

returned to the Pikeville area and worked in the mines, graduated from Pikeville college in 1966. He was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1969 and served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1971.

A life-transforming event happened to him in the spring of 1973 when he heard the Rev. Ben Sheldon, who was then a Presbyterian pastor in Washington, D.C., preach in Pikeville.

"He started preaching the gospel of God's love," Baird says of Sheldon, who later became a pastor in Pikeville. "I felt a personal love that He died for me. It was God's timing."

Baird went on to practice law in Pikeville, joking that "in Hatfield and McCoy country, folks can be litigious here." He now describes his role as a "sometime" attorney, not full-time nor part-time, who does pro bono work and helps fill in for other attorneys at court appearances. "Some people say I'm the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day," he says.

He followed up on his short "athletic" career at Duke by coaching softball at Pikeville High School from 1986–2004 and at the university from 1994–2004. Today one of the family's scholarships is dedicated to athletics, and Bill Baird himself is a member of the university's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Much of the family's UPIKE support is described by Bill Baird as meeting the needs of first-time college students who come from the community. He says he hopes the scholarships will address larger gaps as well.

To meet additional need in his region, Bill Baird has been actively involved in several faith-based groups and community support programs. He has supported the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program, provided devotional Bibles to coaches and is Board Chairman of WestCare of Kentucky, Inc., which is involved in treatment of substance abuse.

Today, the Baird Family Circle is one of the granite inlays of Benefactor's Plaza on campus. Acknowledging the recent service award and scholarship fund honoring him at UPIKE, Bill Baird says, "Christ made the difference in my life. He gave me an opportunity to serve in this way."

He praises this year's fellow recipients of the Baird Family Service award, UPIKE Trustee Gregory Pauley and his wife, Kathryn, characterizing them as "wonderful, caring people," whose mobile home park neighborhood ministry is just the kind of generosity and service embodied by the Baird legacy.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 34, the motion to invoke cloture on Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 35, the confirmation of Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 36, the motion to invoke cloture on Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY NOTHERN

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor my communications director Lindsay Nothern for his dedication of more than 20 years to Senate service.

Lindsay has been a valued member of my staff since we both started Senate service in 1999. When I was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, my communications director refused to hire a press secretary immediately because she wanted to bring Lindsay onto the staff, and he was not available for a few months, so she did double duty until he was able to join my staff, and I have always been grateful for her insistence that we wait for him. His instincts and media savvy have been spot-on so many times over the two decades he has been with me.

Lindsay's strategic view of how activities and policy initiatives are presented has been instrumental. From press secretary, he moved to serving as communications director in 2011. While Lindsay may not be an Idahoan by birth, he has certainly earned his Gem State stripes through his depth and breadth of knowledge about the State. His experience as a journalist has served him well, first in reporting and managing the news from the journalist side and then from the other side as a press secretary and media representative. His prior work includes serving as press secretary for former Idaho Governor Phil Batt, who initially dubbed Lindsay as "Scoop," and campaign press secretary for Congressman MIKE SIMPSON in Congressman SIMPSON's first House campaign.

Lindsay is unfailingly one of the most pleasant people I have ever encountered. He can be counted on to be a great sounding board and listener, regardless of his personal opinions. I trust him to represent me to Idahoans throughout the State and know that he will always leave a meeting with a handful of new friends. That includes those who show up angry and unannounced in my office, demanding a meeting. Lindsay has demonstrated patience, commitment, and empathy in meeting for hundreds of hours with those who have taken issue with some aspect of government, the administration, or me. He is also a great encourager among staff, helping them to know their good work is valued and appreciated.

Several issues have become close to Lindsay's heart—among them, domestic violence prevention and awareness. Somewhere in my office archives, there is a photo of Lindsay in women's heels as he took part in a "walk a mile in her shoes" event, representing the office. That was not a comfortable experience for his feet, but he has been a strong advocate in helping me find ways to illuminate and bring awareness to domestic violence matters.

Thank you, Lindsay, for your 20 years of dedicated service to our Nation and the people of Idaho, and thank you for your continual assistance and friendship over the years. Congratula-

tions on this milestone of public service for the betterment of Idaho and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE BROOKER

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Julie Brooker, my central Nebraska director of constituent services who retired at the end of February.

Julie Brooker's service in the U.S. Senate began in 1997 and has spanned three U.S. Senators from Nebraska: former Senator Chuck Hagel, former Senator Mike Johanns, and myself.

Before her longtime work as a Senate staffer, Julie was a committed and hardworking volunteer on a number of political campaigns.

She was well known as someone willing to haul yard signs all over Nebraska's huge third district.

You see, a commitment to helping and serving others ran in Julie's family.

Julie's dad, Gordon, served faithfully as a local volunteer firefighter, and her mom, Doralene, served on both the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors and the Nebraska Public Power District Board.

Their example instilled in her lessons in treating people with kindness, listening to others' concerns, and lending a helping hand.

If you were planning a run for office in Nebraska, Julie Brooker was someone you needed to go see.

When I decided to run for U.S. Senate, Julie was one of the first people I visited with, and she was so very generous with her time and her advice.

During her Senate career, Julie sacrificed many days, nights, and weekends to serve the people of Nebraska well.

She was renowned for driving whichever U.S. Senator she was serving at the time all over the third district.

In every county, Julie had many friends. Her genuine interest in others and friendly, approachable demeanor were always on display.

Over the years Julie worked in my office, I was always completely confident that she was representing me well and that my constituents in Kearney and throughout the central region of the State were in the very best of hands.

Whether it was through her tenacity in helping resolve casework, her willingness to meet with any Nebraskan who crossed her path, or her ability to provide tough news in compassionate ways, Julie has always had a servant's heart.

Serving Nebraskans wasn't a job for Julie, it was a calling. She loves Nebraska, and she loves Nebraskans.

I want to thank Julie's husband, Jim, for loaning Julie to the people of central Nebraska for so many years.

I am also so very grateful to Julie's kids and grandkids for sacrificing time with her so that she could put the time and energy she had into this service to the people of Nebraska.