

dealt with renewed and increased commerce in an Arctic that is potentially ice free.

I applaud him for his efforts and, again, shining the light on this issue. It seems every day the rest of the country, the rest of the world, is looking to the Arctic for our science, looking to the Arctic for the knowledge of our elders and researchers, and looking to the Arctic as a true leader in global environmental policies.

I applaud him, and I am privileged to be able to support him in so many of these efforts, working on the issues that are important to, of course, our State but to the Nation as a whole.

#### LU YOUNG

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, my colleague mentioned the passing of a very dear friend. I wish to take a moment this afternoon to also acknowledge the passing of Lu Young.

This is a sad day for us in Alaska as we come to grips with the very sudden passing of Congressman YOUNG's wife. They have been a team for some 46 years. She died this weekend at their home in Great Falls, VA. She was only 67 years old.

Lu Young was an Athabascan Indian from the village of Fort Yukon. Fort Yukon, you may have seen on Senator BEGICH's map, is in the interior part of the State. It sits 7 miles above the Arctic Circle on the north bank of the Yukon River. It is about 145 air miles north from Fairbanks.

Congressman YOUNG met Lu in Fort Yukon. This is back in the days when he was a tugboat captain operating a barge, carrying products and supplies up and down the river. DON taught in the wintertime at the BIA schools. Lu was the bookkeeper there in the village. They met, they married, and had 46 years of honest wedded bliss.

I have to tell you, it is not often one can look at a couple after 46 years of marriage and still see the love and the gleam and the warmth between two individuals, one for another. Every day we saw that. If Lu wasn't with DON, DON was talking about Lu.

He used to joke when he was in his campaigns: "You get two for the price of one." He wasn't kidding. DON was in his office every day, and Lu was also in the office every day over at the Rayburn Building. She would greet Alaskans as they would come in. She would make sure they were comfortable or if she thought they were taking too much of DON's time, she would tell them that too. She would take people over to the restaurant for lunch. She welcomed Alaskans as part of their family.

We have a very close and intimate relationship with those we represent in Alaska. As my new colleague is recognizing, we are a long way from home, so we kind of band together. We are part of an extended family.

Lu was a constant in DON YOUNG's office. She ensured that Alaskans who traveled to Washington, DC, would

know that the Congressman for all Alaska was going to take care of you. She was also reminding DON every day: Don't forget where you come from. Anyone who has ever been to DON's office knows it looks and feels very much like Alaska. Lu made sure that was never going to change.

Today the people of Alaska are not thinking of Lu's contributions to DON's political career. They are reflecting on the truly remarkable love between the two of them. In a statement this morning, Congressman YOUNG summed it up. He said: "Lu was my everything, and I am heartbroken." That loss breaks the golden hearts of all Alaskans as we remember our own experiences with Congressman YOUNG's partner, his best friend, and his heart.

Congressman YOUNG has lost the love of his life, and Alaskans have lost a great friend. Regardless of political persuasion, all of Alaska grieves with Congressman YOUNG, his daughters, Joni and Dawn, and their husbands, 14 grandchildren, and an extended family of lifelong friends throughout the great land.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, of course, all of us extend our sympathies to Congressman YOUNG and his family. The remarks of the Senators from Alaska spoke for all of us.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 23½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Chair please let me know when 10 minutes remain?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator KYL and I be permitted to engage in a colloquy during our time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MIDDLE-CLASS TAX INCREASE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, I was waiting to give a television interview with MSNBC. The White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs, was on. He said a most astonishing thing. He was there, obviously, for the purpose of an impromptu press conference to correct what I thought was a truthful impression left yesterday by two members of the Obama administration. Both Mr. Summers and Mr. Geithner yesterday did not rule out the possibility of a middle-income tax increase. That was widely reported all over the country today. Apparently, they were taken to the woodshed this morning, and Mr. Gibbs was sent out to say: Oh, no, we are not going to raise taxes on middle income Americans.

But that is misleading, at best, to the American people. Most people know that. An article in the New York Times on August 1, was titled: "Obama's Pledge to Tax Only the Rich Can't Pay for Everything, Analysts Say."

Among those quoted is Leonard Burman, "a veteran of the Clinton administration Treasury and director of the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center."

"This idea," he says, "that everything new that government provides ought to be paid for by the top 5 percent, that's a basically unstable way of governing."

I am sure the Senator from Arizona remembers Isabel Sawhill's distinguished service. She had some comments on tax increases as well. "There is no way we can pay for health care and the rest of the Obama agenda, plus get our long-term deficits under control, simply by raising taxes on the wealthy," said Isabel V. Sawhill, a former Clinton administration budget official. "The middle class is going to have to contribute as well."

I wonder if the Senator from Arizona, who is a veteran member of the Finance Committee, is surprised to see, first, the two top finance people for the Obama administration say we are not going to rule out a middle-class tax increase, and then all of a sudden today, the Obama administration says no, nope, we are going to rule that out again. What is going on?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I say to my colleague, I had the same impression yesterday when I saw Mr. Geithner and Mr. Summers on television. They, frankly, were recognizing the reality of the situation. I did not think that much of it because the truth is, the people my colleague has quoted are absolutely right. You cannot do all the things the President wants to do without raising taxes, and inevitably that will be on the middle class.

To put in the RECORD what both Treasury Secretary Geithner and Mr. Summers said—this is as reported by George Stephanopoulos, "This Week" host for ABC. He said:

To get the economy back on track, will President Obama have to break his pledge not to raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans? In a "This Week" exclusive, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner told me, "We're going to have to do what's necessary." Then Stephanopoulos continues:

When I gave him several opportunities to rule out a middle-class tax hike, he wouldn't do it. "We have to bring these deficits down very dramatically," Geithner told me. "And that's going to require some very hard choices."

Of course it is. Secretary Geithner is right. It is pretty hard to deny.

Then the National Economic Council Director, Lawrence Summers, was asked by Bob Schieffer on CBS if taxes could be raised for middle-income Americans. Summers said:

There is a lot that can happen over time. It is never a good idea to absolutely rule out things no matter what.

Then he said that what the President has been completely clear on is he is