

Federal debt. Washington is broken. We do not have the money to finance even the most basic functions of our government: infrastructure and our national defense.

Today's vote was an example of the consequences we may face when Congress lets these serious financial issues languish. We cannot continue to ignore these problems. We cannot continue to pretend our fiscal problems are solved by waving away protections placed by prior Congresses.

I believe that Congress must fix this problem and bring our trust funds into long-term solvency. When the Environment and Public Works Committee approved our highway bill in July, I ensured the bill contained language stating our intent to do just that.

Today, Congress was lucky—we could push our spending problem off to another day. One day soon, we will not be so lucky.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words in memory of my good friend and former colleague Kay Hagan, who passed away this week.

One of the hardest aspects of this work in the Senate is the loss of a colleague. So my thoughts are with Senator Hagan's family and friends in this difficult time.

I recall well her 6 years here with both deep respect and friendship.

In the time we served in this body together, I was able to get to know Kay very well, and I can honestly say I am lucky to call her a friend. She was always kind and a positive face and worked hard for her constituents and the Nation.

Kay was a dedicated public servant who served North Carolinians for 16 years. She got her start in politics in the 1970s when she interned right here in the Senate. As an elevator operator during her internship, she brushed shoulders with some of the biggest names of the day. Kay later described the experience as "infectious," and it inspired her own political ambitions.

In 1998, that political career took her to the North Carolina State Senate. It didn't take long for Kay's talents to be noticed. She rose through the ranks quickly and became cochair of the budget committee.

Her trademark pragmatism and focus on problem solving served her well in that position. Her hard work earned her a ranking as one of the top 10 most influential members in the State senate.

In 2008 Kay won a race that brought her here, to the U.S. Senate, where her passion and focus continued to distinguish her. Kay was a fierce advocate for her State, using her position on the Armed Service Committee to help North Carolina's military families. Whether it was asking the tough questions on water contamination at military bases or mustering support for

veterans' caregivers, Kay was always there for our servicemembers.

Kay was also a breath of fresh air in the Senate. There were only 15 women serving in the Senate when she came to Washington in January 2009. When she first arrived, she soon learned that the Senate pool was only open to men. She thought that was wrong and got the rules changed. She was a firm believer in equality and making the changes you want to see in the world.

No matter how big or small the issue, Kay always tried to help the people of North Carolina. Just a few months ago, she made one of her last public appearances at a groundbreaking for a new air traffic control tower at Piedmont Triad International Airport. When she was first elected to the Senate, she toured the old air traffic control tower at Piedmont and learned that a project to replace it was stalled in Washington. Kay took on the project and fought for funding to finally get it moving forward. It is through her work and diligence that the tower is being built today.

From reproductive rights to veterans' healthcare to transportation infrastructure, you could always count on Kay to deliver. She will be missed by many for her warmth and devotion to public service.

I send my deepest condolences to her husband, Charles "Chip", and her three children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie.

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

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Senator Kay Hagan.

When I think of Kay, I will always think of joy, as reflected by the bright colors she used to love wearing. Regardless of how things could get at times, her wonderful spirit would make it all seem better.

You could always count on Kay to look out for people, whether it was restoring a program to pay tuition for Active-Duty servicemembers, establishing stronger protections for victims of domestic violence, or passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to stop pay discrimination.

Kay made history. She was the first woman Democratic Senator from North Carolina and the State's second woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate. I have always thought that the women of the Senate work harder, work together, and get things done. Kay was definitely one of those women.

In fact Kay, in her inimitable way, summed it up best when she said, "There are only two types of senators: those who'd spend all day on their hair . . . and the women senators."

Kay loved to swim, and when she arrived as a new Senator in 2009, she went down to the Senate pool only to find a sign outside that said "Men Only"—a fact that she mentioned during one of

her first speeches as a Senator without realizing media was present. When the press started calling around to various offices asking about the "men only" Senate pool, some were quick to push back on Kay's claim, so Kay asked them to meet her down at the pool to see for themselves. Within a day, the sign was changed to "Co-Ed Aquatic Facility: Please Dress Appropriately." As it turned out, four male Senators had been swimming naked. But because of Kay Hagan, now all Senators can enjoy the pool, and everyone wears "appropriate attire".

That is what I loved about working with Kay. She always looked out for her colleagues. And so when Kay left the Senate, the women Senators had a special farewell party for her next to the pool.

Kay's drive to get things done came in part from her family. Born in Shelby, NC, as the second of three children and the only daughter, Kay once remarked "being the girl in the middle . . . I had to fight for everything I got."

And fight she did, rising from an internship in the U.S. Capitol in the 1970s, where she operated the elevators for U.S. Senators, to eventually becoming a Senator herself. In between, Kay served as State senator for 10 years and was named as one of North Carolina's "Ten Most Effective Senators" three terms in a row.

My friend, former Vice President Walter Mondale, once told me that when elected officials gain power, they "either grow or they swell." Kay was a Senator who grew.

Kay was one bright yellow ray of sunshine for everyone she touched—the Senate, her beloved State of North Carolina, her friends, and her family. As she struggled with her illness the last few years, her loving husband, Chip, and their family were always at her side. I encourage everyone to look up at the Sun and think of Kay. •

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to former Senator Kay Hagan, who left us this week, much too early, at the age of 66. Kay and I entered the Senate together, in 2009. Our class of freshman Democratic Senators was very close, and I spent a lot of time with Kay. She was warm and vivacious and 100 percent committed to her home State of North Carolina.

Kay was the first woman Democratic Senator elected from North Carolina, and she beat a formidable incumbent. By the time she entered the Senate, she had already gained a reputation in her State as a leader and a fighter, having served in the State senate for 10 years.

Kay was a woman of great strength, grace, and accomplishment. She was a lawyer, a banker, a legislator, a mother of three, and grandmother of five. Kay came to the Senate to get things