

her law degree from Wayne State University.

She is the first Chaldean judge to serve at the circuit court level in Oakland County, MI, and she is now the first Chaldean-American to serve on the Federal bench. So I am very, very pleased that she was confirmed today.

Judge Jarbou greatly values the opportunity she has been given, I know, and has worked to extend those opportunities to others during her career.

She is active in the Michigan legal community and in the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce and other cultural organizations.

She served as a mentor and has worked to increase the diversity of clerks in her own courtroom. Again, I am just very pleased that she was overwhelmingly confirmed by the U.S. Senate today.

#### HONORING MILITARY VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise now on behalf of the more than 19 million people in our Nation and half a million people in Michigan who show us every day what service and sacrifice and love of country is really all about.

These patriots landed on beaches in Normandy and the Pacific theater, crept through jungles in Korea, shed blood in Vietnam, survived attacks in Iraq, and fought terrorists in Afghanistan. These people are heroes. They love our Nation so much. They are willing to put their lives on the line for our democracy, our people, and our way of life.

That is why it is so incredibly shocking and infuriating to hear the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, disparage our veterans. President Trump called them losers and suckers—losers and suckers. He said he couldn't understand why anyone would join the military because "What is in it for them?"

He said veterans who had lost limbs shouldn't be in parades. Why? Because he couldn't handle seeing them. He didn't think people would want to see them. People in Michigan want to see them and thank them and do so every day.

We all remember what he said about our former colleague and friend, the late Senator John McCain. President Trump said that he prefers veterans who didn't get captured.

My own dad served in the Navy during World War II. He signed up because he believed in a cause bigger than himself. Perhaps President Trump doesn't understand, but my dad was a sailor, not a sucker.

About one in four people who have served in our armed services now live with a service-connected disability. President Trump, these veterans are leaders; they aren't losers.

President Trump wonders what is in it for them. Well, maybe he should ask them because we all know what they would say. We all know what they

would say: pride, duty, honor, the feeling that comes from putting something or someone above yourself. It is becoming increasingly clear that these aren't feelings that the current occupant of the Oval Office understands.

My dad once told me something I have never forgotten. In fact, it has influenced my whole life as an elected official. He said that a veteran should never stand at the back of any line for a job, for healthcare, for education, or for the military recognitions they earned. My dad came home after World War II and went to school on the GI bill, and I don't know what would have happened to our family if he had not had that opportunity. So my dad said over and over again that a veteran should not stand at the back of any line. They certainly shouldn't be put at the end of the line by their own President. It is appalling that this even needs to be said, actually.

When I heard these comments and heard them verified over and over again in every media outlet from right to left, verifying that, in fact, these were his comments, it was stunning. It was appalling. It made me very angry.

Our veterans deserve a place of honor at the front of the line—at the front of the line. They deserve a Commander in Chief who respects them, who honors their service, and, frankly, who gets it. Thank goodness we have people who believe in things beyond themselves. Thank goodness we have people who are willing to stand up for all of us, to keep us safe and stand up for our values and our country.

So on behalf of the people of Michigan, I want to say thank you to everyone who has served and everyone who is currently serving our country in our armed services. We are truly grateful for your sacrifice and service and your willingness to stand up and support and defend our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, thank you. I am on the floor today to talk about the coronavirus pandemic and what we can and should do here in the U.S. Senate and in Congress as a whole to actually address the ongoing problem.

We are not out of the woods yet. We still have a healthcare crisis and, of course, an economic crisis that is a consequence of that.

We have done some good bipartisan work over the past 6 months. In fact, not many people realize that we have

actually passed five or six bills with strong bipartisan majorities. The one people know about most is the biggest one, the CARES Act. I think it got 97 votes here on the floor of the Senate—97 to nothing.

We have in the past been able to figure out a way to come together as Republicans and Democrats and as Americans to be able to address this crisis. We need to do it again because we still do have a crisis. We still do have unacceptably high levels of people getting infected, hospitalized, being in the ICU, fatalities, and, of course, our economy is not where any of us would like to see it although it has improved significantly, in part because of the legislation we passed here.

I am convinced that we would be at over 10 percent unemployment still if not for the legislation we passed here. Instead, we are beginning to come down—8.4 percent last month. That is faster than anybody thought it could. Still, of course, it is unacceptably high.

So more help is needed, and we can't let the upcoming election and the politics around that keep us from getting together and continuing to do the work that we have to do. We haven't been able, in the last 5 or 6 weeks, to do that. Instead, we have been working kind of on opposite sides of the aisle on our own projects.

Today we voted on a bill that had a majority of the U.S. Senators supporting it. That is not how you pass something around here; there has to be a supermajority—60 votes. But a majority of the Senators in this Chamber just voted for legislation that has strong bipartisan appeal I would think because, as we will talk about in a second, almost every element is supported by the Democrats, Republicans, and, most importantly, by the American people.

What we have done is we have kind of fallen into camps. So the Democrats passed a bill in the House called the Heroes Act. It is a \$3.5 trillion bill. Remember, we have already spent about \$3.5 trillion, making this the largest deficit in the history of our country and making our debt now, for the first time since World War II, the size of our entire economy. That concerns all of us, and it should. I hope it concerns all of us because our fiscal situation going forward for our kids and grandkids is something we should be concerned about too.

Anyway, the \$3.5 trillion bill is a grab bag, to be honest. Some of it is related to COVID-19, but some of it is not. As an example, there is a provision in there that I hope would be a non-starter that changes our tax laws and repeals the State and local tax deduction cap that was put in place just recently. This gives a huge break to wealthy Americans. In fact, 40 percent of this benefit, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, goes to the top 1 percent of wage earners. What does that have to do with the coronavirus? It will help millionaires