

own military to patrol its own southern border to ensure migrants could be processed, if necessary, and turned away if they didn't meet the requirements. That was very helpful. I am concerned that these troops have now been pulled back—that is the information that we are receiving—partly because, as we are told, President Biden is not encouraging the current Mexican leadership to continue this practice. I hope that changes. The current surge in unaccompanied children at our border, in the midst of a global pandemic, is a situation in which no one wins and the children lose the most.

I am disappointed that the Biden administration chose to overturn the policies put in place by the Trump administration, which were to help control the flow of migrants during this pandemic, without having any viable alternatives. I am concerned that leaders at key Agencies involved in the response to this crisis are somehow seeing it as in their interests to downplay the severity of the situation.

I urge the Biden administration to change course. Put back in place smart policies that reduce the pull factors, and address the need for legal and orderly processes for migration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, let me just congratulate our colleague from Ohio.

That was, perhaps, the most concise and informative speech I have heard on that topic, including speeches that I have given on that topic. In representing a border State, as I do, and in my having served on the Judiciary Committee and on the Immigration Subcommittee for my entire time here, the way he described it, I thought, was entirely accurate. I think you can call it a crisis, a challenge—whatever you want to call it—but it is getting worse all the time, and I think it will get much, much worse if we don't act and act together. So I thank him for his outstanding remarks.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

REMEMBERING HOWARD BALDWIN

Madam President, I have had the privilege of working alongside some truly incredible public servants throughout my career. Without a doubt, one of the finest was Howard Baldwin.

Howard was brilliant, effective, humorous, and exceedingly humble—a rare combination made even more striking because of his kindness. He was an extraordinary person.

Over the weekend, I received the sad news that Howard had passed away, and I want to share just a few words about the incredible life and legacy of my late friend.

Howard and I crossed paths as young lawyers in San Antonio, TX, where we used to play a little pickup basketball together.

He graduated from St. Mary's School of Law a few years before I did, and

much to the benefit of families across our State, he quickly found his calling working on child support and family issues.

Howard spent time as a private lawyer, as a State-appointed judge, and as a regional director for child support enforcement. He bounced back and forth between the Texas Attorney General's Office and the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, and his colleagues would joke: Howard, how can we miss you if you won't stay gone?

But a man as talented and devoted and as effective as Howard is always in high demand. And when I was elected as attorney general of Texas in 1998, he was one of the first people I called.

At the time, the child support division of the attorney general's office was a disaster. Staff were completely overwhelmed by the sky-high number of cases. The office ran a computer system that was so dysfunctional it actually managed to decrease productivity, and a lack of support from previous leadership made even minor improvements impossible.

I knew turning things around wouldn't be easy, but it was absolutely essential that we do so, and I knew that Howard was the only man that I knew for that job.

A news article at the time summed up the monumental task of fixing the broken child support enforcement system by saying, "Howard Baldwin will look either like a fool or a hero; there won't be much middle ground."

Today, with the benefit of hindsight, I can assure you that Howard came out looking like a hero.

Unlike previous leaders of the child support division, Howard didn't view it as purely an enforcement or collection agency. He truly cared about the children and family welfare, and he wanted to help families get to a place where both parents could be involved in their children's lives.

To better serve these families, he shifted our focus to customer service. He hired more staff. He brought the division into the technology age, and he empowered the incredible attorneys and staff we worked with to implement changes at every level to affect not only the quality of service but also the quality of outcomes. And the results speak for themselves.

During my time as attorney general, the child support division collected more than \$3 billion in child support for more than 1 million Texas children. We broke records annually for the most child support ever collected in a year and the biggest year-to-year increases in collection.

The Texas Child Support Division at the Attorney General's Office went from an unproductive mess to the premier organization of its type in the country. We became a model for other States, and Howard was the guy with all the answers.

