

pulled over. There were 20 people in this RV and a caravan of media behind us. KEN was as calm as he could be. He pulled over to the side of the road, the deputy comes up—with his big cowboy hat on—and KEN rolls down the window and says: Can I help you?

Of course, we think he is getting a ticket for speeding, and he was ready to accept whatever this was. But the deputy says: Sir, your license tabs are in the wrong corner.

And so KEN said: Oh, so sorry. And he gets out with this deputy looking on and with the caravan of media behind with all the cameras, and a press guy yelling: This is off the record.

So KEN's picture is there in the Denver Post trying to change his license tabs around the corners.

But it was KEN SALAZAR who wanted to have that moment and that freedom of driving through the mountains of Colorado at whatever the cost, and he will be a true tribute to his home State and to this country.

I am taking over the Prayer Breakfast from KEN, and I have seen firsthand his great faith in God but also the faith he has in his family, whom I see here, and the people of this country. We are all very lucky to have him, though we will miss him as a mentor and friend in the Senate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to strongly support my friend and colleague, Senator KEN SALAZAR, as President-elect Obama's choice to lead the Department of the Interior.

For reasons I will explain shortly, I believe this man—a fifth generation son of the West whose ancestors settled Santa Fe before America gained independence—is uniquely qualified and experienced to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I am very proud to have served the State of Colorado with him. He is an outstanding public servant and he will make an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

Our colleagues in the Senate are well aware of Senator SALAZAR's excellent record of leadership here—he has worked across the aisle and with diverse stakeholders on many issues ranging from health care to national security.

As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, KEN has worked to extend critical renewable energy tax credits, protect our natural resources and encourage environmentally responsible development of domestic energy sources. I've been proud to work with him on a wide range of issues, including protection of our public lands and water resources in Colorado. I'm especially proud of our work together to pass legislation that allowed a lovely older woman, Betty Dick, to pass her final days in peace on land she treasured at the Rocky Mountain National Park.

KEN, I think Betty would be proud of you today too.

Even before his time in the Senate, KEN has been a recognized leader in the

West. As a farmer and rancher, KEN has always had a close relationship with the land and with rural communities. He has spoken eloquently about what he calls "the forgotten America" and he has been a steadfast champion of the land, water and people of the West.

As the executive director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources, KEN used his unique background and experience to protect the environment and Colorado's communities, educate youth about our natural resources, and defend Colorado's water.

He helped create Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, and led it to become one of the most successful land conservation programs in the country.

While serving as Colorado's Attorney General, KEN worked to make our communities safer and address gang violence. He also led efforts to preserve open space during his two terms as Attorney General, where he was well-known as a champion of the natural environment.

KEN will bring his rural values—hard work, honesty, and integrity—to the Department of Interior and help address the many challenges facing this Department. From addressing Interior's ethical lapses to tackling our country's lack of transmission infrastructure, KEN will work hard to put the Department of the Interior back on the right track.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Senator SALAZAR's family and, in particular, his mother, Emma. Like her sons, she is a remarkable Coloradan. I had the opportunity to visit her at the Salazar ranch, Los Rincones, last year.

And if her son, KEN, demonstrates the same indomitable spirit, strength of character and wisdom of his mother—and I believe he will he should be an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Senator SALAZAR as the Secretary of the Interior.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Executive Department  
Dover

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Delaware, I, Ruth Ann Minner, the governor of said State do hereby appoint EDWARD E. KAUFMAN a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., is filled by election as provided by law.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State, at 5:22 p.m., this 15th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America Two Hundred Thirty-Two.

RUTH ANN MINNER,  
Governor.  
HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

Mr. KAUFMAN, escorted by Mr. BIDEN and Mr. CARPER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Thank you very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. On behalf of all Senators, I congratulate and welcome our new colleague, TED KAUFMAN, to the Senate. Senator KAUFMAN earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University, his MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He moved to Delaware to work for the DuPont Company, as many people have done over the years, working in finance, technical, and marketing positions.

When JOE BIDEN was elected at the age of 29, in 1973, Senator BIDEN asked TED to take a leave from DuPont to help him set up his new office in Washington. Senator BIDEN asked TED for 1 year, only 1 year. He, of course, has given him a lot more than that.

This is a remarkable tenure. It shows TED KAUFMAN's extraordinary loyalty to the service of his country by working for Senator BIDEN.

There is only one JOE BIDEN. Senator KAUFMAN will replace him, but no one will ever fill the shoes of JOE BIDEN. As was said on this floor yesterday at great length, JOE BIDEN is a unique individual. But Senator KAUFMAN has known Senator BIDEN for a long time and worked with him, up real close. He

knows he has to be TED KAUFMAN, not JOE BIDEN, and he will do that.

We who work in the Senate know of the strength of JOE BIDEN, but one of the reasons he has had the strength he has had over these years was because his back was always protected by TED KAUFMAN.

In this time of great consequence, Senator KAUFMAN's decades of experience and the wisdom accumulated over those years will serve him well as he serves the people of Delaware and the country in the Senate.

Senator KAUFMAN, welcome to the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, actually it is not the first time I have been recognized as senior Senator. For about 2 months now, since JOE BIDEN was nominated and elected as Vice President, people have been referring to me as the senior Senator. I always have to correct them and I say no, it is 4 days, 3 hours, 12 minutes away. Today we counted down, today we counted down to zero.

