relish the debate, earning the respect and admiration of everyone.

I can remember—there are so many areas because of all the years we served together, not just on the Senate Armed Services Committee but also his time in the House and my time in the House. We had differences of opinion. I think I am a little bit stubborn sometimes too.

I remember there was a commissary issue, and that got pretty violent before it was over. We took each other on. There was the BRAC issue. He wanted another BRAC round in this Defense authorization bill, and I didn’t want one because I thought that if there was anything we shouldn’t be doing, it would be closing down missions that we may be needing as we are rebuilding. So we had an honest difference of opinion.

I remember, in 2003, back when everyone was jumping on this whole global warming thing, that was going to be everyone’s ticket to the White House. I remember when JOHN had the McCain-Lieberman bill. I remember that lasted for 3 days of debate—3 days of debate—and I had hardly any Senators come down on my side of the issue, but we won anyway. After that was over—and that was one JOHN had his heart in—he came over to me and said: Good job. You won; I lost. That was it. There were no hard feelings. That is the kind of person JOHN MCCAIN was, one whom we will never forget.

A lot of people look at Arizona and think it has always been a Republican State. It wasn’t. In 1994, I ran for the

U.S. Senate. It was kind of interesting because it was a Democratic State. It was kind of interesting because this guy who was kind of the darling of the Democratic Party was my opponent. Nobody would come out and help me. Only three Senators came out and helped me during that race. They were Senator GRASSLEY, Senator Bob Dole, and JOHN MCCAIN.

JOHN MCCAIN came out. I will always remember this because we had a lot of things in common, but I hardly knew the guy. He came out not just once; he came out twice. The first time he came out because he had a background in aviation and I have a background in aviation. I remember I had a nice, air-conditioned, twin-engine plane, but I had lost an engine the night before so I had to fly my kid’s plane. It was very hot. It is called a little Grumman Tiger. It doesn’t have any air-conditioning. It was in the 90s and got close to 100 that day.

I wrote down the different places we went to—Oklahoma City; then we flew to Shawnee, where he and I visited the Vietnam Memorial. Then we flew to Lawton. Lawton happens to be the home of Fort Sill, the No. 1 area in the whole world for artillery, and we did our thing there. All the time, he was campaigning for me, a guy who couldn’t win.

We went to Altus Air Force Base. That is still actually one of the top training bases. We now train C-17s and KC-135s. In fact, because of JOHN and some of us on the committee, we will be flying the KC-46. Of course, this happened long before that. Anyway, we ended up in Bartlesville, hosting a fundraiser for me with the NRA.

I guess he wanted to spend more time in that plane because he came back 2 weeks later, and we did the same thing. There was no reason for him to do that because we hardly knew each other when we started. We got to know each other a lot better up there in all that heat. Nevertheless, he was there. You always remember the people who help you when nobody else will.

I can say a lot of things about JOHN MCCAIN. You heard him on the floor. You will hear more—the hero, the patriot—but what is never in dispute is that JOHN MCCAIN was a fighter who was always deeply loyal to his country, his family, his constituents. He was a patriot and always faithful. We all know that patriotism and loyalty to your country isn’t based on your words. You have to live it. Of course, he did that every day.

As a young naval officer following in his family’s footsteps—his father and his grandfather—JOHN kept the faith. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. It is interesting, he never talked about being an outstanding student and all that. In fact, he used to say: I was fifth in the class—fifth from the bottom. But he became a naval aviator.

He was deployed during the Vietnam war. He flew 23 missions and was shot

down in enemy territory. We all know the story. We know that he kept his faith. It bears repeating that he was held by the North Vietnamese for 5 years. I actually remember going there and seeing the conditions under which he was held during that period of time. Because both his father and grandfather were admirals, he had the opportunity, if he wanted, to bail out. He didn’t do that. He wanted to be there. He didn’t want to have any special kind of treatment. That was JOHN.

After the Navy, JOHN kept his faith by continuing to serve his country—this time as a congressman, then a Senator, and, ultimately, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. He also kept the faith on the causes he believed were just, never wavering under political pressure.

