

Lankford	Risch	Smith
Leahy	Roberts	Stabenow
Lee	Romney	Sullivan
Manchin	Rosen	Tester
McConnell	Rounds	Thune
McSally	Rubio	Tillis
Merkley	Sasse	Toomey
Murkowski	Schatz	Udall
Murphy	Schumer	Van Hollen
Murray	Scott (FL)	Warner
Paul	Scott (SC)	Whitehouse
Peters	Shaheen	Wicker
Portman	Shelby	Young
Reed	Sinema	

NAYS—2

Gillibrand Markey

NOT VOTING—12

Booker	Isakson	Perdue
Braun	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Menendez	Warren
Harris	Moran	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action with respect to the nominations confirmed here in today's session of the Senate.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 387.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. (New Position)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. (New Position)

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott, John Barrasso,

Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Cornyn, John Boozman, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Todd Young, David Perdue, John Thune, Lamar Alexander.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 486.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, Rick Scott.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

BARKER HOUSE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about something positive that is happening in Ohio with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps is involved with some civic-minded community volunteers in something that will help pre-

serve our history in Ohio. It wouldn't be happening but for the vision of the head of the Army Corps, Mr. R.D. James, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. It is a good-news project regarding the preservation of an important piece of the history of the Northwest Territory and my home State of Ohio. It is called the Barker House. It is a historic home that dates back almost 200 years. It was built by the owner's father, who was a Revolutionary War officer and a famous early settler and pioneer architect in Ohio. A number of historic homes of his were built along the Ohio River, and this is one of them that is still left standing. Colonel Joseph Barker, Sr., was his name, and he is one of our most famous early pioneers in Ohio.

The House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 for its historic significance. In fact, Joseph Barker, Sr., and the houses he built play an important role in a new, award-winning book by the great historian David McCullough, "The Pioneers," and it tells the story of the Northwest Territory and the founding of Ohio in the wake of the Revolutionary War. In "The Pioneers" book, Colonel Barker's stately homes were an anomaly out on the frontier. His own home was described as "a large, brick house in the Federal style, with a handsome front door, flanked by recessed side windows and an elliptical fanlight overhead. . . . [O]nce completed the whole house was painted white, and soon became, as intended, a 'distinguished seat of hospitality.'"

This also describes the historic Barker House we are trying to preserve.

These houses brought a level of architectural refinement that stood in sharp contrast to the log cabins on the rugged landscape where these pioneers were settling.

The Barker House is currently owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is owned by them because it sits right next to the Willow Island Locks and Dam on the Ohio River. The house was used as office space by the Corps back in the 1960s, and today, the house is still standing. It is vacant, in bad shape, and unsafe to enter, but it is savable.

I visited this historic Barker House back in September of 2018. I learned then that the Corps was proposing to demolish the Barker House. They then considered a proposal to move it brick by brick to a new location off of Army Corps' land. Neither made sense.

That is when I met Jack Haessly, who led a group—along with Wesley Clarke, Bill Reynolds, Bob Ferguson, and others—a local Barker House friends group who said they would be willing to raise the money to restore this home on its historic site overlooking the Ohio River. They wanted to make sure it would be accessible to visitors there and made into a museum.

I immediately called the Secretary, Mr. R.D. James of the Army Corps, and

asked if he would reconsider the decision to demolish this historic home. After hearing the story of the house and the details of the group's plan to preserve it and after getting an assessment from the Army Corps, Mr. James agreed to reverse the Corps' decision and to work with us on preserving the home. He deserves great credit for that.

Congressman BILL JOHNSON, who represents the area, has also been an excellent partner in pursuing these sensible solutions.

Right now, we are working on developing legislation that I hope to introduce soon to convey the house and the surrounding land to the friends group. We have made a lot of progress so far. Just last week, the Corps completed drawings of the specific parcel proposed to be conveyed, which also includes the creation of an access road so that the house can be visited and enjoyed by the public. We appreciate the Ohio Department of Transportation and Director Jack Marchbanks for working with us on the road access. The road access issue was critical, and ODOT was very helpful. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office has also jumped in and played a constructive role.