I had so much trust in Howard and his ability to steer the ship that I later

asked him to serve as my first assistant attorney general. This is the person who oversees the day-to-day operations of the AG's office which, at the time, employed more than 3,800 Texans.

Howard used his deep-seated knowledge of Texas State government to improve the attorney general's office across the board. He built strong relationships with folks on both sides of the aisle, and when something needed to be done, all he had to do was to pick up the phone and call a friend and a colleague. He knew who to call, what to ask for, and how to convince the biggest skeptic in the room to see things his way without ever breaking the smile on his face.

I say this in all candor with the greatest admiration: Howard was the most effective bureaucrat I have ever met.

As big an impact as Howard had on my State—our State—his influence has reached beyond the borders of the Lone Star State.

Howard was an active member of the National Child Support Enforcement Association, where he spent more than a decade as a board member and nearly 2 years as president. He earned the respect and admiration of folks across the country who shared his passion for helping children and helping families.

When a friend and former colleague of Howard's shared the news of his passing with his national network, the response was immediate and overwhelming. Friends and colleagues from Washington State, Kentucky, and New York said that Howard, the Texas bureaucrat, was their mentor.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Howard, this wasn't a surprise. After all, Howard had a wonderful way of advancing the careers of others around him. He wanted them to succeed as well. When their joint efforts were successful, he then made sure that they, not he, got the credit.

He was generous with his time and his knowledge, whether helping someone with an entry-level job or a division leader in another State.

Howard was consistently driven by his passion for helping children. More than two decades ago, he said: "It gets into your blood because it makes such a difference in people's lives."

And I can tell you that I have seen the difference firsthand time and time and time again. During my first term in the Senate, I was traveling to El Paso, TX, and I was about to get on my flight when a guy named Joe—I could see it on his uniform—who was part of the ground crew there, came up to me and said: Are you JOHN CORNYN?

I said: Yes, I am.

And he asked: I bet you don't remember me. Do you?

Well, as you can imagine, it caught me a little off guard, so I smiled and said: I am sorry. Can you remind me?

He said: I am Joe. You sued me and threatened to put me in jail for not paying my child support.

Well, that is not the response I expected, but he said: You took me to court because I wasn't paying my child support, but I didn't want to pay it because my ex-wife wouldn't allow me to see my children.

He was holding up the chocks that go under the wheels of the airplane to keep it from rolling, and at this point I was thinking: This guy is going to take a swing at me, or worse.

He then surprised me again. He said: But you know what? After I started paying it after you sued me, the judge ordered my ex-wife to let me spend time with our daughter, and I realized what kind of father I needed to be, what kind of man I needed to be, and I made things right.

He raised his left hand and pointed at his wedding ring. He said: My wife and I got back together.

Well, I was in awe, not only of Joe, but the power of people like Howard Baldwin and everyone at the child support division trying to protect children and trying to restore families. I don't think any one of us could have expected to help reunite a divorced couple, but Howard did everything in his power to help parents support their children, both financially and emotionally, to encourage positive outcomes.

There is no way to quantify the amount of good Howard did throughout his career and throughout his life, but I can say without a doubt he changed lives—many, many lives.

Howard's advocacy for children was his calling, but there were no children he loved more than his two boys, James and Eric. Howard's family was his entire world. His wife Rita was at its center. Throughout their 46-year marriage, Rita wholeheartedly supported and encouraged Howard. I know she was proud of him.

So on behalf of the State of Texas, I want to thank the Baldwin family for sharing their beloved patriarch with us for so many decades. I personally am grateful, profoundly grateful, for Howard's friendship and his impact on my life and the great example of service that he set.

Sandy and I send our deepest condolences to Rita, James, Eric, and the long list of friends across Texas and the country who are mourning the loss of this incredible public servant and friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

NOMINATION OF DEBRA ANNE HAALAND

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of the historic nomination of Congresswoman DEB HAALAND to serve as our Nation's next Secretary of the Interior.

