

business for up to 5 minutes, and that following my remarks, Senator ROSEN be recognized to speak as in morning business for as much time as she may consume.

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

WELCOMING SENATOR ROSEN OF NEVADA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you, Madam President. I come to the floor today to honor my colleague and dear friend, Senator JACKY ROSEN, as she prepares to deliver her maiden speech in this Chamber.

Senator ROSEN has spent her career pushing boundaries and advocating for innovation and inclusivity. She is bringing that vision to the U.S. Senate, where she has already proved herself to be a strong advocate for Nevadans by fighting to bolster our State's tech industries, supporting our veterans, and protecting Nevadans' healthcare.

When JACKY was elected to the Senate, we sat down and talked about how we could best serve Nevada together. We requested different committee assignments so we could be sure we were covering all the issue areas that are important to Nevadans. We made sure our staffs were connected and working together on projects, not only in DC but in the great Silver State of Nevada.

We committed to coming together every Wednesday morning in DC to welcome Nevadans to the Capitol and hear their stories. Those Wednesday morning constituent coffees are one of the highlights, I think, of both of our weeks. Anyone lucky enough to work with JACKY knows that she works tirelessly to build consensus and find solutions that help better the lives of Nevada families. I am honored to work beside her every day to serve the people of Nevada. I am proud to call her my friend, and I want to congratulate her on making her maiden speech this morning. I look forward to this and to many more as we continue to fight together for the Silver State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for that great introduction.

I am honored and humbled to address this distinguished body as the newest Senator from the great State of Nevada and to stand alongside an exceptional group of colleagues with a shared commitment to public service. I am especially honored to hold this seat, as it once belonged to a great Nevada public servant, Senator Richard Bryan. Senator Bryan served in just about every position in government, from assemblyman to Governor. He worked tirelessly to advance civil rights, empower women in government, and defend Nevada's public lands. I am so honored to carry his values with me to move Nevada forward.

As I take up this mantle in the Senate, I am prepared to continue Senator Bryan's legacy and work for Nevadans,

while also building toward a legacy of our own. I stand here as Nevada's 28th Senator and, for the first time in history, as one of two women to represent our State in the Senate. I am proud to be part of such an incredible movement of strong, passionate, trailblazing women like Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, who became the first female Senator to represent the great State of Nevada and the first Latina elected to serve in the Senate.

Everywhere, we are seeing women who are stepping up to lead, and I am thrilled to have the chance to empower women who are looking to break barriers along the way. By bringing more women to the decision-making table, we can open doors and make progress on issues that affect us and our hard-working families on a daily basis. When women put their minds together, there is no new ground we cannot break, and there is no glass ceiling we cannot shatter.

I stand here today to share my vision for how we can work together—on both sides of the aisle—to lay down a framework for progress because Nevadans and Americans everywhere are counting on us to go above and beyond, to overcome obstacles before us, and to find commonsense, forward-thinking solutions for the challenges of this new era—challenges like immigration reform, which protects our Dreamers and TPS recipients; challenges like a changing 21st century economy and climate change; and, of course, an issue that is so important to hard-working families everywhere, the challenge of access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Before I discuss where we are going, let me tell you just a bit about where I come from—my values and the ways in which my story has helped to shape who I am and how it will shape who I will be as Nevada's newest Senator.

I am the proud granddaughter of immigrants and a first-generation college graduate who worked my way through college waiting tables. Yes, I am a former member of the Culinary Workers Union, and I saved my tips in envelopes to pay for that college tuition. I am a computer programmer and a systems analyst who worked my way up in what has been long considered a male-dominated industry.

I am a wife to my husband Larry, a radiologist, whom I can always count on to be by my side. I am a mother to my wonderful daughter Miranda, whom I am so proud of and who inspires me every day to build a better future for our country.

I am a former president of my synagogue—the largest synagogue in Nevada—and during my tenure, I witnessed the beauty of our country's religious diversity and how community engagement strengthens America. I also learned the importance of working together to fight against anti-Semitism, which we are seeing now, once again, rear its ugly head here at home and around the globe.

Remembering where I come from, my story, my roots, this is what guides me every day to make decisions to help working families. When it comes to issues like college affordability and education, equal pay for equal work, labor rights, combating hate and anti-Semitism, and standing up for Israel, I can speak from personal experience.

I am reminded that my story is just one of many from Las Vegas to Reno, to Searchlight, to Lovelock, and everywhere in between because I hear from Nevadans who share some of those same stories from every part of the rich, vibrant fabric that makes up our diverse State, including Latinos, Asian Americans, African Americans, Tribal communities, and beyond.

When I think of the shores of Lake Tahoe and of Lake Mead, the majestic canyons of Red Rock, the open skies across the desert, and the mountains that shine below them like jewels in the sun, I think of home. Nothing rings more true to me than saying home means Nevada to me.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Madam President, we are a State that was born to take on challenges. We come together from every walk of life to make cities that shine from out of the desert. We are battle born, and we are battle tested, and it is our grit, our perseverance, and our diversity that truly capture who we are. It is those same qualities that will help us change the face of our Nation.

Remembering where we come from—that philosophy—is a driving force behind my support for environmental policies that will protect our States' treasures, including our mountains, rivers, and lakes.

I am honored to represent the most beautiful State in the country, but there is one environmental issue that threatens Nevada's beautiful landscapes and the families that call our State home, and that is Yucca Mountain. Nevada has made it clear time and again that we will not become the Nation's dumping ground for nuclear waste. Yet we continue to see relentless efforts to turn our State into the Nation's sole nuclear waste repository without our consent, even after we have made our voices heard, even though Nevada does not create nuclear waste. Congress must respect our will and our rights as a State because our voice matters. I stand prepared to use every tool at my disposal to defend our State from attempts to revive this project.

I will continue to fight to keep our State beautiful by standing up for clean air and clean water, by protecting public lands and investing in clean energy, by taking real action to address climate change. I know we can leave the world a better place for future generations.

We also know there are commonsense ways to address our climate challenges, including investing in renewable energy right at home. In Nevada, solar