This is an example of a true public-private partnership, made possible by Secretary James. I want to thank him, the Army Corps, his team, the Barker House friends group, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and ODOT. All of them are partnering with us to ensure that this historic structure remains standing so it can tell the story of our rich history for generations to come.

S. 1431

Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today to talk about the opportunity we have here in Congress to make substantial reforms to address an issue that keeps a lot of Americans up at night, and that is whether they are going to have enough money in their retirement.

I chair the Finance subcommittee that handles retirement and pension issues, and I have worked to pass bipartisan legislation with then-Congressman BEN CARDIN, now-Senator BEN CARDIN, over the years. That legislation has helped people save more in their IRAs and 401(k)s and other retirement plans, but we still have a long way to go. In fact, according to a recent study by Northwestern Mutual, two-thirds of Americans believe they will outlive their retirement savings. People are right to be worried.

Right now, way too many workers don't have access to a retirement plan at all, and too many Americans who do have a plan are not saving enough. Fewer than half of the employees at businesses with fewer than 50 workers have access to a plan, and only 34 percent of them participate. That is where the major problem is. These are workers at mom-and-pop shops, small manufacturers, and countless other employers who make up the backbone of our economy.

We can and should do more to make sure these small business employees are set up for retirement so that they can find peace of mind in their retirement. What is more, only 22 percent of part-time workers today have access to a plan—only 22 percent. More Americans can have access to a retirement plan just by our making some simple changes in law.

A lot of Americans that do have a plan haven't saved enough, so they are at risk of having their savings be inadequate for their increasing lifespans. People are living longer, so this is a bigger problem.

Social Security is absolutely essential. It is great that that safety net is there. It is necessary to cushion the retirement incomes for Americans. But the average payout from Social Security is 1,400 bucks a month. Try living on that. It is tough. A lot of people have a hard time with that, so they need these extra retirement savings.

The lack of adequate retirement savings is made worse by the fact that we have more and more baby boomers who are retiring, so we have a bigger group in this category. And people are living longer. That is a good thing, but it creates an additional challenge with regard to retirement savings.

For all these reasons, we need to overhaul the laws governing the private retirement system to help more people get access to workplace savings plans, encourage savings to help our economy overall, and make sure people don't outlive their savings in their retirement.

The good news is that we have that package before us right now here in the Senate. It would go a long way toward making these changes. It is called the SECURE Act, and it has already passed the House of Representatives 5½ months ago by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 417 to 3—that is right, 417 to 3. That never happens around here. This is totally bipartisan. It is one of these issues where we would have an opportunity to pass it and then send it directly to the President for his signature, and he has said he would sign it. We are divided on so many issues in Washington today, but this is one where we have a rare chance for a truly bipartisan solution to a problem that is affecting people in every single State represented in this body.

Today what was called a live UC was tried. It was an attempt to get a vote on the SECURE Act—this legislation I am talking about—with five amendments on each side. I support that, and I supported my colleagues today who came forward to offer that. The amendments they outlined as our five Republican amendments all make sense to me. Then the Democrats were told: You should offer five amendments also. You all pick them. Unfortunately, it was objected to by the other side. That didn't surprise me because for the past 5½ months, some of us have been trying to get this legislation done, and there are big concerns on both sides of

the aisle, but we are at a point now where we know, having raised this live UC, that we continue to have this stalemate. After 5½ months, I think it is time for us to move forward on these reforms.

Again, I like the amendments that were proposed today. As an example, I agree that allowing 529 plans to be used for homeschooling expenses makes sense. It is a reform Congress should take up, but this underlying bill that almost every Republican in the House supported, even without this provision, is one we also ought to take up. As difficult as it is for us to give up on amendments on both sides, if that can't be done because it gets blocked, then let's go ahead and move the underlying legislation, the SECURE Act.

