

I had a feeling he would probably be suggesting tax relief is a good idea. Virginia has a strong opinion on that going back just a few years. I thank him very much for his statement.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

Under the previous order, the majority leader is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO LORETTA F. SYMMS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Loretta Fuller Symms. There she is, looking quite natural in the front of this Chamber. This week, she will be retiring after over 20 years of congressional service. Has it been that long? For 14 of those years, she has served in the Senate.

I first met Loretta 20 years ago when I was a Member of the House of Representatives and she was working in the office of then-Congressman Steve Symms of Idaho. She would tell you—Steve and I were first elected in 1972 and came 1973—Steve and I have a common bond philosophically but also fraternally in that we were close friends, and that is where I first met Loretta.

She moved to the Washington area from Coeur d'Alene, ID, a beautiful area. What a sacrifice to move from Coeur d'Alene, ID, to come to Washington. Thank goodness she did, and we have all been much better off because of her outstanding congressional career.

In 1987, the very wise Senator Bob Dole, my predecessor as Republican leader, chose Loretta to be the Republican representative in the Sergeant at Arms Office. Over the next 9 years, she filled a number of roles within that organization. It was during that time that I was first elected to the Senate, and Loretta was very helpful to me and my staff in opening my offices here in Washington and in Mississippi.

I remember she had a post, more or less, in the back of the Chamber, and I quite often would stop by to ask her what in the world was happening because the rules here are quite different from what I had been used to in the House. Of course, I was concerned about a number of things that I found difficult to manage and to deal with over here, but she was very helpful.

She has always brought professional business practices to the Senate operations. As director of Capitol facilities, she restructured the department establishing career ladders, formalizing job descriptions, instituting reading programs, and starting computer classes and other training programs for our employees.

Working with the Secretary of the Senate, she contributed to the management and oversight of the Senate page program, serving as adviser, mentor, and sometime surrogate parent to the

high school students who participate in the program.

She was a driving force in the opening of Webster Hall, the building that functions both as a dormitory and as a site for the Senate page school.

I was pleased to appoint Loretta as Deputy Sergeant at Arms in 1996, the post she will serve until Friday. In that role, she has done a magnificent job. In fact, I was not sure I could give these remarks this morning because I still would like to ask her to change her mind: don't do this; at least stay until we complete the new extension on the east front of the Capitol. It wouldn't be but another 2 or 3 years perhaps. Steve would understand. I have made that plea to no avail. I guess, come Friday, she will be moving on to a different and exciting life, I am sure.

She has demonstrated an unmatched dedication to the institution of the Senate and its traditions. She understands them. She helps them and protects them. She contributed in large part to the restoration of the Senate Chamber in its current majesty, an area I have felt strongly about, but she made sure we paid attention to history and that it was done with good taste. The Chamber looks better today than it did 5 years ago.

Loretta has ably handled the huge and demanding responsibility of overseeing the daily operations of the Sergeant at Arms organization and its 750 employees. I know our Sergeant at Arms, Jim Ziglar, has been worried about this Friday and this day and how she would ever be replaced. A good choice has been made as a successor, but still I do not think we could ever truly replace Loretta and the job she has done.

In her duties as a representative of the Senate, Loretta has assisted Presidents, Vice Presidents, and foreign heads of state as they made official visits here. She has led the Senate as we walked through the Capitol Building over to the House side for joint sessions. I always thought we got more than our due share of notice, probably because Loretta was leading the pack.

We will surely notice her absence next week and for a long time to come, but I know Loretta is happy to exchange foreign dignitaries' visits for more visits with her 10 grandchildren. It is hard to believe she has 10, and here I am working only on my second one.

We are sad when one of our Senate family leaves us, but at the same time, we could not be happier for her. I know her husband, Steve Symms, is going to be happier, too.

As Loretta moves on to new challenges, I say thank you on the Senate's behalf and on my own behalf. The words are inadequate to express our appreciation for the kind of person you are and the job you have done. We all wish you the very best in your next career as grandmother and as keeper of Steve Symms, which will be a challenge. We all appreciate you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 235, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 235) to provide for enhanced safety, public awareness, and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased the Senate is now considering S. 235, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2001. I am joined in sponsoring this important transportation safety legislation by Senators MURRAY, HOLLINGS, HUTCHISON, BINGAMAN, DOMENICI, BREAU, BROWBACK, SMITH, and LANDRIEU. I especially express my appreciation to Senator MURRAY, as well as former Senator Gorton, for the hundreds of hours they put into this legislation.

This bill is the product of many months of hearings and bipartisan compromise and cooperation during the last Congress. It is designed to promote both public and environmental safety by reauthorizing and strengthening our Federal pipeline safety programs which expired last September.

As most of my colleagues well know, the Senate worked long and hard during the last Congress on how best to improve pipeline safety. After several months of hearings, and countless meetings, the Senate finally achieved a bipartisan consensus on comprehensive pipeline safety improvement legislation. We unanimously approved that legislation last September 7. I want to point out, by a voice vote, this legislation was passed just last September 7. Unfortunately, the House failed to approve a pipeline safety measure so we were never able to get to conference or send a measure to the President. Our collective inaction was a black mark on the 106th Congress.

Because the Congress as a whole did not act, the unacceptable status quo under which a total of 38 fatalities occurred during just the last year remains the law of the land. If we consider the pipeline-related deaths during the last Congress, that number increases to 64 total fatalities. Again, there have been 64 recent deaths, yet we have done nothing concrete to improve the law governing pipeline safety. Timely action not only by the Senate, but also the House, is needed to