been unthinkable 10 years ago. But we did them to try to keep these tobacco products out of the hands of kids.

No. 14 on my list is something that passed a few hours ago, ratifying the New START treaty. This is what the President said is what we need. We only have one President. We want to give him the authority to keep America safe. We want his word to be good. We want him to engage foreign policy future alliances with the passage of the New START treaty.

No. 15 is one near and dear to my heart. It was originally introduced by Hillary Clinton, and when she left to join the President’s Cabinet, I asked if I could take up the cause of passage of the veterans caregiver assistance bill. In a word, it means those disabled veterans who return home, who are fortunate to have a spouse, a parent, or a member of their family who will sacrifice their own lives to make sure they are comfortable in their homes will receive some help from the government. These are people who get to stay home as disabled veterans and, because someone in the family will stay with them where they live, it costs, at considerable expense to our government but in the right, positive environment for our disabled veterans. This bill gives those veteran caregivers a little additional assistance, some respite time, and a month stipend each month so they can continue to do this invaluable work on behalf of the men and women who sacrifice so much for our country.

No. 16 we passed today as well, the 11 Health and Compensation Act. We said so much in tribute to first responders—police, firefighters and others—who came to Ground Zero when they were called. Today we said we were going to stand by them with any ill that they had, about as a result of that experience.

No. 17, repeal of don’t ask, don’t tell. I went to that ceremony today, and I have to tell you, I thought it was one of the most profound experiences I had. To see filled with Americans who cared so much for this issue, many of whom have seen their lives wrecked because of discrimination based on their sexual orientation. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by retired Air Force COL Marcie Cammermeyer. I know her story well because I told it so many times. She was an Air Force nurse who risked her life to save the lives of servicemen in Vietnam who rose through the ranks until one day she was asked, she was a lesbian. She was discharged, retired from the service. Never in the course of her military career had anything about her sexual preference had any impact on her service to the Nation, discriminated against because of who she was.

She gave the Pledge of Allegiance today with tears in her eyes and joined all of us applauding President Obama as he finally signed this bill repealing don’t ask, don’t tell.

No. 18 is a bill I worked on, and the most unlikely political odd couple on Capitol Hill, JEFF SESSIONS. It is the Fair Sentencing Act which reduced the unfair disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine. There are literally thousands of men and women serving time in prison because of this disparity in sentencing. Senator Sessions and I reached an accommodation, an agreement, a compromise on sentencing which brings us closer to the reality of the danger of the narcotics involved. I thank him for his bipartisan cooperation.

No. 19 is the first bill signed by President Obama as President of the United States, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to try to once and for all end discrimination of women in the workplace.

No. 20, the hate crimes prevention bill. That is one I think is absolutely essential to renew the promise in America that we will never discriminate against people based on sexual orientation, race, gender, creed, or national origins. This is overdue. The Matthew Shepard family, who helped us pass that bill, was instrumental in moving America forward in the field of human rights.

I am sure Senator HARKIN will add three or four on that list. When I look back and reflect on 2 years of hard work, it is worth the effort. All the long nights, all the time away from family, some of the frustration, all of the anger, all of it was worth it when I walked in there and say in our time here, many of us believe we have helped to move America forward with the work we have done in the Congress.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I listened very carefully to my friend from Illinois as he went down his list. I admit it is a pretty thorough list. I may have many conversations with another Senator briefly. Did I miss the higher education bill? The list covered everything else, I say to my friend. The Higher Education Act, which historically, I say to Senator DURBIN, in 1992, Senator Kennedy, then the chair of the committee which I now chair, had done a study to see whether direct loans would be better than the indirect loans that go through banks for students going to college.

We had this conversation, this pilot program. In 1993 and 1994, the pilot program ran. In 1994, the data was in. The Direct Loan Program worked well. It saved tons of money, and the schools liked it, students liked it. Our goal was that in 1995, we were going to then expand it nationwide. Of course, we know what happened in 1995. We lost the Congress. It went to the Republican side.

The Republicans did not want to expand the Direct Loan Program. They wanted it going through the banks. Banks loved it. Who does not like free money? From 1995 on, we never had the opportunity to ever expand the Direct Loan Program and save all this money, until finally when Barack Obama became President and Democrats took over the House and the Senate, we were able to pass it and, as the Senator knows, we signed that into law, I think if I am not mistaken, in February of this year right after we passed the health care bill, and it was part of the health care bill.

In passing that bill, we went from indirect loans to Direct Loan Program and save $60 billion in 10 years. We took that money out and put it better Pell grants for students.

I say to my friend to illustrate, sometimes it takes a long time around here to get things done. If you persevere and the stars align right, you can get it done. It is also a way of saying to my friend from Illinois, thank you for what you did for food safety. I get a lot of accolades. I just happened to be here as chairman of the committee at the right time to get it through. Anyone who knows anything about this issue knows Senator DURBIN was the Senator who got this going. I always wondered how many years ago. He said 16 years ago.

There is perseverance, stick to it. When you know what is right and good for this country, do not give up and hang in there. Senator DURBIN hung in there for 16 long years. We finally got the bill done and passed. I think the President will be signing it into law some time before January 5. A lot fewer people will get sick, a lot more families will be healthy, and our food will be safer because of the efforts of Senator DURBIN. I publicly thank him for all of his work on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

Evan Bayh

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, time and time I have come to the floor to give a few remarks about Senators who are retiring and leaving the Senate. They all contributed in their unique way one way or the other to the Senate. I find it difficult with two left about whom I want to comment on their way out of the Senate.

In the closing days of the 111th Congress, we are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues, including a veteran Member, much respected on both sides of the aisle. I speak of the Senator from Indiana, Mr. BAYH.

I listened with great interest to Senator BAYH’s eloquent farewell remarks earlier this month. This Senator was also kind enough to have them typed up and sent to our offices.

Looking back on his 12 years in this body, he spoke about times of national crisis, including after the 9/11 attacks and the economic downturn of 2008. He talked of a time when Senators acted not as Democrats and Republicans but as patriots concerned of doing one thing: doing what is right for the American people. He said that these times of bipartisan action were with the Senate at its very best.