It is a worthwhile piece of legislation. It helps in a category where we need help badly; that is, small businesses. They have an easier time setting up retirement plans under the SECURE Act because the bill increases tax credit for small businesses. In general, you get \$500 now for starting a retirement plan. That would be raised to \$5,000. That is a tenfold increase. Again, small businesses, where a major gap in retirement plans are found, say that would be a significant incentive for them to set up a retirement plan.

Second, it provides an annual tax credit to small businesses that introduce automatic enrollment features into their plan. Small business employees will have to opt out of saving for retirement as opposed to opting in. These autoenrollment features are fantastic. The average participation in a 401(k) in a midsize business is about 75 percent of the employees. If it is autoenrollment, where you automatically enroll unless you opt out, it is about 95 percent. This makes a lot of sense to me. That is an innovative change in this legislation.

Third, it streamlines a lot of the existing regulations associated with administering a plan so small business owners who already have a lot on their plates can have an easier time focusing on retirement for their employees rather than bureaucracy and redtape.

Perhaps most important to me, the bill allows small businesses to participate in what is called open MEPs—open multiple employer defined contribution plans. These are plans that allow businesses—some of these small businesses we talked about earlier—even if they are not in the same industry, they can come together to work together to set up a joint plan for their employees. That becomes much more effective for small businesses because they can share the administrative costs and share some of the liability expenses. It has a lot of benefits for these small employers and will result in more people I represent getting a retirement plan.

In all, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates this reform alone would lead to 700,000 new retirement accounts for small business workers who need access.

In my experience, that security really works. I grew up in a small family business. My dad started his own business. When he had five employees and my mom was the bookkeeper, he said they were going to set up a retirement plan. It was called a profit-sharing plan at the time. It was before a 401(k). They had no profit the first few years, so it was a little awkward, but when they finally started making money, everybody had a stake. Everybody got a little bit in their retirement nest eggs. When 401(k)s came in, they immediately started a 401(k) plan as well.

I meet people today whom I have known my entire life who turned a wrench their whole careers as a lift truck technician—a lift truck mechanic—who have a retirement savings plan now because of that. They have a nice nest egg of about \$500,000 to \$600,000 that they were able to accumulate. So I know this works. I know small businesses have the opportunity to do more for their workers if we help them more here in Washington. I am committed to trying to get this done.

Another important part of the SECURE Act has to do with older Americans. It says we should raise the age limit that forces older American workers to start depleting and paying taxes on their retirement savings. Currently, at 70½ years old, you have to start taking money out of your retirement plan. You have to do that whether you are working or not. Many people at that age are still working. My dad was still working at 70½. It drove him crazy that he had to take money out while he was still working. He wanted to keep building it up. So in this legislation, we say let's expand that to age 72.

Then, as important, the bill actually lifts the current prohibition on IRA contributions by people over 70½. That means people can make the choice if they want to keep investing in their retirement for as long as they see fit. Remember, somebody who makes it to 70½ is likely to live into his or her nineties. So there is still a lot of time in retirement where you need to have that funding. That kind of flexibility is how we allow people to manage their own retirement savings that makes sense.

The SECURE Act is good for small businesses and good for older Americans, but the reforms don't end there. It has a number of other good provisions. In fact, one is particularly urgent. It reforms the pension non-discrimination laws I authored alongside my friend Senator BEN CARDIN. Our legislation is very simple. It says we have a glitch right now in current law. We introduced it as separate legislation earlier this year, but it has now been made part of the SECURE Act. It is a critical piece of legislation to pass because if it doesn't pass—and pass soon, like by the end of this year—400,000-plus Americans are going to have their benefits frozen in their defined benefit plans. It will affect 400,000 people through no fault of their own.