We all grieve because JOHN has finished his race here on Earth—and on his own terms, surrounded by his friends and his loving family. JOHN served his country faithfully for 60 years. We owe him a great debt for that service.

This week, we will mourn him and honor him, and we will be celebrating the truly remarkable life of an American hero. We all have our JOHN MCCAIN story: a time when we were moved by his stubbornness, his courage, his passion—sometimes all three at the same time. I look forward to hearing these stories and tributes from my good friends.

We all grieve for Cindy and his family. They will continue to be in our prayers.

Lastly, I do believe, now that I have thought about it, that is what Timothy had in mind when he wrote: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.”

So we say thank you, JOHN MCCAIN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, until the very end, he served his country—until the very end. “Service,” to JOHN MCCAIN, meant living something unique in all the history of the world. It meant living in service to something unique—the American idea.

E pluribus unum—“from many, one”—might seem like a quaint vestige from a more idealistic time when compared to the brutal and determined divisions of our time, but it was an idea that defined JOHN MCCAIN’s life. In and through his service, he defied categorization; frustrated the tired conventions of the way party loyalists were supposed to behave; acted against his own political interests time and again in a way that, from our vantage

point today, is nothing short of awe-inspiring; and he recognized that democracy was hard but that living in bondage to tyranny was far harder.

We talk a lot in this Chamber about freedom. No one in this city and few in American history knew as much or as vividly about the price of freedom as did JOHN MCCAIN. Our words are too often cheap and eminently forgettable, but JOHN MCCAIN paid our freight with his body and with his soul.

To our shame, he lived long enough to have to take to this Senate floor to inveigh against the rank tribalism that we have fallen into lately. He knew that giving in to our worst impulses to score pyrrhic political victories was as easy as it was dangerous and was and is a tangible threat to American democracy—a democracy to which he gave every bit of his life.

If I may, and with your indulgence, I will read from Senator MCCAIN's last speech from this room.

On July 25, 2017, while bearing the fresh wounds from his last battle, Senator MCCAIN stood in this Chamber. Thinking not of himself but of his country, he exhorted, inspired, pleaded, and cajoled all of us in an attempt to shake us to our senses in order to reject the prevailing ugliness that seized the Capitol. One last time, he was standing alone to do what was right. In a sure sign of just how desperate he was, he even appealed to our decency and to our reason—qualities that seem to have long fled Washington.

That day last summer, he said in part:

We are the servants of a great nation, “a . . . nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” More people have lived free and prosperous lives here than in any other Nation. We have acquired unprecedented wealth and power because of our governing principles, and because our government defended those principles.

He went on:

America has made a greater contribution than any other nation to an international order that has liberated more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before in history. We have been the greatest example, the greatest supporter, and the greatest defender of that order. We aren't afraid. We don't covet other people's land and wealth. We don't hide behind walls. We breach them. We are a blessing to humanity.

He continued:

What greater cause could we hope to serve than helping keep America the strong, aspiring, inspirational beacon of liberty and defender of dignity of all human beings and their right to freedom and equal justice? That is the cause that binds us and is so much more powerful and worthy than the small differences that divide us.

Until the very end, he served his country.

Now, as we consider the life of this man, in stark relief to what now passes for our politics, he continues to serve as a beacon to who we are and what we can be when we are at our best.

If JOHN MCCAIN can forgive the North Vietnamese torturers, we can at least forgive each other. But that gesture of

Senator MCCAIN's was not merely a gesture of conciliation for conciliation's sake; it was reflective of a world view that saw the humanity even in his enemies, of a sometimes unfathomable decency that could overcome most any difficulty, of a deep dedication to another American idea—the idea that character is destiny—and to the eternally optimistic preference for tomorrow over yesterday.

I don't know whether Senator MCCAIN—whether JOHN—subscribed to the “great man” or “great woman” theory of history, the notion that the story of humanity is written by the actions and choices of great individuals. I don't know if he believed that, but I do know this: He lived it. I know this because it was my great honor of a lifetime to serve in this body with Senator MCCAIN as the other Senator from Arizona.