For more than two decades, Senator BAYH has embodied everything that is
good about this body: a passion for public service, a sincere desire to reach out across the aisle, a great talent for forging coalitions and bringing people together, and a willingness to work long hours to accomplish important things.

As we all know, Evan is what we might call a "son of the Senate." He is enormously proud to have been elected to the same seat his father Senator Birch Bayh once held, and who remains a great friend of mine after all these years. He has followed in his father's footsteps in fighting for quality public schools, student loans, retirement security, and giving every American access to quality, affordable health care.

In addition, he has been a leader in strengthening our Armed Forces and national security. I know that Senator Bayh takes special pride in leading the charge to provide scholarships to the Indiana and Afghanistan with much improved mine-resistant armored vehicles.

As he leaves this body, Senator Bayh is still a young man with many chapters yet to attend college thanks to this choice. He is still a young man with many chapters yet to attend college thanks to this choice.

I have always been a big admirer of one of his signature accomplishments as Governor, which was passing legislation creating the 21st Century Scholars Program. It is a wonderful program. Thanks to the initiative, every child in Indiana who is eligible for the free lunch program in public schools, who graduates from high school, and signs a pledge not to experiment with illegal drugs is entitled—get this—is entitled to a scholarship funded by the Indiana public university of his or her choice.

Over the years, many thousands of Hoosiers of modest means have been able to attend college thanks to this remarkable law. That is what I call a great—I hope my friend does not mind me saying this—populist, progressive accomplishment. It speaks volumes about Evan Bayh's priorities and values throughout his 24 years in public service.

During his two terms in this body, Senator Bayh has always faithfully served the people of Indiana and the people of the United States. I hope and expect that he will live up to his promise to serve the people of Indiana and the people of the United States. I hope and expect that he will live up to his promise to serve the people of Indiana and the people of the United States.

Mr. President, I also wish to pay a farewell to another long-time legislative partner, and that is Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

I listened with great interest to Senator Specter's farewell remarks yesterday. He decried the decline of bipartisan cooperation in this body. As he put it:

"In some quarters, compromising has become the art of the possible when senators are insistent in their positions.

During his remarkable 30 years in the Senate—he is the longest serving U.S. Senator in Pennsylvania's history—Arlen has always been admired for his fierce independence and for his willingness to cross party lines in order to accomplish big and important things for this country.

Nowhere has there been more vividly on display than in the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, on which Senator Specter and I are senior members. Before last year, when he returned to his roots as a Democrat, Arlen was the senior Republican and I was the senior Democrat on that subcommittee. Since 1989, as the majority in the Senate has gone back and forth between the two parties, we alternated as either chair or ranking member. But the transition has been seamless as we passed the gavel back and forth because Arlen and I forged an unshakable partnership.

That partnership has been grounded in our shared commitment to finding cures for diseases from heart disease to Alzheimer's and in our determination to maintain the National Institutes of Health as the jewel in the crown of international biomedical research. Our proudest accomplishment was our collaboration in doubling funding for the National Institutes of Health over a 5-year period, between 1998 and 2003. Last year, we again collaborated in securing $10 billion for the National Institutes of Health in the Recovery Act, although I must be honest and give the senior Senator from Pennsylvania the lion's share of credit for that accomplishment.

I say without fear of contradiction that there has been no Member of Congress in the Senate or the House who has championed NIH as passionately and relentlessly and successfully as Senator Arlen Specter. Indeed, at times, in my role when I was chair of the Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee, I have had to remind Arlen that there were other programs besides the NIH in our appropriations bill. In fairness, Senator Specter has also fought passionately to increase funding for public schools and to increase access to higher education, but there is no question that his great passion, his living legacy has been the National Institutes of Health and biomedical research. Today, the prowess and excellence of the National Institutes of Health is truly a living legacy to Senator Specter, and we have countless new medical cures and therapies because of Senator Specter's long and determined advocacy.

Mr. President, I will miss my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, who has been a tremendous ally for many years. As he departs the Senate, he can take enormous pride in 30 years of truly distinguished service to the people of Pennsylvania and the United States. I wish Arlen and his wonderful wife Joan the very best in the years ahead.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and wish the occupant of the chair the best of the holiday season and a happy New Year. We will see you when we come back to the next Congress.

I yield the floor.

RUSSELL FEINGOLD

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Senator Rus Feingold.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator Feingold since he and I were both elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992. Over the past 18 years, Senator Feingold has been an independent, passionate advocate for his State and this country. He was a voice of conscience in the Senate, never afraid to ask the tough questions or to speak out against policies he believed were flawed.

Over the years, Senator Feingold has distinguished himself as a leading expert on foreign and domestic policy who is willing to work across party lines to get the job done, whether it was reforming our Nation's campaign finance laws or working to end the atrocities committed by Ugandan rebels in the Lord's Resistance Army.

I have had the privilege of sitting next to Senator Feingold in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have been proud to witness how, as the chair of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, he has led the Senate in recognizing and addressing many of Africa's unique issues and challenges. He was one of the first to speak out about the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. He has advocated for an end to the illegal mining of conflict minerals that support armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And he has placed a spotlight on drug trafficking in West Africa, the threat of terrorism in Somalia, and the effects of global diseases such as malaria on African populations.

Senator Feingold is a great reformer, taking the lead on campaigns finance reform and on the Army Corps of Engineers.

Senator Feingold has been such an incredible champion for human rights, and I am personally grateful for his work on women's rights, particularly his commitment to combating violence against women and girls worldwide.

His passion, expertise, and dedication to these issues are unmatched and will be greatly missed.

BYRON DORGAN

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Senator Byron Dorgan.
It has been an honor to serve with Senator DORGAN since he and I were both elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992.

Nobody can get to the heart of a matter like BYRON DORGAN. He has an unbelievable ability to lay out both challenges, particularly with clarity. He is a populist in the best sense of the word, and our country is better for his service in this Chamber.