In recent years, many companies have transitioned from the traditional defined benefit plans—think of that as a pension plan—to a defined contribution plan like a 401(k). Some of them have elected to grandfather existing employees by closing down their traditional DB plans but allowing those who are there to continue to have the benefits. Unfortunately, what happened is, as they build up seniority, one of the rules in our current testing under 401(k) and profit-sharing plans and defined benefit plans has come into effect. Inadvertently, it has resulted in these plans not being able to continue to approve benefits. It wasn't meant to work that way, but it has for a lot of these people who are in these plans. As a result, again, 400,000 autoworkers are at risk of losing their benefits through no fault of their own. Tens of thousands of other workers have already been affected by these flawed rules.

We have to fix this. We tried to pass this by unanimous consent this fall. This provision has no objection on the Republican side or the Democratic side. Yet we were not able to get it done because some would like to make it remain as part of the SECURE Act and be sure the SECURE Act gets passed. The way to do this is let's pass the whole thing. The SECURE Act makes sense. This particular provision is urgent. Let's not wait. Do it now to help those 400,000 Americans representing States all over the United States who are represented in this Chamber.

Let's pass the SECURE Act. It is a bill that does a lot to put us on the right path. Does it do everything? No.

Senator CARDIN and I introduced a comprehensive bill called the Retirement Security and Savings Act. We go further in a lot of these regards than we talked about today. That is a bill that requires more hearings and a markup and more consideration.

In the meantime, let's do what we can. Let's provide more certainty, more flexibility, and more retirement savings. I am hopeful we can pass this broader legislation I have with Senator CARDIN soon. In the meantime, let's take advantage of the chance right here in front of us. Let's be sure we boost the retirement security to the American people through the SECURE Act. I hope my colleagues will all join me in this, and we can pass this legislation as the House did—on a strong bipartisan basis—and get it to the President for his signature.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

(The remarks of Mr. MERKLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2817 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Iowa.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, one of my top priorities has been to reauthorize

and modernize the Violence Against Women Act. A survivor myself, I recognize that VAWA provides the right resources to tackle head-on domestic violence and sexual abuse in our communities in Iowa and throughout the United States.

My good friend and colleague DIANNE FEINSTEIN, ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, agreed to work with me on this important topic. For months, Senator FEINSTEIN and I and our staffs have worked closely and in good faith with one another with this shared goal in mind. We have met numerous times, held discussions, and negotiated in a way that has produced real progress.

But just this week, after months of work and mountains of effort toward a bipartisan bill, it all came to a screeching halt. Once again, the Democrats are putting politics ahead of people and have decided to move forward on the House-passed VAWA bill. The House bill is a nonstarter and is chock-full of partisan political talking points that take us further away from rather than closer to a bill we can get over the finish line.

I am all too aware of how this town works. Election-year politics are in full swing, and the grim reality is Democrats cannot afford to be seen giving Republicans a win. The far-left agenda of the House has hijacked the process. It sounds petty and it sounds unbelievable, but, folks, that is the reality.

You would think that supporting survivors and preventing abuse would be placed ahead of petty politics.

I want to be clear. I remain hopeful that we can continue to work in a bipartisan way to get this law reauthorized.

Soon, I plan to respond with a good-faith proposal of my own. This bill will support survivors and hold abusers accountable. It is also a bill that I believe can pass the Senate and get the President's signature.

I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this very, very important effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I hear from families all across Michigan, the rising cost of prescription drugs. Recently, I held roundtables in several communities across Michigan to hear directly from families, local health providers, and medical professionals about the increasing cost of prescription drugs. I want to share a few of those stories.

I heard from Diane in Grand Rapids, whose son, Jared, suffered a severe asthma attack that tragically resulted in his death. He was just 25 years old. Diane said her son had insurance, but it was not enough and he tried stretching out usage of his asthma medication to deal with ever-rising costs. Diane shared just how unimaginable her pain was to lose her child to a condition

that should have been manageable, with affordable life-sustaining medications.

