

handle myself, I have to involve him. Those are my instructions. She said: Call him. Tell him anything you want. He can call me. I don't care. Passports take 2 weeks.

So he said: Well, I am not threatening you. I am just telling you. I have to call Senator Thurmond.

So he hung up talking to the passport lady, and he picked up the phone and called Senator Thurmond. Now, it seems Senator Thurmond was in Germany, and it was in the middle of the night in Germany, but his instructions were that he was to call Senator Thurmond in any such situation. So he woke Senator Thurmond up, in the middle of the night in Germany, and started to explain this situation.

He did not get half way through the explanation I have given here when Senator Thurmond said: What is her name?

He said: Well, her name is—and he started to describe the wife of the marine who was sent out with the Navy.

Senator Thurmond said: No, no, no, not her name, the passport lady's name.

So he gave Senator Thurmond the passport lady's name.

Senator Thurmond said: Thank you very much—and hung up.

Ten minutes later the staffer said: I got a phone call from the passport lady. She exploded over the phone and said: He called George Shultz. The Secretary of State now knows my name.

Senator Thurmond called George Shultz and he said: George, you've been a marine. This is their honeymoon. Can't you get this lady to give the woman a passport?

She got her passport. She got to the Mediterranean. She had her honeymoon.

The staffer said to me: Senator, South Carolina is full of stories like that. South Carolina is full of people like that. Strom Thurmond will win, big time. No matter how old he is, no matter what his situation, that is the kind of service Strom Thurmond has rendered as a Senator.

One of our colleagues was in the Senate doctor's office, as we go in there from time to time, and he noticed Strom coming out of the doctor's office with a very worried look on his face. We were all very concerned about Strom and his health in his later years. So the colleague said to the doctor: What's the matter with Strom?

The doctor said, appropriately: I cannot discuss the medical condition of one patient with another patient, so I can't say anything to you. He said: However, I don't think it would be violating medical ethics to tell you that Strom is a little worried about the fact that he can no longer do one-arm push-ups.

This was a man of legend. Eat right, exercise, keep a positive attitude, always be available for your constituents, even when it is the middle of the night in Germany, and never worry about who you may call or upset as long as you are working on behalf of a

constituent. This was Strom Thurmond.

We have all kinds of stories. These are my favorite ones. I offer them as part of the celebration of an extraordinary life, a life fully lived, of someone about whom we need not say: Well, we worry about what might have been. In his case, there was nothing left over that might have been because he did it all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I thank Senator BENNETT from Utah for that remembrance. It was just exactly what needed to be said. I say to the Senator, I know he loved you and your father dearly. On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I thank you very much for what you just said.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 191) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, most of our colleagues are departing, and we will shortly, in just a bit, for a recess which, as all of us know, is a time for visiting with our constituents, visiting around the country with people who give us the opportunity to serve in the Senate and interact with them in a way that we can ask questions. How are we doing? You elected us to fulfill a vision that you have had and which we are doing our best to lead with. So it gives us an opportunity to really sit back and assess how we are doing as public servants, as Senators representing our own States.

As I look back over the last week, it has truly been an exciting week for America. After years of discussion, after years of debate, we passed a bill this morning, in the middle of the night, late last night after midnight, that we know, once we work through conference, and once it is signed by the President of the United States, will strengthen Medicare, will improve Medicare, will modernize Medicare in a way that we simply never have since the origin of Medicare in the mid-1960s.

We know from this legislation that we developed in a bipartisan way, that

for the first time in this program and, indeed, in the history of the country, seniors, through the Medicare Program, will have access to prescription drugs. They will have for the first time the option to choose health care coverage that best suits their individual needs. It is all voluntary. They don't have to take advantage of any of these new options that they will have. Their health care coverage will be responsive not only to them, the way this program is designed, but to the constant advances in health care delivery and new medicines and new technology that we know characterize health care today but will even more so characterize health care in the years to come. It will be able to capture those lifesaving innovations of modern medicine.

Best of all—I keep mentioning it—I am very pleased with the way this bill came to the Senate floor, was debated, and in committee prior to that because it really was a bipartisan effort. Many times, especially when the American people look at the way we operate here, they say: That extreme partisanship and that rhetoric going back and forth; how in the world does any business get done?