Senator DORGAN has always been a champion for the people of North Dakota, for our workers, and for rural Americans. For the last 18 years, he has devoted himself to supporting family farms and promoting economic development across our country.

Senator DORGAN has been a leader in the Senate in fighting to preserve jobs here in America and end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. No one has fought harder for the middle class.

He used his position as chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to advance important projects and create jobs, and I will always be thankful for his support in our efforts to protect California communities from flooding.

As the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator DORGAN has worked tirelessly to improve health care and economic opportunities for Indians. He has helped streamline the bureaucracy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and developed the landmark Tribal Law and Order Act, which helped give tribal justice officials the tools they need to protect their communities. I was so proud to cosponsor that bill and so pleased that President Obama signed it into law this year.

He leaves a distinguished legacy and will be greatly missed by all of us.

ARLEN SPECTER

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, Senator ARLEN SPECTER.

Senator SPECTER has spent five terms serving the people of Pennsylvania here in Congress—longer than any other Pennsylvania Senator. All of us can take a lesson from his dedication and passion for fighting for the people of his State.

A member of the Judiciary Committee since he joined Congress, Senator SPECTER built on his background as an attorney and eventually assumed the chairmanship of the committee. His expertise on constitutional issues has long been admired by his colleagues.

Senator SPECTER was always a leader on issues relating to our National Institutes of Health, championing investment in scientific research to find lifesaving treatments and cures for a range of diseases. He understood first-hand how crucial such funding could be, having fought his own battle with cancer. When we passed the Recovery Act, it was Senator SPECTER who ensured that the Recovery Act included significant investments in NIH. His efforts to help double NIH's budget have contributed to advances in treatments for Parkinson's, cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work closely with Senator SPECTER on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He has been a thoughtful and constructive member committed to addressing climate change and fighting for clean energy jobs.

Senator SPECTER loves this institution, and he will be missed. He has left his mark, and I thank him for his decades of dedicated public service.

CHRIS DODD

Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of our friend, Senator CHRIS DODD.

Senator DODD has served the Senate with grace, intelligence, and compassion for three decades. The son of a U.S. Senator, he loves this institution and has done everything he could to preserve it. Senator DODD has always encouraged all of us to keep our disputes and differences from becoming personal.

He leaves behind an incredible legacy of accomplishments that have touched the lives of virtually all Americans. I will never forget the leadership role he played in helping to pass health care reform last spring—a fitting tribute to his close friend Ted Kennedy, whose vision finally became a reality.

As chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senator DODD led the effort to pass Wall Street reform legislation. He was a forceful advocate for holding banks accountable for their actions, and we could not have enacted this landmark accomplishment without his leadership.

Senator DODD has devoted his career in public service to making life better for our families and our children. I saw this firsthand when we worked together to ensure that our children have safe places to go after school. As chairman of the Senate Afterschool Caucus and the founder of the Senate's First Children's Caucus, Senator DODD worked hard to expand the Head Start program, to reform the No Child Left Behind Act, and to make college more affordable for students and their families.

In the face of Presidential vetoes, Senator DODD dedicated 47 years to enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act, which has helped ensure that 50 million Americans can care for their loved ones during difficult times without fearing for their jobs.

Senator DODD is a fluent Spanish speaker and has been the Senate's leading expert on Latin America. I have been proud to work closely with him to reform our Nation's drug certification laws.

His own years of service in the U.S. Peace Corps inspired Senator DODD to support and promote President Kennedy's call to service in this Chamber. In the Senate, he has helped expand and modernize the Peace Corps and worked to provide loan forgiveness to Peace Corps volunteers, teachers, and others who devote themselves to public service.

All of us in the Senate will greatly miss Senator DODD.

BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN.

Senator LINCOLN has spent her entire career serving the people of Arkansas, and she has been a passionate and effective leader for her State.

She has been an inspiration to so many women. Senator LINCOLN made history as the first woman to chair the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, and I will never forget how Senator LINCOLN led by example, showing us you could be a young mom in the Senate, dedicated to your children, while also being a strong advocate for your State.

She has been a leader in the Senate on child nutrition and has worked tirelessly to pass important legislation, including the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which was just signed into law by President Obama. The measure will help combat the nationwide epidemic of obesity by making sure our schoolchildren have access to healthy, nutritious meals.

As a cofounder of the Senate Hunger Caucus, Senator LINCOLN has played a crucial role in shedding light on a problem that affects so many, both at home and abroad.

Senator LINCOLN was never afraid to stand up for what she believed in. She showed her tenacity in fighting for greater transparency and accountability in derivatives markets during the debate over Wall Street reform. She has been a fierce advocate for her State and her legislative accomplishments will have a profound impact on the lives of so many children and communities across our country.

I want to thank her for her years of friendship and for her dedicated service here in the Senate. We will all miss her.

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Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD, a longtime public servant and fellow New Englander whose dedication to advancing the common good with common sense, independence, and a gentle smile characterized his service.

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Indisputably, and as countless colleagues have noted, public service has never been a populist in the best sense of the word. He leaves behind an incredible legacy of accomplishments that have touched the lives of virtually all Americans. I will never forget the leadership role he played in helping to pass health care reform last spring—a fitting tribute to his close friend Ted Kennedy, whose vision finally became a reality.

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Indisputably, and as countless colleagues have noted, public service has never been a
always been at the center of Senator DODD’s life—literally, as he is the first son of Connecticut to follow his father into the U.S. Senate, and remarkably, for the past 30 years, Senator DODD has had the privilege of sitting at the same desk he occupied as his father, Senator as DODD, during his 12 years in the Senate. CHRIS DODD’s longstanding devotion to the public arena has spanned from his three terms in the U.S. House—the last of which I was privileged to share him—to his five terms in the U.S. Senate. And Senator DODD earned the lasting gratitude of his constituents and admiration of his colleagues with his stalwart leadership in foreign policy, his vigorous and unwavering battle to enact the Family and Medical Leave Act, and his long-standing stewardship of our Nation’s most precious resource—our children.