I heard from Rachael from Greenville who has three children with Type 1 diabetes, but insurance denied coverage for her children's insulin, making it simply unaffordable. So Rachael's family drove across the border into Canada where she said they were able to purchase insulin for \$71 per box, compared to about \$600 for the exact same insulin in Michigan. Rachael is rightfully angry that she needed to travel to another country simply to get her children the insulin they need to stay alive.

Sheron from Detroit told me about the financial challenges of treating sarcoidosis, a rare disease, while also fighting triple-negative breast cancer. Sheron said that insurance was going to charge her \$5,000 for medication she could easily take at home, but it would completely cover it only if she went to the hospital. The last thing Sheron wanted to do was trek to the hospital as she coped with the side effects of chemotherapy.

And I heard from Jeanette from Burton, who had a nearly \$500 co-pay for a prescription while undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer, but without the help of a charitable patient group, she could not afford the medication. While working to get assistance, she went without her medication and could have suffered serious complications.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated stories, and these are not isolated individuals. Too many Michiganders are struggling with rising prescription drug costs, and the consequences can be literally life-threatening. Between 2012 and 2018, prices for brand-name drugs in the United States have increased 68 percent, making critical medications out of reach for most families.

The list price in 2017 for a 1-year supply of Humira—the No. 1 selling brand-name drug that treats arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn's disease—was over \$58,000. That is more than the annual median income for people in the State of Michigan.

The price of insulin has spiked in recent years, growing by 55 percent since 2014. That is simply outrageous, and it is simply unacceptable. Guided by the stories from Michigan families and medical professionals, I am working to examine and tackle the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Earlier this week, through my work as ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I announced I am conducting an investigation into the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. I am also investigating the growing shortages of critical medications affecting hospitals and patients throughout the country.

Unaffordable prescription and hospital-administered drugs—and the increasing number and length of drug shortages—have become an economic,

national security, and public health crisis for Michigan, as well as for the rest of the country.

Through my investigation, I am working to: 1, identify solutions to address increasing drug costs; 2, evaluate the effect of drug shortages on patient care; 3, examine the national security implications of our growing reliance on drugs manufactured overseas, primarily in China and India.

This investigation builds on some of my previous efforts, including my call for the Food and Drug Administration to share information on the Administration's efforts to counter drug shortages—and my bill advancing in the Senate to lower healthcare costs for seniors through Medicare Part B. For many people in Michigan and across the country, being able to afford your medicine is a matter of life and death, and we must take action.

We must allow certainly for safe drug importation from Canada, but let me be clear: Going to Canada is not a solution. You need to be able to purchase affordable, quality, safe prescription drugs in the United States.

We must improve competition, end price gouging, increase price transparency, and hold drug companies accountable.

We must enable Medicare to negotiate drug prices for seniors. We must eliminate drug shortages to ensure that all patients can get the medication they need when they need it, and we must work to bring more affordable generic medications to the market.

Families in Michigan and across the country are counting on us. Families should never be forced to choose between paying their bills or getting the medication they need. But sadly, that is the choice that too many families are facing today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO PERRY GREEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and that means it is one of my favorite times in the U.S. Senate because I get to come to the Senate floor and recognize an Alaskan who has done something that is great for our State, great for the community, great for the country—you name it. I come here and brag about somebody I represent in Alaska, and I call this person the Alaskan of the Week. I know the Presiding Officer likes it, and the pages certainly do.

What I like to do when I am starting this speech each week is talk to our visitors in the Gallery and people who are watching on TV to give a little update on what is going on in Alaska and encourage a visit. You will have the visit of a lifetime, guaranteed, if you come to Alaska.

Right now, as you can imagine, the great white north winter is coming in parts of the State. It has definitely arrived in other parts. Winter is a great time to be in Alaska, not just the summer. You can ski, snowboard, and at

the end of the day sit back, drink something warm, and watch the northern lights dance in our sky. So come visit. You will love coming to visit Alaska.

