

a strong national defense, and an unwavering voice for liberty, democracy, and free enterprise around the world.”

While there were times that Representative Hyde found himself in the middle of divisive and fiercely partisan debates, I don't think that anyone would doubt that he always sought to stand behind his principles and to do what he believed was best for our country. I want to express my deepest condolences to Representative Hyde's family and my thanks for his years of service to our great Nation. He will be sorely missed.

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#### REMEMBERING UTAH SENATOR ED MAYNE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Utah State Senator Ed Mayne, who, after a 9-month battle with lung cancer, passed away on the morning of Sunday, November 25. I speak on behalf of many citizens of my State who, over the years, had grown to respect Senator Mayne's support for American workers and his dedication to the State of Utah.

Senator Mayne was born in Magna, UT, in 1945. He graduated from Granger High School in West Valley City and played football for 2 years at Snow College in Ephraim, UT. In the mid-1960s, he got a job working on the track gang for Kennecott Copper in the Bingham Canyon mine. It was then that Senator Mayne became involved in organized labor.

In his early years at Kennecott, he became active in the local chapter of the United Steel Workers of America, quickly becoming the president of Local 485. In 1977, he became president of the entire chapter and, later that year, at the age of 32, he was named president of the AFL-CIO of Utah. He was, at that time, the youngest AFL-CIO chapter president in the country.

In 1994, Ed was elected to serve in the Utah State senate and was in the midst of his fourth term when he died. Throughout his time in the senate, he remained dedicated to improving the lives of workers and, while he had strong personal ties to organized labor, he was committed to serving both union and nonunion workers alike. He also devoted himself to serving poor people in Utah, working to, among other things, maintain State Medicaid benefits and to protect low-income borrowers from the exploitation of predatory lenders.

Ed Mayne was somewhat of an anomaly in Utah. He was a tried and true Democrat in one of the most Republican States in the country. However, even the most conservative Utah Republicans never doubted Ed's convictions, even when we disagreed with his position on certain issues. He left an indelible mark on the State of Utah and was a good example for all of us, Republicans and Democrats, who aspire to serve the public.

I had known Senator Mayne for his entire career in the Utah State senate.

We disagreed with each other on many occasions, but there was never any animosity or hatred, just respect and friendship. We also agreed on several things and I cherished the opportunities I had to talk to him about pressing matters facing the State of Utah and sharing ideas of how to fix them.

The sentiments shared at Ed's funeral summarize our relationship very well when the eulogizer mentioned that Ed and I were very close friends and we liked each other very much. That is truly the way I felt about Ed.

I express my deepest condolences to Senator Mayne's family and my thanks for his years of service to the great State of Utah. I am grateful to have known such an outstanding public servant.

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#### PASSAGE OF VIRGINIA TECH HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the families who lost loved ones and to those who suffered injuries as consequence of the horrific shootings that claimed 32 innocent lives on April 16, 2007, on the campus of Virginia Tech. Having traveled to Virginia Tech the day after the shootings, I joined with the families and campus community in mourning. It is a memory that I carry with me to this day. We all greatly admire the ability of those who lost loved ones, and those who themselves were injured, to come together to support each other.

In the aftermath of that tragic day, over 20,000 individuals and groups across the country demonstrated their overwhelming support for the victims and their families with generous financial donations that totaled approximately \$8.5 million. The Virginia Tech administration established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund within the Virginia Tech Foundation to accept these charitable contributions. Indeed, all of America can take pride in this outpouring of sympathy and support.

On October 30, 2007, the University officially distributed these funds to the 79 families and individuals in accordance with the protocols established by the Fund. While no amount of money can truly compensate for the loss of life or limb, these payments provide both the families of the deceased and the injured survivors with some financial resources to help, in some modest way.

Unfortunately, Federal law was not clear as to whether these payments are subject to federal taxation. Congress recognized this uncertainty and this week expeditiously passed clarifying legislation that I sponsored in the Senate along with Senator WEBB ensuring that these payments are exempt from federal taxation. The House measure was introduced by Representatives BOUCHER and GOODLATTE. Having overwhelmingly passed both Houses of Congress, the bill will now be sent to the President with every expectation to be signed into law.

Passage of this legislation could not have occurred without the support of several key groups. This October, family members and victims came to Capitol Hill to discuss the tragic day of April 16 and ways we could help prevent such events from taking place in the future. Later, I learned of the plans to distribute payments from the Fund to these families and victims. The administration of Virginia Tech along with some family members shared with my office in a very solemn and respectful manner the tax uncertainty associated with the Hokie Fund payments. These same concerns were echoed by accountants in the community who had volunteered their time to assist these families and victims.

Having learned of this unfortunate tax predicament, my colleagues and I in Congress responded accordingly with swift introduction and consideration of legislation to ensure that we provide assistance to the families and victims in overcoming this horrific tragedy. Members and their staffs worked extremely hard to obtain speedy passage of this legislation, and I rise today to thank everyone who made enactment of this legislation possible.

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#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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##### REMEMBERING FRANK STILWELL III

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Frank Stilwell III, a great Ohioan and a great American. Despite losing his eyesight at age 7, Frank never accepted failure or special treatment. It is this unwavering drive that led him from the Kettering Public School District near Dayton, OH, to Georgetown Law School and eventually to the Federal Communications Commission, where he served as a Senior Staff Attorney in the Commercial Wireless Division. While at the FCC, Frank worked closely with tribal groups in Alaska to ensure cell phone towers did not blight sacred burial grounds.

A longtime amateur radio enthusiast—in his youth he helped found the Far Out Amateur Radio Club in Dayton, OH—and an avid reader—often borrowing from the audio and Braille collections at the Arlington Public Library in Virginia—Frank was a happy, active, and passionate man, which is why his unexpected death last month at the age of 50 is so tragic.

For me, Frank's passion and drive in the face of adversity is a reminder of what we are all capable of, and I hope this life lesson—Frank's lesson to us—is not soon forgotten.●

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#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in