Long before that privilege was accorded me by the people of my State, I was JOHN MCCAIN's constituent. When the necessity presented itself to point up examples for my daughter and my four sons of lives lived with principle and purpose, of role models, I had to look no further than my own Senator. I have a pretty good idea that such approbation would be mocked most loudly by JOHN MCCAIN himself. I imagine he would have some choice and colorful language in response to the outpouring of love and tributes since he has left us. We know that, like all of us, the Senator was not perfect. In fact, if you are interested in an inventory of his failings, MCCAIN himself was the most eager to provide it. Yet, as a former aide of his said in the past few days, MCCAIN was not perfect, but he perfectly loved his country.

Words are a poor measure of any life, much less a life the size of JOHN MCCAIN's and the swath he cut on this Earth. Yet we must try. We may never see his like again. For the sake of the country he loved, we owe it to his memory to try to be more like him so that when the season of mourning is over, we don't merely dispense with our earnest tributes and go right back to our venality. Because the poverty of our words notwithstanding, we have lately wasted a lot of words in this town doing and being everything that JOHN MCCAIN was not.

We would do well to allow this moment to affect us in ways reflected not merely in our words but in our deeds. We would do well to reflect on JOHN MCCAIN's example today and ask ourselves if we are living up to it or even coming close. We would do well to honor him by emulating his example.

We, of course, will never have his extraordinary comic timing. He ribbed me without mercy—and with only a little exaggeration—that the only way I got elected to anything was because of my hundreds of siblings and thousands of cousins. I would have laughed harder if there wasn't some truth to it.

We will never possess his grace in both victory and defeat. We will never

have his servant's heart nor his power and clarity about the daily effort that freedom requires. JOHN MCCAIN knew firsthand the epic global struggle for freedom, and so he was freedom's greatest champion in the Senate. He also knew that history is not a straight line and that the ghosts of the great ideological struggle of the 20th century are still here haunting the 21st. As he recently told Jeffrey Goldberg of the Atlantic, “There's always a Putin somewhere in the world, and you're meant to oppose them with all the skills God gave you.”

As we say goodbye to JOHN MCCAIN, let us take up his banner. His was always the good fight. We are fortunate to have known him best in Arizona, but he was bigger than any one State. He always belonged to America and to the world, and now he belongs to the ages.

Farewell, Senator. Farewell, JOHN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, Richard C. Shelby, Cory Gardner, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Ron Johnson, James M. Inhofe, Chuck Grassley, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Lisa Murkowski, Michael B. Enzi, Roy Blunt, Bob Corker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr.

LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alexander	Gardner	Nelson
Baldwin	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hassan	Perdue
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Casey	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Shaheen
Corker	Kaine	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	King	Tester
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Donnelly	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	McCaskill	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden
Flake	Murphy	Young

NAYS—28

Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Peters	Warren
Durbin	Reed	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Sanders	
Gillibrand	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—11

Carper	Graham	Manchin
Cassidy	Hirono	Murkowski
Crapo	Jones	Murray
Cruz	Leahy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.
The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week, of course, we remember and honor our colleague and an American hero JOHN MCCAIN. He embodied our most cherished values of service and sacrifice, and he understood the principles that make our country great.

One of those principles, as we know, is our First Amendment protections for a free and independent press. Something I always admired about Senator MCCAIN, even before I got to know him well many years ago, was his openness with the journalists, the workaday reporters who were doing their jobs every day and who covered him on behalf of the American people. He didn't hide from the people he served, and he was always willing to stand up for freedom of the press.

When those freedoms came under attack, he stood up and said to journalists: "The fact is we need you." He wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post in January that I would like to quote from. This op-ed was partly in response to the President's declaring several times, repeatedly, that the media are enemies of the people. JOHN MCCAIN put that to rest with these comments:

Ultimately, freedom of information is critical for a democracy to succeed. . . . Journalists play a major role in the promotion and protection of democracy and our unalienable rights, and they must be able to do their jobs freely. Only truth and transparency can guarantee freedom.