This particular legislation, probably as complicated as any legislation that would be on this floor—and clearly it is big; this is the largest single expansion of an entitlement program in the last 30 years—was carried out in a way that debate took place in a civil fashion and people came together, not always agreeing, as we saw last night and early this morning, on every single issue, but we tackled the issues head on, something our seniors deserve, something the American people expect. And we delivered a bill that reflects the needs and priorities of both sides of the aisle.

Not everybody is perfectly happy with it. We know it is not perfect. But it is as good as can be generated from this body at this point in time.

That is sort of the last week, the last couple weeks. Over the last 6 months, as leadership in the Senate, we have tried to lead this body in a way that is very much mission focused, that is very much building on relationships, centered on different relationships on both sides of the aisle in a way that values are important—the values of civility and trust, and with a real action orientation, looking for solutions to problems, not just talking about them, not just legislating for legislation's sake but actually delivering where problems are identified.

So if you look at being mission focused and relationship centered and values based and action oriented, that is what you set out to do. Then it provides a good opportunity, now as we go into this recess about 6 months into the year, to see what sort of job we are delivering for the American people.

Again, I mentioned the bill last night because I think it fits all four of those

criteria and shows us with that common mission of moving America forward and doing it in a very respectful and civil way.

Over the past 60 days, the Senate has acted, responded, and provided solutions to many of the jobs problems and the challenges brought to us. Every Senator can leave for this Fourth of July recess today proud of what they have accomplished on behalf of our fellow citizens. We passed the third largest tax cut in history. The Jobs and Growth Act is providing immediate relief to millions of Americans, American citizens, their families, to States, to businesses. Of the \$350 billion stimulus and growth package that we passed, nearly \$200 billion, a full 60 percent, is provided this year and next, not way off in the future. Indeed, many of those checks will start flowing in the next 4 weeks.

This injection of money, this injection of resources will grow the economy, and by growing the economy will create jobs, will increase investment, will provide States with resources to maintain essential government services, and will reduce unemployment.

On this chart, I do list, in this whole jobs and growth dimension, the fact that we did do a budget, the second earliest in the history of this body in terms of generating a budget on April 11. And we did pass the jobs and growth package on May 23. If you look, just since this jobs and growth package was signed into law, stocks have surged about \$619 billion in value. We should not read too much into short-term fluctuations in stock prices, but indeed, recent trends in the stock market suggest that overall conditions are set for a resumption of strong overall economic growth.

As I mentioned, because of passage of this jobs and growth package, American workers will have more money in their paychecks. A family of four making \$40,000 will see their taxes reduced by \$1,133 in 2003. Those checks for \$400 will be sent to nearly 25 million taxpayers starting in about 4 weeks.

We also voted in these last several weeks to expand the child tax credit to include low-income families. Because of the jobs and growth act, working Americans will have more money in their pockets to spend, to save, to invest how they wish next month.

Last month, we also passed—I have this listed under health—the global HIV/AIDS bill on May 15. As a physician, as one who has been trying to fight this virus for the last 20 years—really since about 1983 when this virus first appeared—23 million people have been killed. It has infected another 40 million people alive today and will, in the best of all worlds, kill another 60 million people. This bill, in a bipartisan way, working with the President of the United States, who led, and with the House and with the Senate, will have the impact of helping prevent another 7 million infected people.

It will help care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans

and probably, most importantly, does bring back hope to millions of people in this country but indeed all over the world who recognize that ultimately that virus can and will be destroyed.

It links prevention, care, and treatment in a comprehensive way, led by the United States of America, where we can leverage our leadership so that countries all over the world will step up and join us arm in arm in fighting this deadly virus.

Our work in passing this global HIV/AIDS legislation demonstrates that we as a society place a high value on life. History will judge us on how we respond to such challenges and, indeed, we can now say very proudly that we are responding, that we in this body made the right choice. We are taking the necessary steps to put an end to one of the most deadly scourges of human life in recorded history. It is a moral challenge, a medical challenge, a humanitarian challenge. But we are responding, and we are leading.

Alongside these legislative accomplishments, we also passed a number of other measures. In the last 2 months we passed the Department of Defense authorization, the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, authorization, and the extension of unemployment benefits.

We also allotted significant resources to upgrade technology at America's historically black colleges and universities.