Yesterday, when Senator BIDEN resigned at 5 o'clock, I think for 17 hours I was both the junior and senior Senator. DICK DURBIN was that for almost 2 months, from Illinois.

I asked one of my colleagues, Do you think I will get paid more for that? He said no, probably not. You shouldn't be.

We lament the loss of JOE BIDEN from the Senate. I am thrilled he is going to have the opportunity to become the first Delawarean ever to be the Vice President of the United States. As wonderful as he is as a Senator, he will do more good for his country in his new role than he could have done in this service, so it is a good thing for the administration and for the country and ultimately for Delaware.

If we have to lose JOE BIDEN to the Vice Presidency of the United States, we could not ask for a better person to take his place than TED KAUFMAN. Sometimes people come here and they have never served in elected office. TED has not. But he comes here steeped in the knowledge of the Senate. He knows the place, knows the way this place works, has a pretty good idea of how to make it work better.

He has served as JOE BIDEN's chief of staff for about 20 years. JOE has been in the Senate for 36 years. For over half those years, TED was his chief of staff and maybe in a sense his alter ego. We all have those. You couldn't ask for a better one than TED KAUFMAN.

Our leader said, TED couldn't get into University of Delaware but he was able to get into Duke as an undergraduate and studied mechanical engineering there. Later he couldn't get into the University of Delaware MBA program but he did get into the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and went on to work for the DuPont Company for a while and met a guy running

for the Senate at the tender age of 29. A lot of people in our State got excited by JOE BIDEN, signed up to volunteer for his campaign, and then ended up being his chief of staff.

I think it is fair to say that JOE BIDEN would not have been maybe the only Senator in our State's history to be elected to 7 terms as U.S. Senator but for the support of TED; not just for those 19 years, but for being his friend all those years and all the years since to work with JOE through two Presidential campaigns, to be his adviser and counselor, and to always have his back.

TED is smart. We have a lot of smart people here. But he is also wise. TED is very well spoken. He is a wonderful speaker. There are a lot of good speakers here. He is also a very good listener.

TED takes his work seriously, takes our work seriously. One of the things I love about TED is he doesn't take himself all that seriously. He is a lot of fun to be with. He will be a good colleague and a good friend.

He inherits a good staff. He shared with me he expects to largely keep that staff together. People come and go in these jobs, but the good news is most of the people on board now will stay on board. For us, myself and our at-large Congressman MIKE CASTLE, I think that is very good news. He will be taking over the same committees Senator BIDEN has been serving on, in Judiciary and Foreign Relations, and I am sure he will do an excellent job there.

In addition to working for DuPont and spending 20 years as JOE's chief of staff, he has also taught. He taught at Duke in a couple of capacities there. He taught at Sanford, as I recall. And for the last, gosh, I want to say for 15 years, he served on the board of governors that oversees and tries to make sure we promote democracy in other countries. We do that through a variety of ways but in part through our media operations. He has been confirmed, I think, on the board of governors maybe four terms. I don't know he will serve four terms here. He promised his wife he would not but time will tell.

Speaking of his wife, TED tells me he started dating his wife when she was 12—no, it was 18—and they have been married since 1960. They have three kids. They are not kids—daughters, and they have seven grandchildren, something like that. It is a wonderful family.

I was talking about JOE BIDEN when he stepped down yesterday and gave a beautiful speech. I said JOE is the real deal in terms of family values—a loving father, grandfather, and TED is very much out of that same mold.

While we lament the departure of JOE and are thrilled about his opportunity to be our Vice President, we very warmly welcome TED to this family. I think in the history of this country there are maybe 1700 or so people who

have been privileged to serve as Senator. Add a few extra ones this week out of the regular order. But this is a good thing for our State, for the Senate. As a point of personal privilege, it is a special joy for me.

TED KAUFMAN, to you and Lynne and your family, welcome to this family. God bless you.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, one of the really great things about this job is I am going to be able to achieve one of his great objectives; that is, to be the senior Senator from Delaware. I thank you for your remarks; they are gracious as usual.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, we are joined on the floor today by Senator BIDEN. He is standing back here talking to three of our new Senators. Unfortunately, he cannot speak as a Senator, but we will find an opportunity for him to preside from time to time and get some things off of his chest. But I know if he could speak he would like to share with us.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JOE BIDEN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I thank you.

I welcome and commend Senator KAUFMAN as he succeeds Senator JOE BIDEN.

I particularly want to say a few words about JOE BIDEN. He has had an extraordinary career in the Senate, and he is going to be an extraordinary asset for President-elect Barack Obama.

Senator Obama, the President-elect, said very clearly why he chose JOE BIDEN. He said that when the tough decisions come, and they will come quickly and often, JOE BIDEN is the guy he wants in the room with him. And I think that choice was extraordinarily inspired because no one can bring the breadth of knowledge and experience, not only with respect to the Senate but with respect to domestic policy and indeed international policy, as JOE BIDEN.

The other thing JOE brings to this great challenge of the country is his profound decency and sense of fairness and his commitment to make sure America is still a place of opportunity for all citizens. Those values were shaped in Scranton, PA, where he grew up. They were shaped by his mother and father. His mother, Jean Finnegan Biden, is still an inspiration to him today, and I am sure one of the reasons he is the guy who should be in the room with the President is because if he needs advice, his mother is still there, and I think that is something he cherishes.