Senator MCCAIN was right. We will miss his moral leadership on this issue and his moral leadership on so many others. It is up to all of us to continue to stand up for the freedom of the press to serve and inform our communities. That is why I want to highlight, like I do every week, yet another story in an Ohio paper informing the public, reported by a journalist serving her community.

Last week, the Dayton Daily News ran a story by staff writer Emily Kronenberger on the opening of the city of Trotwood's new, renovated community and cultural arts center. The facility was in need of major repairs and had been shuttered for a decade. After this major remodeling, the center is reopening and will provide the community with art exhibits, concerts, and classes.

Ms. Kronenberger talked to the Trotwood city manager, who said the new center "will make impacts on the community and region for decades to come."

The paper also informed Miami Valley readers about a new partnership with Central State University. The school will have a satellite office in the reopened community center that will offer 4-H youth development programs on everything from agriculture to engineering to scholarship opportunities.

This kind of reporting is what journalists do every single day in Ohio, in Oklahoma, and across this country. They do their jobs: They serve their readers, they serve their viewers, and they serve their communities.

As we pay our respects to Senator MCCAIN this week, let us also recommit ourselves to the values he fought for his entire life. That includes a free and independent press.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, Americans are getting pretty tired of how much power special interests have in this town. That is why we created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to look out for the millions of ordinary Americans who don't have armies of lobbyists. The Bureau was supposed to be an independent watchdog—a place free from Wall Street influence, which is pervasive around here pretty much all of the time.

Remember what happened last year when powerful corporations demanded that Congress overturn a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that guaranteed customers who were harmed by their bank would have their day in court? You might think protecting Americans' right to their day in court is something we would all

agree on. Wall Street is so powerful, the Vice President of the United States had to come to this Chamber in the dead of night so that he could break a tie on behalf of Wall Street to vote to repeal.

We have seen in this town a collective amnesia about what happened a decade ago. People forget that a decade ago people lost billions of dollars in wealth. People lost billions of dollars in their businesses. People lost jobs. People lost their homes. Over and over, we have heard those stories about what happened a decade ago. We saw it in our communities. I see it where my wife and I live in Cleveland. Yet the Banking Committee in this Congress, this Senate, seems to have forgotten about what happened 10 years ago. They are already going back to weakening the rules to help Wall Street, as if Wall Street doesn't have enough.

Imagine if the same people who voted to repeal the rule we talked about a moment ago were in charge of deciding whether the Consumer Bureau could start an investigation into one of the big banks or payday lenders or credit bureaus like Equifax. That is what would happen if we put Congress in charge of the Consumer Bureau's budget.

Do we think this current crowd in charge wouldn't do Wall Street's bidding, wouldn't punish the Bureau every time it tries to hold the big banks accountable? That is why it is independent. We don't want Congress to be able to cut its budget every time it goes after the bad guys.

If the Consumer Bureau decides it wants to go after a payday lender that has preyed on veterans and servicemembers outside of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, if the Consumer Bureau decides that it wants to clamp down on discrimination in auto lending, we don't want Congress at the behest of Wall Street, at the behest of the auto industry—auto dealers in this case—to be able to cut their budget. That is clearly what they do.

This year, under Mick Mulvaney, we have already seen what having a Consumer Bureau that is accountable to Wall Street rather than regular Americans looks like. Mulvaney has canceled enforcement actions against payday lenders. He has gutted the office responsible for going after discriminatory lenders. He encourages big banks to throw even more money at Members of Congress. I believe he went in front of the American Bankers Association—one of the big trade associations. He went in front of them and said: If you want to get your way with Congress, you have to put more money in, you have to give more campaign contributions.

This was the President's appointed head of the Consumer Bureau. Perhaps most despicably, earlier this month, he announced he would no longer—get this—protect servicemembers and their families from shady lenders that tried to cheat them by ending the CFPB's