This Cabinet position is of great importance to our Nation and especially to Western States like mine—like ours, Madam President, and I can't think of anyone more qualified to fill this position than Congresswoman DEB HAALAND, one of the first Native American Members of Congress and a proven leader.

Let me start by telling you why this Cabinet position means so much to Nevada. In the Silver State, over 50 million acres of land is managed by the Interior Department. That is over 70 percent of our entire State.

People come to Nevada from all over the world to experience our pristine and our majestic public lands and monuments. These lands, well, they are not just a source of beauty; they are also a source of economic opportunity for Nevada.

In previous administrations, we have seen efforts to put those public lands on the chopping blocks. But that won't happen under DEB HAALAND's leadership.

I have had the chance to speak with Congresswoman HAALAND one-on-one, hear directly from her, and get to know her.

She has spent her entire career fighting to protect public lands, waters, monuments, cultural sites and natural beauties around our Nation and, of course, in our great State of Nevada.

And I know, if confirmed, she will work with me and Senator CORTEZ MASTO to strike the right balance between critical protections for our public lands, environment, and wildlife, and the needed economic development across Nevada.

DEB HAALAND, well, she has been committed to conservation as a Member of Congress, and she will be just as committed to conservation as our next Interior Secretary.

Congresswoman HAALAND, she will take the bold steps needed to confront climate change. And if this historic confirmation succeeds, she will bring new and needed perspective to the Presidential Cabinet—one that has been missing since the President's Cabinet was formed all the way back in 1789.

As Secretary of the Interior, DEB HAALAND will be the first—the first—Native American Cabinet member, and she will give a voice to Tribal communities in Nevada and across our country.

She will take steps to restore and respect Tribal sovereignty. She will continue to be an advocate and an ally to Native communities, and she will help to right the many historic wrongs and injustices that have been committed against Native Americans and Tribal communities.

DEB HAALAND is exceptionally qualified to lead this Agency. She brings a breadth of experience and diversity to the table. She will be a positive force for good. She will guide our Nation forward.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on DEB HAALAND's nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING REX LEE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor today in recognition of an anniversary of sorts. My late father, Rex Lee, died 25 years ago today after an extended and heroic battle with cancer.

I prefer to remember my dad not as someone who was ill but someone who was full of life and healthy for most of his life—in fact, his entire life, even while battling with a significant illness.

Rex grew up in the small town of St. Johns, AZ. It is a really, really small town. In fact, we used to joke that he may have been 21 years old before he realized that the true name of the town wasn't "Resume Speed." It was a little dot along the highway in eastern Arizona. It was a place that he loved, and it was a place where he learned to love those dear to him and close to him, a place where he was taught in school and in church, where he learned to serve his fellow beings.

He attended Brigham Young University as a freshman in the fall of 1953, somewhat under protest. He had wanted to attend the University of Arizona, like his cousins Mo and Stewart Udall before him.

His parents told him: You can go wherever you want, but your first year needs to be spent at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT.

He went there and was immediately smitten with the place and commenced a relationship that would extend for the rest of his life and would significantly impact his life in many, many ways.

Halfway through college, he left to serve a 2½-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico. During that time, to say he became fluent in the Spanish language and the Mexican culture would be an understatement. It was a fluency that never really left him.

While I was a missionary many decades later, he used to write me letters in Spanish, and even after I had been speaking and studying the language for some time, I knew I had to keep my Spanish dictionary close to me when I read letters from my dad, written in his adopted native tongue, Spanish.

While serving as a missionary there, he briefly met Janet Griffin, whom he would later marry and who was my mother. Janet was the daughter of an employee of the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Treasury Attache in the Mexican Embassy.

While they didn't interact much then, they reconnected when they were both back at Brigham Young University about 6 or 8 months later. It wasn't exactly love at first sight for my mom, but it was for my dad. They went on to have seven children together, and I am grateful that they did. I am the fourth of those seven.

My dad ended up going to law school at the University of Chicago. As it