And on this last point, like many in this Chamber, I cannot begin to justly measure the depth and breadth of the legacy that has forged itself regarding the most vulnerable in our society. Consider for example the issue of child care. Time and again, Senator DODD has battled to ensure both the quality of child care in America as well as the accessibility, but in support of welfare reform legislation, especially single parents—unaffordable, unavailable, or unreliable was the obstacle to a rier to steady employment, and one that could and should be lessened, if not eliminated.

That is why I was pleased to join with Senator DODD on our amendment to add $6 billion in child care funding to welfare reform legislation, especially at a time when that funding was very much imperiled. Arriving at a consensus required leaders from both parties to jettison their competing and hard-fought priorities in favor of making dependable childcare more accessible, but in support of welfare reform that would effectively move more Americans from welfare to work. Senator DODD, as colleague after colleague can attest, heeded his own beliefs that “you don’t begin the debate with bipartisanship—you arrive there. And you can do so only when determined partisans create consensus.” Because he never lost sight of the primacy of working across the aisle, we were victorious in including the funding we sought in the Senate-passed bill.

That bipartisan effort to garner concrete results designed to make a difference in the daily lives of the American people was not an isolated instance. Senator DODD and I collaborated on legislation to support campus-based child care for low income mothers trying to further their education, that was designed to help states improve training in early childhood development to make improved child care more available to more people. With innate New England pragmatism and a desire for solutions, Senator DODD saw impediments to success that were underlying up a segment of our society that if only reduced or removed would aid not only families striving to improve their lives, but a Nation seeking to help stem the tide of dependency.

Ultimately, what occupied Senator DODD’s agenda was the active pursuit of an even better America. We didn’t always agree on what that path should be, but where we did find common ground, as in child care, we cultivated consensus. That is why, as Senator DODD and I, as the former chair and current ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, collaborated to help the economic engines and catalysts of America’s small businesses, the very enterprises and presently, in this matter, our Nation could not have one without the other.

An undeniable focus of Senator DODD’s, child care has unquestionably become the cornerstone of government and legislative hallmarks—and nowhere was his imprint on the issue greater than during the landmark welfare reform debate in 1995 and 1996. I well recall working with Senator DODD as we made the case that there was indeed a pivotal link between viable welfare reform and child care—that for families struggling to reduce their dependency on welfare—especially single parents—unaffordable, unavailable, or unreliable was the obstacle to a barrier to steady employment, and one that could and should be lessened, if not eliminated.

From the days of his youth, Senator DODD grew up steeped in the tradition and by its own rules. Instead of exhibiting rancor and a burning desire to win at all costs, Senator DODD sought instead to build relationships and by doing so, strengthened his capacity for legislating and contributed mightily to the advancement of this esteemed Chamber. Poet and son of Maine, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, once wrote that “if you would hit the mark, you must aim a little above it.” CHRIS DODD has always aimed high—and met his target—leaving a legacy of enormous accomplishment to his constituents in Connecticut and to the American people.

In closing, let me just extend my personal appreciation to his wife Jackie and their daughters Grace and Christina for sharing CHRISTOPHER DODD with us.
Of Age and Office and the Work Ethic of the Senate

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. President, I rise today to join in paying tribute to my longtime good friend, Senator George Voinovich of Ohio. In the U.S. Constitution, our Founding Fathers made it clear that there is no one clear path, no one particular age requirement or residency stipulation, and no one clear path to being a Senator, it occurs to me that a model example we should consider is that of Senator George Voinovich. Senator Voinovich’s depth and breadth of wisdom, knowledge, and experience about making government work at all levels which he has harbored throughout his sterling, four decade trajectory in public life recall what James Madison wrote in The Federalist, No. 62 in advocating for a higher age requirement for Senators than members of the House. Madison postulated that the deliberative disposition of the Senate required a “greater extent of information and stability of character.” I don’t think it’s too far of a stretch to say that James Madison must have had a Senator like George Voinovich in mind when making this case.

Before Senator Voinovich even stepped onto the floor of the U.S. Senate he had already been Governor of Ohio, mayor of Cleveland, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, county commissioner, auditor, and a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. With a wealth of insights to draw upon through many years of public service, George has always been a force with whom to be reckoned, someone whose viewpoint is sought, and whose example is worthy of being emulated many, many times over.

My husband Jock, former Governor of Maine, and I first got to know Senator Voinovich and his wonderful wife, Janet, in the 1980s. When Jock and George were both serving as Governor of their respective States and active in the National Governors Association. In Ohio’s State capital of Columbus, George was building his legacy as Mayor of Cleveland where he inherited a stagnant economy, rejuvenated it through fiscal discipline and acumen, and created a three-time All-America City winner in the 1980s.

George made similar, remarkable strides as Governor, where, under his watch, unemployment hit a 25-year low and 600,000 new jobs were created. Many accolades were bestowed upon George during his seven-year term at the State level, and they were all well-earned to say the least. In fact, he is still the only individual to serve as both chairman of the National Governors Association and president of the National League of Cities.

There are many laudatory characterizations of Senator Voinovich that have already been expressed by my colleagues, and there are certainly some that come to mind, especially as a high-achiever, a thoughtful, independent, principled, vigorous, courageous, and pragmatic. With George, you always knew where he stood on an issue and frankly where you stood with him. In an institution whose very foundation is built upon trust and forging relationships, George was someone you could count on time and time again.

And to say that Senator Voinovich was a workhorse in this Chamber from day one is an understatement to be sure. His work ethic is as good as gold—and as they say, you can take it to the bank. If he shook your hand on a deal, that was all that was required. The fact is, they don’t make enough legislators or public servants like Senator Voinovich anymore. Like the Ohio State flag, the only one in the U.S. not shaped like a rectangle, George has been and will always be... one of a kind.

I can tell this Chamber from first-hand experience, there was no one you would rather be in the trenches with in the Senate, especially when the stakes were high, than George. Never forget—and I know George won’t either—how we stood side by side as stewards of fiscal accountability during the tax cut debate in 2003. We were certain that reducing taxes and hewing to our budget concerns did not have to be mutually exclusive—that we could champion billions in tax cuts without jeopardizing our Nation’s fiscal future by proposing offsets.

