

his spiritual journey. He once said, "I am guided by certain traditions, one is that there's a God, and He is good and His love, while free has a self-imposed cost: We must be good to one another." This sentiment is emblematic of his life. He served as many things: father, husband, President, humanitarian, and fighter. His life is a study of strong choices and bold strokes across the history of the United States, all of them guided by the strongest fundamentals of right and wrong. I am sure that he is joyous to be reunited with his closest companion, Barbara, and their daughter Robin, in heaven.

While America is remembering a combat veteran, a President, and an ambassador, his family will be remembering a husband and a father. My wife Diana and I send our thoughts and deepest condolences to the entire Bush family as we mourn the passing of a President. The passing of a loved one, especially someone who has meant so much to so many, has never and will never be an easy burden to bear.

How can I adequately speak about the life of a man who has had such a long and distinguished career? By praising the accomplishments of a man who never stopped working to make the world a better place, the man who reached across the political aisle to foster friendships, and by saying thank you.

Thank you for your service. Thank you for your leadership.

God bless you, and may you and your family find peace.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a member of the Senate who will be retiring at this end of this Congress, my colleague and friend, Senator BOB CORKER. I have had the pleasure of serving in the Senate alongside BOB for close to 11 years, and it has been a privilege to work and join with him on a number of legislative efforts. Particularly, I am grateful for his diligent fiscal conservatism on the Budget Committee. I will miss working with him to address our Nation's fiscal issues.

BOB's path to the U.S. Senate began at the young age of 25, when he founded his own construction company, which would eventually expand operations in over 18 States. He continued to polish his business acumen thereafter, acquiring two of the largest real estate companies in Chattanooga in 1999. As a testament to his success in business, he would later be inducted into the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. BOB carried his business-oriented results-driven attitude with him when he ran for mayor in the scenic city of Chattanooga, TN, at the turn of the millennium. As mayor, BOB excelled, delivering to Chattanooga denizens a lean and balanced city budget while also lowering the tax rate, among other

noteworthy accomplishments. BOB's path to Washington is one that we shared. I, too, was a businessowner and a mayor before serving in the U.S. Senate.

BOB's commitment to public service didn't end in Chattanooga—far from it. His career was just beginning to take off. In 2006, he won one of the most competitive U.S. Senate races of the year. Incidentally, that was the year I met BOB. My initial impressions of him still hold true today: industrious and principled. Later, I would realize our shared experiences as businessowners and as mayors uniquely shaped our understanding of the proper role and scope of the Federal Government. BOB quickly ascended in Washington, becoming chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and making a name for himself on the Banking Committee. His reputation soon preceded him on a host of issue areas, including housing finance reform and strategic diplomacy abroad. He made his disagreements respectfully clear and stood up for what he believed was right. Evidently, the people of Tennessee liked what they saw and handily elected him to a second term.

BOB should be incredibly proud of his work and tenure as chairman of Foreign Relations Committee. His breadth of experience on the committee and visits to over 70 countries have provided his colleagues with invaluable institutional insight on the impact American leadership and diplomacy abroad continues to have on our economy and national security. The Electrify Africa Act is a significant achievement of the committee I would like to pay special homage to. The bill states it is the policy of the United States to promote first-time power services for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020. Having traveled to Africa myself and witnessed firsthand the severe shortage of electricity-generating infrastructure, I know that BOB's bill was a noble one. He worked tirelessly on it before it was signed into law in 2015.

It is with these memories of his service that I watch him depart the Senate. His bold presence and tested leadership will be profoundly missed. The mark he has left on the institution will not be forgotten. My wife Diana joins me in sending our very best wishes and gratitude to BOB for his public service. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and we are happy he will be able to spend more time with his wife Elizabeth and his three children.

BOB, from one Sigma Chi alum to another, "In Hoc Signo Vinces". May you continue to pursue a life of high ideals, noble purposes, and strong character.

Happy trails.

THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to speak on S. 1862, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Would the Senator from Tennessee, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, yield for a question? As the sponsor of this legislation, would you explain how our bill relates to international exchange programs run by the Department of State that collect program fees to fund program operations?

Mr. CORKER. I appreciate the Senator's question and his partnership with me on this legislation to advance the fight against modern-day slavery.

Our bill and the underlying Trafficking Victims Protection Act are designed to eliminate forced labor around the world and do not affect the Exchange Visitor Programs, under the J-1 visa, which is authorized by Congress and administered by the State Department. The J-1 exchange programs are important tools that Congress authorized to enhance mutual exchange and cultural understanding between people in the United States and other countries, and they are subject to regulatory safeguards and oversight by the Department of State. Recruitment and placement fees referenced in S. 1862 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act are fundamentally different from the program fees in our international exchange programs, which are fees required to be charged to program participants who receive J-1 visas in order to fund the program. Our legislation does not affect the exchange programs, which are an important diplomatic tool which I strongly support.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the Senator from Tennessee. I appreciate your explanation, which also reflects my understanding, about the difference between international exchange program fees and placement and recruitment fees covered by the bill. Let me conclude by saying that I agree with you about the importance of our International Exchange Programs administered by the Department of State, and I know that Congress has long supported these programs.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator from New Jersey and our distinguished ranking member for his question and for working with me to pass this important legislation.

HONORING DURELL WADE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, 77 years after being killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, AD2 Durell Wade of Calhoun County, MS, will be laid to rest in the North Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

On December 7, 1941, 429 men lost their lives aboard the U.S.S. *Oklahoma*, including Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Wade.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1936 and was in line to be promoted to chief aviation machinist mate shortly before his death. His service in the U.S. Navy helped in the ultimate fight to protect our liberty.

The U.S. Department of Defense and its Defense POW/MIA Accounting