

BROWNBACK has as well, along with others in this body—we remain haunted by the massacre which occurred. Former President Bill Clinton publicly expressed his deepest regret at the U.S. and the international community's collective inaction to stop the killings in Rwanda. Twelve years from now, none of us in this body or the administration want to be forcing the same regrets about Darfur.

Yet, if we fail that—and it is not a matter of weeks or months, it is a matter of hours—then the very kinds of genocidal mass murder that occurred in Rwanda will continue to occur in Darfur and grow worse.

Sudan has been wracked by four decades of violence and instability. The scars of that war cut deep throughout their country. Currently, it is experiencing what the U.N. has described as the world's greatest humanitarian crisis. We stood by during Rwanda. We cannot stand by this time. We must not let history repeat itself. We must act. The international community has a responsibility to protect and the U.S. must lead by example. Let us not fail this time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Connecticut for that extremely eloquent, passionate, and urgent message to the administration about what needs to be done in Darfur. I could not agree more. I have come to the floor on other occasions to speak on the same issue. We know that thousands—in fact, 2 million people—find themselves in camps with no place to call home, in a situation that is absolutely outrageous.

So I thank my colleague for coming to the floor and speaking on this important subject. I am very hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken to this will find that their words are heeded by the administration and they will act urgently to save lives and stop the genocide.

#### REMEMBERING ANN RICHARDS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a very good friend and a wonderful woman whom Senator LINCOLN spoke about—and I know others today have—very eloquently on the floor, and that is our good, good friend Ann Richards, the former Texas Governor and treasurer, a woman who had extraordinary abilities. Her intelligence, her tenacity, and her hard work, are well known. But we all know of her sense of humor, her wit, her ability to make us smile. Even when we were trying to struggle through a difficult issue or were upset, she was able to put this in a particular frame that would allow people to in fact smile and laugh while they were trying to work through things together.

I was very pleased to have Ann Richards come to Michigan on more than

one occasion to be able to help me in my effort at running for office. It was always a wonderful time. People were so excited when I would say that Governor Ann Richards was coming to Michigan. There would be excitement from women young and old, as well as from men. We always drew a great crowd. She always lived up to every expectation, in terms of the way she spoke about life, about what people are concerned about, and a combination of both outrage at those unfair things and things that ought to be changed, coupled with that sense of humor about what we go through in our daily lives, speaking about things that we could all relate to so well, with that wonderful sense of humor.

She once told me when I was working hard and had too many things to do in a day: Debbie, you should stop right now and just focus on what is next and the rest of it will take care of itself. Do your best and focus on the next hour, the next challenge, and that is how you get through effectively in life.

Those words of encouragement and advice have stuck with me to this day. Whenever I get overwhelmed, I think of Ann Richards' voice in my ear saying: Stop and take a breath and focus on what is right in front of you and do your best, and everything else will work out just fine.

We all know she was a trailblazer in Texas politics and an inspiration to all of us who have run for office and been elected to office around the country. I will never forget when she was elected. I had the opportunity to attend her inaugural ball—I should say series of balls, where everybody was all dressed up and wearing cowboy boots, and how I watched Ann, with such relish, go from ball to ball, event to event, and watched her go down the streets in the parades in Austin that day. There was such excitement, and you could tell she was thrilled. She loved Texas and she relished the opportunity to serve Texas as its Governor. It was such a wonderful weekend of events. I will always remember that.

There are so many different quotes from her that we all remember and quote ourselves. One of my favorites is the often-repeated line about Fred Astaire. She said:

Sure, he was great; but don't forget that Ginger Rogers did everything he did backwards and in high heels.

That was Ann Richards, speaking in a way that made a point, but made everyone smile at the same time.

In many ways, we kind of came up through politics together. We were both in county commissions in the mid-1970s. We both ended up in State-wide elected office, and we both loved and love our States with a great, great passion.

Despite all of the fame—and she was famous, a well-known person, revered around the country—she was somebody who could walk into any city in the country and have people recognize her and have great respect for her. But

what I admired most was how down to earth she was. Even though this is a person who was very well known, she was somebody who was always there with a smile and would say "How are you doing?" She would talk to the wait staff in a restaurant, as well as the people in her party, or would speak to whomever was around her.

She began her career as a teacher. She once said that teaching was the hardest work she had ever done and, according to her, it remained the hardest work she had done to date. She was a great teacher, but not only in the classroom. Ann Richards was a teacher to me—a teacher as it relates to women having courage, stepping out, being willing to take the slings and arrows that come with the rough and tumble world of politics, standing up for what she believed in, always being accessible and available to reach out and help those of us who asked for her help, and always relishing life to the fullest.

Ann Richards will be remembered. We are so grateful for her life, for her service, and for who she was. My thoughts and prayers go out to her children and her grandchildren.

I yield the floor and 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. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues and many others across America to express our sadness over the loss of one great person: former Texas Governor Ann Richards. There she was, with her Dairy Queen hairdo, her thick Texas twang, and her lightning fast wit. She was beloved and recognized by everybody. When she would show up on Capitol Hill, people couldn't wait to come up and shake hands and see that beautiful smile. Several times she came by my office, and our visit always started with a laugh and ended with a laugh. She was just a great person to be around.

She was born Dorothy Ann Willis in 1933, in Lakeview, a farming community near Waco. She was the only child of Iona and Cecil Willis. They came from the tiny towns of Bugtussle and Hogjaw.

At Waco High School, she dropped her first name and became just Ann. She also became the Texas state debate champion.

During her senior year, she visited Washington as a delegate to Girls Nation and, on a trip to the White House, shook hands with President Truman, one of her all time heroes.

Despite her natural political talents, it never occurred to Ann Richards to run for political office herself until later in life.