What is really nice to do if you come and visit now is to wear a fur in Alaska. We have some great furriers in Alaska, but David Green Master Furrier in Anchorage is one of the oldest, most well respected, and certainly one of the best in our State and, I think, in the country. It is an Alaskan institution, and our Alaskan of the Week, Mr. PERRY Green, one of the kindest, most generous, most patriotic, hard-working Alaskans, has worked throughout the decades to keep this great institution that way.

Let me tell you a little bit about Perry Green. His father David was from New York. He was enthralled with Alaska, a huge fan of the characters that Alaska attracts, as well as Jack London's "Call of the Wild." So David moved to Washington State to be close to Alaska, where he eventually opened stores many, many years ago.

Perry Green, David's son, was born in Seattle on March 17, 1936. That is St. Patrick's Day. How great is that? I always knew Perry had a little Irish in him. He recalled:

My father would come back from Alaska with such great stories, and all the Alaska sourdoughs would come to visit him. They sat at the dinner table and I was enthralled with their tales.

Anyone who knows anything about Alaska knows those stories, has heard about them, read about them—bear attacks, moose charges, frostbite, crossing perilous rivers, traversing vast landscapes under the dancing skies, wolves howling in the distance, fires barely starting at 40 below, and countless stories about being saved by the kindness of strangers out on the trail.

Perry also came of age during World War II. His father made fur ruffs for the soldiers' parkas, which set the stage for Perry's enduring patriotism and support for our troops. He said:

I remember watching the troops head overseas, the wonderful parades. It all made me swell up with pride.

I would say that Perry Green is the most patriotic American I know, and we have a lot of patriots in Alaska.

He met his beautiful future wife, the beautiful Gloria, gracious Gloria, when they were both young and began dating as teenagers, and they have been together ever since. As a matter of fact, that is 63 years of marriage. That is something to be celebrated. Perry said that marrying Gloria was the best decision he ever made. I know Gloria, and I would certainly agree with Perry, and I would certainly agree with this: Like me, he definitely married up.

Like his father, he traveled back and forth to Washington State often for work. He went to Alaska to work on the Alaska Railroad in order to save enough money to buy Gloria a wedding ring. He served in the U.S. Army for 3 years, and eventually he and Gloria

made their way to our great State to forge a life together. They have been there ever since, and what a life they have lived.

Initially, Perry worked at his father's store in downtown Anchorage, but for a time he broke out on his own and started the Anchorage Fur Trading Company, which became the largest fur dealer in Alaska, and it was wildly successful. He traveled all across the State—300 villages in all, some of them multiple times—buying furs from the locals. He traveled by dog team, by sled, by snow machine, by bush plane, and everywhere he went he was greeted warmly and generously by people in rural Alaska in these villages. He said:

I learned so much from the Alaska Native people. I was in awe of their kindness, their respect for elders, and their rich, cultural heritage.

That time in rural Alaska was one of the best times of his life and laid the foundation for what has been one of Perry Green's biggest loves—our State, the great State of Alaska, which he has given his all to.

His company, David Green Master Furrier, is an iconic business in downtown Anchorage because they sell some of the best and most beautiful furs around, no doubt, but also because of Perry and his extended family, who have done such a great job of running the company for decades.

My daughters and I have a little tradition on Christmas Eve. We head over to this great store and look for something to buy my wife, their mom. It is a fun, fun tradition that we do.

Perry has been the face of the store for decades. People still remember his quirky commercials featuring tarantulas, huge athletes chasing him around, and always the tagline, "If you don't know your furs, know your furrier."

It seems that all of Anchorage and so much of Alaska knew their furrier. It should be noted that they also know this Alaska furrier in Las Vegas as well. Perry Green is a very good poker player and has won three World Series of Poker bracelets and has made it to the final table of the World Series of Poker main event in Vegas two times. How about that for an adventurous life?

It wasn't just his store and Perry's love of a good poker game that has endeared him to so many Alaskans. A man of deep faith, he is one of the most generous people in my State and one of the most committed Alaskans to public service and helping others.

"I never was interested in being rich," Perry said. "I wanted to do something positive for other people because that's the greatest thing you can do."

