

would call New Hampshire his “second favorite state.”

Throughout his many visits to New Hampshire, Granite Staters appreciated his candor and sincerity. The Straight Talk Express wasn't just a slogan—the John McCain you saw was the John McCain you got.

Most memorable, during a campaign stop in Wolfeboro in 2008, a mother stood up and asked John to wear a bracelet with her son's name on it. Her son, Matthew Stanley, was only 22 years old when he died serving in Iraq. She wanted to make sure that her son's sacrifice wasn't forgotten, that he didn't die in vain. John said he would be honored to wear the bracelet. From then on, it was on his wrist everywhere he went. In his final days, John continued to wear the bracelet of Matthew Stanley on his wrist. Until the very end, John was true to his word and true to his convictions.

As my chairman on the Armed Services Committee, it was always a great honor to work with John on the annual defense authorization bill. The issues we addressed were so important to him. His devotion to service and the Armed Forces not only ran deep in his character, but in his family legacy. Delivering a good and timely defense bill was John's No. 1 priority.

One issue I had the great honor of working with John on every year was providing additional visas to Afghan interpreters and support staff who help our troops and diplomats on the ground. For their service, these men and women are often targeted by the Taliban and other terrorist groups. John recognized that we have a profound obligation to provide a safe haven to these Afghan allies who risk everything. John led this fight because it is just the right thing to do. He understood that the solemn commitment to leave no man behind extends to all who fight, and just like John, America would be true to its word.

I also had the pleasure of traveling internationally with John to represent the United States and observe U.S. missions. As many of my colleagues can attest, rarely was a minute wasted on a McCain delegation. One of his great passions was human rights and supporting those on the side of freedom and democracy around the world. Whether that be students seeking academic freedom in Belarus or newly elected leaders in Tunisia, he always made time to encourage and support their efforts.

John cared greatly for the U.S. Senate and was deeply worried about the current state of our politics. I believe that the floor speech that Senator McCain delivered soon after learning of his cancer diagnosis will echo for decades to come. We can fight like hell for what we believe in, but we must always recognize that we are fundamentally Americans who have more in common than we have differences. Compromise in a legislative body is essential, not a dirty word. Political expediency must

take a backseat to what is best for the country. We should all take this message to heart every day as we seek to address the many challenges our country faces.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the McCain family. I wish for them strength and perseverance during this very difficult time.

There will never be another John McCain, and the Senate will not be the same without him.

CONFIRMATION OF LYNN A. JOHNSON

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my opposition to the confirmation of Lynn Johnson to become Assistant Secretary for Family Support at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Time and again, this administration has shown a complete lack of good judgement on immigration policy. Most recently, the Trump administration implemented their family separation policy, which caused the cruel separation of thousands of children from their parents, a number of whom have still not been reunited.

The sheer inhumanity of a policy that involves forcibly separating children from their families has traumatized these children. Experts have said that this trauma will compound the trauma many of these children have already experienced fleeing their violent home countries, exacerbate learning difficulties, increase depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, and may make some children more prone to substance use disorders.

These traumatized children have then gone into the care of facilities overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which Ms. Johnson will oversee. There have been a number of concerning reports about facilities caring for these separated children, including medical neglect, physical and sexual abuse, overzealous restrictions on phone contact with their parents, and inappropriate use of psychotropic drugs without parental consent.

While I understand that Ms. Johnson was not in charge of the agency when this policy was implemented, I could not in good conscience vote to confirm a nominee who will be charged with carrying out this administration's misguided policies.

Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2147. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 1047. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable John Sidney McCain, III, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Aspartic acid, N-(1,2-dicarboxyethyl)-, tetrasodium salt; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9981-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6342. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Zinc oxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9978-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6343. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Lignosulfonic Acid, Calcium, comp. with 1,6 hexanediamine polymer with Guanidine Hydrochloride (1:1); Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 9979-94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6344. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Seed Cotton Changes to Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs” (RIN0560-AI40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6345. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6346. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6347. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6348. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances” (FRL No. 9982-77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.