I am particularly very excited about this legislation because, again, firsthand, I have had the opportunity to visit and speak at historically black medical schools. In fact, I was at Morehouse School of Medicine a few weeks ago. On my visit there, I had the opportunity of looking at their technology and innovation center, where they are actually using technology to best teach young physicians-in-training so they will be able to extend the great power they have as physicians in making others' lives better.

We took a historic step in bringing a National Museum of African American History and Culture to our Nation's Capital. There have been 80 years of petitions on bringing an African American museum to the family of museums we have here in Washington, but only in this Senate are we finally, by passing that legislation, close to having a museum of African American history in Washington on the Mall. I want to take the opportunity to thank all of my colleagues, but in particular Senator BROWNBACK, and in the House, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, for their leadership on this initiative.

We passed expedited hiring authority for the Security and Exchange Commission under the leadership of Senator SHELBY. This legislation will allow the SEC to hire the accountants and the economists they need to enforce corporate accountability and maintain that investor confidence we know and trust, and that we know must be the undergirding foundation of our investor economy today.

Our colleague from Maine, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, led the campaign to increase public access to cardiac or heart defibrillation. We passed a trauma care systems planning piece of legislation that is potentially important to everybody listening to me. If you happen to be in a motor vehicle accident driving home from work today, where are you going to go? How quickly are people going to respond? Are you going to have a tertiary trauma center nearby? We, in effect, will double our national efforts through this legislation as we focus on trauma care systems planning. I had the opportunity to introduce that, and passage was on June 23.

My colleague from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER—through his leadership, we passed the American History and Civics Education Act. Because of this act, and through this act, America's students will be able to learn our Nation's great history and civic traditions.

That reminds me of Senator GREGG, the Senator from New Hampshire, and his tremendous work on the initiative called Keeping Children and Families Safe Act, which was signed by President Bush just this week, focusing on our children and their safety and their security.

Earlier this year, in March, we passed the ban on partial-birth abortion, a procedure that is unnecessary and offends the sensibilities of the American people.

The following month we passed the President's faith-based initiative—not the whole initiative, but an important aspect of it, through a bill called the CARE Act.

The same month we passed AMBER Alert. Some are listed here on the chart, including partial-birth abortion ban, faith-based initiative, AMBER Alert, which we have all seen on television and heard on radio where the names actually come forth, where we have a national alert in the event some tragedy has occurred.

Last week the child care conference report was passed. Millions of lives of Americans and future citizens will be protected by each of these initiatives passed. They all passed on the floor of the Senate, demonstrating our deep commitment and compassion for our most vulnerable citizens.

Internationally—and I have some of these under security—again, I will not go through each one. While all of this has been going on, we have funded Operation Iraqi Freedom. Who will ever forget that morning watching the Iraqi people pull down that statue of Saddam Hussein? The United States, this body, will continue to aggressively support the war on terror. We will continue that financial commitment, whatever it takes, and that moral commitment to the war until America's enemies are defeated.

Internationally, also globally, we passed the Moscow Treaty, the NATO expansion. When you look at Bulgaria and Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, we see democracy

in action, where 15 or 20 years ago people would have said "impossible." So the very freedoms we are fighting for, whether it is in Iraq or this ongoing war of terror, they are embodied in what we have voted on in this Senate—expansion of NATO to include these new democracies.

We also passed the Microenterprise Assistance Program, which will help impoverished citizens build and grow small businesses, so people who may not have access to capital are given some assistance, which, combined with their own entrepreneurial spirit, can grow and they can have that opportunity to take part in a growing economy. This economic tool is especially powerful for impoverished women in developing countries all over the world. I spend some time every year going to Africa and in a few months I will be going with a Senate delegation to South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. Last January, I was in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and the Sudan. You see the importance of these what are called microenterprise grants, giving people that opportunity to grow economically, help their family return to dignity and opportunity that they simply don't otherwise have.

I listed here a series called values. I mentioned most of these. But the Burmese Freedom Act is an issue that is ongoing in a part of the world where we see the civil liberties we take for granted being stripped away. When you say freedom in this country, you think of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of the press. But the Burmese Freedom Act is necessary because in that part of the world—particularly right now—those freedoms don't exist. Again, this was an important response on behalf of the Senator from Kentucky and others to bring attention to the human rights abuses that are being put forth and committed by the Burmese government against its citizens.

