

spirit." He is remembered fondly as a happy and generous individual, and I know his loss will be felt very keenly by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers will be with his family at this time, including his wife Winifred, his father David, and his mother Shirley as well as his brother and sisters.

By all accounts, Specialist Muhr liked being in the Army and loved serving his country. He had previously served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as in South Korea and was serving his first tour in Afghanistan. What would we do without individuals like Shawn Muhr? Those young people who gladly serve their country, knowing the sacrifices they will be asked to make and the tremendous risk they take, are the ultimate bulwark in defense of our freedom. Shawn Muhr truly lived and died by the motto of the great State of Iowa, "Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain."

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, SRBC, in honor of their 40th anniversary. The Susquehanna River Basin Compact, which went into effect on January 23, 1971, brought together the Federal Government and the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to form the SRBC, one of only two such Federal-interstate compact agencies in the Nation. The mission of SRBC is to manage the water resources of the Susquehanna basin under comprehensive planning principles, and to protect the Chesapeake Bay, one of the world's most productive ecosystems. The Susquehanna is America's largest eastern river and supplies over half the fresh water entering the Chesapeake Bay.

This unique partnership has resulted in numerous benefits for the people of the basin, including the establishment of a basin-wide flood forecasting and warning system in one of America's most flood prone river systems; the storage and release of water during low flow periods from federally operated reservoirs; the management of large scale withdrawals and consumptive uses of water; and the monitoring of basin water quality. Furthermore, SRBC's involvement in hydroelectric relicensing has restored migratory fish runs, minimum flows, and improved recreational facilities.

The Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System, administered by the National Weather Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the SRBC, provides timely warnings to residents of the Susquehanna River basin to reduce loss of life and property damage during flood events. The funding I've helped to secure over the years supports the flood warning infrastructure—a network of gauges, radar and computer technology—to

provide advanced flood warning information to communities along the river.

The Susquehanna System is about saving lives and saving communities. I have seen firsthand not only what the warning system accomplishes, but also its ongoing and compelling needs. This system has been critical in protecting families and businesses during flooding that has devastated communities along the east coast.

I extend my congratulations to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for its 40 years of water resources management excellence, and I will continue to work closely with the Commission on important water resource issues in the future.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle today to mark the 100th birthday of former President Ronald Reagan.

It is fitting that this is a bipartisan tribute. After all, Reagan had been a Democrat, then a Republican, in his political career, and he transformed the political landscape for both parties by appealing to a broad cross-section of Americans.

Much has been written about President Reagan's life. His story is well-known, and is a classic tale of the American dream—a boy from the Nation's heartland makes good.

And Ronald Reagan was a surprising man, a man of paradoxes: An actor affectionately remembered by a generation of Americans for his authenticity, a former union leader who fired striking union members, and the oldest president who was most popular among young Americans, many of whom are in leadership positions today, and some of whom are in this very Chamber.

But what I would like to focus on in my time here today is the part of Reagan that is still with us today: his legacy.

One of the most frequently cited achievements of Ronald Reagan is ending the Cold War.

Behind his eloquence and warmth was a steeliness that sent a clear message to Moscow: You cannot hope to compete with us. We will beat you.

And so we did. Thanks to Reagan's steadfastness and the rise of a Soviet leader who recognized America's toughness under Reagan's leadership, the Iron Curtain ultimately clanged into a pile of rubble.

Reagan also gave birth to the Republican Party that those of us on this side of the aisle belong to today.

Thanks to Reagan's efforts to broaden the tent of the Republican Party, for the first time in many years, scores of religious, socially conservative Americans finally found a political home.

His became a party of pro-military, pro-business, pro-small-government, anti-tax, anti-Communist Americans.

And while communism worldwide has been largely designated to oblivion, Reagan's legacy of tax-cutting, smaller government, personal responsibility and fewer onerous regulations from Washington have stood the test of time and approval from the American people.

Reagan's most lasting legacy, however, may be his innate optimism.

When he took office, America had suffered the indignity of Watergate, high gas prices and long lines at the pumps, a 21-percent inflation rate and the taking of 52 of our citizens from America's own embassy in Tehran, Iran. We were a deflated Nation.

But Reagan, in many ways through the sheer force of his personality, gave Americans hope, gave us the urge to dare to dream, and the confidence to be great again. When he told us it was morning again in America, we believed him. And it was.

When Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, the airplane had only been invented 8 years earlier. The horrors of World War I, the Great War that helped spawn the modern Soviet Union, were still several years away and Teddy Roosevelt had been out of the White House for just 2 years.

How fitting that Reagan's lifetime and legacy would book-end such advances in technology, foreign policy and even his own Republican Party.

That includes the space flight that helped America surpass its Soviet rivals and his words of consolation to a grieving Nation when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disintegrated. And outlasting the Soviet Union after a lifetime of opposition. And becoming a worthy successor to Roosevelt as an optimistic Republican leader who left a lasting imprint on a changing Nation.

As usual, Reagan put it best when he told us, "America's best days lie ahead. You ain't seen nothing yet."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, to commemorate February 2011 as Black History Month, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to the cultural, technological, and social evolution of our Nation and American democracy.

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History sponsors Black History Month in February because two great men of historical significance were born in this month: Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, and Frederick Douglass, a noted Black social reformer and abolitionist. Their actions greatly forwarded the cause of equality for all African Americans.

Given the association has chosen "African Americans and the Civil War" as their 2011 theme, it seems fitting to briefly contemplate initiatives of these two reformers who are from that era.

President Lincoln is forever linked to the momentous Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 which 3.1 million slaves