That said, it is with Senator Voinovich determined to chart a particular course, he was not easily dissuaded—and rightfully earned a reputation for being tireless and relentless in his pursuits. His moral fiber, character, and integrity can be traced back to being the grandson of Serbian and Slovenian immigrants who crossed the Atlantic from Croatia at the turn of the century. As a proud Greek-American whose parents emigrated from Greece, I see in George the same steadfast work ethic so prevalent in my own roots and culture growing up in Maine. Senator Voinovich once said that “doing a good job at running your government is the best politics,” and that “I don’t just want the job done.” But for him, these weren’t platitudes worthy of a government class, they have been truly organizing tenets that have shaped a distinguished 40-year tenure of service Senator Voinovich determined to chart a particular course, he was not easily dissuaded—and rightfully earned a reputation for being tireless and relentless in his pursuits. His moral fiber, character, and integrity can be traced back to being the grandson of Serbian and Slovenian immigrants who crossed the Atlantic from Croatia at the turn of the century. As a proud Greek-American whose parents emigrated from Greece, I see in George the same steadfast work ethic so prevalent in my own roots and culture growing up in Maine.

In the Senate, when others refused to reach across the aisle, Senator Voinovich understood that doing so made the system work, especially for those who elected us to first place—the American people. When political scorekeeping and posturing have ruled the day, Senator Voinovich has managed to transcend the short-term efforts to jockey for position in favor of a mindset that looks toward the long-term good for Ohioans and the Nation.

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BLANCHE LINCOLN

Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator
BLANCHE LINCOLN, one of the finest public servants I have had the pleasure not only to know, but to work with during our one term in the U.S. House together and her distinguished 11-year tenure in the Senate. Senator LINCOLN has always been firmly rooted in the values and the people of her great State. Their concerns have been her battles—their hopes have been her cause. Her State’s bedrock values of family, faith, and hard work have always been at the center of BLANCHE’s life as a daughter, wife, mother, church member, and Congresswoman. She has always been as authentic as they come, warm as she is determined, gracious as she is resolute, and Arkansans wouldn’t have it any other way.

BLANCHE understood the inherent human element and dimensions of public service as well as anyone—that you pursued elective office not for personal gain, but in order to make a difference on behalf of others, especially for rural America. For Senator LINCOLN, the phrase “The People Rule” was more than her great State’s cherished motto, it was an organizing principle and a clarion call which inspired her to serve. The first woman ever elected to the Senate and the first woman to serve as chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in its 184 years of existence, Senator LINCOLN was making her mark from the first time she entered the August Chamber of the U.S. Senate. From the beginning, she stood upon the mightiest of shoulders, Arkansas’s legendary Hat tie Caraway, the first woman to win a statewide U.S. Senate race in Arkansas and the first woman to chair a U.S. Senate committee. How fitting it is that Senator LINCOLN paid homage to her predecessor by using the same desk on the Senate floor that Senator Caraway used 60 years ago.

I was privileged to work with Senator LINCOLN for her entire time and mine as well on the venerable Senate Finance Committee where we were kindred spirits and compatriots from day one. In fact, our very first year on the committee we forged an historic, bipartisan alliance to make the childcare tax credit refundable for the first time ever, and the bond we formed during that undertaking only increased as we shepherded other dependent care issues through Congress to help give families the resources to be stronger and find empowerment through work.

Senator LINCOLN and I, as the former chair and current ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, also joined forces on the Small Business Health Options Program, or the so-called SHOP Act, to increase the number of insurers available to small businesses, so that these engines of our economy could benefit from greater competition. Indeed, I was always impressed by our collaborations, our mutual respect, and our common desire to achieve results and jettison the partisan bickering that impedes not only progress, but our obligation to do the will of the American people.

Central to that collegiality has been our great tradition as women in the Senate of getting together once a month. I have no question that Senator LINCOLN’s absence will be keenly felt. Appropriately, we described one of our dinners in the prologue to the book we labored on together in the 1990s, entitled “Nine and Counting,” to demonstrate the common ground in order to advance the common good.

The Arkansas State flag contains diamond shapes in its center as Arkansas is the only State where diamonds have been discovered. It has been the pinnacle of generosity for Arkansans to be the first to commit to the financial protection of our Nation’s Capital in the form of Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN. We also thank her husband Dr. Steve Lincoln and their twin boys, Reece and Bennett, for doing the same.

Mr. President, today I wish to join in paying a well-deserved tribute to my good friend and colleague, Senator EVAN BAYH of Indiana. When it comes to reflecting on his tremendous experiences and insights, one need only turn to the Senate floor, where he has served for the past 12 years, the simple truth is that our Nation and our government would be exponentially improved by having more like EVAN BAYH serving in the United States Senate.

A proud native of the Hoosier State—as well as a son of the legendary former Senator Birch Bayh—Senator EVAN BAYH is a man of unwavering principle and conviction, who has been a stalwart guardian of the Constitution and the Senate. From his service on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to his leadership on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator BAYH has reached across the aisle to find consensus on legislation to address our most pressing domestic issues, such as strengthening Social Security, countering the dangers of nuclear proliferation, and ensuring our government is equipped with the tools to adequately address inequities and provide consequences for countries that violate our global trade rules by holding down the value of their currencies.

Earlier, in 2001, Senator BAYH and I introduced a bipartisan resolution in the Senate, as well as a subsequent amendment on the Senate floor, to ensure that decisions on the use of the budget surpluses that were projected at the time—whether for tax cuts or for spending—should be linked to the surplus actually realized. Simply put, the idea, based on a proposal first outlined by then-Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan, was that long-term tax and spending plans should include a kind of “trigger” mechanism that limits the surplus-reducing impact of those proposals if budget targets weren’t achieved, such as specific levels of debt reduction.