So the Senate, by working together, has accomplished a lot, with a lot of hard work and cooperation. I once again thank my colleagues for their efforts. We are doing all this, and I put "action" up here on the chart, and the goals that we have met because day to day we are focusing on each of these and we rarely have the opportunity to go back. The importance is on "action." This is occurring now in this first 6 months, but it occurred compared to the last Congress, when we never passed a budget.

In the last Congress, we didn't pass 11 out of 13 appropriations bills. In the last Congress, we did not pass Medicare. So it is the action, and the solution is fulfilling the agenda that we put forth. That is what the American people expect. We have made the legislative process work.

The one area that I believe continues to undermine the effectiveness of the Senate is the obstructionism towards the President's circuit court nominees, the judicial nominees. This is unprece-

ded in our 200-year history, the tactics to endlessly delay the process and prevent the Senate from performing its constitutional responsibility to vote on the President's judicial nominees. That is inconsistent with the Constitution.

Our responsibility is to advise and consent. Yet we are being denied a simple up-or-down vote, allowing people to vote how they wish, but allowing them to express advice and consent by voting which is, in the end, the only way we can express that advice and consent. The Senate has few constitutional responsibilities as important as exercising that advice and consent on the President's judicial nominees. I am determined to press forward in the next weeks to carry out a fair and orderly Senate process and return to the norms of the last 200 years, where Senators are given that opportunity for an up-or-down vote.

Looking ahead, July will be a busy month. I do want my colleagues to know—and we had some discussion with the Senator from West Virginia last night in terms of making sure we have good productive Fridays—I can assure my colleagues that in July, in large part because we will be addressing the appropriations bills very aggressively during that month, we will be working 5 days a week, and it is likely that votes will continue late in the day on Fridays, at least later than usual on Fridays.

During July, in addition to the appropriations bills, we will complete action on the Energy bill, which we all know is critical to generating an affordable, reliable energy supply.

I know we will be aggressive in passing these appropriations bills for the Cabinet agencies. Early on, I expect to see the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, Labor and Health and Human Services, and, at the same time, I want to address one other issue in July—and this is an ambitious schedule—but I do believe strongly, and I say this in part as a physician, yes—that we have an obligation to diminish—I would like to say eliminate—the frivolous medical liability lawsuits that are being applied today.

That needs to be the goal: to get rid of the frivolous lawsuits because they unnecessarily drive up the cost of health care, and if you unnecessarily drive up the cost of health care, you end up driving people to the ranks of the uninsured.

We will address that issue during the month of July, as well as issues surrounding genetic discrimination, an issue that has already been addressed in committee and is ready to come to the floor.

This is an impressive list, I think. It is one I am confident we will be able to handle in a systematic and productive way, always keeping in mind that goal of moving America forward and that we are working for the American people. They send us here to get results, not unnecessary legislation, but get re-

sults to the problems and challenges they face.

If we look at the list, I think we are on the right track. We have accomplished a lot. We have had a number of successes. We have seen results. We are delivering to the American people in strong, effective legislation, and I have every expectation that we will continue building on this record of success in the weeks and months to come.

To my colleagues, I do wish them all a happy Fourth of July. I hope they will travel safely. I extend my best wishes to them and their families.

Mr. President, in a few minutes I will be back with another statement, and then we will have some closing business over the course of the day.

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

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Parliamentary inquiry: What is pending before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Mr. DOMENICI. The Senator from New Mexico desires to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

#### THE HOPE-FILLED SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I was in my office and I regret that I was unable to be in the Chamber when the distinguished majority leader, Dr. BILL FRIST, gave a rather elaborate, detailed, and enlightened discussion regarding illnesses, ailments, cures, and the evolution of diseases in this country and in the world.

I commend him for that. Had I been in the Chamber at that time, I would have taken the opportunity to present him with the first document that the Senator from New Mexico is having printed. It will be something that I choose to call "The Hope-filled Senator." The hope-filled Senator is the story of America's future in terms of diseases, prescriptions, and cures. It is my own story of what I believe is going to happen to prescription drugs, to the medical profession, and to the delivery of health care over the next 30 to 40 years.

I am hoping that this very brief summary of the hope-filled Senator's thoughts will be of some help to Senators and people who are so worried about the costs of prescription drugs. Will it really work; will we really have enough money to do it or not?

Today, I will not repeat the contents of this hope-filled statement that I delivered as the Senator from New Mexico, calling myself a hope-filled Senator.