

I urge our colleagues to work together—not as Republicans and Democrats but as Americans—so we can preserve the quality of health care we have enjoyed in this country for so long but do it in a way that is more affordable and provides more access to more Americans.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR BRUCE KING

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, this week, New Mexicans of all political persuasions have been recalling the life of a legendary figure of our State, Bruce King, who served as Governor during three different decades and who taught by example that public service is an honorable calling.

Governor King died last Friday at the age of 85. He used to tell the story about a former Governor who was the graduation speaker at Bruce's high school graduation. The former Governor looked at the very small class of teenagers and said:

One of you could grow up to be governor of this state.

Bruce looked around at his other classmates and figured that the Governor had to be speaking to him. Sure enough, in the course of time, and after serving as Santa Fe County commissioner, a State legislator, and speaker of the house in New Mexico, he was, in fact, elected Governor. In fact, he served as Governor for 12 years, longer than anyone else in the history of New Mexico.

In all of those years, he never failed to make the people of New Mexico his first priority. With him at every step of the way, from their ranch in Stanley to Santa Fe and back again, was the remarkable Alice Martin King, his wife. She was a great force in her own right. She was a champion for children in our State. She died last December.

My own history with Bruce King began when I was just out of law school. I was serving then as an assistant attorney general in New Mexico and was assigned the job of being counsel to the constitutional convention which our State had in 1969. Bruce, who was then speaker of the house, was elected president of that convention. I learned a great deal about the legislative process and about New Mexico history and about our State in general as

a result of the effort to work with Bruce in that capacity. His management of the process and the people involved with the constitutional convention was masterful. He was always inclusive, he was always listening, and he was always working to get the best result. In short, he was the model of a legislative manager.

Today I recall being privileged to serve as attorney general during Bruce's second term as Governor, from 1979 to 1982. We worked closely together on a number of issues. I was impressed all over again at his knowledge of New Mexico and his genuine love for its citizens. He was gregarious and kind. He never knew a stranger. He shook hands with everyone in our State. He shook every hand in our State, whether there was a voter attached to it or not. People were delighted to see Bruce coming and to hear his famous reply when asked: How are you doing, Governor? He would reply: Mighty fine—regardless of how difficult the circumstances the State and he were facing.

Our friendship extended for 40-plus years. With my fellow New Mexicans, I will miss him greatly. His sons Bill and Gary, his brothers Don and Sam, and the entire King family have lost tremendously. Every New Mexican feels this loss and joins his family in honoring his life.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of one of New Mexico's great public servants. This past Friday Bruce King, the three-time Governor of New Mexico and a constant advocate for regular folks, for the average person, left this world after 85 years of devotion to his family, to his community, and to his State.

Bruce King was a self-made man who came from modest roots. Back in 1918, his parents traveled to New Mexico from Texas and traded their Model T for a homestead tract where they raised Bruce and his siblings. Along the way the elder Kings instilled in their children an appreciation for a hard day's work, a compassion for people, and a love of public service.

Bruce carried those lessons into adulthood and into a life defined by public service. He served in the Army in World War II, as a Santa Fe County commissioner, as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives and later speaker of that same House of Representatives and, finally, as a three-term Governor elected in 1970, 1978, and then, once more, in 1990.

Bruce's legacy as Governor will be felt for generations. Due in no small part to the advocacy of his devoted wife Alice, Governor King created a new cabinet level department focused on the welfare of New Mexico's children. We called it the Children, Youth and Families Department. Thanks to Bruce and Alice's vision, more New Mexico children are safe and secure. More are healthy and ready to learn, and more have the support they need

to follow their dreams. Governor King's contributions didn't end there. His leadership was instrumental to the creation of New Mexico's large and enduring rainy day funds which to this day continue to provide substantial support for education. He reformed New Mexico's school funding formula so that money is equally distributed across the State. Thanks to Governor King, State education funding now follows the student, regardless of income or geography. He also was an advocate for aggressive economic development, recruiting a new Intel plant to Rio Rancho, for the creation of a better, safer Statewide road system, and for the establishment of a new border crossing with Mexico.

But despite all of these achievements, what New Mexicans will most remember Bruce for is something more simple and much harder to come by in politicians these days. Bruce was not in politics for the power, for the prestige. He was in politics because of the people. He loved the people of New Mexico and the people of New Mexico—from Lordsburg to Clayton to Shiprock and Carlsbad and everywhere in between—loved him right back. Bruce enjoyed nothing more than talking to New Mexicans. Almost every morning you would find him doing just that at El Comedor Restaurant in Moriarty, NM. He had a booming voice and was famous for greeting friends and strangers alike with a handshake and a down home "How y'all doing? Fine. Fine."

I will always remember Bruce as a true cowboy from Stanley who had the most generous spirit. He always saw the best in people. He always did the right thing for New Mexico. My family was fortunate to call Bruce and Alice our friends. Our daughter Amanda even went to work for Alice in her first job out of college. She stayed close with both of them, ever since.

New Mexico will miss the Kings. We all know our State is a better place for their service and dedication to its people. As Governor King is laid to rest this week, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable public servant.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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