

the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, participated in a weeklong space flight on the Columbia. What most folks don't know, however, is that the launch for the mission was aborted not once, not twice, but three times. Eventually, though, the liftoff was achieved, and BILL became only the second sitting Member of Congress to leave Earth's atmosphere, where, in his words, he saw "the blue brilliance of the earth from the edge of the heavens."

There is a name given to the shift in perspective experienced by astronauts called the overview effect. Seeing the Earth from the window of a space shuttle—that pale-blue marble in the vast emptiness of space—makes you realize how fragile and also how beautiful our planet truly is. Senator NELSON experienced something of an overview effect, and although he already cared about the environment, he became a lifelong champion of environmental causes.

BILL NELSON protected and preserved the Everglades, Florida's beaches, and offshore waters by standing against offshore drilling. There is none in Florida, and I have to say that the reason is sitting right to my left—BILL NELSON. Time and again, when rapacious companies and others wanted to drill and risk the beauty of Florida's coastline and its economic vitality, there was BILL NELSON, like Horatio at the bridge, preventing it from happening. After the BP oilspill, BILL NELSON made sure Florida's gulf communities got the restitution they deserved from BP's settlement.

Senator NELSON has always been a loud voice speaking about the need for action on climate change, as his beloved State of Florida gets hit by ever more powerful storms and the low-lying areas, like Miami, get flooded regularly.

Of course, seeing the Earth from space didn't just focus BILL's eyes downward. This man is capable of doing many things at once. He kept them firmly fixed on the horizons as well. It will be a long time before the Senate sees a champion for NASA and space exploration like BILL NELSON. It may never see one as committed again.

The Senate, the State of Florida, and the country will miss BILL NELSON, as will Iris and I. He was even-tempered even in tempestuous times. He was always civil in the midst of such incivility. When so many of us are prone to looking backward, trying to figure out what we did wrong or what we could have done differently, BILL was always looking forward and upward.

I have had the pleasure not only of being BILL's colleague but being his friend. What a fine human being. One of my greatest regrets here is that some fine human beings are not going to be with us next time, and this Chamber and this country will show they are missed.

There is nothing BILL is now looking forward to more than spending time with his beloved Grace and visiting his children, Bill Junior and Nan Ellen.

Every one of us salutes the great senior Senator from Florida, everything he has accomplished in his distinguished career in the Senate, and just the great man that he is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding previous Senate action on the House message to accompany H.R. 695, today's motions and amendments remain in status quo and the earlier motion to concur and the motion to refer with instructions and amendments Nos. 1923 and 1924 be withdrawn.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Maguire, of Florida, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, Senator PAUL be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CORNYN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have a message to deliver this morning, but after sitting here and listening through and enjoying the comments that were made, I wanted to at least make one comment about the Senator from Texas.

In my real life, for a number of years, I was a builder and developer in South Texas. I know South Texas very well. I know the border well. That is why I have been down there so much and am so interested in, of course, the border wall, which we are going to have. But we have a wonderful friend and a person who has been a good friend. You would think he is dead, but he is not. He is very much alive, and he is back doing his full-time job.

I want to say that the time I spent with him down there in Texas long before he was even in the position he is in today—he has been a great hero down there not just to the people in Texas but people all over the country.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, as far as the comments that were made by the minority leader from New York, it is easy to stand here and talk about this. Yes, I know the Democrats—they have all gotten together, and they don't want to have a wall, but they are going to have a wall. Walls work.

Look at the record of having walls. San Diego built their wall in 1992, and illegal traffic dropped 92 percent after that. Ninety-two percent. El Paso built their wall—I remember when that was built—in 1993, and illegal traffic dropped 72 percent. Tucson built their wall in 2000, and illegal traffic dropped 90 percent. Yuma, in Arizona, built theirs in 2005, and illegal traffic dropped. It has happened everywhere. Just look at Israel and the successes they have had and how many Israelis would be dead today if it weren't for the wall they have.

We are one of the few countries without a wall. We are going to have a wall, and it is going to be funded. So if anyone is listening to what is going on down here, just be assured that we are going to have our wall.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. President, I want to make one comment on something that happened 3 or 4 weeks ago, when we lost an American hero. Everyone talked about George H.W. Bush, and they talked about their experiences. The reason I wanted to wait a while before making any comments on that is because I have known George H.W. Bush for many, many years, before I was actually in politics. My wife Kay and I are praying for the entire Bush family as the Nation mourns and honors one of America's loyal sons.

George H.W. Bush was one of the only men I have ever known who could truly love someone into changing his mind. He loved God. He loved his family. He loved his country and served it tirelessly with passion.

Listen to all of the things he has done. He was a naval aviator, an Ambassador, Director of the CIA, President of the United States, and Vice President of the United States. He has done it all.

George H.W. Bush put service to his Nation and love for his family above all else. Kay and I have known the Bush family for a long time, dating back to their time in the Texas oil fields. He would go back and forth to what he referred to as his second home, which is Tulsa, OK. We were friends before we were in politics, and I am grateful for that friendship. I will always remember that friendship.

This portrays him very well. Back when I was mayor of Tulsa and George Bush was Vice President, he came to Tulsa, OK, to do a fundraising event. It