He has sat on nearly every board there is. You name it—the taxicab commission, the insurance board, the planning and zoning board, the symphony and opera board, the Rotary board, and a member of the Elks Club, the Masons, the Alaska Jewish Campus

and Museum. The list goes on and on in terms of his service.

He also raises money for numerous causes. "I can't think of a fundraising effort that his name isn't a part of," his longtime friend Gordon Glaser said about Perry.

Perry is especially generous in causes that raise money for our men and women in uniform. On the eve of Veterans Day, we can't thank him enough for that.

"Anyone who's been in Anchorage in the last two generations knows that if you need something done, Perry will do it," his friend Gordon said.

If you are down on your luck or if you need a job, need a place to stay, or need some assistance, Perry will help. Every community, every State, has leaders like this. We all know those types of people. They are very special, and he is one of them.

Perry and his wife Gloria are also personally generous with their house—a lively, happy place open to people all across our State and, really, the world.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, another longtime friend of Perry's, credits him for teaching him and so many others "how to be an Alaskan." What does that mean? According to Mayor Berkowitz, it means that he brought the spirit of Tikkun Olam to Alaska. That is a Hebrew phrase meaning healing the world. Perry has brought this to our State one generous act at a time, one community at a time.

Perry and Gloria will be honored at Alaska's Jewish Gala next week—one of our State's most fun and memorable events. It will be next Saturday evening, and I will be there for sure. It is a time when we all can gather together, celebrate the vital role the Jewish community has played in our great State, and be reminded that Alaska is a place where we can all come together and take care of each other the way the Greens have been doing for decades.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, a good friend of mine and another extremely generous man who has given so much to our State, says that the mission of the Alaska Jewish Campus that Perry Green has been so generous to is "Warming up Alaska!"

"In the 60 years of Alaska's statehood," said Rabbi Greenberg, "Perry Green has warmed up Alaska, not only with his David Green fur coats but even more so with the joys of his life, big heart, and lending a hand to ordinary Alaskans and anyone in need." That is how he has warmed up our great State.

Perry and Gloria have done so much for Alaska. They are highly deserving of this recognition they will be receiving at the Jewish Gala next week. Congratulations to them and their 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and all of the extended Green family, so many of whom continue to serve our State and country so well.

Perry, from your friend, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is great sadness that Marcelle and I learned of the passing of Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina on October 28. I have served in the U.S. Senate with nearly 400 Senators. Like many of them, Senator Hagan fought day and day out for her constituents in North Carolina and for the ideals and morals on which our country was founded.

Senator Hagan followed a line of public service in the Hagan family. Her father and brother served in the Navy, and her uncle, Lawton Chiles, represented Florida here in the U.S. Senate. Recognizing the sacrifice and importance of our Nation's service members, Senator Hagan was a tireless advocate for our military members and their families. During her time in the Senate, she was an active partner in our efforts to strengthen the National Guard, and she authored such important legislative initiatives as the Hire a Hero Act. She was also a tireless advocate for women and children, for efforts to support victims of crime, and for the advancement of civil rights. Her tenure in the Senate, in my view, was too short.

After Senator Hagan's work in the Senate, she went on to become a senior policy consultant for Akin Gump, where she held a particular focus on the health and financial services sectors. Additionally, in 2015, Senator Hagan became a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, where she studied the influence money has in our politics. She said, "I worry how we are going to get good people to run for office if you have to spend so much time raising money." I agree. Our public servants at every level of our government should be more focused on advocating for their constituents, rather than raising a war chest to fight against wealthy corporate interests, pressure groups, or dark money influencers.

Her tragic affliction with Powassan virus, which ultimately led to her passing last month, robbed us of Senator Hagan's dedication to public service far too soon. It was also a stark reminder of how precious our time really is.

I know Marcelle and I join with North Carolinians and our Senate family in mourning the passing of Senator Hagan. Our hearts go out to Chip, their