In her 20s, she taught social studies in an Austin middle school for less

than 2 years before she was required to resign because she was pregnant with her first child. She later described teaching as “the hardest work I had ever done.”

In 1975, her husband, civil rights attorney David Richards, was approached about running for Travis County commissioner. He turned it down and said he wasn't interested, but Ann Richards was.

She won that race and went on to serve two terms as a Travis County commissioner, 8 years as Texas state treasurer, and 4 years as her State's governor.

Her 1990 election as Governor—a come-from-behind victory—made her the first woman elected governor in Texas in nearly 60 years, and the first woman to win that office without following her husband in.

As Governor, Ann Richards pursued a progressive agenda and appointed an unprecedented number of women and minorities to posts they never would have dreamed of in Texas Government.

Her family said that, as Governor, she was most proud of two actions that probably cost her re-election. She vetoed legislation that would have allowed people to carry concealed handguns. She also vetoed a bill that would have destroyed an aquifer that supplies water for much of south central Texas. She paid the political price.

Years later, when a reporter asked her what she might have done differently had she known she was going to serve only one term as Governor, Ann Richards grinned and replied: “Oh, I would probably have raised more hell.”

She was not just a political hero. In speaking openly about her struggle with alcoholism, her decision, in 1980, to get sober, and the joy she discovered in sobriety, Ann Richards was also a source of inspiration as well to countless others who struggle with addiction.

Ann Richards rose to national prominence when she gave the keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. People remember a lot of things she said in that address.

That address includes some immortal lines, including her famous description of gender inequality: “Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels.”

In other lines from that speech that are not as well remembered, Ann Richards talked about why she believed in government.

She said:

I was born during the Depression in a little community just outside Waco, and I grew up listening to Franklin Roosevelt on the radio. It was back then that I came to understand the small truths and the hardships that bind neighbors together. Those were real people with real problems, and they had real dreams about getting out of the Depression.

She said she could still hear the voices of those “people who were living their lives as best they could.”

She said: “They talked about war and Washington and what this country needed. They talked straight talk.”

In politics and in her life after politics, Ann Richards used her power to try to solve the real problems of real people and enable them to live and raise their families with dignity and hope.

I'll close with one more story from Wayne Slater. He recalls that, during a public appearance several years after leaving office, Ann Richards was asked about her legacy.

She replied:

In looking back on my life, I could of course say the predictable thing: that the greatest thing I've ever done is bear my children and have grandchildren, and all that kind of stuff. But the reality is that the greatest part of my life was the opportunity to be in public service—to make a difference for the community I live in, for the State that I love, to be able to try to make things better, whether they turned out in the fashion I expected them to or not.

Then she added:

Sometimes it's serendipitous. Good things happen accidentally. But they're not going to happen unless well-meaning people give of their time and their lives to do that.

Ann Richards earned that legacy and more. She made a difference not only for her community and her beloved State, but to our entire Nation. She touched so many lives and changed so many lives in her life. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her children: Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen; their spouses; and Governor Richards' eight grandchildren.

There is good news in the Richards family. Cecile received an award last night from USA Action. Of course, she couldn't be there, she was at her mother's deathbed—and that is certainly understood. But a tribute was paid to her for her active work on behalf of women across America as a leader in Planned Parenthood. She is carrying on her mother's legacy, her commitment, her family's commitment to public service. I can't think of anything that would have made Ann Richards more proud.

I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RURAL AMERICA MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak about an important resolution that passed the Senate last week. I introduced S. Res. 561, which designates September as Rural America Month.

I first thank the majority leader and my colleague, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN from Arkansas, for their help in passing this resolution. For me, home

means Nevada. Growing up as the son of a hard rock miner in a rural community called Searchlight, far from the bright lights of Las Vegas, has shaped my love for rural America. So when I became leader, I decided I wanted to do something to show how serious Democrats are about standing up for rural America. I couldn't think of a better person to lead this effort than BLANCHE LINCOLN from Arkansas.

I appointed her the chairman of my Rural Outreach Program, and she has done a wonderful job. She is so articulate, has that wonderful smile, and she has done things we never realized would be so effective. I publicly extend my appreciation to her for her leadership in this area. The people of Arkansas are so fortunate to have this good woman serving in the Senate.

It is our love for rural America that brings us to the Chamber today. Senator LINCOLN has been here. I appreciate her remarks very much. But it is what motivates us to support 55 million people who, like us, call rural America home. These small towns and rural communities are rich in heritage and tradition, and we need to do everything we can to protect and sustain the rural way of life.

Today, as we honor rural America, I would like to talk about some steps I believe the Senate should take to enrich rural economies, bring new and better services to small towns, enhance these pieces of fabric of America we call rural America.

During the last century, our rural communities have undergone an amazing transformation. With more than 2,000 rural counties accounting for almost 85 percent of the American landscape, the definition of what is rural often depends upon arbitrary lines of distinction. As rural economies become increasingly diversified, communities strive to adapt to the demands of a constantly evolving global community and economy. Take, for example, Elko, NV. Once, Elko was a small Basque enclave. It has grown dramatically during the past decade, and for so many years it has been growing in a way we never envisioned.

Today, Elko and the immediate vicinity produces 63 percent of the world's gold. It has recognized the challenge of relying upon the highly volatile industry, but it still carries on and does so well. The people of Elko worked together to identify local resources to foster not only growth but smart growth. As it turns out, one of Elko's most valuable assets is an unused railroad spur. Today, this is being developed and will become one of the busiest transportation hubs in the West because of the mining industry and ranching industry.

That is not all. Elko is also doing something else to capitalize on the uniqueness of their setting in the American West.

One of the reasons I am so proud of this legislation is because it honors America's farmers, ranchers, and, yes,