We believed such a trigger would provide a strong incentive for Congress to act responsibly in the future allocation of any surpluses, while also serving as a “backstop” that estimates prove too optimistic. As I said at the time, we were celebrating those surpluses as a window of opportunity to address our most pressing domestic issues, such as strengthening Social Security, countering the dangers of nuclear proliferation, and ensuring our government is equipped with the tools to adequately address inequities and provide consequences for countries that violate our global trade rules by holding down the value of their currencies.
Security and Medicare. And frankly, how prescient that trigger mechanism proved to be—just imagine where we might be today if it had passed nearly 10 years ago.

In multiple facets, Senator BAYH has been an esteemed colleague and friend in our mutual cause to revitalize and advance the political center—in our concerted effort to answer the challenges facing our Nation by producing results, not rant, and accord instead the kind of acrimony. His departure not only diminishes the Senate, but is also a loss for the country—because we require more voices seeking to craft compromise and consensus to forge solutions, not fewer.

I have long argued that the legislative stalemate and political quagmire that has gripped much of this Congress has been to the detriment of our country—where a solution faces a number of challenges, not the least of which is a struggling economy that has caused far too many Americans to lose their jobs and their paychecks. In February, Senator BAYH wrote an op-ed for the New York Times in which he said, “The most ideologically devoted elements in both parties must accept that not every compromise is a sign of betrayal or an indication of moral lassitude. When too many of our citizens take an all-or-nothing approach, we should not be surprised when nothing is the result.” I could not agree more—and Senator BAYH’s advocacy of moderation and reason in this body will truly be missed.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said that “far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” Well, if ever there was a Senator who epitomizes that sentiment, it is Senator BAYH as he has given his very best to make an already great Nation greater still. I wish EVAN, his wife, Susan, and their two sons, Beau and Nick, all the best for the future.

JUDD GREGG

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has been a great pleasure and honor to serve in this body with JUDD GREGG. He and his wife Kathy have enriched our lives with their friendship and their contributions to the work and responsibilities of the U.S. Senate.

JUDD’s leadership on the Budget and Appropriations Committees have been especially important and worthy of high praise.

His sense of humor has helped make our service in the Senate an enjoyable experience. I wish for him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

SAM BROWNBACK

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague SAM BROWNBACK. SAM was elected to the House of Representatives in 1994 during the Republican Revolution, and subsequently elected to the Senate 2 years later when former majority leader Bob Dole made his bid for the White House.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure serving alongside SAM during these past 16 years. All of us who seek public service want to make a difference, and most certainly, SAM BROWNBACK has done that. In these endeavors I have enjoyed working with SAM in achieving many worthy accomplishments for our State of Kansas. As I reflect upon our mutual efforts, it is hard to figure out who was driving the stage and who was riding shotgun. Simply put, it has been a team effort, and I remain proud and grateful to work with my colleague who has provided unique and respected leadership. SAM’s record speaks for itself: bringing the Big Red One back home to Fort Riley, KS, where it started and now belongs; bringing the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, NBAF, to Manhattan, KS; ensuring fair treatment of the general aviation industry in FAA bills; and working together to rebuild Greensburg, KS, after 95 percent of the community was literally blown away.

But beyond our work together on State specific issues, it is SAM’s Federal legislative initiatives that I think will have the longest impact on the Senate and the lives of so many people, not only within Kansas and our Nation but, indeed, around the world.

Since the late 1970s, the term “compassionate conservative” has been tossed around quite a bit to describe a philosophy—a philosophy that by applying conservative ideals, our government can best improve the welfare of our society. I think many of my colleagues would agree that if anyone in public service over the past 30 years embodies this philosophy, it would be SAM BROWNBACK.

What is unique about SAM and his approach to politics these past 16 years is that his ideas went beyond words and rhetoric. The SAM BROWNBACK approach was simple but effective. He applied his belief into action. Senate BROWNBACK has done that. In these endeavors I have enjoyed working with SAM BROWNBACK, we have indeed enjoyed the friendship of a humble man.

SAM BROWNBACK has done that. In these endeavors I have enjoyed working with SAM BROWNBACK.

In closing, I leave my colleagues with one of Senator BROWNBACK’s favorite quotes that I think sums up the man that SAM is and the love he has for all people, regardless of their nationality or place in society. SAM likes to say: “I am pro-life and whole-life. Applying this belief to the child in the womb and to the child in Darfur. It includes the man in prison and the woman in poverty. It does not fail to cherish the child with Down Syndrome or stand for the inherent dignity of the human being.” SAM, I remember the first campaign rally we attended together. The featured guest speaker, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, introduced me as one who had made significant changes in the House of Representatives and then introduced SAM as: “One who not only wants to change things, but to make the right changes.”
SAM, you have done just that and it has been an honor to serve with you over these past 16 years. I thank you for your courtesy, cooperation, leadership, example and your friendship and support. As you head west, my friend, to lead the people of Kansas, I look forward to continued cooperation and success. The people of Kansas are in good hands. God bless.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, when I came to the Senate in 2007 as a Senator from Pennsylvania five times, but it is in good hands. God bless.

I have been honored to have worked with him on so many Pennsylvania priorities, whether it was veterans or workers, whether it was dairy farmers or the economy of Pennsylvania, or whether it was our soldiers, or our children, or our families. He has been a champion for our state, and he has shown younger Senators the way to work together in the interest of our state and our country. That bipartisanship wasn’t just a sentiment. He is a legislator who sought compromise that led to results in a Senate often divided by partisanship.

His record is long, so I will only highlight a few areas.

He helped to lead the effort to dramatically increase funding for the National Institutes of Health, that great generator of discoveries that cure disease and create jobs and hope for people of Pennsylvania, for the people who moved Pennsylvania forward, the people who in addition to moving our State forward had an impact on the Nation; if we had to make a list of Pennsylvanians who made such contributions, whether it would be William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, you could fill in the blanks from there, I have no doubt that that list would include Senator ARLEN SPECTER, a son of Kansas who made Pennsylvania his home, a son of Kansas who fought every day for the people of Pennsylvania.

So it is the work and the achievements and the passion and the results in those years in the Senate that will put him on a very short list of those who contributed much to our Commonwealth that we love and to our country that we cherish.

For all that and for so many other reasons, I, as a resident of Pennsylvania and a citizen of the United States, but as a Senator, want to express my gratitude to Senator ARLEN SPECTER for his 30 years of service, but especially for what those 30 years meant to the people of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Senator SPECTER.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to the 16 Senators who will leave an indelible mark on the Senate, and I wish them well as they take on new challenges and opportunities into the future.

I wish Senator JIM BUNNING well as he departs the Senate. Much of his legacy can be defined by his competitive spirit and strong work ethic. These attributes have been evident throughout his many successes in life, first in his career as a Hall of Fame baseball player and then later as a public servant, representing the people of Kentucky.

Following his highly successful professional baseball career for 17 years, JIM decided he wanted to give back to his community. In 1977, he ran for city council and then later ran for the Kentucky State Senate eventually becoming the Republican leader.

In 1986, JIM was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 4th
District of Kentucky, where he served for 12 years before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998.

During Jim’s tenure in Congress, he has established himself as an expert and defender of social security, fighting hard to protect social security for current and future generations.

His hard work and devotion will be missed by the people of Kentucky, whom I know are grateful for his many years of service.

**KITT BOND**

Kitt Bond has a long and distinguished history of service to the people of Missouri. As one of the longest serving Members in the U.S. Senate and a former two-term Governor, his life’s work has been dedicated to the State of Missouri.

In the Senate, Kitt has been a respected leader on many issues, such as national security, transportation, and global economic competitiveness. While serving as the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, he has worked hard to strengthen national security through supporting the U.S. military and reforming the Nation’s intelligence community. And as the leader of the Senate National Guard Caucus, no one has done more to support the role of the National Guard in our defense.

Kitt and I have worked on many issues together during our time in the Senate. In particular, last year when Democrats tried to push cap-and-trade bills through Congress, Kitt and I released the report, “Climate Change Legislation: A $3.6 Trillion Gas Tax.”

Our joint report revealed how climate legislation would result in a massive new national gas tax on American families, farmers, workers and truckers—by increasing the price of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel.

It has been my pleasure to serve with Senator Bond. His office has been next to mine for 12 years and it will not be the same without that familiar cigar aroma lingering in the second floor halls of Russell. Without a doubt, he will be missed by his colleagues in the Senate and his constituents in Missouri.

**SAM BROWNBACK**

While Senator Sam Brownback will certainly be missed by the Senate, the people of Kansas will continue to benefit from his leadership, as he serves as their new Secretary of Agriculture.

Prior to being elected to public office, Sam’s professional experiences include working as a radio broadcaster, attorney, teacher, and administrator.

From these varied professional experiences he brought with him a unique and dynamic perspective to the U.S. Senate.

Through his leadership as the ranking member on the Joint Economic Committee, ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resource Subcommittee on Water and Power, Sam established himself as a leader on a wide range of issues.

During his tenure in the Senate, he has supported aviation research and expanded global aviation markets. Through these efforts, he has effectively promoted growth and strengthened the U.S. military.

Some of Sam’s most distinguishing characteristics are his personal integrity and his commitment to his Catholic faith. These principles came through in much of what he did in the Senate. I will always appreciate his passion and his work to translate his beliefs into his actions as a U.S. Senator.

I am confident Senator Brownback will continue to serve the people of Kansas with the same character and dedication in his new role as governor.

**CHRIS DODD**

Senator Chris Dodd departs the Senate after nearly three decades faithfully representing the people of Connecticut.

From his service in the Peace Corps, the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserves as well as his many years in the U.S. Senate, Senator Dodd’s commitment to public service and love for his country have been evident throughout his life.

Chris was a leader in the Senate, serving as the chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee.

Although we had our differences on various policy issues, I always appreciated his willingness to put partisanship aside to reach consensus when possible in order to improve legislation. For instance, earlier this year when working on the financial reform bill, despite my public opposition to the legislation, Chris worked with me to incorporate my amendments in the final version of the bill. I ultimately voted against the bill, but I am grateful for the efforts he made to include my amendments.

Today we bid farewell after 29 years of tireless service in the U.S. Senate.

**BYRON DORGAN**

Today we say goodbye to Senator Byron Dorgan after 18 years in the Senate, serving the State of North Dakota.

First elected to Congress in 1980, Dorgan has devoted his career to serving North Dakota and fighting for the interests of rural America.

After serving six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Byron was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992.

I have had the pleasure to serve with Senator Dorgan on the Senate Commerce Committee. Last summer, we joined together with several of our colleagues to introduce bipartisan legislation that reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA.

The legislation accelerated the modernization of the Nation’s air traffic control, ATC system, addressed critical safety concerns in the national airspace system, NAS, and improved rural community access to air service.

I appreciated Byron’s willingness to champion good ideas forward by members from either side of the aisle. By focusing on issues where consensus could be achieved, he helped to move the debate forward on important issues and solve problems.

Senator Dorgan leaves the Senate with my best wishes and respect.

**JUDD GREGG**

As a leading voice for fiscal responsibility, Senator Judd Gregg will be deeply missed in the Senate.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, with unparalleled commitment to fiscal discipline, Senator Gregg worked to address many pressing issues.

Senator Gregg is a well known budget expert and national leader on the most critical issues facing our country in recent years, notably health care, economic issues, and financial regulation.

His efforts to address the looming economic crisis, by proposing to increase the U.S. maintain its position as the leading destination for capital and investment in the world.

I appreciate the job Senator Gregg has done in his position as the former chairman and current ranking member of the Budget Committee.

In 2006, Judd sponsored an amendment that strengthened border security by providing resources to integrate biometric databases as well as construction of new stations and check points and tactical infrastructure for immigration and customs enforcement.

Unlike other similar proposals at the time, his amendment was offset and did not add to the deficit.

I will miss working with him in this Chamber, and I will miss his friendship and support on the issues that matter most to America.

In conclusion, the departing Senators’ contributions, their dedicated service, and the issues they championed will be remembered long after their final days in the Senate.

I believe I can speak for my fellow Senators when I say that we will all miss our departing friends.

Ms. MURkowski. Mr. President, when the 111th Congress draws to a close, we will bid farewell to 16 colleagues who have collectively given more than 200 years of service to our Nation through their service in the Senate. These include senators of the Senate’s most experienced Members. People like Chris Dodd and Arlen Specter who have each served five terms in the Senate. Kitt Bond who has served...
four terms and Bob Bennett, Byron Dorgan, Russ Feingold, and Judd Gregg, who have each served three terms in this Chamber.

When the 112th Congress convenes in January, the ranks of women Senators will be one. In fact, the 112th Congress will be the first Congress in recent memory in which the total number of women Senators will actually decline. And with the departure of our colleague, Roland Burris, there will not be a single African-American Senator when the new Congress convenes.

In January we will feel the loss of the great pitching ace, Jim Bunning, and Evan Bayh, both respected colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They are among six of my Energy Committee colleagues who are leaving the Senate this year.

Judd Gregg, one of our Nation’s foremost experts on the Federal budget leaves us at the end of the year. As this Senate comes to grips with the challenges of a rising deficit and economic stagnation we will miss his firm hand and thoughtful guidance. My neighbor in the Hart Senate Office Building, Arlen Specter, is one of the Senate’s most effective and I count him as the best friend that the National Institutes of Health, and every American who benefits from its cutting edge research, has ever had on Capitol Hill. Bob Bennett, one of the most thoughtful and effective Senators. In fact, he is the best Friend that the National Institutes of Health, and every American who benefits from its cutting edge research, has ever had on Capitol Hill.

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I learned much from Senator Bennett during the period that he served as counsel to the Republican leader and I served as vice chair of the Senate Republican Conference.

I would also like to acknowledge contributions of Kit Bond, one of the foremost experts on our Nation’s transportation and infrastructure needs. I appreciate Senator Bond’s interest in understanding the unique transportation and infrastructure challenges that we in Alaska, the largest State in our Union in terms of land mass and one of the youngest must contend with. Senator Bond, like all of us, wears many hats in this institution. He has also earned the undying respect of our Nation’s citizen soldiers through his leadership of the Senate National Guard Caucus.

One of Chris Dodd’s legacies to the Nation is legislation to ensure that the unique needs of children are addressed in our Nation’s response to catastrophic disasters. I was honored to partner with Senator Dodd in helping to pass this legislation to return home with battlefield injuries. Senator Feingold and I teamed on the Wounded Warrior Transition Act, a portion of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. I will continue to pursue the remaining provisions in the new Congress.

Sam Brownback has forever earned a place in the heart of our first Americans. He crafted and introduced the joint resolution apologizing to American Indians and Alaska Natives for centuries of ill conceived policies carried out by our Federal Government. He is known around the world as a champion of religious freedom as well. George Voinovich came to the Senate after a distinguished career that included service as Governor of the State of Ohio and mayor of the city of Cleveland. He has made a substantial contribution to the efficient operation of our federal government as a leader of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I appreciate his support of the effort that Senator Akaka and I advanced, along with others, to make locality pay available to Federal employees in Alaska and Hawaii through the Non-Foreign Act of 2009.

I would like to say a few words about my friend Byron Dorgan. In 2007, following the unexpected death of our friend and colleague Craig Thomas, I was elevated to vice chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Senator Dorgan was the chairman of that committee. Last week both of us had the honor of addressing the National Congress of American Indians at one of the meetings that preceded President Obama’s tribal summit. Each of us reflected on that fact that the committee has highly productive during the period we shared the gavel. During our time together the committee laid the groundwork for reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, more than a decade in the making. We reauthorized the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act, we pursued a settlement of the Cobell litigation, and we crafted and introduced the Tribal Law and Order Act, which President Obama signed into law earlier this year. Senator Dorgan has consistently championed adequate funding for the Indian Health Service and he has come to the floor on many occasions to speak to the unacceptable rates of suicide among Native youth. I am pleased to know that he will continue this work when the Senate is back in session. It comes from the heart.

As I noted at the outset, 2011 will be the first year in recent memory that the number of women serving in the Senate has actually declined. All of the women of the Senate will miss our dear friend and highly respected colleague Blanche Lincoln. Blanche Lincoln made history in her own right when she became the youngest woman ever elected to the Senate at the age of 38. Senator Lincoln represented the people of Arkansas with distinction for two terms, juggling a demanding career in public service while raising two wonderful twin boys Reece and Bennett. She is truly a wonderful colleague to work with. A centrist who comfortably works across the aisle and votes her convictions. One of the kindest people in the Senate. I expect great things of Blanche Lincoln in the future and I have every confidence she will deliver on that prediction.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with each of the people who will leave this Chamber when we adjourn sine die. Each has made substantial contributions to their States, to the Nation and to the Senate during their time here.

DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague, Senator Voinovich, in support of the passage of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010. DERA. The folks of Ohio and Delaware sent us to Washington to find ideas that will work, ideas we can all agree on to make our country even better. An idea that works is the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2005.

The DERA program is one of the best actions our government has taken to improve air quality and help States and localities meet air quality standards. First authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DERA has provided significant public health benefits, improved our national security, and helped create jobs. Currently, DERA helps clean up more than 14,000 diesel-powered vehicles and equipment across the country, which has reduced emissions while employing thousands of workers who manufacture, sell or repair diesel vehicles and their components in each State.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that millions of older diesel engines now in use and need to be replaced or retrofitted. To meet this need, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010 authorizes the continuation of this successful program for 2012 through 2016. It also slightly modifies the program to improve its effectiveness and administration. Despite the significant benefits and need for DERA, the legislation set the authorization levels for 2012 through 2016 at half the levels of that for 2007 through 2011. The authorizing levels were reduced to be more in line with what has been normally appropriated for the program. The cut in authorization levels in no way reflects the importance of the program. The funding level should be interpreted as an indication that funding levels should be decreased.

Senator Voinovich and I would like to thank the President and our colleagues for their support of DERA. We are proud that this commonsense approach to creating jobs and cleaning up our Nation’s air will become law.